

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

## Week ending 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Cheshire News & Appeals



## Latest Cheshire News

### Call for vigilance following spate of purse theft incidents

Police are urging Christmas shoppers to be vigilant following purse thefts in Macclesfield, Nantwich, Sandbach, Crewe and Northwich.

A total of six women have had their purses stolen from the Cheshire towns over the past week. All of the victims are over 60 and one is 90. In the majority of the cases, bank cards within the purses were subsequently fraudulently used by the thieves.

Supt Peter Crowcroft said: *"The incidents occurred in Macclesfield and Nantwich on Thursday 10 December, in Sandbach on Tuesday 8 December and in Crewe, Nantwich and Northwich on Friday 4 December. Victims were targeted in supermarkets, as they queued up to use cash machines and as they were walking around shopping areas. Some were distracted and some were bumped into before realising that their purses had been stolen. Others have no idea how their purses were stolen from them. This type of crime tends to be more prevalent in the run up to Christmas, with busy shopping areas representing an ideal opportunity for thieves to strike. Enquiries in relation to the incidents are ongoing and I urge anyone with any information regarding purse thefts to get in touch. I also encourage everyone, particularly the elderly as purse thieves usually target the elderly, to be extra vigilant when you are out over the Christmas shopping period and to never carry around large quantities of cash. Please also keep an eye out for suspicious activity when you are in or around shops and report any concerns to us."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"These cruel thieves are clearly targeting vulnerable people in our communities whilst they go about their Christmas shopping. This despicable crime not only has a financial impact on its victims, it can also affect their confidence when out and about in the community after many of them have been stuck at home for the majority of the year due to the coronavirus pandemic. I urge people to follow Cheshire Constabulary's advice on protecting themselves and their belongings."*

There are a few simple precautions people can take to deter opportunistic thieves:

- Walk with a sense of purpose when in or near to shops
- Carry your purse in a zipped-up bag, and always keep the bag close to you and where you can see it
- Attach an audible alarm to your purse/wallet, such as purse bells
- Never leave your bag in a shopping trolley or basket
- Make sure that you are not followed or engaged in conversation by someone who might be looking for an opportunity to steal from you.

Anyone with any information or footage regarding purse thefts is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Christmas support for victims of domestic abuse in Cheshire**

The coronavirus pandemic has escalated incidents of domestic abuse, with lockdown making it a difficult and worrying time for adults and children who live with it.

In 2020 from April 1 to October 31 there were 10,103 domestic abuse crimes recorded by Cheshire Police, compared with 9,533 over the same period in 2018. Cheshire Constabulary works in partnership with local authorities and other partner organisations with the county-wide Open The Door domestic abuse campaign. Since early in the first lockdown, the partnership has been hosting live weekly domestic abuse web chats on the Cheshire Police Facebook channel, with partner representatives forming a panel of experts to answer submitted questions.

The Open The Door live Facebook web chat dates for the Christmas period are:

- [Wednesday 16 December from 1pm to 2pm](#)
- [Friday 18 December from 1pm to 2pm](#)
- Monday 21 December from 1pm to 2pm
- Wednesday 23 December from 1pm to 2pm
- Tuesday 29 December from 1pm to 2pm
- Wednesday 30 December from 1pm to 2pm

More than 160,000 people have been reached to date, with the audience comprising, on average, 70% women and 30% men. The dedicated website – [www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk](http://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk) – has seen a more than 90% increase in new users since the first lockdown began in March, with 67% female and 33% male visitors.

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane, explained: *“We recognise the damage that domestic abuse crimes have on victims and their families, and this year there is the added concern that people not previously affected may have found themselves subject to domestic abuse due to additional the pressures households are finding themselves experiencing. We have introduced the additional web chats over Christmas because it is of utmost importance that we do all that we can to give everyone who is affected by domestic abuse the confidence to speak out and seek support.”*

Open The Door recognises that domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of class, gender, race, age, disability or sexual, religious or educational background. It enables victims or friends and families of victims to know who to turn to if they are experiencing, or suspect someone is experiencing, abuse.

DCI Chris Williams is the Constabulary's domestic abuse lead. Chris added: *“Domestic abuse is a top priority for Cheshire Police as we recognise the severe impact this crime has on everyone involved. There is a tremendous amount of work undertaken to protect victims of this crime, coupled with great support from our frontline staff, who are all trained regularly in this area of our work.”*

During lockdown and tier restrictions there is further help available thanks to a partnership with local supermarkets and pharmacies. Alone At Last enables victims who may find they have some time away from their abuser while shopping to speak to an assistant and ask for a safe, quiet space within the store to call Cheshire Police or their local domestic abuse support service.

DCI Williams concluded: *“Domestic abuse doesn’t have to stay behind closed doors. We are here, along with our partners, to help people get the help they need and to bring this hidden crime out into the open. Early intervention is key in preventing the devastation suffered by not only the immediate victims but to their children.”*

The web chats can be found on the [Cheshire Police Facebook page](#) and questions can be submitted anonymously in advance to [digital.team@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:digital.team@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) or during the event on the Facebook page. There is no need to register attendance.

## **Residents in Ellesmere Port advised to be vigilant after bogus caller incidents**

Police in Ellesmere Port are warning people to be vigilant following recent bogus caller incidents.

The latest was at an address in Hope Farm Road on the morning of 8 December. A man purported to be a gas engineer and wanted to check the gas meter. The caller refused to let the man in as they had a smart meter but he remained at the front door trying to look inside. He only left when a neighbour returned home.

