

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **Week of action puts wanted suspects under the spotlight**

Cheshire Constabulary is carrying out a week of action to highlight the work that goes on behind the scenes every day to locate those evading justice.

From Monday 7 September, officers and staff from local policing units, the Special Constabulary and specialist departments from across the force will be concentrating their efforts and combining expertise to track down people suspected of committing crimes in the county. Every department, from the Economic Crime Unit to Roads Policing and the Serious Organised Crime Unit have drawn up a specific list of individuals they want to speak to and have information to deal with them swiftly, whether that's a charge, summons or other outcome.

CI Sarah Heath, who led on the operation, said: *"Individuals who try to evade the courts are denying victims their chance to see justice done and this can often leave many of those affected by crime unable to move on with their lives. This week of action is to highlight to the public our commitment in tracking down those who try their best to evade justice. Locating wanted suspects is our day-to-day business, and when we identify those who are a priority for us to find, we have the use of specialist departments to help us in our search. No stone is left unturned, so if you know you are wanted, or you have information about someone who is wanted, it's time to do the right thing and hand yourself in. You might just be on our list and it's only a matter of time before we track you down."*

PCC David Keane said: *"As well as being able to access support services, it's also important that victims get to see justice, so it is good to see this type of ongoing operation to illustrate what the Constabulary is doing behind the scenes to catch criminals and put them before the courts. Initiatives such as this really help to build trust between police and the communities they serve."*

If you have any information regarding someone you know is wanted by police please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be left anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111.

#### **Detectives continue to warn residents after spate of courier fraud scams**

Detectives are continuing to warn the public after a spate of courier fraud scams have left Cheshire victims without thousands of pounds.

In July a warning was issued regarding courier fraud however, since then, detectives have continued to see residents falling foul to fraudsters. Courier frauds are mainly committed by organised crime groups (OCGs) and a member of the OCG, known as the 'victim communicator', makes a phone call to vulnerable potential victims, persuading them that they are a police officer or work at the bank. They then manage to get the victim to cooperate with an 'operation' designed to gather evidence or identify offenders responsible for a fictional offence. The victims are asked to withdraw money from their bank, purchase an expensive item

and/or provide their bank details or card to assist with the operation. Money, items or documents are then handed over to the 'courier', who attends the victim's address or meets them nearby, on the promise that the money or item will be returned or compensation will be provided. Sadly, no compensation is provided and the money will not be returned. Leaving victims, in some cases, out of pocket of thousands of pounds.

DS Chris Jacques from Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit said: *"It is particularly concerning that we are continuing to see spikes in the number of courier fraud scams targeting the most vulnerable in our communities. These scammers will stop at nothing to make a criminal gain and can be extremely convincing and very persistent. By using these methods they can often blindside their victims into believing them, before taking hard-earned money. It is important for the public to remember that police officers, banks and other services will never ask you to withdraw money or provide card details over the phone. Telephone numbers can be easily spoofed and you should never trust a number displayed on your telephone. Another concerning trend is that scammers have been asking victims to call back on 999, 101 or 162 to verify that they are genuine. This is part of the scam and they keep the line open so that the victim continues speak with the scammers believing that they are genuine officials. Anyone who is receiving calls asking for money to be withdrawn and handed over to a courier should call 101 or report it to Action Fraud."*

PCC David Keane said: *"I am greatly concerned about the re-emerging trend of courier fraud cases across Cheshire. The fact that these fraudsters will stop at nothing for their own criminal gain and continue to blight the vulnerable in our communities is deplorable. I know that the Economic Crime Unit is working hard to make residents aware of these scams while narrowing down on the fraudsters who believe they can get away with these crimes."*

Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or have been a victim of fraud should call Cheshire Police on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Information can also be reported online via [the Cheshire Police website](#).

## **New chief inspector takes the reins at Northwich Local Policing Unit**

A new Chief Inspector is set to take the reins at Northwich Local Policing Unit this week.

Gary Smith succeeds Sarah Edgar, who is moving to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Gary originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2001. During his career he has worked in a variety of operational roles across the county. Most recently he has served as the Chief Inspector for Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit.

Prior to serving as a Chief Inspector, Gary worked as a Critical Incident manager, Criminal Justice manager, a Detective Inspector at Macclesfield Local Policing Unit and a Detective Inspector in the force's Professional Standards Department. He has also worked on the national Violence and Public Protection Portfolio and the National Child Sexual Abuse Review Panel.



Gary is joining a well-established team of officers at Northwich, including Inspector Robert Astbury, Inspector Iain Paterson and Detective Inspector Liam Furlong.

Gary said: *"I've been with Cheshire Constabulary for more than 18 years and I am proud to be taking up the role of Chief Inspector at Northwich Local Policing Unit. As a local resident I know that the team here already do a fantastic job protecting the local community and I look forward to working with them to help make Northwich, Winsford and all the surrounding villages even safer places to live, work and visit. As Chief Inspector my focus will be to ensure that my team continue to deliver an effective service both now and in the future. We will continue to work closely alongside local people and our key partners within the community to help reduce crime in the area and I encourage residents to get in touch if they have any issues or concerns that they want to raise with us."*

Outside of work Gary has two adult sons and lives with his wife Nichola, who is also a serving officer. In his spare time, Gary enjoys walking, keeping fit, gardening, and spending time with his family and friends.

PCC David Keane said: *"I'm sure Ian will be a great addition to the team at Northwich LPU and that residents will welcome his appointment as their chief inspector, just as they did with CI Sarah Edgar. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm, who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve."*

## **Appeal to trace wanted man from Wirral**

Police are appealing for help in tracing a 44-year-old man from Wirral.

Officers would like to speak to Dean Anderson in relation to drug offences. Anderson is 5' 9" tall, of medium build, with brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information regarding Anderson's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting 20000510990 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information regarding Anderson's whereabouts can be given to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).



## **Cheshire Constabulary committed to enhancing officer safety following national review**

Cheshire Constabulary has pledged its commitment to enhancing the safety of police officers and staff as part of a national review.

Police safety training is to be overhauled and an assessment of equipment available to the frontline will be carried out following the findings of a survey commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing. More than 40,000 officers and staff across the country completed the survey, which has allowed a full-scale review in response to concerns about a rising number of assaults and increased violence against officers. All 28 recommendations were unanimously agreed by Chief Constables' Council earlier this year but publication of the report was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Today (Wednesday 2 September) it has now been published and confirms that work has been ongoing nationally over the past few months to begin implementing the recommendations. In Cheshire, the force has taken on board the findings from the national review and has introduced a local action plan to meet the needs of officers and staff.

