

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 14th February 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Father and son charged with going equipped to commit catalytic converter thefts

A father and son have been charged with going equipped to commit catalytic converter thefts. Patrick Collins Snr, 39, and Patrick Collins Jnr, 18, appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Friday 12 February to answer a going equipped to commit theft charge. It relates to a vehicle stop and search that officers carried out at around 4.10pm on Friday 11 September. The car was stopped as it headed towards Congleton on the A34 Manchester Road in Eaton. The father and son, who live together in Ridgeway Avenue, Blackburn, have been released on unconditional bail. They are set to return to Crewe Magistrates' Court on Monday 17 May.

Residents advised to take some simple precautions to protect their dogs from theft

Police in Cheshire are reminding residents to take some simple precautions to protect their dogs. The National Police Chiefs Council highlighted this week the nationwide rise in dog thefts with the charity DogLost seeing a large increase in the number of dogs reported to them as stolen. In Cheshire we're seeing a slight decrease following a rise during the first lockdown, but it remains on the Constabulary's watch-list. The popularity of having a furry companion during lockdown has amplified the prices of dogs and unscrupulous illegal dog breeders and criminals are taking advantage. Ch Supt Bill Dutton said: *"While we don't want to alarm people we do want to make sure you continue to take extra precautions to keep your pets safe. We understand that they are part of the family and the effect of having a pet stolen can be harrowing and distressing. Callous dog thieves don't care about the heartbreak they cause, they just see the potential for making money - so we want to take this opportunity to remind you to keep your dog secure with some simple steps to make it harder for thieves. Please also keep an eye on your neighbourhood and report any suspicious activity to us so that we can make Cheshire a no-go area for dog thieves."*

There are a number of things you can do to protect your pet:

- Make sure your garden is secure and gates locked so they can't escape.
- Don't be tempted to leave your dog outside a shop or in an unattended car – it only takes a second for an opportunist thief to take advantage.
- Avoid posting pictures on social media with your locations tagged.

More detailed information on protecting your pet from theft can be found here:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft>

Ch Supt Bill Dutton added: *"If you are looking to add a furry friend to your family unit, don't add fuel to the fire by inadvertently buying from an illegal puppy breeder or a seller who may have stolen the young dog in an effort to sell it for money. Make sure you know the signs and what to look out for."*

If you are looking to buy a puppy take a look at this checklist before you start your search.

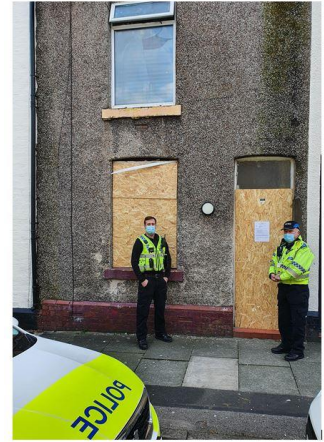
<https://www.nawt.org.uk/advice/puppy-buyers-checklist-0>

You can also consider adopting from a wide range of registered animal charities.

Widnes house closed following persistent anti-social behaviour

A closure order has been imposed on a house in Widnes in response to persistent anti-social behaviour. Officers from the Halton Problem Solving Team applied for the order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The anti-social behaviour stemming from the address in Bower Street included groups of people coming and going at all hours. There have also been reports of drug dealing and violence at the address. The violence has spilt out onto the street on a number of occasions. Granted by Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 10 February, the closure order makes it a crime for anyone other than the landlord, or anyone employed by them for the purpose of renovating the house, to be at the property over the next three months.

PC Ian Harrison, of the Halton Problem Solving Team, said: *"The behaviour of people inside and outside the house in Bower Street has caused those living in nearby properties significant alarm, harassment and distress. That has been the case for the past 12 months. I have no doubt the closure order is the right result for the community and that it will have a positive impact on the area, and I want to thank the members of the public who played a key role in this. The information they supplied was crucial in us gathering the evidence needed to secure the order. We want people to be able to live in their homes without having to suffer from the effects of unacceptable issues at neighbouring properties. The closure order is another example of our commitment to targeting those who undermine our communities through unacceptable behaviour. I hope that this case encourages others to report and give statements regarding such behaviour at properties they live near. As this case shows, we will do something about it."*