DI Nigel Parr said: *“While the suspect didn’t manage to gain access in this instance, these incidents are very concerning so we want to take this opportunity to remind people not to let anyone into their home if they are not expecting anyone. I’d urge neighbours and families with elderly relatives to look out for them and report any suspicious activity - remind elderly neighbours, friends and family not to open the door to strangers. I’d like to reassure the community that we are focussing on these areas and are committed to finding whoever is trying to take advantage of vulnerable members of our community. I cannot stress enough the importance of people not letting anyone into their home who calls unexpectedly and if you have a chain, always use it. Make sure you ask for identification and if they provide it, close the door and check the number, but most importantly, if you have any doubts about the caller being genuine, don’t let them in and ask them to come back later when you are not alone.”*

If you see suspicious activity in your area please call police in 101 or alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Here are some tips on how to keep safe and secure:

- Stop – Are you expecting anyone? Do they have an appointment? Make sure the back door is locked. Some thieves work in pairs with the other one sneaking in the back door whilst you're at the front door.
- Lock – Keep all of your doors and windows locked, even when you're at home.
- Look – Out of the window or spy hole to see who is calling.
- Chain – Put the door bar or chain on before you open the door
- Check the identity carefully – Ask for an ID card. Close the door and check using phone number from the phone book or relevant bill, not the one on the card.
- Bogus callers often work in pairs; be aware of one person distracting you while the other steals your property.
- Never employ trades people who call at your door – only use people recommended by someone you trust. Ideally get a couple of quotes from reputable companies.

- If in doubt keep them out particularly if you're on your own. Ask them to make an appointment or come back later when someone else can be present in the house. Genuine callers won't mind. If you're suspicious then report the incident to the police. You may help prevent them from burgling someone else.
- If you have elderly neighbours or family:
  - Have a chat to them about being careful about any visitors they let into their house.
  - Offer to give them your telephone number then they can call you if they need any assistance or are unsure about who is at their front door.
  - Remind them to put on the door chain and look who the visitor is either out of a window or out of the spy hole in the door.
  - Remind them that if they have any unexpected callers they should check their ID.
  - Tell them if they have any suspicions about a caller then they should call the police. This could prevent someone else from falling victim to a bogus caller.

## **Armed robber from Ellesmere Port jailed for seven-and-a-half years**

A man from Ellesmere Port has been jailed after carrying out an armed robbery at a petrol station in the town.

Kenneth Brown, of Heathfield Road, went into the service station on Whitby Road at around 8pm on Monday 19 October carrying a knife. The 58-year-old, who was wearing a balaclava, demanded that an employee open the till. He then climbed over the counter, stole £150 from the till and fled on foot. The employee called the police and, after attending the scene, speaking to witnesses and reviewing CCTV footage, officers identified Brown as the offender. He was arrested at his home that night. When interviewed in custody, Brown claimed that he had been in the area but had gone to a chemist and not the petrol station. He was charged with robbery and possession of a knife in a public place. After becoming aware of the strength of the evidence against him, Brown pleaded guilty to the offences as soon as the case progressed to a crown court. He was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 10 December. Brown was jailed for seven-and-a-half years and ordered to pay a £190 victim surcharge.



DC Josie Fergus, who had a key role in the team that investigated the incident at Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *“The woman who was behind the counter at the petrol station was subjected to a terrifying ordeal that understandably left her extremely shaken up. Thankfully, through CCTV footage, information provided by witnesses and forensic work, we were able to establish that Kenneth Brown was responsible for the armed robbery. He is a persistent offender who has committed similar offences in the past. I am delighted that he has been handed a significant custodial sentence. With Brown being behind bars facing the consequences of his actions, he cannot pose a threat to the Ellesmere Port community. I hope that Brown’s conviction and the sentence he has received brings some closure to the victim. I also hope that this case acts as a deterrent to other people and stops them from committing similar crimes.”*

CI Sarah Heath, Cheshire Constabulary’s knife crime lead, added: *“We are committed to doing all we can to tackle knife crime. We will respond robustly to any knife related incidents and do all we can to ensure that anyone found to be carrying a knife or committing a knife related offence is brought to justice. Members of the public have a vital role to play in our fight against knife crime by giving us information about crimes involving knives and those who carry weapons. I would like to thank the members of the public who aided this robbery investigation and helped us secure the conviction.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"I would like to thank all the officers and detectives that have been involved in this investigation. As a result of their sterling work, and the information provided by members of the public, an armed robber has been taken off our streets."*

## **Launch of Christmas cash in transit/ATM robbery campaign**

Officers from the North West's six police forces (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside and north Wales) have joined forces with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and the security industry to launch a joint operation targeting cash-in-transit and ATM robberies in the run-up to Christmas.

The action will be co-ordinated by the ROCU, the regional collaboration to tackle serious and organised crime groups involved in drug trafficking, firearms, armed robberies, aggravated burglaries and other serious crimes. The regional campaign which launched on Tuesday 8th December will see officers using high-visibility and covert patrols on the ground to enable security vehicles to carry out their normal deliveries, protect businesses, as well as raising awareness across the region on social media. Forces will use a number of tactics such as the use of armed police vehicles escorting high-risk security vehicles as they carry out cash deliveries, CCTV monitoring and patrol cars following cash-handling vehicles. In addition, all cash containers will include DNA marking solutions or a dye, which will be released when they are opened, marking the notes so they are both unusable and traceable.

