

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Three men involved in a shooting at a house in Crewe have been jailed

Kieran Mellor, 23, Kenneth Stephenson, 24, and Nyle Smith, 24, had been in an altercation with two men outside the property on the evening of Sunday 19 April.



**Kieran  
Mellor**

**Kenneth  
Stephenson**

**Nyle  
Smith**

The men first arrived on The Birches in Davenport Avenue shortly after 8pm armed with knives and a wooden plank. A dispute then took place between the trio and two men aged 50 and 34. The three men then left the area and returned at 9.55pm with their faces concealed and armed with a shotgun. The gun was fired at the 50-year-old but narrowly missed him and instead hit the wall of the house. He did not sustain any injuries. Police were made aware of the shooting the following day. What followed was a meticulous and complex investigation to establish the circumstances of the shooting and identify the men responsible. This involved officers from the Local Policing Unit in Crewe and resources from across the force working extremely hard to look through a high volume of information and intelligence as well as CCTV footage. Once the men were identified a sustained manhunt began to locate them. A number of warrants, supported by armed officers, were executed at addresses on Flag Lane, Derrington Avenue and Fanshaw Walk. All three men admitted to being in possession of a firearm at an earlier hearing and were sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 29 January.

Smith, of Artle Road in Crewe, was jailed for four years and eight months, Stephenson, of Flag Lane in Crewe, was jailed for five years and Mellor, of Walthall Street in Crewe, was jailed for five years. DI Claire Jesson, from Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"This incident resulted in a large number of officers and staff working around the clock to identify them and remove three very dangerous men off our streets. These men had access to a viable firearm and showed they were willing to use it. Thankfully the intended victim was extremely lucky not to have sustained any injuries after the bullets missed him and instead hit the wall of the*

*house. I am pleased they admitted to their crime, which is on the back of the dedication of the investigation team who gathered strong evidence against them.”*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *“I know Cheshire Constabulary worked considerably hard to take these offenders off our streets. This sends a message that gun crime will not be tolerated in Cheshire and anyone using or in possession of dangerous weapons will be brought to justice. I want to take this opportunity to praise all the officers involved in this investigation for making the local community safer.”*

## **Two Warrington men charged with drug offences**

Two men have been charged with drug offences in Warrington. John Palmer, 38, of Kentmere Road in Timperley and Ewan Burrows, 20, of Davenport Avenue in Latchford have been charged with three counts of possession with intent to supply heroin, crack cocaine and cannabis. Both men appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 28 January and were remanded in custody until they are due to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 25 February. The charges relate to a warrant executed, by officers from Warrington BIT, at an address on Knutsford Road on Tuesday 26 January.

## **Officers to target motorists using mobile phones as part of national campaign**

Cheshire Constabulary is taking part in a national crackdown against road users who use their mobile phone behind the wheel. The operation runs between Monday 1 - Sunday 21 February, with the force taking part in enforcement and educational activity in support of the National Police Chief Council’s country-wide campaign. Officers will be out and about on the lookout for people using their mobile phone behind the wheel, or any of the other Fatal 5 offences (careless driving, speeding, drink/drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt). It’s a well-known fact that using a mobile phone while driving is one of the main contributory factors in a fatal collision so officers will be looking for anyone taking a call, texting or scrolling through their phone while driving. Head of Cheshire’s Roads and Crime Unit, Jon Betts, said: *“National statistics suggest that drivers who use mobile phones behind the wheel are four times more likely to be involved in a collision. The majority, if not all, road users know that it is against the law to use their mobile phone while driving, yet some still decide to do it anyway. Many people even try and hide it down by their laps in a bid to avoid being caught. There is no excuse. If caught using your mobile phone while driving, you will face the prospect of a £200 fine and six penalty points on your licence and, if you’re under 21, you could lose your licence. If you think you could be tempted to look at your mobile phone, then leave it well out of reach. That call/text/post on social media is not worth dying for.”*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, added: *“Making our roads safer is one of my key priorities and I am pleased that Cheshire police is taking part in this national campaign to reduce the numbers of drivers using a mobile phone on our county’s roads. Using a phone whilst driving is completely irresponsible. Not only does it put the lives of the driver themselves at risk, it also risks the lives of other road users and pedestrians. I am shocked at the sheer number of people who continue to use their mobile phone behind the wheel when they are well aware of the dangers and know they are breaking the law. Scrolling through social media or checking a text message is not worth the loss of someone’s life or a lengthy prison sentence.”*