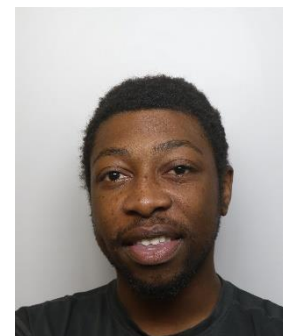


PC Ian Harrison, left, and PCSO Stephen Marnick outside the boarded up house in Bower Street, Widnes

Officers will conduct regular checks of the house over the next three months to ensure that the order is not breached. If anyone is found to have breached it they are liable to be arrested and face up to six months in prison, an unlimited fine or both. David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"This is one of many examples of local policing teams in Cheshire using the full remit of the law to combat persistent unacceptable behaviour. I would like to praise the officers involved for their work in securing this closure order. I hope that it provides reassurance to the Widnes community and serves as a warning to those who have a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life of local residents through anti-social behaviour."*

Fifth man jailed following Rainow robbery

A fifth man who was part of a gang that raided an address near Macclesfield and threatened the occupants with knives and hammers have been jailed. Collins Mukonowatsauka appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 10 February where he was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison. The 22-year-old, of Eastern By-Pass, Openshaw, Manchester, had previously pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary. His sentencing follows on from that of Rebanne Cantrill, 19, Devon Patterson, 22, John McLeod, 20, and Jordon Morrissey, 19, who had all pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an offensive weapon. Between them the gang have now been sentenced to a combined total of more than 45 years. Cantrill, from Manchester,



was sentenced to 14 years in prison; Patterson, of Stan Jolley Walk, Manchester, was jailed for 10-and-a-half years; McLeod, of Back Haslam Street, Bury, was handed an eight-and-a-half-year custodial sentence; and Morrissey, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to eight years detention at a young offender's institute.

The charges relate to a robbery which occurred at around 4pm on Tuesday 17 December 2019. The victims – a married couple and their 10-year-old child – were getting ready for dinner at their home in Rainow, when the gang burst into the property. The men held the victims at knifepoint and threatened them with a claw hammer, demanding their savings. The gang also stole their mobile phones and demanded the passcodes for them. They also forced the victims to hand over the watches from their wrists, along with other watches and valuable items from a jewellery box. The men then began to search the address. Whilst doing so, they thought they had been spotted by a neighbour. Fearing that the police had been called, the men started to make their way out of the property. The gang made an unsuccessful attempt to steal the family car, before eventually fleeing the scene on foot and ultimately into the surrounding fields. While the offenders made their escape, the victims locked all their windows and doors and called the police. Despite their best effort to evade officers, Cantrill, Patterson, McLeod and Morrissey were all quickly arrested after being located by a police helicopter. Mukonowatsauka initially managed to escape the scene. However, he was subsequently identified by officers through DNA evidence.

Following today's sentencing, DS Simon Mills, of Macclesfield CID, said: *"Today's sentencing brings to a conclusion what has been a long and complex investigation. I am delighted with the sentences that have been handed to the defendants, a total of 48-and-a-half years in prison, which truly reflect the severity of their offences. They subjected the victims to an absolutely terrifying ordeal, holding them at knifepoint in their own home and threatening them with a claw hammers. They even assaulted the victims' 12 month old dog with a hammer in an attempt to get the family to hand over their valuable possessions and life savings – a truly despicable action. Luckily the young dog did not sustain any serious injuries. Thankfully, the offenders cut short their crime after thinking they had been seen by a neighbour and they fled the address. I hope that the conclusion of this case brings some closure to the victims. I also hope that the sentences serve as a deterrent to other people and stops them from committing similar crimes."*

David Keane, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner added: *"I would like to thank the team at Macclesfield for their fantastic work in helping to bring these men to justice. This must have been an extremely distressing experience for the victims and I hope that they can now move forward with their lives following the conclusion of this case."*

Residents urged to stick to the rules after 685 fines issued since beginning of January lockdown

Police are urging residents to continue to stick the rules after a large number of fines were issued in the first month of lockdown. Since lockdown began on 4 January, a total of 685 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued by Cheshire Constabulary. The force follows the approach of engage, explain and encourage but when officers are met with blatant and/or repeat breaches of the regulations, they will enforce immediately. Officers have dealt with a range of breaches from gatherings, businesses remaining open when required to close and people being out without reasonable excuse. Over the last weekend alone (Friday 5 February to Sunday 7 February) 116 FPNs were issued across the force. Of this figure, 15 FPNs were issued following a party at an address in Alderley Edge which had been hired through an online booking site. Officers attended the address at around 8.30pm on Saturday 6 February and spoke with a man who claimed everyone inside was from the same household. On entering the property, officers found balloons, party banners and alcohol.