CC Darren Martland said: *"Any attack on a police officer is shocking but recent incidents across the country serve as a stark reminder of the dangers that they face on a daily basis. As Chief Constable of Cheshire the*

*safety of my officers is of paramount importance and I am committed to doing all I can to ensure that they are properly trained and equipped with the tools that they need to do their job effectively. That is why the force is supporting this national review, commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council. It will complement the work that we already carry out to assess and mitigate the threats and risk our officers face. As well as the national survey, an internal review has also been carried out. From both our findings and those from the national review, an action plan has been put together in relation to the key points. Those areas have been allocated a senior officer to take the lead and start to make a real difference in ensuring our officers' safety."*

Cheshire's action plan includes a focus on training and wellbeing support, equipment and operational response, criminal justice outcomes and roads policing and officer safety. Over the past 12 months the force has recorded a total of 637 assaults on police officers – with or without injury – this equates to more than 50 assaults a month.

CC Martland added: *"The impact of an assault on an officer should not be underestimated – not only does this have an effect on their physical and mental wellbeing it also potentially takes an officer off the streets for a period of time putting added pressure on others to uphold the level of service we strive to provide to the communities of Cheshire I am committed to ensuring that as a force we are doing everything we can to reduce the risk to our officers. However, in cases where an officer is assaulted on duty we will make sure they receive all the necessary support from the Constabulary and, where appropriate, action is taken against offenders and they are brought to justice. It is important to remember that attacking an emergency services worker is a criminal offence and can result in a jail sentence."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"I am supportive of these changes which will provide more protection for police officers and police staff. No officer or PCSO should go to work expecting to be attacked but, sadly, this is becoming an increasingly regular occurrence. Individuals working on the frontline put themselves at risk every day to protect Cheshire residents, therefore it's vital they are provided with the right training and appropriate equipment to allow them to carry out their roles safely. In my role to monitor the performance of Cheshire Constabulary on behalf of Cheshire residents, I will ensure these changes are providing the best protection for our officers and staff."*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal for information and dashcam footage following collision in Hatton Heath**

Officers are appealing for information and dashcam footage following a collision involving three vehicles in Hatton Heath.

At around 5.20pm on Wednesday 2 September officers were called to the A41 Whitchurch Road following reports of collision involving a silver Vauxhall Astra, a white Ford Transit van and a blue Peugeot 5008. The driver of the Peugeot, a woman in her 30s, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Both drivers of the other vehicles sustained minor injuries. Officers are now urging anyone with information or dashcam footage which could help them with their appeal to get in touch.

PC Lee Spencer said: *“We are in the early stages of the investigation and enquiries are very much ongoing. During the time of the collision, the A41 would have been particularly busy and I would like to hear from anyone who believes that they witnessed the incident. We are also keen to hear from anyone who may have caught dashcam footage of the collision, or the vehicles before the incident, as we believe it could help with our investigation.”*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 795603 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Information can also be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or report it via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

### **Appeal to trace wanted man from Macclesfield**

Police are asking the public to help them trace a 30-year-old from Macclesfield who is wanted on recall to prison.

Aaron Bradley, is around 6' tall, of a medium build with brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information regarding Bradley's whereabouts is advised to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 789305 or report it via the [Cheshire Police website](#).

Alternatively, information regarding Bradley's whereabouts can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via [their website](#).



### **Appeal for information following collision involving a pedestrian in Crewe**

Officers are appealing for information following a collision involving a pedestrian in Crewe.

Just before 12.45am on Sunday 30 August, a 33-year-old man was walking near the junction of West Street and Vernon Way, when he was involved in a collision with a white Peugeot van. The vehicle then drove off towards the direction of West Street. As a result of the collision, the man sustained serious injuries and was taken to hospital. The van was subsequently found abandoned on Parkers Road later that day. Officers are now appealing for anyone with information about the incident to come forward.

Sgt David Harrison said: *“This is an extremely serious incident which could have had a devastating consequence. A number of enquiries are currently underway and we are doing all we can to find those responsible. I would ask anyone who knows who is responsible to come forward and also urge anyone who may have seen the van on the lead up to or after the collision in West Street and the surrounding areas to get in touch.”*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 792939 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via [the website](#).

## Detectives investigating the robbery of a teenager's bike in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Detectives investigating the robbery of a teenager's bike in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Shortly after 7pm on Monday 31 August two males approached a 13-year-old boy and his friend on Stockham Lane. One of the men, believed to be armed with a knife, demanded the boy hand over his red bike. The males, described as being 14-years-old, then took the bike and made off from the scene. One of the males is described as white, 5ft 2 in height, of a skinny build with long brown or black hair. The second is also described as white, of a skinny build and around 5ft in height. He was wearing a light grey tracksuit with a blue top as a mask.

Officers have been conducting a number of CCTV and house-to-house enquiries and are appealing for the public to come forward with information.



PC Amy Lally, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"The victim was left terrified of these two males who demanded he hand over his bike. While we have been following a number of lines of enquiry to find the suspects, I am appealing to anyone who may have seen them, or the bike that was stolen, to get in touch."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 794256 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

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

### Cheshire News & Appeals



#### Latest Cheshire News

##### **Two men charged following Chester burglary**

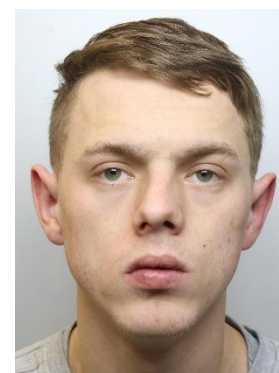
Detectives investigating a burglary on Queens Road, Chester, which occurred on Thursday 10 September, have charged two men.

Craig Rodham, 31, and Neil Jones, 32, were both arrested shortly after 8pm on Friday 11 September after officers stopped a vehicle on the M62 near Huyton. Following questioning the pair have since been charged with burglary and theft of a motor vehicle. Rodham has also been charged with dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving without a licence. Rodham, of no fixed abode, and Jones, of Berwick Road West, Little Sutton, have both been remanded in custody and are due to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 14 September.

##### **Liverpool man convicted of shooting Winsford man in the leg**

A 25-year-old has been convicted of shooting another man in the leg in Winsford.

