

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 10th January 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man sentenced following fatal collision in Knutsford

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

Gordon Hyland, of Bexton Lane, Knutsford was found guilty of the charge following a four day trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Monday 7 December. The 50-year-old has reappeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 8 January 2021 where he was handed an 18 month community order and 150 hours unpaid work. Hyland was also banned from driving for 12 months and will be required to undertake an extended retest. The conviction 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."*

Man jailed following vicious assault in Congleton

A man who repeatedly kicked and punched a homeless man as he lay helpless on the floor has been jailed.

John Hall appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on Monday 4 January 2021 where he was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison. The 50-year-old previously of Medow Mill Court, Congleton, and now of John Street, Macclesfield, had earlier pleaded guilty to assault by beating. The attack took place as the victim, a 39-year-

old man, was seeking shelter in Bridestone Shopping Centre, Congleton, at around 8.30pm on Saturday 16 May 2020. During the court hearing the judges were shown CCTV footage which clearly showed Hall repeatedly kicking and punching the victim as he lay on the floor. Due to the severity of the assault, and the fact that it was a blatant and deliberate attack, the court were left with no option but to hand Hall a prison sentence.

Following the sentencing, PC Iain Bell, who led the investigation, said: *“Hall’s actions were simply despicable and I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him. This was a totally unprovoked attack and at no point did the victim retaliate in anyway. Thankfully, despite Hall’s actions, the victim was able to escape the attack with just minor injuries, although the outcome could have been far worse.”*

Cheshire PCC David Keane said: *“I would like to thank all of the officers involved in this investigation for their work. Incidents of this nature are particularly distressing and I hope that this sentencing will provide some closure for the victim and reassurance for the local community.”*

Man arrested following serious incident in Alsager.

Detectives have arrested a man in connection with a serious incident in Alsager.

The 26-year-old man was arrested this afternoon (Saturday 9 January) on suspicion of section 18 assault and he is currently in custody assisting officers with their enquiries. At around 6.05am on Friday 8 January, the victim – a 49-year-old woman – was working at Premier Store on Shady Grove, when she noticed a customer who was looking in the fridge. The woman approached the man and asked if she could help, at which point she was stabbed in the abdomen. The man then fled the scene on foot. The victim was taken to the Royal Stoke Hospital for treatment where she remains in a stable condition. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and patrols have been stepped up in the local area.

DI Claire Jesson said: *“Understandably the local community is shocked at what has happened. I’d like to reassure them that our enquiries are continuing and we are doing everything we can to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and who is responsible. Officers will remain in the local area over the coming days and anyone with any concerns is urged to speak to a local officer.”*

Anyone with information, which could assist with ongoing enquiries, is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 890461. Alternatively you can submit information online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua>. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Teenager convicted of murdering school boy Alex Rodda

A teenager has been convicted of murdering a school boy in Ashley.

Matthew Mason drove 15-year-old Alex Rodda to a remote wooded area in Ashley, Cheshire on Thursday 12 December 2019 and subjected him to a ferocious and merciless attack. Alex’s partially clothed body was found by refuse collectors on a country lane next to the woods the following morning. The 19-year-old had used a heavy and long wrench to repeatedly beat Alex to the head and body with an estimated 15 separate blows. In the months before Alex’s death he had been in an intimate relationship with Mason during which Alex received money from him so that he did not disclose their relationship. After committing his attack he left him alone in the woods and disposed of Alex’s mobile phone. He then visited The Red Lion pub in

Pickmere and The Golden Pheasant pub in Plumley where he had a drink with friends before making his way home to Ash Lane, Ollerton.

Meanwhile Alex's mum was becoming increasingly concerned when he did not return home and she made numerous attempts to ring his phone but the calls would not connect. She rang a number of his friends who said they had not seen or spoken to him that evening. As Alex's friends knew he had formed a relationship with Mason they messaged him over two hours, desperate to know he was safe and well. Alex's mum was made aware of this and contacted Mason before reporting her son missing to police. Most of their calls and messages went unanswered as Mason travelled back to the scene of his horrific crime in the early hours of Friday 13 December. It is during this time that the prosecution believes Mason went into the woods and dragged Alex's body to the track at the side of the road in an attempt to put him inside his car. After failing to do this he then drove away.