It was clear that not everyone in attendance were from the same household and that this was a blatant breach of the lockdown restrictions.

Officers explained the lockdown rules to all those inside but some attempted to hide away in cupboards to avoid engaging with police. Elsewhere, five fines were issued for a party at an address in Crewe, two fines were issued after people from different households were out without reasonable excuse in Widnes and three fines were issued following a gathering at a property in Warrington.

Assistant Chief Constable Jenny Sims said: *“While the majority of Cheshire residents are abiding to the rules, there are still a minority who are bending and blatantly breaching restrictions which are in place to save lives. Officers are risking their own health to protect Cheshire residents from this deadly virus and when they are met by blatant and repeat breaches they will enforce without delay. There are many more people in hospital with the virus during this lockdown than at any time during the pandemic. This is why it is so important that people continue to stick to the regulations, we will only get through this health emergency by us all doing the right thing. We know that most residents have been incredibly supportive and have assisted our efforts by staying at home and only leaving for the few exemptions outlined by Government. For that, I thank you.”*

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, David Keane said: *“With the vaccine programme being rolled-out and the majority of people following the rules, each day we get closer to beating the virus but there is still a great deal of work still to do. By sticking to the lockdown regulations we will not only protect our loved ones but also those most vulnerable in our communities by reducing the spread of coronavirus.”*

For further advice and guidance please visit [the Government website](#). To report a coronavirus breach visit [the Cheshire Police website](#).

Man jailed after breaking into Chester house twice in two years

A man from Chester who broke into the same house twice in two years has been jailed. John Armitage pleaded guilty to burglary and theft and was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 10 February. The 52-year-old, of Canberra Way, Chester, was jailed for two years. The court heard that Armitage broke into the address in Gladstone Avenue, Chester, on the night of New Year’s Eve. He gained entry by smashing a window in the rear patio doors at the rear of the house. Once inside he stole a number of items, including a bike worth more than £850 and a £250 Garmin watch. Armitage’s downfall came after officers found traces of his blood on walls inside the property. He was subsequently arrested and questioned in custody, where he claimed to have a loss of memory. However, he admitted being responsible for the burglary when the case progressed to the courts. It was the second time that Armitage had broken into the address, having previously burgled the house on 24 October 2019. On that occasion he was caught red-handed by officers as he rummaged through the house and was sentenced to 2 years. DC Andrea Ellis, who led the investigation into the most recent break-in, said: *“Burglary is a serious offence as victims are targeted in their own home, which is the place they should be able to feel most safe. In this case, the man responsible is a repeat offender who clearly has no regard for the impact that his crimes have on the victims. The fact that he broke into the same address twice is simply despicable. As a result of the evidence we were able to gather against him, Armitage had no other sensible option but to plead guilty to the burglary on New Year’s Eve. Thankfully, he is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide closure for the victim, who had only recently moved into the address, as well as reassurance to the local community.”*



Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane added: *“Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home, and to be a victim of burglary is a deeply upsetting experience. I would like to praise the work of all the officers who were involved in the investigation for helping to secure this conviction and deliver justice for the victim. I hope that the outcome of the investigation provides reassurance to residents in Chester and elsewhere in Cheshire.”*

Catalytic converter thieves jailed after targeting cars in Warrington

Two men have been jailed for stealing catalytic converters from two cars in Warrington Seamus Maughan and Terence Mongan, both of Warrington Road in Runcorn, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft from a motor vehicle and one count of going equipped for theft. Maughan also admitted to driving whilst disqualified. They were sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 9 February. Maughan, 38, and Mongan, 45, were jailed for 32 months and 30 months respectively. Maughan was also banned from driving for four years. The offences were