The six forces have all signed up to ATMosphere - a national operation created in partnership with the British Security Industry, which provides standard guidance to forces to enable them to develop closer working relationships with local communities and businesses to combat ATM crime. ATM robberies can take many forms including using combustible gas to blow up cash machines, as well as robberies where the ATM is dragged from the wall or broken into with cutting equipment. This action follows significant success since 2019 in combating cash-in-transit and ATM robberies across the region with more than 160 offenders being convicted and sentenced to more than 1,000 years in prison.

DCI Mike Ankers the ROCU's Regional Intelligence Unit, said: *"The region has seen a significant fall in cash-in-transit robberies in recent years but we are not complacent and we are determined to make sure criminals do not see these types of offences as easy ways to make money, because they most definitely are not. Whilst Cash in Transit and ATM robberies have reduced across the North West, we will not rest on our laurels and we will continue to work with the six North West police forces and our partners in the Security Industry to share intelligence provide assistance and ensure we continue to see year on year reductions. Robberies that target Cash in Transit vehicles, banks, post offices and commercial businesses are often violent offences that can result in life-changing mental and physical scars to those at the brunt of the attacks, who are just trying to make an honest living."*

Sarah Staff, Head of SaferCash, a security initiative hosted by the British Security Industry Association, said: *"We really welcome opportunities to work alongside police forces in the North West region and fully support this proactive Christmas campaign. Our members continued to strive to reduce the number of Cash in Transit robberies and ATM attacks with enhanced physical security systems, with the collaborative efforts of UK Policing. The supply of cash and the availability of ATMs are often the lifelines of local communities especially during the past 12 months. These types of attacks are not victimless crimes and often result in the temporary closure of banks, retail stores and ATMs creating a profound impact to all affected, whether owner, employee or member of the community. The collaboration between the police and the security industry*

*through SaferCash has been in place for many years. This strong working partnership is a real testimony to collectively tackling crime, with a focus on crime prevention in addition to the excellent enforcement work by the police. This has resulted in many convictions and a significant disruption of organised crime. We will endeavour to continue to support the police in any way we can, helping to reduce these attacks and prevent any stolen money being used to fund other serious and organised crime which in turn affects so many lives. I would encourage anyone with information relating to ATM or Cash in Transit crime to call Crimestoppers, a national crime prevention charity on 0800 555 111, to help the police combat this area of crime."*

DCI Clare Coleman, from Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"Here in Cheshire we are committed to doing all we can to tackle incidents of this nature. However, criminals do not stop when they reach the border, which is why it is more important than ever before that we work closely with our partners to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. We have already had significant success, with a number of high profile convictions, and I have no doubt that this operation will further assist our goal of helping to make Cheshire a safer place to live, work and visit."*

## **Two people from Liverpool jailed for Runcorn bike thefts**

Two people from Liverpool have been jailed for stealing several bicycles in Runcorn.

William Gould and Amy Hughes, both of Breckfield Road North in Liverpool, were captured stealing the mountain bikes on CCTV. They looked for valuable bicycles that had been left outside shops, schools, homes, libraries, fast food restaurants and other businesses. Hughes, 28, carried around bolt cutters in a bag and acted as a lookout. Gould, 44, cut chains off the bikes with the bolt cutters when he needed to do so in order to steal them. He typically rode the stolen bikes away, with Hughes then casually walking away from the scenes of the crimes. Officers investigating



William Gould      Amy Hughes

the thefts spotted Gould and Hughes near to Runcorn's Shopping City on Sunday 18 October. Recognising them as the offenders from CCTV footage, they attempted to apprehend the pair. The officers detained Hughes but Gould managed to flee on foot. When interviewed in custody, Hughes – who was in possession of bolt cutters, bike hubcaps and a bike chain cover when she was arrested – refused to reveal Gould's identity. She also failed to comply with requests to give her correct address, which is also Gould's home. However, the investigators managed to establish Gould's identity and he was arrested in Liverpool on Monday 16 November. Following their arrests, Gould and Hughes were charged with seven counts of theft. Hughes was also charged with going equipped to steal. They both pleaded guilty on all counts.

The charges related to the thefts of eight mountain bikes between Friday 25 September and Sunday 25 October. Some of the bikes stolen were worth more than £1,000. Gould was sentenced at Liverpool Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 17 November. He was jailed for 28 weeks. Hughes was sentenced at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 9 December. She was jailed for 32 weeks and handed a Criminal Behaviour Order which bans her from associating with Gould in Runcorn for the next four years.

PC Jenny Tasker, who led the investigation into the bike thefts at Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"William Gould and Amy Hughes were travelling to Runcorn to steal bicycles. The opportunist thieves travelled with bolt cutters so that they cut the chains off bikes that caught their eyes. We are all fully aware that being the victim of a bicycle theft is a deeply unpleasant experience. Anyone would be angry and upset to discover that their*