As well as enforcement, the campaign will focus on educating drivers about the dangers of driving whilst using a mobile phone. Throughout the operation the force will be issuing messages through the @CheshirePolice and @CheshireRCU social media accounts.



## Man jailed for string of offences against 11-year-old child in Winsford

A man in Winsford who sexually abused a child has been jailed for 15 years.

Ashley Wilson abused the 11-year-old girl at her home between December 2017 and September 2020.

The 32-year-old pleaded guilty to sexual assault including rape and assault by penetration. He also admitted to three counts of making indecent images, one count of distributing indecent images and one count of possession of indecent images. He was sentenced today (Friday 29 January) at Chester Crown Court and ordered to sign the sex offenders' register and a sexual harm prevention order both indefinitely. Wilson was arrested by police on suspicion of possessing indecent images after a warrant was executed at an address in Winsford on Tuesday 24 November 2020. He was subsequently released under investigation. The same day, the child disclosed the abuse by Wilson to her family and it was immediately reported to police and he was re-arrested. On sentencing Wilson, the judge said: *"You failed to accept the reality that you are a paedophile and have an unhealthy sexual interest in children."*



The judge also said the victim and her mum have shown incredible courage and sent 'tremendous' sympathy to the family. DC Laura Kimpton, of Cheshire Police's Public Protection Directorate, said: *"The abuse Wilson subjected the 12-year-old girl to, was nothing short of horrific. It is possible that without the initial police action to arrest him for the indecent images he was in possession of, she may not have had the courage and bravery to disclose the sexual abuse. Wilson took advantage of, and preyed on, a young innocent child for his own sexual gratification and betrayed her trust and the trust of her family. I am pleased that he has admitted to all of his crimes and spared her the trauma of having to relive what happened during a trial. Justice has rightly been served but I know this will stay with her and her family for the rest of their lives and they will continue to receive the appropriate support to help come to terms with what happened."*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"This was a distressing case and my thoughts are with the victim and her family. I also want to thank those who worked hard to secure justice*

*and for the support they have given to her and her family. Sexual abuse is a horrific crime. I would encourage anyone who has been a victim to come forward and report it, knowing you will be listened to and supported.”*

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/> or Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

## **Badger cull costs 2020**

Police costs incurred for the badger cull in Cheshire during 2020 amounted to £270,421. These costs are covered in full by Defra (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Badger culling is part of a Defra policy, licensed by Natural England, to carry out targeted culls in selected rural areas to eradicate Bovine Tuberculosis by 2038.

## **Winsford man jailed for breaching Criminal Behaviour Order**

A man from Winsford who breached his criminal behaviour order less than a week after being released from prison has been jailed. Michael Hill was released from prison on Friday 22 January after serving a sentence for shoplifting. Upon his release the 34-year-old was required to adhere to a strict five-year criminal behaviour order which barred him from entering any premises in Winsford which are licenced to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises. Yet, just four days after his release, on Tuesday 26 January, Hill entered the Spar store on Delamere Street. He immediately went to the alcohol section and attempted to hide a bottle of wine in his sleeve before leaving the premises without paying. When challenged by staff he verbally abused them and threatened to smash up the store. Following the incident Hill was arrested by officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit and subsequently charged with breaching a criminal behaviour order, shoplifting and public order offences. Hill, of Alexandra Square, Winsford, appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 27 January where he pleaded guilty to all of the charges. He was sentenced to 13 weeks in prison and ordered to pay £123.00 victims surcharge; he was also recalled to prison regarding a previous conviction. Sergeant Gary Weaver said: *“Michael Hill is a prolific shoplifter who steals alcohol to feed his addiction to it. As this incident demonstrates he often alarms and scares shop workers by shouting, swearing and being aggressive, intimidating and threatening towards them. I hope that Hill reflects on the sentence that has been handed to him and starts to understand that that the CBO is not a soft sentence, and if he continues to breach the order then he will go back to prison.”*

Upon his release from prison Hill will again be required to adhere to the strict criminal behaviour order which prohibits him from:

- Entering any retail premises in Winsford that are licensed to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises.
- 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.