Seamus Maughan

Terence Mongan

committed in Warrington on Friday 16 October. After receiving reports of men in a green Toyota Avensis having stolen catalytic converters from parked cars in the Station Road area of Padgate and the Knutsford Road area of Grappenhall that afternoon, officers located the vehicle in the Gemini Retail Park area of Warrington at around 8.30pm. Maughan and Mongan attempted to run away when the car was stopped by the officers. They were quickly detained and the stolen catalytic converters were subsequently found in the boot of the Toyota Avensis. The car also contained equipment and tools that are used to steal catalytic converters. Maughan and Mongan refused to answer any questions when they were interviewed in custody. That was never going to stop charges being secured against them, and with them having been caught red-handed they were left with little option other than to plead guilty to the offences. DS Tom Hall, of the Warrington Beat Initiative Team which investigated the offences, said: *“I would like to thank the members of the public who supplied us with the information we needed to locate the Toyota Avensis, recover the stolen catalytic converters and bring Seamus Maughan and Terence Mongan to justice. They are now behind bars facing the consequences of their actions, and I hope that this case deters others from attempting to steal catalytic converters in Warrington or anywhere else in Cheshire.”*

On top of their custodial sentences, Maughan and Mongan were each ordered to pay a £190 victim surcharge. David Keane, the police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, said: *“It must be a very upsetting experience to discover that the catalytic converter has been stolen from your car by opportunist thieves. As the police and crime commissioner for the county, I know that Cheshire Constabulary is doing all that it can to tackle this increasingly common form of crime. I would like to congratulate the officers involved in this case for locating these offenders within hours of the thefts and for subsequently gathering enough evidence to secure the convictions.”* Inspector Anton Sullivan, of Cheshire Constabulary’s Roads and Crime Unit, added: *“Catalytic converter thefts are on the rise across the country, with offenders predominantly targeting hybrid vehicles. I would like to reassure residents that we take reports of catalytic converter thefts extremely seriously and investigate them accordingly. This case is just one of many examples of us reacting swiftly to information supplied by members of the public regarding catalytic converter thefts and carrying out an extensive investigation in a bid to secure justice for the victims. Offenders use specialist tools to remove catalytic converters from vehicles. Car owners can play a significant role in tackling catalytic converter thefts by being vigilant, reviewing any security measures they have in place and calling the police on 101 as soon as possible if they see anyone removing catalytic converters or acting suspiciously in car parks, on driveways or*

anywhere else where vehicles are left. In addition, we urge scrap metal dealers to be mindful if they are ever offered catalytic converters or exhaust systems and to contact us if they suspect that they could have been stolen.”

Cheshire Constabulary’s tips on how motorists can reduce their chances of becoming a victim are:

- If possible, park your car in a garage
- If your car is at high risk, consider marking the metal shell of the converter with a unique mark, so that if it is stolen it will be easier to trace back to your vehicle
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, the bolts can be welded shut – this would not stop a determined thief but would slow them down
- Giving some consideration to the way your car is parked could reduce the chances of your catalytic converter being stolen – high and low clearance vehicles being parked close together make it more difficult for a thief to gain access to converters
- Good quality lighting will improve natural surveillance and make a thief less likely to be able to remove a catalytic converter without being seen
- Leaving your car in an area covered by CCTV may also deter thieves – CCTV systems should be well signed.

Drug dealer jailed following vehicle stop check in Warrington

A drug dealer has been jailed following a vehicle stop check in Warrington. At around 10.50am on Wednesday 6 January officers spotted a BMW, driven by Ryan Ratcliffe, on Manchester Road in Woolston. Believed that it had a cloned number plate, the officers followed the car onto Weir Lane before instructing Ratcliffe to pull over. At that point, he attempted to make off on foot, but was quickly stopped by the officers. Ratcliffe was subsequently searched. Two mobile phones were seized and checks showed that the BMW he was driving was stolen. Ratcliffe was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods, driving without insurance and driving without a licence.



While he was in custody, officers downloaded all of the data from the two mobile phones and discovered that they contained a number of messages relating to drug dealing. Following questioning, Ratcliffe was charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs and two counts of offering to supply class A drugs. He was also charged with the handling stolen goods, driving without insurance and driving without a driving licence offences. The 24-year-old pleaded guilty to all of the charges and was sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 5 February. Ratcliffe, of Tenby Drive, Salford, Greater Manchester, was jailed for three years.