*bicycle has been stolen, especially if they had taken the precaution of chaining it up outside. The bikes of people who had popped into shops, fast food restaurants and other businesses were targeted. Gould and Hughes even targeted children's bikes that were chained up outside a school. Thankfully, the pair's offending was caught on CCTV and we were able to subsequently locate and arrest them. To date, they have refused to reveal what they did with the stolen bikes. As such, as things stand we have been unable to locate any of the bikes and have them returned to their rightful owners, despite our extensive enquiries. Any new information that comes to light regarding the stolen bikes will be investigated. We are pleased that Gould and Hughes are both now behind bars facing the consequences of their actions and hope that this case deters others from stealing bicycles and coming into Runcorn or elsewhere in Cheshire to commit crimes. We also hope that this highlights the fact that we take all reports of bike thefts seriously and do all that we can to bring the thieves to justice."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"These types of crimes blight our local communities, so it's great to see Cheshire Constabulary carrying out extensive work to bring to justice those who travel into the county to commit such offences. I am pleased to hear of this latest success in that regard and would like to thank all the officers who have been involved in the investigation. As a result of their endeavours, two people have been convicted of a series of bike theft offences and are now paying the price of their criminal actions."*

Cheshire Constabulary's advice for bicycle owners to reduce the chances of their bikes being stolen are:

- Store your bicycle securely at home in a garage or shed, or bring it inside your property
- Lock or chain bicycles together or to something fixed or bulky, as this reduces the chances of a thief being able to steal them
- Consider fitting a shed alarm and improve the exterior lighting around your home to deter offenders
- Property mark your bicycle frames using an ultraviolet pen or other form of property marking, to enable it to be returned to you should it be stolen and subsequently recovered by the police
- Always lock the building where the bicycle is stored using a good quality lock that can be bolted to the door and frame – use disc lock padlocks which have a less exposed shackle
- Park your bicycle in safe, well-lit places, ideally ones that are covered by CCTV
- Always lock your bike when leaving it outside, even if it's only for a few minutes – secure your bike, including the frame and wheels, to a fixed and immovable object, such as a bike rack or lamp post, using a good quality bicycle lock
- Keep a note of the make, model and serial number of your bike, and make sure that you have photographs of it.

Anyone with information regarding bike thefts or the whereabouts of stolen bicycles should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Christmas hampers and selection boxes to be delivered to hundreds of vulnerable Runcorn residents**

Police officers and PCSOs are working alongside partner agencies to bring some much needed festive cheer to vulnerable Runcorn residents.

Thanks to the endeavours of the team at Runcorn Local Policing Unit, Halton Housing, Onward Homes, Halton Borough Council, self-advocacy group Halton Speak Out and inclusive performance group Ella Together, around 200 hampers will be delivered to members of the community who are most in need of a happy Christmas. Filled with food, festive treats, flasks and warm clothing including hats, scarves and gloves, the hampers will be delivered by police officers, PCSOs, housing officers and volunteers from Monday 14 December.

Insp Leeroy Moss, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *“It has been a difficult year for everyone due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, but it has been particularly tough for some of our most vulnerable residents. Many of them have been shielding or otherwise in isolation, and we want to show those people that we care about them by giving them an early Christmas present. This Winter Warmer Project was devised by one of our PCSOs, Tracey Taylor. Her work in the community left her wanting to do something special for those most in need of some Christmas cheer. Tracey and her fellow PCSO Georgie Griffiths managed to secure the funding needed for the project, via kind donations from Halton Housing, Onward Homes and Halton Speak Out. The Community Shop at Priory House in Runcorn has donated food for the Christmas hampers, as has Weaver Vale MP Mike Amesbury, but the vast majority of the food has come from donations from kind-hearted members of the public in response to an appeal via social media. Tracey and Georgie have also liaised with the two housing associations and Halton Borough Council to formulate a list of elderly and vulnerable Runcorn residents to deliver the Christmas hampers to. They will receive the hampers and small gifts in the run up to Christmas Day, and everyone at Runcorn Police Station hopes that they enjoy them.”*



Volunteers from Brookvale Community Centre and self-advocacy group Halton Speak Out preparing hampers for the Winter Warmer Project yesterday



Police officers and PCSOs at Runcorn Local Policing Unit with wrapped up selection boxes ready to be delivered to children in the town



PCSO Tracey Taylor with some of the food that has been donated for the Winter Warmer Project



Volunteers from Brookvale Community Centre and self-advocacy group Halton Speak Out preparing hampers for the Winter Warmer Project yesterday

The recipients will also be given biscuits, pens and information cards from the England Illegal Money Lending Team. This is part of the team's efforts to educate people, particularly vulnerable people, about the dangers of borrowing money from loan sharks. The England Illegal Money Lending Team will also be giving colouring books to around 200 children living in Runcorn in the run up to Christmas. Police officers and PCSOs will deliver the books, along with colouring pens that have been bought by Runcorn Police Station, selection boxes that have been donated by the staff at the B&M discount shop in Runcorn and Christmas cards provided by Runcorn-based Merseyside Printing Company. The recipient list for these has also been devised by the officers and PCSOs themselves.

Insp Moss added: *"I would like to thank the staff at B&M for paying for nearly 200 selection boxes out of their own pockets, and everyone else who has made donations to help our endeavours to give Runcorn residents at both end of the age spectrum a timely boost. I'd also like to thank the teams at Halton Speak Out and Ella Together, who are based next door to each other at Brookvale Community Centre, for volunteering to help make up the hampers and deliver them alongside housing officers and our police officers and PCSOs. The communities of Runcorn have demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas by pulling together to support the people who really need us at this special time of the year."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"This is a fantastic example of how our community police model works, with officers and PCSOs coming together with partner agencies and community groups to help residents in a time of need. It's really important during the challenging financial times that we are currently facing that we come together to support vulnerable members of our community and I applaud everyone involved and everyone who has made a donation towards this initiative. It shows community and festive spirit at its finest."*

## **Prolific Winsford shoplifter jailed and handed Criminal Behaviour Order**

A prolific shoplifter from Winsford has been jailed and handed a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Michael Hill, of Alexandra Square, has been convicted of more than 70 offences. The majority of them were shoplifting offences. The 34-year-old has also been convicted of public order offences in relation to abusive and threatening behaviour towards staff working at the shops he targets. Michael Hill, of Alexandra Square, Winsford. Hill was sentenced at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Monday 7 December for his most recent crimes. He was also given a five-year CBO in a bid to curb his offending.