After Alex's body was found a witness informed police he had taken a photo shortly after 6pm on Thursday 12 December. The photo was of a black Renault Clio parked on the track beside the gated entrance to the woods. The details of the car were checked by police and Mason was identified as the owner of the vehicle. He was stopped by officers as he drove towards Telford, on the A41 in Staffordshire, shortly before midday on Friday 13 December. Mason had dried blood on his hands and fingers and inside the boot of his car was a bin bag with his blood stained green fleece, the wrench and Alex's large padded jacket. Following his arrest he was taken into custody to be questioned before being charged with murder. Today (7 January) Mason was found guilty of the murder of Alex Rodda following a trial at Chester Crown Court. He is due to be sentenced on Monday 25 January.



The remote woodland in Ashley where Alex Rodda was killed on Thursday 12 December 2019



Matthew Mason



The weapon Matthew Mason used that led to Alex Rodda's death



A witness took a photo of Matthew Mason's car parked near to the woods on the night Alex Rodda was killed

DI Nigel Reid, from Cheshire Police's Major Investigation Team, said: *"It has been a painstaking investigation involving a dedicated team of detectives. They have worked extremely hard to gather evidence to show the true extent of the relationship between Mason and Alex and the true picture of what happened that night. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mr and Mrs Rodda for their patience and support throughout the investigation. The true extent of Mason and Alex's relationship could not have been done without the bravery and courage of Alex's friends. They provided key information to the investigation, despite their grief and heartache, in order to secure justice for their friend. Mason had murder on his mind as he drove Alex to his death under the pretence of sexual activity. He chose a secluded place to kill him in cold blood, a place he believed he would go unseen and his crime undetected. Alex was a popular young boy who was much loved by his family and friends. I hope the conviction of Mason helps Alex's family and his close friends to come to terms with such a terrible tragedy. My thoughts continue to be with them all."*

Speaking after the verdict, Alex's family said: *"Our son Alex was a wonderful, gentle, loving, kind, caring, respectful boy who loved life and lived life to the full. His precious life was cut short all too soon at the hands of Matthew Mason. Mason admitted killing Alex from the outset of this trial but still felt the need to put us through the trauma of this trial in an attempt to minimise his sentence. He never once considered the pain it would put our family through or indeed his own family. We have never come across a more selfish, cold and calculating person. Mason has attempted to blame Alex and discredit his name throughout this trial and thankfully the jury were able to see through his web of deceit. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the jury for coming to the right decision. We would also like to thank DI Nigel Reid and his team of officers from Cheshire Constabulary for all their hard work over the last 12 months and in particular the family liaison officers, David Edon and Lucy Kennedy, who have supported us through this particularly difficult time."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"I would like to commend the investigation team who worked tirelessly to gather crucial evidence in order to secure justice for Alex, his family and friends. His death shocked the local community and all those who were close to him. My thoughts are with them during this difficult time."*

Two men sentenced following Sandbach theft

Two men who stole items from a business premises in Sandbach have been convicted of theft.

At around 8.35pm on Thursday 12 November 2020 police were called by a concerned member of the public who reported two men acting suspiciously on Elworth Road. The pair were both wearing balaclavas and were loading a cement mixer into a silver Volkswagen Bora. Officers on patrol in the local area were alerted to the incident and just moments later they stopped the vehicle on Crewe Road. Upon searching the car officers discovered the cement mixer along with other building supplies.

Joseph Cartwright, 38 and Jamie Lee Hargreaves, 34, were arrested on suspicion of theft. Cartwright was also arrested for drink driving after failing a roadside breath test. Following enquiries officers found that the items recovered had been stolen from Miola, a business premises on Lodge Road. Cartwright, of Old Middlewich Road, Sandbach and Hargreaves, of Birch Gardens, Sandbach were subsequently charged with the offences. The pair appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 29 December where they were both handed 12 month conditional discharges. They were also ordered to pay court costs and victim surcharge. Cartwright was also banned from driving for 12 months for drink driving.