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, said: *“This behaviour is totally unacceptable and the sentencing sends out a clear message that persistent criminal behaviour will not be tolerated. No-one should feel threatened or intimidated by the actions of others and its pleasing to see that officers are using*

*all the tools available to them tackle such offending. There comes a point when you have to say enough is enough and take additional action to protect the local community.”*

## **Man charged following the discovery of cannabis farm in Crewe**

A 37-year-old man has been charged after a cannabis farm was discovered in Crewe. Edlir Zorbaj, of no fixed address, was arrested in Badger Avenue in the town at around 11.15am on Tuesday 26 January. He has subsequently been charged with production of a class B drug. The charge relates to a cannabis farm being discovered by officers at an address in Badger Avenue that morning.

The large quantity of cannabis plants inside the address were seized by officers, as was equipment used to cultivate them. Zorbaj appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Wednesday 27 January. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 24 February, again via a video link.

## **Bollington home closed down following years of ASB and drugs offences**

A house in Bollington, which was plagued with anti-social behaviour, violence and drug related activity, has been closed down thanks to the work of local officers. On Tuesday 26 January officers from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit (LPU), supported by Peaks and Plains housing trust, were granted a closure order for the property on Ovenhouse Lane at Crewe Magistrates' Court. The order, which was granted under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, was applied for after officers gathered a catalogue of evidence in relation to anti-social behaviour, violence and drug related activity at the property. Sergeant Helen Percival, of Macclesfield Beat Team said: *“This closure order brings to an end of years of anti-social behaviour which the local residents have had to endure. A lot of the behaviour was linked to evidence of drug usage at or within the premises, as well as violence at the address. I hope that this order will give the local community a welcome relief and allow them to get on with their lives without having to face the anxiety that this property caused.”*

Following the order all of the windows and doors at the address have been boarded up and will remain so for three months. Anyone who enters the address during that time is committing an offence and can be arrested. Sergeant Percival added: *“All reports of anti-social behaviour are reviewed by the Beat Team, and where the evidence is available, we will take action and work with partner agencies and the people involved. In this case, we have worked closely with Peaks and Plains housing trust and the occupants to try and address the issues raised by local residents, but despite our efforts we were left with no option but to apply for the closure order. I personally would like to thank the community in this case who have been brave enough to speak out about the behaviour at the premises and provide the police with the necessary evidence in order to support the application for a closure. I hope that this order sends out a clear message that anti-social behaviour and drugs related activity will not be tolerated.”*

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, David Keane said: *“Nobody should have to endure behaviour of this nature and I am sure that this closure order will make a real difference to local residents in Bollington. This order is a great example of how officers are working with the communities to ensure a positive response and I would like to praise officers for their work in getting this order to the courts. I hope that this result provides reassurance to the local community and shows that officers will do all they can to make Cheshire even safer.”*

Local residents are encouraged to report any concerns or breaches of the order to Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Call blocker devices used to protect vulnerable residents from fraud**