Sgt Gary Weaver said: *"Michael Hill is a prolific shoplifter who steals alcohol to feed his addiction to it. He is also someone who alarms and scares shop workers by shouting, swearing and being aggressive, intimidating and threatening towards them. Hill threatened someone working at a discount store in Dingle Walk, Winsford, on Thursday 26 November, asking him to 'come outside' and saying he will 'knock him out'. Then on Wednesday 2 December he twice stole two bottles of wine from a convenience store in Abbotts Way, Winsford. He returned to the convenience store the following day to steal another two bottles of wine. Hill was identified as the offender via CCTV footage and was subsequently arrested and charged with three counts of theft from a shop, as well as a public order offence in relation to threatening the store worker. He pleaded guilty to what are the latest of his numerous offences and was jailed for 12 weeks. When he is released from prison, he will have to adhere to the terms of his CBO for the next five years."*

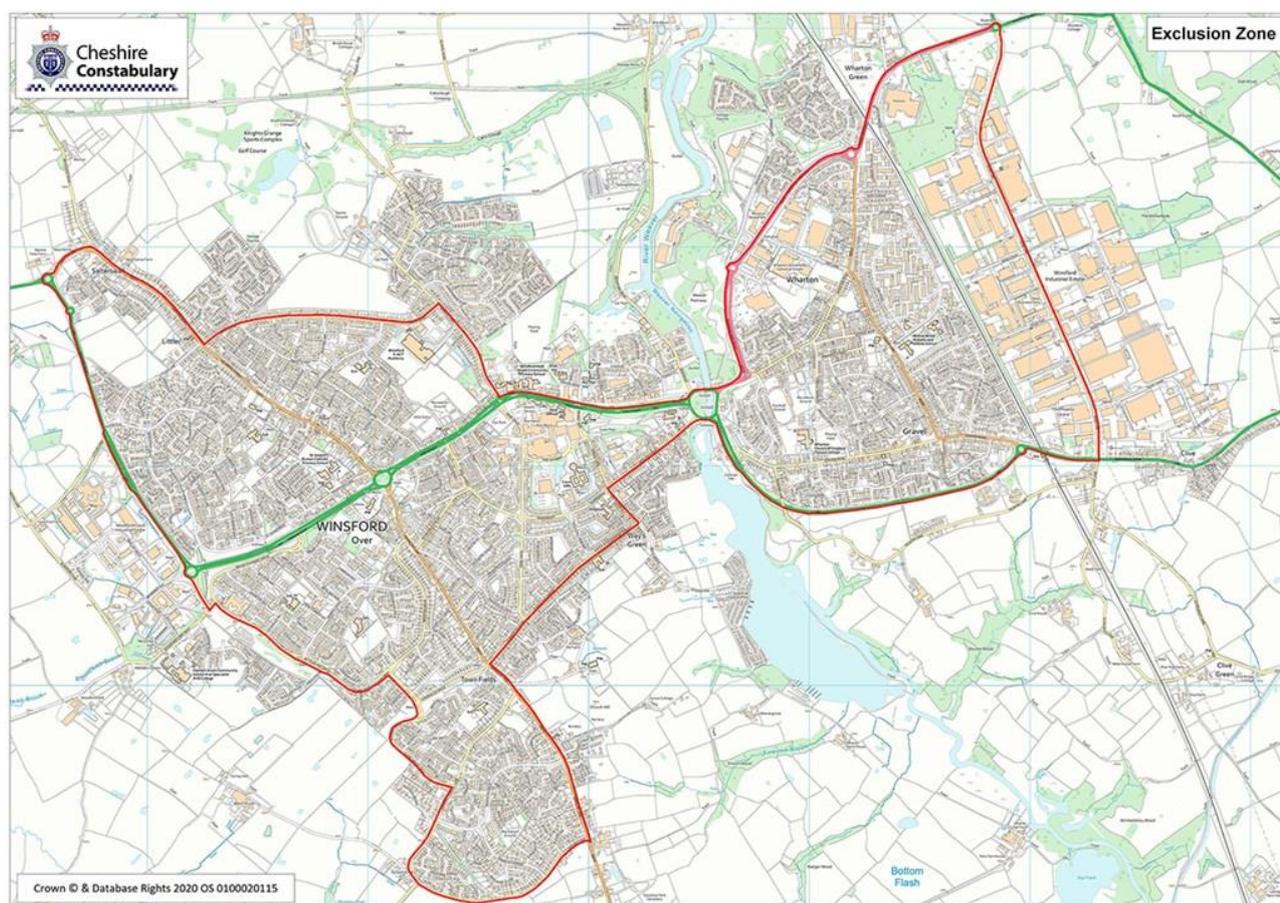
CBOs are designed to stop persistent offenders committing further anti-social behaviour and criminal offences. They are only ever applied for and imposed as a last resort.