Following the sentencing, PC Andrew Dolan said: *“I hope that this case acts as a warning to other offenders. Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact and we are committed to doing all we can to remove those involved in the supply of such drugs from our communities. Information from the public is vital for this fight and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter.”* David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: *“The impact of illegal drugs should not be underestimated. They cause widespread misery and often lead to other offences, such as shoplifting and burglary – all of which have a damaging impact on our communities. I would like to thank all the officers involved in this case for their hard work and I hope that this conviction provides reassurance to local residents. “*

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 or giving the details online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Police Rural Crime team joins forces to tackle waste crime

Cheshire Police's Rural Crime Team joined forces with Cheshire West and Chester Council to target waste crime. The multi-agency operation, Operation Marsh, was launched to proactively target not only waste crime such as fly tipping, but also wildlife crime, off road bikes and anti-social behaviour on Frodsham Marsh and Ince Marsh. The week-long operation, which took place between 26 and 29 January saw the teams working until late evening to tackle the issue. PC Ashley Tether, who organised the operation, said: *"This really has been a success, resulting in vehicles suspected of fly tipping being stopped and dealt with accordingly as well as number of other crimes being detected. It has been great opportunity to show that no matter how remote an area, and out of the way it is, criminal activity will be detected and investigated."* Officers involved in the operation stopped a number of vehicles which were subsequently seized and searched and a wildlife crime in progress was also detected. PC Ashley Tether said: *"Remember please use a legitimate waste provider; if the price is too good to be true for removal of waste then it could end up in our countryside. Also, it's your responsibility to ensure that you are using a legitimate waste provider. If your waste is found to be dumped, and not at an approved waste disposal facility, we'll be coming to your door!"* Cllr Karen Shore Deputy Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council said, *"This is the first in a number of operations the Council is undertaking in partnership with Cheshire Police's Rural Crime Team. Further enforcement activity is due to take place at the marshes and we really hope the outcome of this work will deter people from using this beautiful area to dispose of waste illegally. Anyone who is caught could face a large fine and a criminal record."* If you suspect someone isn't a legitimate waste provider, please report this to your local authority. If you see, or suspect fly tipping in progress, please dial 999 - that's because it's a criminal offence and a crime in progress.

For more information on the Rural Crime Team you can follow them on Facebook and Twitter - @CheshPolRural

Risk of drug gangs exploiting children in Cheshire during coronavirus pandemic

Children in Cheshire could be at greater risk of exploitation by county lines drug gangs during the coronavirus pandemic. As part of a week of action to highlight the issue, officers in Cheshire are working alongside partners to raise awareness of child criminal exploitation – and how to spot the signs. DI Eleanor Atkinson said: *"Despite the current national lockdown there is a risk that young children are still being exploited and groomed by drug gangs. When children are in school they are in a protected and supervised environment making it less likely to be targeted by gangs looking to recruit them. For some children who may struggle with being at home they could potentially go missing, wander the streets and become vulnerable to the gangs who prey on them. It's important the public look out for children who are alone, or with a group of older teenagers or men, perhaps in public spaces or using transport; as they could be in danger."*

Schools provide a safe or supervised place for children and those who find home schooling difficult are more likely to visit parks, supermarkets and online environments such as gaming and social media platforms, which are a haven to gangs. This could leave them more exposed to being groomed by gangs looking to recruit them as drug runners. The gangs are part of a network known as 'county lines' who travel from cities

such as Manchester and Liverpool into rural towns to supply drugs to users. They are known to befriend youngsters by initially giving them money and expensive items but then often demand they run drug errands in return, which can lead to threats or violence.