Daniel Evans (pictured above), who was living in Chirkdale Street, Liverpool, committed the serious offence after having a row with a woman in the early hours of Monday 14 October. The woman's brother assisted her in removing Evans from an address in Denbigh Drive, Winsford. Shortly afterwards, Evans returned to the property with a handgun and shot the brother, a 26-year-old man from Winsford, in the leg at point-blank range. The bullet passed through the victim's calf and lodged itself in a door handle. Evans then left the address before pushing over a milkman and fleeing the area in his refrigerated van. The man who was shot was taken to Leighton Hospital in an ambulance. After receiving treatment for the gunshot wound, he was discharged the following day. Officers investigating the incidents identified Evans as the offender. He was arrested in Liverpool on Saturday 7 December.



After refusing to answer any questions in custody, Evans was charged with causing grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, assault by beating and intimidating a witness in relation to the siblings. He was also charged with taking a motor vehicle without consent and assaulting the milkman and causing him actual bodily harm in relation to the refrigerated van theft. Evans admitted taking the refrigerated van without consent charge but pleaded not guilty to all the other charges. After hearing all the evidence that officers and detectives had gathered – including witness statements, CCTV footage and telecoms data – a jury convicted Evans of the GBH and firearm offences following a four-day trial at Chester Crown Court, which ended on Thursday 10 September. Evans was found not guilty of assaulting the woman. The assault charge regarding the milkman was ordered to lie on file and the intimidating a witness charge was discontinued on the judge's instruction. Evans has been remanded in custody and will return to the court to be sentenced on Friday 23 October.

DCI Simon Draco said: *“I would like to thank all the officers and detectives at Northwich Local Policing Unit that have been involved in this complex investigation for all their hard work in securing the convictions and bringing Daniel Evans to justice. His appalling actions in the early hours of Monday 14 October prove that he is a very dangerous man. Evans had access to a viable firearm and showed that he is willing to cause serious harm to others. Thankfully, the man he shot has physically recovered from the injury he sustained. The consequences of the firearm incident could have been far worse. I am also pleased that Evans has been convicted of serious offences he was charged with on the back of the dedication of the investigation team and the strength of the evidence that they gathered against him.”*

Evans stole the refrigerated van in Gladstone Street, Winsford. It was recovered on Station Road in the town in the days that followed the shooting. Enquiries are ongoing in a bid to find the handgun he used.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“My thoughts are with the man who was shot in this case, but incidents of this nature understandably concern the whole community. I know that Cheshire Constabulary does considerable work to tackle serious crime and take dangerous offenders and the weapons that they arm themselves with off our streets. I want to take this opportunity to praise all the officers involved in securing this conviction and making our society a safer place.”*

CI Gary Smith, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, which covers Winsford, added: *“Firearms incidents are rare in the area, but when they do occur we are committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible and bring them to justice, as can be seen with this case. The team here are committed to doing all that we can to make the area an even safer place for everyone. However, we cannot achieve this alone. We need the support of the local community. If you are concerned about crime in our community, or if you have any information in relation to incidents that have taken place, I urge you to contact us on 101 or speak to a local officer. Alternatively, if you do not feel comfortable speaking to the police directly, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. By working together we can make the area an even better place to live, work and visit.”*

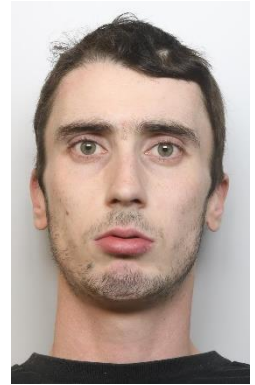
Below are photographs showing the bullet that Evans fired and the door handle it was subsequently lodged in.





## Man jailed after heroin and cocaine discovered during stop and search in Runcorn

A 23-year-old man has been jailed for over two years for drug offences after heroin and cocaine were seized following a stop and search in Runcorn.



Jamie Wrigley, of no fixed abode but from Liverpool, was arrested and subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class A and being concerned in the supply of cannabis following a stop and search by plain clothed officers in the town. Wrigley was spotted by two officers on Thursday 15 August 2019 in the Waterloo Road area of the town and as police approached him, he fled the area. When fleeing the area, officers saw Wrigley dispose of a golf ball sized package in a nearby garden. Wrigley was then detained under stop and search. Officers went to search the garden and discovered two packages. Following later tests it was determined that these packages contained heroin and cocaine. Wrigley was searched and officers seized three mobile phones, a quantity of cash, a sim card and phone charger. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years and eight months imprisonment at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 8 September.

PC Phil Thomason, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *“This is a great result and I hope that this shows that we will not stop when pursuing those responsible for drug dealing in Runcorn. We have prevented these drugs from reaching the streets and we will continue to do everything in our power to stamp out this illegal activity in our town. I would urge anyone who has information of those supplying illegal drugs to contact the team at Runcorn and we will act on any intelligence we receive. By working together with the community, we can make Runcorn a safer place to live, work and visit.”*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *“This result shows how officers are doing everything in their power to remove illegal drugs across Cheshire. Drug related activity brings misery to communities and I am committed to doing all that I can to tackle this issue to ensure that we can keep our neighbourhoods safe. I would like to thank the officers involved in this case for their hard work and I would urge the public to come forward with information that they have about drug activity in their communities.”*

Anyone with concerns about drug dealing in their local area can call Cheshire Police on 101 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#).

## Three men charged in connection with a series of high value thefts across the UK

Detectives from Northwich have charged three men in connection with a series of high value thefts across the country.

Marius Meiosu, Florin Costea and Gabriel Mocanu were all arrested on Thursday 10 September after officers executed a warrant at an address in Oldham. Meiosu, 25, Costea, 51, and Mocanu, 36, all of Darwin Street, Oldham, have since been charged with conspiracy to steal from a shop. All three men have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Warrington Magistrates’ Court, via a video link, today, Friday 11 September. The charges relate to a series of thefts at supermarkets across the UK, including stores in Cheshire, Lancashire, Manchester, Birmingham, Wales, West Yorkshire, Scotland and Derbyshire. The total value of the items stolen during the thefts is believed to be in the region of £200,000, which occurred between 20 March 2020 and 3 September.

## **Man charged with assaulting two police officers, as well as burglary and public order offences**

A 33-year-old man has been charged with four offences after a member of the public reported seeing someone acting suspiciously on Birchfield Road in Widnes.