Following the sentencing DC Ryan Ogden said: *"2020 has been a particularly difficult year for independent businesses and the last thing they need is to be targeted by thieves. Thankfully, on this occasion as a result of*

being seen by a member of the public, we were able to stop Cartwright and Hargreaves in their tracks and reunite all of the stolen items with their rightful owner.”

Louise from Miola said *“I’m grateful for the quick action of officers on the night and the return of the stolen property. We’re a local business and look to our community to help and support us especially in this difficult time. I was saddened when the theft took place and that it was committed by two local residents”*

Warning issued following distraction thefts

Police in Cheshire are warning residents to remain vigilant following a number of reports of distraction thefts in the eastern area of the county.

Since Wednesday 2 December officers have dealt with four separate incidents involving the theft, or attempted theft, of high value watches. These have included incidents in Prestbury, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge. On each occasion the victims, who were all men, have been approached by unknown women who have used a variety of distraction techniques – including claiming to be prostitutes - in order to steal high value watches. The suspects are described as women in their late 30s and of eastern European origin. Following the incidents the offenders are believed to have fled the scene in a vehicle waiting nearby.

DS Simon Mills from Macclesfield CID, said: *“Enquiries in relation to these incidents are ongoing and I would urge anyone with any information which may aid our investigation to get in touch. The same goes for anyone who believes that they may have been targeted. I would also like to urge residents in the area to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity, it’s also important to ensure that their watches are kept secure and not on show.”*

Anyone with any information in relation to the incidents is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 864529, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/>. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for information after girl assaulted in Northwich park

Police in Northwich are appealing for information following an assault on a teenage girl in a park in the town.

Shortly after 9pm on Sunday 3 January three teenage girls were sitting on a bench in Verdin Park, Northwich overlooking Castle Street, when they were approached by an unknown man. The girls started to walk off as he approached. One of the girls was then assaulted before they were chased out of the main entrance of the park, where the girls then ran out on to Castle Street, before running across the town bridge near the Bull Ring. The girl was not injured but they were left shocked and distressed by the incident.

The man is described as white, aged 30-40years old, approximately 6ft tall, with a long light coloured beard. He was wearing a black beanie style hat, black fleece zipped coat and a long red skirt down to his ankles that appeared to have a pattern on. A man of similar description has done similar offences in Northwich and Macclesfield over the last few months.

Sergeant Andy Cooper said: *“This man’s behaviour is of concern and we have been making every effort to identify the person responsible. The offences have been sporadic, but we have had three reported cases now in 12 months. Whilst conducting our enquiries we have identified a man who may have witnessed the girls*

running out of the park on the night. We are keen to speak with him as he may have valuable information that could help us with our investigation."

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 887990. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If you see anyone matching the description acting suspiciously, or have any information on who this may be, contact us on 101, 999 if a crime is taking place.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police release CCTV image following Northwich assault

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to following an assault in Northwich.

At 6.15pm on the 14 December 2020 a 15-year-old boy was sitting on a wall outside McDonalds in High Street, Northwich when he was approached by a man who pushed him off the wall and assaulted him.

PC Thomson said: *"The teenager was left shocked by the incident but relatively unharmed. As part of our enquiries into this incident we have released a CCTV image of man we'd like to speak to. If you recognise the man, or witnessed an assault take place please contact us."*

Anyone with information should contact PC Thomson on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 873696. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Appeal for witnesses following Widnes assault

Detectives investigating an assault at a post office in Widnes are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Shortly after 5pm on Monday 14 December police were called to reports of an incident at the town centre Post Office on Widnes Road. On arrival at the scene officers found that a 38-year-old local man had sustained minor injuries following an altercation with another man. Enquiries into the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information.