Officers in Cheshire have a new tool in their armoury to protect vulnerable residents from telephone scammers. State-of-the-art call blocker devices have been installed at the homes of victims that are particularly susceptible to this ever growing form of crime. Funded by the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU), the devices prevent fraudsters from getting through to the homes of vulnerable residents. PC Jim Day, of Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit, said: *"Over-the-phone fraudsters are not small-time criminals. They are part of larger organised crime groups who use a range of tactics to try to get as much money as they can from the people they call, and they are very persistent and their lies can be very convincing. With us being in the third national lockdown and the coronavirus pandemic creating new ways to scam victims, these criminals have stepped up their already considerable efforts to target money belonging to people at the other end of the phone. Fraud has become the crime that UK citizens are most likely to fall victim to, and here in Cheshire we are dealing with more than 100 cases every week. At the Economic Crime Unit we are doing everything we can to identify offenders and bring them to justice, as well as to prevent further offences from being committed. As part of this, in August we secured sophisticated call blocker devices from the NWROCU and have since been installing them across Cheshire, at the homes of victims that are particularly vulnerable. The areas we have installed them in so far are Alsager, Warrington, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield, Crewe, Chester, Ellesmere Port, Nantwich, Poynton and Knutsford. Fraudsters target the elderly and people with early onset dementia, though their operations are often so sophisticated and their lies so convincing that residents of any age can fall for them. The call blocker devices prevent the scammers from getting through to those they look to trick and defraud."*

The only people who can get through to homes that are protected by one of the devices are those on a recognised caller list. PC Day added: *"It is not unusual for vulnerable residents to receive several scam and nuisance phone calls every day. The devices enable their families to create a recognised caller list for them whereby only those callers can get through to them directly. Everyone else can be instructed via voicemail to call a trusted family member – acting as a screen for incoming calls – to tell them who they are and why they want to speak to the vulnerable person. If the family member is subsequently happy for the caller to be added to the recognised caller list, they can quickly do so online. The vulnerable person's family can also see details of all their incoming and outgoing calls online. With the devices blocking scam and nuisance calls, there have been no repeat fraud offences involving those we have given them to over the past six months. We are delighted to have been able to safeguard those victims in this way and will try our best to secure more of the devices to give to those who need them most in Cheshire."*

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: *"The fact that fraud offences have risen during the coronavirus pandemic shows that the organised criminals who commit them will stop at nothing for their own financial gain. I know that Cheshire Constabulary will continue to do everything in its power to bring the fraudsters to justice and I am pleased to hear of this latest work to safeguard vulnerable victims against repeat offences."*

For more information on call blocker devices email [faspo@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:faspo@cheshire.pnn.police.uk).

For more fraud prevention advice visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud> and <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.



Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or been a victim of fraud should call us on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Information can also be reported via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## Bewsey and Whitecross given new security equipment to deter criminals

New security measures have been put in place in Bewsey and Whitecross.

Two CCTV cameras have been installed, one placed at the subway on Wellfield Street and another on Bewsey Park, following reports of anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and criminal damage. A total of five CCTV cameras have been provided to the whole of Warrington with three solely for Bewsey and Whitecross. Meanwhile 350 homes have so far been fitted with a unique crime-fighting tool to help protect homes and possessions. The Selecta DNA forensic coding spray is an invisible dye placed on items inside the home such as jewellery, laptops and TVs. Officers can use specialist lighting to identify the property and link them to specific incidents using a unique code. They will look to prosecute anyone found to have been in possession of an item that has been marked that they cannot account for. The free gift comes from grant funding worth more than half a million pounds and is part of a scheme which focuses on tackling crime including burglary and acquisitive crime. The £550,000 grant was secured by Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane from the government's Safer Streets Fund which was set up to prevent crimes in certain areas. Another focus of the project is to enhance community involvement in the issues impacting on residents through the extension of schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch.