You can help by spotting the signs below:

- Repeatedly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas
- Having money, new clothes or electronic devices and they can't explain how they paid for them
- Getting high numbers of texts or phone call and being secretive about who they're speaking to
- Decline in school or work performance
- Significant changes in emotional or physical well-being
- Hanging around in parks, supermarkets, using public transport or online games and social media platforms

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *“Protecting Cheshire residents from serious and organised crime, including young people at risk of being exploited, continues to be one of my key priorities. I’ve been pleased to see an increased number of dedicated community police officers and PCSOs visiting schools prior to them closing to warn young people of the dangers of county lines drug activity. This work is an example of why it’s important we have a truly local police service which engages with vulnerable residents to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. While the current lockdown restrictions remain, officers will continue to work with partners to raise awareness to help protect vulnerable children who may be at risk of drug gangs but we must all play our part in recognising what signs to look out for.”*

If you believe a child is being exploited please contact Cheshire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111. More information about county lines can be found here [County lines | Cheshire Constabulary](#).

Two men charged after large quantity of cannabis seized in Crewe

Two men have been charged with a drug dealing offence following a vehicle stop in Crewe. John Collins, 32, and Stephen Lloyd, 33, were arrested in Lime Tree Avenue in the town at around 6pm on Wednesday 3 February. They have both since been charged with possession with intent to supply a class B drug. This relates to a large quantity of cannabis being seized by officers who stopped a van in Lime Tree Avenue that day. Collins, of Warmingham Lane, Middlewich; and Lloyd, of Weaver View, Church Minshull, near Nantwich; appeared at Warrington Magistrates’ Court on Friday 5 February. They were both remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 5 March.

Man jailed for eight years for historic offences against young girl

A 60-year-old man who sexually assaulted a young girl over a period of two years has been jailed. Arthur Cooke, previously of Sandown Road in Crewe, committed the offences between 1999 and 2001. It was reported to police and a subsequent investigation led to Cooke being charged. He was sentenced to eight years in prison on Thursday 4 February after being found guilty of five counts of indecent assault of a girl under 16. This was following a three week trial at Chester Crown Court. Cooke was also ordered to sign the sex offenders’ register for life and ordered to pay a victim surcharge. DS Kate Palin, from Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *“I hope Cooke’s conviction and sentence helps to provide closure to the victim and enables her to move forward with her life. I want to thank her for her courage and patience during the investigation. 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 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 other 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 officers work extremely hard 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 report it. I will continue to work with victims to ensure that they are listened to and are provided with the specialist support they need.”*

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.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal following theft of five motorised bikes in Winsford burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary in Winsford are appealing for information and footage from members of the public. Two electric off-road motorbikes, two motorised mountain bikes and a quad bike were stolen from a shed in the back garden of an address in Wilkinson Way at around 4am on Friday 12 February. The owners were asleep in their house at the time of the shed break-in. Two males were seen riding off on two of the bikes in the direction of Dover Drive following the burglary.

The stolen bikes were:

- A DECOY Pro 29 Black Magic M motorised mountain bike, in black with blue accents
- A DECOY Elite Dark Slate M motorised mountain bike, in graphite with gold accents
- A blue, black and white Sur-Ron Light Bee electric off-road motorbike
- A blue and yellow Sur-Ron electric off-road motorbike
- A mustard and black Yamaha quad bike.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing. Detectives have released photographs of the stolen bikes and are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch. DC Paul Matchett said: *“We are determined to establish who broke into the shed and stole the bikes and then bring them to justice. We are also determined to have the stolen bikes returned to the owners. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything suspicious. It would have taken five people to ride the bikes away from the area, unless a vehicle such as a van was utilised by the offenders. If you think that you may have CCTV or dashcam footage of the*



The five motorised bikes that were stolen during the Winsford robbery

offenders, either before or after they stole the bikes, please get in touch. The same goes for anyone who believes that they may know the identities of the offenders or where the stolen bikes are. We also want to hear from anyone who is offered the chance to buy any of the stolen bikes.”

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 915912, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for witnesses following assault near Macclesfield Hospital

Police in Macclesfield are appealing for witnesses following an assault near Macclesfield Hospital. Sometime between 5pm and 6pm on Thursday 11 February a woman was walking from Macclesfield Hospital along Victoria Road or Prestbury Road when she was pushed into the road causing a van to stop to avoid a collision with the woman. As part of our enquiries, we are trying to trace the van driver. DS Keith Graham said: *“The driver is not in any trouble, we just want to speak with him about the incident as part of our enquiries and I’d urge him to get in touch with me. I’d also ask anyone who witnessed the incident or has dashcam footage that may help to contact me also.”*

A 29-year-old man has been arrested as part of the investigation.