Detective Constable Rob Catterall said: *“Having reviewed the CCTV footage we know that there were a number of people in the store at the time of the incident and I would ask them to get in touch. I’m also keen to hear from anyone who was in Widnes Road the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have any information which may aid our investigation. I ask anyone with any information, no matter how small, to call the team here at Cheshire Police on 101.”*

Anyone with any information in relation to the incidents is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 873594, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/> . Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A 52-year-old local man was arrested in relation to the incident, he has since been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

Macclesfield police investigating stolen motorbike appeal for witnesses

Police are appealing for information after a motorbike was stolen from an address in Macclesfield.

On 21 December 2020 between 9.25pm and 9.45pm two men stole a Suzuki GSXS 125cc motorbike from outside an address in High Street. The bike is described as dark blue in colour and has Suzuki sticker’s on either side of the bodywork. The bodywork also has numerous yellow stickers at the front and rear of the bike on the bodywork and a red 125 sticker behind the rear seat. The engine block has a black shield covering the engine underneath the seats of the bike, the wheel rims on the bike were also black in colour.

PC Mark Stringer said: *“If you were in the area around the time of the theft and saw suspicious activity or you captured something that may help us on your dashcam, please get in touch. If you are offered for sale a motorbike matching the description I’d also urge you to get in touch.”*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 879435. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Man assaulted and robbed in Widnes

Detectives investigating a robbery in Widnes are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

At around 5.50pm on Tuesday 29 December an 18-year-old man was walking along Lugsdale Road near to Lacey Court when he was attacked by three men. The men grabbed him and he was hit numerous times with a hammer. The men then stole his watch and the jewellery he was wearing and made off on Lugsdale Road in the direction of Tesco. The man armed with the hammer is described as being aged in his 30s and was wearing a blue and grey mountain bubble coat. The other men were all wearing black with a black balaclava covering their faces. The victim sustained facial and head injuries and he received treatment at hospital.

DC Kayleigh Brown, from Widnes CID, said: *"This was an unprovoked and terrifying attack which left the young man with injuries to his head and face. We have been following a number of enquiries since it took place and believe a similar incident occurred the same day at around 5.10pm on Foxley Heath and Scott Avenue. It involved three men assaulting a man with a hammer and stealing his bike. I am appealing to anyone who was in the area at the time and may have seen the assault take place, or have information of the men described, to come forward. I would also ask the public to check their CCTV or dash cam footage to see if it may assist with the investigation. Please get in touch by calling Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 884379 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."*

Police investigating collision near Chester appeal for information

Police are appealing for witnesses following a collision in Ashton near Chester.

At around 4.24pm on December 31 2020 there was a collision involving two cars at the junction of Ashton Lane and Chester Road, Ashton. One of the cars is thought to have swerved to avoid a white vehicle coming out of Ashton Lane onto Chester Road.

PC Nick Anderton said: *"I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who was driving in the area in the run up to and following the collision. Did you see the collision, or have you captured it on your dashcam? Were you the driver of the white vehicle? If you were I would urge you to contact us so that we can establish the circumstances of the collision."*

Anyone with information should contact PC Nick Anderton on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 885738.

Police appeal for information following burglary in Kettleshulme

Police are appealing for information following a burglary at a premises in Kettleshulme.

Sometime between 10pm on Wednesday 23 December and 11.30am on Thursday 24 December unknown offenders forced entry into an outbuilding at an address in the Flatts Lane area. Once inside the building the offenders stole five electric bikes and a white gold wedding ring. The electric bikes consisted of three medium green Scott eRide Genius 920, one large blue Scott eRide Genius 910 and one large green Scott eRide Genius 920.

Two of the bikes;



Officers are now appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or may have any information to come forward.

PC Mark Stringer said: *“Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible. As part of my investigation I’m keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid our enquiries. I’m particularly keen to hear from anyone who believes they have seen some of the stolen bikes for sale, or been approached about buying them. I’d ask anyone with any information, no matter how small to contact the team here at Macclesfield on 101 quoting IML 881041 or [report it to us via our website.](#)”*

Information can also be provided through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or report it [via the Crimestoppers website.](#)

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: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>