Marshall Tung, of no fixed address, was arrested in Lowerhouse Lane in Widnes soon after police received the report. He was arrested shortly after 12 midnight on Thursday 10 September and has since been charged with a public order offence in relation to the incident. Tung has also been charged with two counts of assaulting a police officer, as well as burglary. The burglary charge relates to an incident at a domestic property which occurred on the weekend starting on Saturday 4 July. Tung has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Friday 11 September.

## **Class A drugs dealer from Runcorn jailed for six years**

A drug dealer from Runcorn has been jailed after nearly £1,500 worth of heroin and crack cocaine was seized as a result of two separate stop and searches conducted by plain-clothed officers.

Denise Ryan, of Chester Close, Castlefields, pleaded guilty to four counts of possession with intent to supply the class A drugs. The 49-year-old also admitted several charges of possession of controlled drugs. Ranging from class A to class C, the drugs were morphine, cannabis resin, tramadol, clonazepam, pregabalin, alprazolam and gabapentin. Ryan was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 4 September. She was jailed for six years.



Ryan was first stopped and searched on Friday 10 May 2019. The search was conducted after Ryan had acted suspiciously and admitted that she had 'a few wraps' on her when plain-clothes officers revealed that they work for the police when talking to her near her home. She was in fact in possession of 18 wraps of crack cocaine and 13 wraps of heroin. A subsequent search of her home revealed a further 56 wraps of heroin and 62 wraps of crack cocaine. The property also contained quantities of cannabis resin and a range of prescription drugs that had not been prescribed to Ryan. Officers seized all the drugs, as well as drugs paraphernalia, more than £1,100 in cash and a mobile phone featuring messages regarding Ryan's drug dealing activities. Ryan was arrested, and after refusing to answer any questions in custody she was released under investigation as a range of work was undertaken to secure drug dealing charges against her.

One of the plain-clothed officers involved in the first stop and search spotted a woman leaving Ryan's home and getting in the back of a taxi on Wednesday 4 December 2019. The officer found her to be in possession of six wraps of heroin. With grounds to suspect that drug dealing had been taking place at Ryan's home, officers again searched the property. On that occasion 39 wraps of crack cocaine and 17 wraps of heroin were seized from the address, as was more than £1,000 in cash. Ryan again refused to answer any questions after being arrested. However, she was charged with multiple offences, and with all the evidence that officers gathered against her – including traces of her DNA on the packaging of class A drugs that were seized from Ryan and her home – she admitted to being a drug dealer when the case progressed to a crown court. Ryan claimed she was initially dealing drugs to fund her own addiction, and that on the second occasion she was caught she was trying to pay off a debt to her supplier regarding the first lot of heroin and crack cocaine that the police had seized.

Following her sentencing, PC Phil Thomason, who led the investigation on behalf of Runcorn Local Policing Unit (LPU), said: *“This case emphasises the importance of the police’s power to stop and search people they suspect to be responsible for crime. As a result of our ability to search Denise Ryan and latterly the woman who left her address with wraps of heroin, a class A drug dealer and a substantial amount of heroin and crack cocaine have been removed from our streets. The estimated street value of those class A drugs that we seized from Ryan and her home is £1,470. The total street value of all the drugs we seized was around £2,120. I am pleased that she is now behind bars facing the consequences of her actions, and I hope that this case deters others from dealing drugs.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *“Stop and search powers are crucial to the essential role that frontline officers play in the detection and prevention of serious and organised crime. I know that officers work tirelessly in their fight against drug dealers who blight communities in Cheshire with their illegal drugs, and I am delighted that they have secured another good result in this regard. I would like to thank all the officers involved in this case for their sterling work in securing this conviction.”*

CI Sarah Heath, of Runcorn LPU, said: *“Illegal drugs blight communities across the UK and cause untold damage to the lives of both those who use the drugs and become dependent on them and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. Drug dealing in Runcorn or elsewhere in Cheshire will not be tolerated, and I hope this case deters others from getting involved in the supply of illegal drugs. While this investigation has now concluded, our fight against illegal drugs, and those who supply them, continues 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.”*

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.

## **Serious and Organised Crime Unit charge seven people with drug offences**

Detectives have charged four men and three women following an operation targeting organised crime.

They appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Thursday 10 September and are due to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 8 October. John Tobin, aged 40, has been charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and conspiracy to supply cannabis. He has been remanded in custody. Alan Tobin, aged 51, of Regency Park in Widnes has been charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and conspiracy to supply cannabis. He has been remanded in custody. Simon Leech, aged 29 of Brindley Avenue in Warrington has been charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and remanded in custody. Robbie Broughton, aged 38, of Breccia Gardens in St Helens has been charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and conspiracy to supply cannabis. He has been remanded in custody. Kathryn Walker, aged 36, of Chamomile Close in Liverpool has been charged with two counts relating to criminal property. She has been bailed with conditions. Helen Hartley, aged 34, of Regency Park in Widnes has been charged with two counts of possessing criminal property. She has been bailed with conditions. Ann Hartley, aged 62, of Regency Park in Widnes, has been charged with possessing criminal property and has been bailed with conditions.

The charges relate to arrests made on Wednesday 9 September as part of a number of dawn raids in Warrington, Widnes and Merseyside in-connection with a serious and organised crime operation involving a drugs conspiracy.

## **Bollington man charged following three burglary incidents**

A 56-year-old man has been charged following three burglary incidents in and around the Bollington area.

Simon Walmsley was arrested in Bollington at around 3.30pm on Tuesday 8 September. He has subsequently been charged with two counts of burglary and theft in relation to incidents at a domestic property in Oak Lane, Kerridge. The incidents occurred on the night of Saturday 4 July and on Saturday 15 August. Walmsley, of Elmsway, Bollington, has also been charged with one count of burglary with intent to steal. That charge relates to an incident that occurred at a commercial premises in Grimshaw Lane, Bollington, on Friday 14 August. Walmsley has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 10 September, via a video link.

## **Prolific offender jailed for four years following Frodsham car theft**

A prolific offender from Ellesmere Port has been jailed after stealing a car in Frodsham and attempting to take two other vehicles.

Stephen Prior, of Moorland Road, pleaded guilty to burglary, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a person, vehicle interference, driving without insurance and driving without a licence. The 43-year-old appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 4 September where he was jailed for a total of four years and banned from driving for the same period of time. His crime spree began on the evening of Monday 30 March, when he was caught on camera attempting to break into a car in Fluin Lane, Frodsham. Following his unsuccessful attempts, Prior broke into a nearby house on Queensway before stealing the Ford Grand C-Max parked outside.