*(Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Tom Palfrey, PCSO Carlos Paulo, Inspector Ruth Atherton and Dan Stokes from Wireless CCTV Ltd with one of the new CCTV cameras installed)*

Inspector Ruth Atherton, from Warrington Local Policing Unit and leading on the project, said: *“Since the New Year we have visited 1000 homes in Bewsey and Whitecross and managed to fit the crime prevention tool in 350 houses so far. It is a free gift as part of the Safer Streets funding and the perfect time of year for residents to protect their possessions and also new presents they may have received at Christmas. The property marking kits are an excellent way to make it difficult for burglars to sell items they have stolen. It will enable officers to identify the owners of the stolen property so it can be returned to them. While the Safer Streets project is about tackling burglary and acquisitive crime it is also about making a difference to the community. Therefore we have listened to concerns raised by residents and fitted cameras in problem areas associated with drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. We are also working with residents on a number of initiatives that will make the area an even safer but also more enjoyable place to live. I would encourage anyone who wants to be involved in the projects or interested in being part of Neighbourhood Watch to get in touch with us.”*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *“The delivery of this crime fighting tool to each household is a fantastic way to protect homes from burglars and opportunistic thieves. I am pleased officers are speaking to residents to find out how they can improve their community to reduce crime such as the installation of CCTV cameras and how to make it a much safer place to live. The project is a great*

*opportunity for all residents to come together and work alongside officers and I would encourage people to get involved."*

If you live in the Bewsey and Whitecross area and would like the free crime prevention tool please email [safer.streets@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:safer.streets@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) or call 01606 364040. If you have any information about anti-social behaviour, drug activity or any other crimes in Bewsey and Whitecross please email [safer.streets@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:safer.streets@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

## **Man jailed for spree of burglaries in Ellesmere Port**

A man who burgled three houses in one night in Ellesmere Port has been jailed. David Lightfoot, previously of Princes Road in Ellesmere Port, targeted two houses in Great Sutton and one in Whitby on Tuesday 4 February 2020. The 46-year-old was sentenced to four years and three months at Chester Crown Court on Monday 25 January for three counts of burglary, three counts of handling stolen goods and disqualified driving. Lightfoot pleaded guilty on the day his trial was due to begin.



The court heard how Lightfoot broke into the garage of a house on Yewdale Drive. He used a suitcase to keep the door open while he stole items including an iPad mini, a mobile phone and a laptop. Lightfoot then targeted the garage of a house on Randle Meadow and stole bottles of Chanel perfume. The third house targeted that night was on Yeoman Way. Lightfoot broke into the conservatory and stole keys to a Ford Fiesta along with the victim's wallet and a watch. The car was later recovered from a car park at a pub in Little Sutton. After he was identified by detectives as a suspect, Lightfoot was arrested at his home address. A thorough search of the property resulted in a number of items from addresses on Yewdale Drive and Randle Meadow being found and recovered. A number of other items were located from previous offences committed at addresses on Deesside in Whitby, Stanney Lane in Ellesmere Port and Hope Farm Road in Ellesmere Port. While in police custody a watch and a coat that Lightfoot was wearing were seized by officers who discovered he had stolen them from the house on Yeoman Way. After being interviewed he was subsequently charged and remanded in custody.

Following the sentencing DS Graeme Carvell, from Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *"In the early hours of Tuesday 4 February Lightfoot chose to go on a burglary spree to steal a large number of items including a car. After the burglaries were reported to police we commenced an investigation and quickly identified him as the suspect. What followed was his arrest and a search of his address which led to the stolen goods being found. He was even brazen enough to go into police custody wearing a watch he had stolen. Thankfully we were able to recover the car and a number of other items he had stolen which we returned to the owners. I hope the victims are pleased with the outcome of the investigation."*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"People should feel safe in their own home but for those who are a victim of a burglary it can be very distressing and have a long term affect. I am pleased officers have been able to recover some of the items stolen and they have been returned to their owners. I hope knowing justice has been served will provide some form of comfort to the victims."*



## Family pay tribute to 26-year-old man who died in collision in Middlewich

The family of a 26-year-old man who died in a collision in Middlewich have paid tribute to him. Kieran Bailey, who was from Crewe but living in Middlewich, was the driver of a black BMW which was involved in a collision with a white Nissan van. The incident occurred on King Street at around 6.08am on Sunday 24 January. Sadly, Kieran passed away at the scene.