Sgt Weaver added: *“Hill has plagued shops in Winsford with his criminal behaviour. No-one should feel threatened or intimidated by the actions of others and we will use whatever powers we have at our disposal to tackle such offending. With all other efforts to prevent and deter Hill from continuing to commit offences having failed, our Partnership Problem Solving Team applied for the CBO. There comes a point when you have to say enough is enough and take additional action to protect the local community.”*

The banning order prohibits Hill from:

- Entering any retail premises in Winsford that are licensed to sell alcohol
- Being in possession of an open container of alcohol in a public place in Winsford
- Being drunk in a public place in Winsford.

He also has to engage with a charity that specialises in drug and alcohol addiction.



Map showing the area of Winsford that Michael Hill's CBO restrictions relate to

PC Terry Cawley, who applied for the CBO on behalf of the Partnership Problem Solving Team, said: *“I hope the CBO imposed by Crewe Magistrates’ Court has the desired effect and prevents shops in Winsford from being targeted by this prolific shoplifter who has persistently shown no consideration at all for the effects his unacceptable behaviour has on shop workers. I also hope that Hill changes his ways, for the good of himself as well as for the good of those who own or work at shops in Winsford.”*

Hill has been made aware that it is a criminal offence to breach the terms of a CBO. The sanctions imposed for doing so can be severe, with the maximum penalty being five years in prison.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“This successful CBO application sends a clear message that persistent criminal behaviour will not be tolerated in Winsford. Applied for separately to prosecutions for criminal offences, these preventative orders with strict restrictions are one of numerous tools that Cheshire Constabulary uses in a bid to improve our communities. They are having the desired effect of reducing offending, the number of victims of crime and the demand on the police and I hope that this continues.”*

Anyone who encounters Hill breaching the terms of his CBO over the next five years is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 to report it.

### **Teenager charged after knives seized in Macclesfield**

A 17-year-old boy has been charged after a machete and a lock knife were seized by officers following a stop and search in Macclesfield.

The teenager was arrested in Jordangate at around 6.30pm on Monday 7 December. He has since been charged with two counts of possession of a knife in a public place. The charges relate to a stop and search in Jordangate that night. The boy, who is from Altrincham in Trafford, Greater Manchester, has been released on conditional bail. He is set to appear at Stockport Youth Court on Wednesday 23 December.

### **Knutsford man convicted of death by careless driving**

A man from Knutsford has been convicted of death by careless driving following a fatal collision in the town.

Gordon Hyland, of Bexton Lane, Knutsford was found guilty of the charge following a four day trial at Chester Crown Court. The 50-year-old has been released on bail and is due to be sentenced on Friday 8 January 2021. The charge relates to a collision which occurred on Thursday 28 March 2019 on the A50 Manchester Road. Hyland had been visiting the hotel and decided to go home at around 6.15pm. He got into his Silver Mercedes C220 and drove to the car park exit, indicating that he was turning right to go towards Knutsford. Looking to his right Hyland could see a black BMW which was driving towards him. As the vehicle got closer he saw that the car was indicating to turn left into the Cottons car park. Noticing that that car was turning, Hyland pulled out of the junction. But what he failed to do was check the road behind the BMW was fully clear. He didn't see a motorcycle, ridden by 29-year-old Ian Glanister, which was directly behind the BMW. As a result Hyland collided with the motorcycle, a Suzuki, and Ian was trapped under the vehicle. After realising that something had happened, Hyland stopped and got out of his car, where he saw the motorbike under his vehicle. A number of other motorists also stopped and helped to release Ian and provided first aid. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, Ian died at the scene.

PC Jim Rodger said, from the Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit, said: *“This was a tragic but preventable collision caused by Hyland's failure to check that the road was clear. As a result of that failure, a 29-year-old man has lost his life, a wife lost her husband and young girl has lost her dad. Their lives have been totally torn apart and will never be the same again. Driving a motor vehicle is a privilege, not a right, and it comes with great responsibility to act within the rules laid down when you pass your test. Our thoughts remain with the family of the victim, who have been left devastated by this tragic incident.”*

Cheshire PCC David Keane, added: *“Collisions are the biggest killer in Cheshire and sadly Ian was one of 36 people who lost their lives in 2019. That's 36 people who didn't come home, 36 families who had their whole*

*worlds completely shattered, and 36 people whose lives which were cut short. That is why as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire I am committed to doing all I can to improve roads safety."*

## **Police investigating assault in Latchford**

Police investigating an assault in Warrington are appealing for information.

At 8.45am on Wednesday 18 November a 51-year-old man and a car were at traffic lights on Station Road in Latchford. The man was walking across the road when a dispute occurred with another man inside the car. The car then pulled up a bit further up the road and two men got out. One of the men allegedly pushed and punched the victim. The attacker is described as being aged in his 50s, white with a stocky build. He was wearing a woolly hat with glasses. The man who was with him is described as being of a thin build with dark hair and around 5'9" in height. The victim's injuries were described as minor and he did not require hospital treatment. Officers have been conducting a number of enquiries and are appealing for anyone who was in the area at the time or has any information to get in touch. They are particularly keen to speak to a taxi driver who is believed to have seen the assault take place to come forward.