The following day, on Tuesday 31 March, Prior was again caught on camera, this time as he stole a set of car keys from an office at a garage in Little Sutton. He then went out onto the forecourt and attempted to find the vehicle. Fortunately, the car was not there, so he fled the scene empty handed. Prior's downfall came when an officer at Chester Police Station recognised Prior on the CCTV footage. When he was subsequently arrested at his Ellesmere Port home, the car he had stolen was recovered from a nearby street. Officers also found traces of his DNA at the garage in Little Sutton, and mobile phone analysis placed him at the scene.

Following his sentencing, DC Victoria Hazelwood, who led the investigations, said: *"I am delighted that this persistent offender is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. The fact that Prior pleaded guilty to all of the offences shows the strength of evidence gathered against him, and I hope that the custodial sentence he has been handed act as a warning and a deterrent to other potential offenders."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"Offences like these have a devastating impact on victims and on the wider community. I would like to praise the work of all the officers who were involved in this investigation and helped to deliver justice for the victims. I hope that the outcomes of this case allows the victims to move forward with their lives and provides reassurance to local residents."*

## **Serious and Organised Crime Unit arrest seven people and seize designer goods and weapons**

Detectives investigating a high-level drugs conspiracy have arrested seven people in dawn raids.

The arrests follow an 18-month operation into an organised crime group allegedly supplying class A and B drugs to other gangs in Warrington. Today, Wednesday 9 September, Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit arrested four men, aged 29, 38, 40 and 51, and three women, aged 34, 36 and 62 on suspicion of conspiracy to supply cocaine and cannabis. The warrants took place at addresses in Heather Close in Warrington, Brindley Avenue in Warrington, Regency Park in Widnes, Camomile Close in Merseyside, Graylands Road in Merseyside, Aviemore Road in Merseyside and Breccia Gardens in Merseyside. All seven are now waiting to be questioned by police.

DCI Giles Pierce, from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"This conspiracy came to our attention following previous investigations into two organised crime gangs in Warrington – codenamed Operation Samurai and Operation Dreadnought. Those arrested are suspected of being part of a well-established organised crime group who we believe were operating at a high level across the North West. It is a massively significant result in our determination to disrupt organised crime gangs operating from Warrington and supplying these drugs further afield."*

During the strike police seized a car, designer items, jewellery and weapons.



DCI Pierce added: *"If a criminal is suspected of operating a drugs enterprise they are likely to gain substantial profit and might display their riches in public. It is important people in the community learn to recognise those who could be living above their means and showing an increase in wealth, and report it to police."*

PCC for Cheshire David Keane said: *“Drugs have a huge impact on our community and blight our neighbourhoods, causing misery to victims. This operation is another example of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit once again pursuing gangs believed to be involved in the supply of drugs. I remain proud of their hard work and determination in disrupting this crime and their continued efforts to protect our communities.”*

If you believe someone living in your community could be involved in serious and organised crime please report it. You can do this anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or calling Cheshire Police on 101.

## **New Chief Inspector for Widnes LPU**

Ian Whiley has this week been unveiled as the new Chief Inspector for Widnes Local Policing Unit.

He is taking over from Chief Inspector Catherine Pritchard who is moving to Ellesmere Port. Ian originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1997, and during his career he has worked in a variety of roles across the county, including Warrington, Runcorn and Chester. Most recently Ian has served as the Detective Inspector for Widnes, a role which he has held for the last 5 years.

Ian said: *“I have been with the Constabulary for over 23 years and I am incredibly proud to be taking over as Chief Inspector at Widnes. Having worked in Widnes for more than 5 years I know that the team here work incredibly hard to keep Widnes safe and I committed to continuing this work. As Chief Inspector, my focus will be to ensure that my teams continue to work alongside our partners and our diverse communities to make Widnes even safer. We will robustly target those that cause our communities harm and prey upon the vulnerable and make Widnes a hostile place to be for those intent on perpetrating crime and anti-social behaviour. I encourage residents to report any issues via 101, online or in person via local PCSO surgeries should they have any concerns they wish to make us aware of.”*



Outside work Ian enjoys swimming, cycling and spending time with family and friends.

PCC David Keane said: *“I’m sure Ian will be a great addition to the team at Widnes LPU and that residents will welcome his appointment as their chief inspector, just as they did with Chief Inspector Catherine Pritchard. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm, who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve.”*

## **Fourth man charged following disturbance in Widnes**

Detectives investigating a large disturbance in Widnes have now charged a fourth man.

James Price was arrested by officers on Monday 7 September in connection with the incident, which occurred in Factory Lane at around 12.30pm on Monday 3 August. The 23-year-old has since been charged with violent disorder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Price, of Baguley Avenue,

Widnes, has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 8 September.

The three other defendants in the case, Luke Price, 53, of Southworth Road, Newton-le-Willows; Rueben Price Snr, 47, of Factory Lane, Widnes; and Rueben Price Jnr, 26, of Regent Street, Newton-le-Willows, appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 6 August. They were remanded in custody and are set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 30 September.

### **Man charged following burglary incidents at two Widnes shops**

A 44-year-old man has been charged following burglary incidents at two shops in Widnes town centre.

Reginald Aitchinson was arrested in the town centre shortly before 2am on Thursday 3 September. He has since been charged with burglary and attempted burglary. The charges relate to incidents at shops in Albert Square on the night of Wednesday 2 September. Aitchinson, of HM Prison Altcourse in Liverpool, appeared before Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 4 September, via a video link. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 9 September.

### **Two Chester men charged following attempted robbery in the city**

Two men from Chester have been charged following the attempted robbery of a taxi driver in the city.

Michael Creevy, 46, and Philip Corbett, 45, were arrested at their home in Norman Way at around 2.45am on Thursday 27 August. The pair have subsequently been charged with attempted robbery, threatening a person with a bladed article in a public place and making off without payment. The charges relate to an incident that occurred on Norris Road at around 2.30am on Thursday 27 August. No-one was injured during the incident. Creevy and Corbett appeared before Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 28 August, via a video link. They were both remanded in custody and are set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 25 September.

### **New chief inspector takes command at Ellesmere Port LPU**

Chief Inspector Catherine Prichard is set to take command at Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit today (Monday 7 September).