His family are being supported by specialist officers and have issued the following tribute to him: *“Kieran was a popular young man and touched the lives of so many. He will be sadly missed by his partner Jack, mum Melanie, dad Tim his brother Colby, their families and his many friends, and work colleagues.”*



Officers want to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the collision or may have captured relevant dashcam footage. Information and footage can be provided by calling 101 quoting IML 902218 or via [the Cheshire Police website](#).

## Flood victims urged to be aware of rogue traders

Police are urging residents and businesses affected by the recent flooding to be aware of rogue traders. Last week many communities across Cheshire were left devastated following persistent heavy rain, which left hundreds of homes and business premises across the county under water. Now the flooding has subsided, local people are returning to their homes to assess the damage and determine what work will be required to make their homes habitable.

DSI Paul Beauchamp, of Cheshire Police’s Crime Operations Unit said: *“We understand that residents and businesses affected by the recent flooding will be keen to get back to some kind of normality as soon as possible. To do this, you may need help from builders or tradesmen. While the vast majority of builders and traders are legitimate, unfortunately, there are a number of rogue traders who will use the floods as an opportunity to scam people out of as much money as possible. Rogue traders often appear to be highly professional. They can have printed leaflets and vehicles branded with their company name, making people think they are legitimate. They often use highly pressurised selling techniques to convince victims to use their services and charge exorbitant prices for work that is often of a poor standard, or never carried out. I would urge anyone who is looking at getting work done to think carefully and don’t rush into anything. It’s essential that you speak to your insurance company before you sign any contracts. You should also look at getting more than one quote and ask to see any relevant documentation. It’s worth checking whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme or the Government’s TrustMark scheme.”*

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane said: *“The devastation we saw across Cheshire last week was absolutely heartbreaking and this kind of activity is the last thing that our communities need. As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I want to make it as difficult as possible for these types of criminals to operate in the county and I would urge all residents and businesses affected to follow the advice given. I would also like to remind communities about the emergency funding, which I have made available to support residents and businesses who have been affected by flooding. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for projects supporting those recovering from flood damage or people who have been evacuated from their homes due to the flood waters.”*

Further details about the scheme, which is funded by money taken from criminals, can be found online at <https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2021/01/flooding-emergency-funding/> . Before agreeing to any work being carried out on your home or business you should take into consideration the following points:

- If you feel that improvement or maintenance work needs carrying out at your property, discuss this with a relative or a friend who can help you find a reputable trader.
- Professional looking leaflets or advertisements are not indications of traders being reputable with all the relevant documentation – check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme or the Government’s TrustMark scheme.
- Get quotes from a number of traders before agreeing to have work done, to ensure that you are not overcharged.
- Always ask for quotes in writing.
- It is wise to get quotes from around four different traders to check that the prices quoted are fair.
- Do not let anyone pressure you into having work done.
- Never agree to have work done unless you have seen examples of the trader’s work.
- Do not pay cash up front and never go to the bank or to a cashpoint with a trader.
- Make sure that you get contact details and the address of any business you are considering for work at your property – if possible, visit the premises to check that it exists.
- Do not be fooled by someone who says that they are just working up the street or that they have done work for your neighbour – ask for specific examples and then follow up to check if what they have said is true.
- If someone calls at your home trying to sell you something, do not let them in and ask for ID.
- Always check the identity of doorstep callers by telephoning the company they are claiming to be from – use the number listed in your local phonebook or on the company’s website, never use a number the doorstep caller gives you.

If you believe that you, or someone you know, are being targeted by a rogue trader please call us on 101 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. It’s also worth passing the details to the trading standards department at your local council.

## **Man sentenced following sexual assault in Warrington**

A 33-year-old who sexually assaulted a younger man after a night out drinking alcohol has been sentenced. Jac David Brown, of Springmeadow Road, Birmingham, committed the offence at a house in Warrington in the early hours of Sunday 9 December 2018. He was living on Albert Road in Warrington at the time. The incident was reported to the police and a subsequent investigation led to Brown being charged with two serious sexual offences. He denied the charges but was willing to plead guilty to a lesser charge of sexual assault not involving penetration. This lesser charge was accepted by the prosecution during a trial at Liverpool Crown Court last month.