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 915738. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information into deliberate building fire in Winsford

Detectives investigating a disused building that was deliberately set on fire in Winsford are appealing for information. The fire took place on Dingle Lane and is believed to have started at around 1.30pm on Sunday 7 February. Police have been conducting a number of enquiries including speaking to witnesses and obtaining CCTV footage. DS John Lyons, from Northwich CID, said: *“The fire at the building that was previously Top Ten Bingo is being treated as arson and an investigation is underway to establish how the fire was started and who is responsible. At this stage we believe the fire may have started at around 1.30pm and we are appealing for anyone who may have seen people acting suspiciously nearby to come forward and report it. I would also encourage anyone who has information, CCTV or dashcam footage and not yet made contact with us to please get in touch.”*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 912662 or Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

Appeal following knifepoint robbery at Runcorn garage

Detectives are appealing for information from members of the public following a knifepoint robbery in Runcorn. The incident occurred at a vehicle repair centre in Percival Lane on Tuesday 9 February. Two males entered the garage at around 3.45pm. One of them was armed with a knife. He threatened an employee with it whilst the other offender wheeled an off-road motorbike out of the premises. The two offenders then fled on the blue Yamaha YZF450 together, riding across the Mersey Gateway to Widnes. They were both white and were dressed all in black. The man who threatened the garage worker with a knife was around 5’ 11” tall, looked to be around 20 years old and spoke with a Liverpudlian accent. He was wearing tech walking

trousers, a black hooded jacket with the hood up and also had a ski mask over his head. The other offender was slimmer, slightly shorter and looked to be younger.

He was also wearing a hooded jacket with the hood up and a face covering. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage regarding the robbery, the offenders or the whereabouts of the stolen off-road motorbike to get in touch. DC Nathaniel Walkowiak, of Runcorn CID, said: *"The garage worker sustained a minor injury as a result of the incident and has understandably been left extremely shaken up by what happened. I would like to reassure members of the Runcorn community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and a targeted attack and we are determined to establish who committed the robbery, bring them to justice and have the stolen scrambler bike returned to its rightful owner. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in Percival Lane in the Weston Point area of Runcorn and saw anything that may help our investigation to contact us at Runcorn Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them. We also want to speak to anyone who believes they may have seen the stolen scrambler bike since the robbery took place, or have information regarding its whereabouts."*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 914082, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following robbery at Sandiway garage

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage following a robbery at a petrol station in Sandiway. At around 9pm on Sunday 7 February a man entered the Shell garage at the junction of the A556, Chester Road and the A49, Forest Road. After entering the store the offender, who was possibly armed, threatened a woman who was working behind the counter and demanded that she handed over all of the cash. He then stole the money from the safe and fled the store on foot, running towards the A49, in the direction of Cuddington. The man was wearing a grey jacket and dark coloured trousers. He had his hood-up and was wearing a dark face covering. He was carrying a backpack. DC Amy Lally, of Northwich CID, said: *"This incident has understandably left the store worker extremely shaken and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the person responsible. As part of our ongoing enquiries we're keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have witnessed the offender entering or fleeing the store. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant to our investigation. If you have any information which may aid our investigation please the team here at Northwich on 101, quoting IML 912876, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111."*

Appeal for information following a burglary at Elton house

Detectives investigating a burglary at a house in Elton are appealing for information from the public. The burglary occurred at some time between 3pm on Monday 1 February and 10.30pm on Monday 1 February on Parkland Drive. Two men, wearing masks and gloves, have entered and searched the home. It is unclear if anything was stolen. Enquiries have been ongoing and police are encouraging anyone who with CCTV or dashcam footage that may assist the investigation to get in touch.

DC Paul Boneham, from Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"Since the burglary was reported we have been following a number of lines of enquiry including speaking to witnesses and viewing CCTV footage. We are*

particularly keen to hear from anyone who saw anyone or any vehicles acting suspiciously in the parkland Drive and Ince Lane areas. In addition to this I am encouraging anyone, who has not yet been in touch with police, to come forward if they have any information, CCTV or dashcam footage which could provide useful to the investigation.”

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 908559 or Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 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: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>