Catherine succeeds Gary Smith, who has moved to Northwich Local Policing Unit. At the age of seven Catherine decided that she wanted a career in the police. In 1993 she achieved her lifelong ambition when she started her career as a Police Constable at Greater Manchester Police (GMP) having completed a joint honours degree in English and history at Salford University. Since then, she has held a number of mainly operational roles in both GMP and North Wales Police, which have included working as a uniform response inspector and a staff officer. She is also a qualified police trainer and career coach. Prior to joining Cheshire Constabulary Catherine also worked at Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). Catherine is joining a well-established team of officers at Ellesmere Port, including Inspector Ian Stead, Inspector Paul Fegan and Detective Inspector Nigel Parr.



CI Catherine Pritchard said: *“In Cheshire Police I truly feel that I have found my policing home. When I initially joined the force I had just recovered from cancer, and having been through such an experience I see myself as someone who people can come to and seek support from when they are in need. As Chief Inspector I am passionate about caring about the community and caring for our staff and I look forward to working with the people of Ellesmere Port and Neston. I’m also committed to empowering my officers and staff with the skills and knowledge they need to achieve the best results for their communities. Over the coming months I will work closely alongside local people and our key partners within the community to help reduce crime in the area and I encourage residents to get in touch if they have any issues or concerns that they want to raise with us.”*

Outside of work Catherine has two teenage daughter and lives with her husband Spence.

PCC David Keane said: *“I’m sure Catherine will be a great addition to the team at Ellesmere Port LPU and that residents will welcome her appointment as their chief inspector, just as they did with Chief Inspector Gary Smith. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm, who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve.”*

## **Fifth man jailed following ATM attacks in Warrington, Wakefield and Telford**

A fifth man involved in the theft of more than £50,000 from ATM attacks in Warrington, Wakefield and Telford have been jailed.

Shaun Blackburn, of no fixed abode, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 28 August where he was sentenced to three years and six months in prison after admitting conspiracy to commit burglary. The 37-year-old from Merseyside also received a further three years and three months in prison for a number of drugs offences in Liverpool – taking his total sentence to six years and nine months. Blackburn is the fifth man to be sentenced in relation to the ATM attacks following the earlier sentencing of Mark Edwards, 47, Sean Devereux, 30, Peter O’Neill, 41, and Liam Doherty, 39, who were jailed for a total of more than 16 years when they appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 27 February.



The men had earlier pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary with intent to steal. The case against the gang began in the early hours of Thursday 3 October 2019 following a burglary at Nisa Local on Glover Road, Warrington. During the incident thieves broke into the Locking Stumps store via the roof. Once inside they used an angle grinder to force open the ATM machine and stole almost £50,000. Following the attack an investigation was launched by detectives at Warrington Beat Initiative Team, led by DC Ian Morris.

Over the following weeks the team spoke to various witnesses, examined hundreds of hours of CCTV footage and conducted forensic enquiries. As a result the team gathered evidence linking the incidents to the gang. In addition they also found evidence linking them to two other ATM attacks in Wakefield and Telford. The incident in Wakefield took place at around 9pm on Tuesday 12 November at Premier Store in Havercroft. Once again, the group broke into the store via the roof and used and used an angle grinder to force open the ATM machine – stealing more than £5,000. Just over a week later, on Thursday 21 November, the group targeted the One Stop Shop on Wellington Road in Telford. On this occasion they forced entry via the roof and, after unsuccessfully attempting to open the cash machine, stole more than £14,000 worth of cigarettes.



After gathering all of the evidence against the men, officers from Cheshire Constabulary conducted raids in Merseyside on Wednesday 11 December leading to the arrests of Edwards, Devereux, O'Neill, and Doherty. During the warrants officers conducted detailed searches of their addresses and recovered a number of items, including angle grinders, mobile phones, high value clothing, watches and more than £14,000 cash. Sadly, Blackburn managed to evade officers initial arrest attempts and after realising that police were onto the gang he went on the run and was subsequently added to the police wanted list. Despite his best efforts to evade justice, Blackburn was arrested in Merseyside on Friday 12 June after he was spotted by officers.

Following his sentencing DC Ian Morris, of Warrington Beat Initiative Team said: *“Blackburn played a key part in this criminal enterprise and he went to great lengths to plan and coordinate attacks on cash machines with the intent of gaining significant amounts of cash. He, along with the rest of the gang, conducted a number of recces prior to conducting their attacks and travelled great distances in a failed attempt to evade justice. The businesses they targeted were recognised as providing important services to our local communities and the devastation of these incidents should not be underestimated. Not only did they cause thousands of pounds worth of damage, but they also had a profound impact on other businesses and residents within the local area.”*

DS Ian Bingley added: *“Blackburn’s sentencing brings to a close what has been an extremely complex investigation and I commend the diligence of DC Morris and PC Howard in pursuing all lines of enquiry to ensure that all those involved in this case have been brought to justice. Following the sentencing of Edwards, Devereux, O’Neil and Doherty, Blackburn may have thought that he had evaded justice, but as his sentencing shows, it doesn’t matter where you run or where you hide – we will relentlessly pursue you until you are captured. We are determined to disrupt all levels of serious organised crime within our communities and keep people safe.”*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

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

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision in Malpas.

At around 5pm on Thursday 10 September police were called to A49 in Bickley Moss following reports of a collision involving a Ford Fiesta, an Aprilia motorcycle and a Yamaha motorcycle. The rider of the Aprilia, a 57-year-old man from Freckleton, died at the scene. His next of kin have been informed. The driver of the Ford Fiesta and rider of the Yamaha both sustained minor injuries. Officers are now appealing for 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 801742 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively anyone with information can report to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

## Police renew appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington

Police are renewing their appeal to help trace a 34-year-old man from Warrington.

Officers want to speak to Melad Mustaffa-Ali in connection with an alleged sexual assault. The alleged offence occurred in Warrington on Sunday 6 October 2019. Mustaffa-Ali is 5' 2" tall and of a proportionate build with greying black hair and brown eyes. He is also known as Mustaffa Ali, Ali Mustafa and Ali Mostaffa.

Anyone who sees him should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 531770 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively information regarding Mustaffa-Ali's whereabouts can be reported anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).



## Appeal for dashcam footage following collision in Willaston

Officers are appealing for information and dashcam footage following a collision involving a cyclist and a heavy goods vehicle in Willaston.

At around 7.50am on Tuesday 8 September officers were called to the A51 on the Peacock roundabout following reports that a cyclist had been knocked off his bike by a HGV. The cyclist, a man, sustained minor injuries as a result and was taken to hospital. The driver of the HGV continued onto the A51 towards Alvaston roundabout. Officers now want to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision or may have dashcam footage to come forward.