Brown returned to the court to be sentenced on Friday 22 January. He was handed a nine-month prison sentence, which was suspended for 18 months. Brown also has to sign the sex offenders’ register for 10 years and pay a £140 victim surcharge. DS Helen Newman, who led the investigation for Cheshire Constabulary, said: *“I hope that Jac David Brown’s guilty plea helps to provide the victim with some closure and enables him to move forward with his life. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us. Cheshire Constabulary takes any allegation*

*of a sexual offence extremely seriously, both recent incidents and those that occurred in the more distant past. Any report will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim considered as our main priority. Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the legal right to remain anonymous.”*

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: *“I know that officers work extremely hard at Cheshire Constabulary in an effort to bring sexual offenders to justice. I urge anyone who has been the victim of a sexual assault – no matter how long ago the incident took place – to come forward and seek support. I will continue to commission services that work directly with victims to ensure that they are listened to and provided with the specialist support they need.”*

To report any sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be passed anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

### **Three teenagers arrested following incidents in Bewsey**

Officers from Warrington Local Policing Unit have arrested three teenagers following reports of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and racial abuse. Over the past week officers have been called to multiple incidents in the Bewsey area. These have included racial abuse and criminal damage at a store in Folly Lane and eggs being thrown at homes in Troutbeck Avenue. PC Donna Stevens, of Warrington LPU, said: *“Over the past week the Warrington community has really come together to support each other following the devastating floods. Sadly, there have been a small number of people who have used the floods as an excuse to commit crime, which is the last thing that the local community needs. This type of behaviour is totally unacceptable and I want to reassure local residents we are doing all we can to ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions. We have already arrested three young people in relation to the incidents and dispersal orders have also been issued to a number of other teenagers. Investigations into the incidents are ongoing and I urge anyone who witnessed any of them, or believes they have information which may aid our enquiries, to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage of the incidents.”*

The three teenagers – two boys aged 15 and 16 and a 16-year-old girl – have all been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries. Under their bail conditions they are not allowed to enter the Bewsey area. Anyone with any relevant information or footage is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting 21000052454, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal for information after burglars target flooded home in Warrington**

Police are appealing for information from the public after burglars targeted a home which had been evacuated due to flooding in Warrington. Sometime between 5pm on Sunday 24 January and 10am on Monday 25 January someone forced entry into a house on Rostherne Close in Sankey. Once inside they searched the address and stole a number of items. PC Rebecca Jubb, from Warrington Local Policing Unit said: *“To target a house which has been evacuated due to flooding is simply despicable and we are committed to doing all we can to identify the people responsible. The victims in this case have enough on to*

*deal with following the flooding of their home and the last thing they needed was to be burgled. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and we are following a number of lines of investigation, including CCTV footage and forensics. While we have already recovered some CCTV footage, we are keen to hear from anyone else in the area with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may have witnessed the incident, or believes they have information which may aid our enquiries.”*

Chief Inspector Neil Drum, Head of Warrington Local Policing Unit, added: *“Over the past few days I’ve seen myself how the local community have really come together to support each other following the flooding and I understand the concern that this incident is likely to cause. I would like to reassure residents that we are doing all we can to ensure those responsible for this incident are held accountable for their actions. We have also increased patrols across the affected areas and I would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to an officer.”*

Anyone with any relevant information or footage is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting incident number IML 902910, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal for information following fatal collision in Middlewich**

Officers are appealing for more information following a fatal collision in Middlewich. At around 6.08am on Sunday 24 January police were called to King Street following reports of a collision involving a black BMW and a white Nissan van. The driver of the black BMW, a 26-year-old man from Middlewich, died at the scene. His next of kin have been informed. The driver of the Nissan van, a man, was taken to hospital for checks. He has since been discharged.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the collision or may have any dashcam footage of the vehicles before the incident to come forward. Anyone with any information is urged to call 101 quoting IML 902218 or [report it via our website](#). Alternatively anyone with information can report to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or [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/>