PC Angela Bahn, from Warrington's local policing unit, said: *"Since the incident was reported to police we have been conducting a number of enquiries to establish what took place. Following this we are keen to speak to a taxi driver who is believed to have been in the area at the time the incident occurred. I am also appealing to the public or anyone else who was in the vicinity to come forward with any information they may have."*

If you have information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 854168. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Detectives appeal for information following assault in Warrington**

Detectives are appealing for information and witnesses after an assault in Warrington.

At around 12.10am on Saturday 12 December officers received a report that two men had been injured during an assault on Crown Street. The victims attended hospital with minor injuries. It is believed that the suspects, two men, were in possession of a BB gun. The suspects are described as white, aged between 20 to 30 years old and were wearing black puffa jackets at the time of the incident. Detectives are now appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or may have information that could help with their enquiries.

DC Caroline Wharmby said: *"This is believed to be an isolated incident and I would like to reassure the public that we are doing all we can to find those responsible. A number of enquiries are currently underway and patrols are being conducted in the local area. I would urge anyone who may have been in the Crown Street area at the time of the incident, who may have seen or heard anything that could help us with our enquiries to get in touch. The same goes for anyone who may have caught dashcam or CCTV footage around the area."*

Anyone with information is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 871624 or report it via [our website](#). Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

## **Detectives appeal for witnesses after confrontation in a Warrington street**

Detectives are appealing for information after a confrontation between two men on Forshaw Street in Warrington earlier this morning (11 December).

At around 7.20am this morning, police were called after two men were seen in an old silver Mercedes Saloon car fighting on Battersby Lane. The silver Mercedes was parked up and was blocking the road, until a van driver beeped their horn as the car was holding up traffic. The car then moved on, travelling left onto Forshaw Street, where the vehicle parked up in the middle of the road with both doors open. The two men from the vehicle began to fight each other in the street before one of the men was seen being dragged back towards the car. The vehicle left moments later, driving along Forshaw Street towards Orford Lane.

DC Leah Greenacre said: *“CCTV enquiries in the area have identified two potential witnesses who walked along Forshaw Street at the time of the incident. A woman wearing a bubble jacket, with the hood up, carrying a large umbrella, followed a short time after by a man wearing a waterproof jacket with the hood up and hat underneath the hood and jeans. I’d urge those two people to get in touch with us so we can try and piece together the circumstances. We also want to check on the welfare of the two men and ensure they are okay.”*

The two men from the silver Mercedes are described as of Asian origin and in their early 20s. They were both wearing dark coloured tracksuits with the hoods up. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and so far officers have been unable to identify the vehicle or the people involved.

DC Greenacre added: *“Enquiries remain ongoing and I would ask anyone with any information which may aid our investigation to get in touch. The same goes for any nearby residents with CCTV footage or drivers passing through at the time who may have dashcam footage.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 870866 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/reports> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal for witnesses and dashcam footage following collision in Christleton**

Officers are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage following a collision in Christleton.

The incident took place on Whitchurch Road at around 3.40pm on Thursday 10 December and involved a cyclist and a lorry. The cyclist, a 14-year-old boy, was taken to hospital by air ambulance. His condition is described as serious. The driver of the lorry stopped at the scene and is assisting police with their enquiries. Officers want to speak to any drivers who believe that they may have captured any footage to come forward. Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may help the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 870470 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#).

## **Detectives appeal for information after Appleton burglary**

Detectives are appealing for witnesses following a burglary at an address in Appleton.

Sometime between 5pm and 6pm on Monday 7 December a house on Delphfields Road, Appleton was broken into and jewellery stolen.

DC Chris Little said: *“I’d urge anyone who has seen anything that didn’t quite seem right or seemed out of place in the area recently to contact us. If you were in the area of Delphfields Road on the day of the burglary and have dashcam footage that may help us please get in touch. We are making a number of lines of enquiry including house to house and CCTV and are keen to hear from anyone who may be able to help with our investigation.”*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 868436. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal for witnesses after delivery driver robbery in Warrington**

Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward after a delivery driver was bundled into the back of a van in Warrington and driven to Knowsley.

At around 7.30pm on Monday 7 December the driver, a 45-year-old man from Prescott, parked his white Ford Transit van on the Starbucks car park at Apollo Park in Westbook where he was due to meet with colleagues. As he waited two men, both with Liverpool accents, got into his van and forced him to get into the back of the vehicle. He was then driven to Foxwood Cemetery in Knowsley, at which point the offenders transferred all of the parcels from the van into an awaiting vehicle – possibly a green van. The man was then left in the middle of the cemetery while both vans drove off at speed. The stolen van has since been located at an address in Whiston. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any information which may aid the investigation.

DC Caroline Wharmby, from Warrington Local Policing unit said: *“This investigation is in its early stages and we are doing all we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our enquiries we’re keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information which may aid our investigation. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage. The incident took place at a busy retail park and there are likely to have been a number of people in the area at the time of the incident who may hold vital information. We would also like to hear from a person who was seen walking their dog at Foxwood Cemetery around the time that the driver was released by the offenders. Anyone with any information, no matter how small, should call the team beat at Warrington on 101, quoting IML 868563.”*

Following the incident officers are also reminding delivery drivers and couriers to play their part, by following a number of simple steps to help reduce their chances of falling victim to similar crimes.

The steps include –

- Ensure your vehicle is in proper operating condition.
- If you spot a suspicious vehicle following you, do not exit the vehicle, keep doors locked, keep moving, and call the police.