PC Emma Flinn said: *“Although the cyclist only sustained minor injuries, the result of the collision could have been a lot worse and have had devastating consequences. I would like to take this time to appeal to anyone who may have witnessed the collision who has not yet come forward to do so. The same goes for anyone who may have caught dashcam footage of the collision or of the HGV around the time of the incident as we believe it will assist us with our enquiries.”*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 799738 or report it via [our website](#). Alternatively, information can be provided to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

## Police renew their CCTV appeal following Neston burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary in Neston are renewing their appeal to trace a man they want to speak to in connection with the incident.

At around 6pm on Friday 17 January a man entered a property in The Parade, Parkgate, Neston, after climbing through a window. The offender stole a quantity of cash and jewellery after conducting an untidy search of the address. After being disturbed by the returning occupiers, he fled via the same window he got

in through. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who believes they may know the identity of the man in the CCTV footage to get in touch.

DC Jake Connolly said: *“In this instance, the occupiers disturbed the burglar when they returned home but he still managed to steal a quantity of cash and jewellery. We would urge anyone with information that may help us identify the man to contact us. If you think you recognise him please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 614522, [give us the details via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV footage to do the right thing and get in touch.”*



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/>

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Man jailed for firing a gun towards another man in Chester

A 24-year-old has been jailed after firing a gun towards another man in Chester.



Alex Mills, of Whitchurch Road in Christleton on the outskirts of Chester, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was sentenced for the offence at Birmingham Crown Court on Wednesday 23 September. Mills was jailed for 16 months. The incident occurred shortly after 7.30pm on Friday 7 August. After confronting two men in Francis Street, Chester, Mills pulled out a handgun. He then fired it towards one of the men, who dove for cover, before Mills fled in his grey Peugeot 208. The bullet did not hit anyone and firearms officers attended the scene after witnesses reported the incident to the police. After obtaining descriptions of the shooter and his car, officers found the vehicle on Hoole Road in Chester the following morning. The vehicle was registered to Mills and a manhunt ensued. Aware that officers were looking for him, Mills handed himself in to a police station at around 7.30pm on Saturday 8 August. When questioned in custody, Mills denied being involved in the incident and claimed that he had been the victim of a carjacking on Sandrock Road in Christleton on the afternoon of Friday 7 August. However, after finding no evidence to back up his claim that three men had stolen his car before the shooting incident took place and witnesses subsequently identifying him as the man who fired the gun, Mills pleaded guilty to the offence he was charged with when the case went to court.

Following his sentencing, DC Faye Taylor, who led the investigation on behalf of Chester CID, said: *“We managed to identify Alex Mills as the offender and have him in custody within a day of the firearm incident occurring. However, when he was in custody he told lie after lie to the officers who questioned him about the incident. After establishing that his carjacking claim was a complete fabrication, we were always confident of Mills being convicted and jailed for his actions on the night of Friday 7 August. The known link between Mills and the man from Chester that he fired a gun towards is that they were both previously in a relationship with the same woman. Thankfully no-one was injured as a result of the incident and Mills is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. He had access to a viable firearm and showed that he is willing to endanger the lives of others. As this case shows, such serious criminality will not be tolerated by Cheshire Constabulary and I would like to thank the members of the public who helped us untangle Mills’ web of lies and remove him from our streets. With witnesses identifying Mills as the shooter via our ID process, he was left with no option other than to admit his guilt when the case went to court.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *“Incidents of this nature understandably concern the whole community. I know that Cheshire Constabulary does considerable work to tackle serious crime and take illegal weapons and the people who are willing to use them off our streets. I want to take this opportunity to praise all the officers and detectives involved in securing this conviction for all their hard work, and I hope that this case deters others from committing similar offences.”*

Enquiries are ongoing in a bid to find the handgun that Mills fired. Anyone with information regarding the locations of any illegal weapons in Cheshire is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Man charged with murder following death of Macclesfield man**

A man has been charged with murder following the death of a man in Macclesfield.

Andrew Anderson, also known as Andrew Aisu, of Stirling Close, has been remanded into custody and is due to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Saturday 26 September. At 2am on Wednesday 23 September officers attended an address on Stirling Close following reports of a man with serious injuries. The victim – Peter Kirkham, aged 45, from Macclesfield – died a short time later at the scene despite the best efforts of paramedics. Peter's family have been informed and formal identification has taken place. They are currently being supported by specialist officers. Aisu, aged 35, was arrested on Wednesday 23 September and subsequently charged on the afternoon of Friday 25 September.

Peter's brother Paul has paid tribute to him. He said: *"Peter was a loving son, brother and father. He was a nice and mischievous man with a kind heart and would take anybody into his home. He looked out for me and was very caring. We will miss him very much."*

## **Gang jailed for over 28 years for class A drugs conspiracy in Chester**

A gang of men who supplied crack cocaine and heroin in Chester city centre have been jailed.

The eight men were part of a criminal enterprise that used flare messages to advertise the sale of drugs to users. Alex Freeman, aged 21, set up the gang which was then controlled by 23-year-old Ryan Wallace following his arrest. He relied on Bradley Wong, 21, to help manage the deals to those on the street while Ashley White, 28, Joseph Birthwright, 21, and Frederick Pendleton, 44, were entrusted to deliver the drugs to the users directly. They recruited 21-year-old Fergus Rideal as the driver where he would take them to Liverpool on a number of occasions. The gang operated using at least three graft phones, with James McLeod, 30, using them on a number of occasions. Their activity was monitored by detectives between 30 September 2019 and 29 June 2020. They are estimated to have supplied 100 deals of 0.1g of class A per day. Following a timely operation the men were arrested during a number of dawn raids across Blacon, Broughton, Upton, Saughall and Ellesmere Port on Monday 29 June 2020. The men were sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 September after admitting to their crimes at an earlier hearing. Two of the men were given suspended sentences.

DS Stuart Needham, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"These men were part of a fully established criminal network who had been operating drugs in the city for a while. The gang had a large customer base with the majority addicted to crack cocaine and heroin. They supplied them with the drugs with the sole purpose of making a substantial profit. In order to get to the root of this problem and target those who were at the top of the tree we had to undertake a lengthy and covert operation to ensure we disrupted the supply of the drugs. We are grateful to the public who came forward to provide us with information as it was crucial to the investigation and I want to encourage them to keep showing their support and coming forward to report it."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"This is great news for those living in the community who have no doubt been impacted by the actions of the men involved in this conspiracy. Preventing and protecting Chester from*

*serious and organised crime is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan and I am once again really proud of the detectives who have dismantled another organised crime group. I want to add that the public have played a part in providing police with important information which hugely supported this outcome."*

If you believe drug activity is taking place in your community please report it to police either anonymously through Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101.