- Agree a daily delivery plan with employers or, if independent, with a family member and check in with them on a regular basis. If possible, when out delivering consider using alternative routes rather than always going the same way.
- Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged.
- If something does not look or feel right, do not make the delivery. Call your employer and explain the circumstances.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid areas that are not well lit. Park under a streetlight if possible.
- Carry a torch to illuminate dark areas and walkways.
- If you feel threatened, activate the panic alarm on your vehicle to draw attention to the situation.
- Always lock your vehicle - even if you're only leaving it for a short period of time. It would take a matter of seconds for a thief to get into your van and make off with something valuable.
- If your vehicle has windows consider darkening them to prevent passers-by from seeing what's inside.
- Make sure that no valuables are left on display when leaving your courier van (for any amount of time), and fully close all of the windows.
- Install a 'Police follow this van' sticker on your vehicle to make officers aware of who you are.
- If you have a keyless van consider using a key blocking pouch to prevent other people from accessing your vehicle while you are handing over parcels
- Consider installing a tracker – if the worst were to occur and your vehicle were to be stolen, a tracker would enable officers to quickly locate it.
- Install additional security features – Doors are one of the most vulnerable areas on delivery vans and they can sometimes be forced open, so consider installing a stoplock or a slam lock to help make it harder for criminals to get inside your vehicle.
- If an emergency occurs, remain at the scene only if it is safe. Dial 999 and wait for the police to arrive at the scene.

Anyone with any information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 868563, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/>. Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

## **Appeal after teenager is robbed and assaulted in Stockton Heath**

Detectives investigating a robbery and an assault involving a teenager in Warrington are appealing for information.

The incident occurred on East Avenue in Stockton Heath at around 4.45pm on Wednesday 2 December. The victim, a 15-year-old boy from Widnes, was approached by two males who asked him about the jacket he was wearing. When he refused to give them the jacket he was pushed to the ground and kicked a number of times until he handed it over. The two males then fled on to London Road. The boy received minor injuries including bruising and marks to his body. Enquiries have been ongoing and detectives are asking anyone with information or footage that may help their investigation to come forward.

DC Cameron Mackay, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *“As part of our enquiries we understand two males have assaulted the victim in order to steal his jacket. While we continue to investigate the incident I am appealing to anyone who either has any information, or perhaps saw something that may assist with our enquiries or maybe knows the males responsible, to please get in touch.”*

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of robbery and has been released on conditional bail.

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 865017 or provide information anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Renewed appeal for witnesses to Saughall fatal collision**

Officers investigating a fatal collision in Saughall have renewed their appeal for witnesses to come forward.

Chris Rimell died on Monday 23 November following a collision on Parkgate Road. The 48-year-old, from Flintshire, was riding his motorbike shortly after 6pm when he collided with a car. Officers attended to the scene and discovered the rider had sustained serious injuries and he was taken to Aintree Hospital by ambulance. His family are continuing to receive support from specialist officers. A 22-year-old man, from the Chester area, who was driving a red Volkswagen Golf was taken to hospital with injuries believed to be minor. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who was travelling along Parkgate Road between 5.45pm and 6.30pm to come forward. They also want to hear from any motorists who may have captured relevant footage on their dashcam. If you have any information or dashcam footage that may be relevant to the investigation please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 858176, or give the details through the website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Appeal after burglar steals selection boxes from church-based food bank in Handforth**

Officers are appealing for information from members of the public following a burglary incident at a church in Handforth.

At around 8.45pm on Thursday 3 December someone broke into St Chad’s Church on Wilmslow Road. The offender damaged one of the building’s fire doors. He then stole a quantity of selection boxes from the food bank within the church. The offender, who looked to be a teenager or in his early 20s, was wearing a light coloured hoodie with the hood up. He also had a dark coloured face mask and jogging-type bottoms on and was carrying a backpack. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help their investigation to come forward.

PC Victoria McMahon, who is leading the investigation, said: *“All burglary offences are serious, but to target a food bank within a place of worship is despicable, as is stealing selection boxes set aside for underprivileged children in the run up to Christmas. We are determined to establish the identity of the offender and make him face the consequences of his actions. As part of our ongoing enquiries we are appealing for anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation to get in touch. Perhaps you were in the area that night and saw something suspicious, or maybe you believe that you know who committed the offence, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of him.”*

Anyone with any information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 865686, or give the details [via our website](#). Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [their website](#).

## **Police investigating assault in Latchford**

Police investigating an assault in Warrington are appealing for information.

At 8.45am on Wednesday 18 November a 51-year-old man and a car were at traffic lights on Station Road in Latchford. The man was walking across the road when a dispute occurred with another man inside the car. The car then pulled up a bit further up the road and two men got out. One of the men allegedly pushed and punched the victim. The attacker is described as being aged in his 50s, white with a stocky build. He was wearing a woolly hat with glasses. The man who was with him is described as being of a thin build with dark hair and around 5'9" in height. The victim's injuries were described as minor and he did not require hospital treatment. Officers have been conducting a number of enquiries and are appealing for anyone who was in the area at the time or has any information to get in touch. They are particularly keen to speak to a taxi driver who is believed to have seen the assault take place to come forward.

PC Angela Bahn, from Warrington's local policing unit, said: *"Since the incident was reported to police we have been conducting a number of enquiries to establish what took place. Following this we are keen to speak to a taxi driver who is believed to have been in the area at the time the incident occurred. I am also appealing to the public or anyone else who was in the vicinity to come forward with any information they may have."*

If you have information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 854168. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: [www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org)