## **Arrests made and vulnerable people safeguarded during county lines week of action in Cheshire**

Criminal linked to county lines have been targeted during a week of action in Cheshire.

Officers arrested 14 men and five women on suspicion of drug offences and executed a number of warrants which resulted in heroin and cocaine being seized. At least 12 people who were identified as victims of cuckooing were visited by police and provided with specialist support and advice. Cuckooing is a term used to describe gangs who take over a vulnerable person's home to use as a drugs den. Officers also engaged with 24 vulnerable adults and children who could have been targeted or exploited by organised crime gangs.

Macclesfield Local Policing Unit also ran an operation with British Transport Police (BTP) to target those using the railway to transfer drugs into the area and identify those who may have been exploited to carry out this activity. Meanwhile officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit engaged with children at train stations in Hartford, Greenbank and Winsford. Officers from Crewe and Widnes Local Policing Units assisted Northumbria Police with an operation to target a significant organised crime group. Two men were arrested and class A drugs were recovered in Sandbach.

The week of action, which took place from Monday 14 September, was part of a national focus on county lines drug activity co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). A county line is operated by an organised crime group (OCG) who use a mobile phone, known as a line or a graft to extend their criminal activity business into new locations – usually from a city into rural locations.

DI Eli Atkinson said: *"Targeting those suspected of being involved in serious and organised crime, specifically county lines, is something we do relentlessly on a regular basis. The week of action enabled officers to go that extra mile by informing the public of what we're doing and how they too can look out for signs of children and adults who are vulnerable to organised criminals and report it. Throughout the week we carried out a range of activity including disrupting gangs by making arrests and seizing drugs but we also had a big focus on identifying and engaging with people whose homes are being taken over by drug dealers. It is these victims who are at the centre of county lines and can often be forgotten which is why we give talks in schools, speak to residents in our community and visit businesses to raise awareness."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"Preventing and protecting Cheshire's communities from serious and organised crime continues to be a key focus of my Police and Crime Plan. This week of action is testament to the work officers do day in day out to protect our communities and vulnerable adults and children from organised crime gangs."*

To learn how to spot the signs of drug activity taking place in your community or children and vulnerable adults being exploited by organised crime groups please visit our website. To report serious and organised crime please call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101.

## Anti-burglary packs to be delivered to vulnerable Runcorn residents

A project to help vulnerable people protect their homes from criminals will see anti-burglary packs delivered to more than 600 homes in Runcorn from next week.

Organised by Runcorn Local Policing Unit (LPU) as part of their multi-faceted approach to tackling burglary offences, the initiative has been boosted by a £4,000 Tesco Bags of Help grant and donations from Halton Borough Council and two housing associations. The council has offered to donate around £4,000 to the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project. Halton Housing and Onward Homes have both donated more than £1,000 to the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project. Their housing officers will join police officers and PCSOs in delivering anti-burglary packs to elderly and vulnerable Runcorn residents from Monday 28 September. The packs contain:

- Window alarms and door chimes to immediately alert homeowners of a break-in
- Lights timer switches to give would-be burglars the impression that someone is at home when there isn't
- SelectaDNA liquid to enable people to mark their property with a unique DNA identifier so that the police can easily trace it back to them in the event of it being stolen and recovered
- A magnifying glass to enable all residents to read the ID of anyone who calls at their home
- Leaflets detailing Cheshire Constabulary's advice on how residents can reduce their chances of becoming a victim of burglary.



**PC Chris Jones, Onward Homes' Louise Croft, Sergeant Jeffrey Cantrell and PCSO Georgina Griffiths are ready for the anti-burglary packs deliveries**

DS Rob McLoughlin, of Runcorn LPU, said: *"The project was devised last year following a spike in burglary incidents in Runcorn in which the victims tended to be vulnerable residents. It ties in with Operation Shield, a forcewide initiative to tackle burglary offences. Burglary is a serious offence in which victims are targeted at their own home, which is the place that they should be able to feel most safe. We have a multi-faceted approach to tackling burglary offences which involves education, awareness and various forms of action to prevent burglaries and bring offenders to justice. This project gives us another string to our bow in that regard, with the anti-burglary packs proving vulnerable residents with key tools to lessen the chances of them becoming victims. The packs have been funded by a Tesco Bags of Help grant – which we were awarded for the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project following a public vote – and donations from Halton Housing and Onward Homes. I can't thank the housing associations, Tesco and the people who voted for the project to receive a grant from the supermarket chain enough for their help and support and we are looking forward to delivering the anti-burglary packs from next week to Runcorn residents we have identified as being vulnerable."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *“This project will support so many vulnerable Runcorn residents to protect their homes from burglars. It is a deeply upsetting experience being the victim of a burglary and I know that Cheshire Constabulary does extensive work to tackle burglary offences. However, there is only so much that the police can do. These new anti-burglary packs will give residents important tools to protect their own homes in the run up to a period which traditionally sees an increase in burglaries, with the nights drawing in and Christmas approaching.”*

Halton Housing Customer Engagement Officer Debbie Jameson said: *“We’re delighted to be supporting the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project, which many of our customers will benefit from. As well as ensuring that our homes are safe and secure, as a large landlord in the borough we recognise that we have an active part to play in the wider community in helping to reduce burglaries and crime in general.”*

Onward Homes’ Safer Neighbourhood Specialist Kevin Byrne added: *“We are working closely with Cheshire Constabulary to provide tenants in Runcorn with anti-burglary packs in an effort to reduce the risk of burglary and enable them to feel safer within their own homes. The programme is due to begin next week and selected tenants will be notified. Customers should contact Onward Homes on 0300 555 0600 with any questions.”*

*The destinations of a large proportion of the anti-burglary packs have already been decided. However, if anyone wants to make an enquiry about getting one for themselves or a family member [they should email Dawn Taylor at Cheshire Police](#) with their name, age, address and any additional information they feel is relevant.*

Cheshire Constabulary’s anti-burglary advice includes:

When you are at home

- All windows should be closed and all doors should be locked even when you are inside your home or in the garden
- Use the security measures on modern windows, which allow them to let some air in but still be locked
- Never leave your car keys, house keys, purse or wallet on display near a door, window or cat flap – a thief can hook keys and other valuables through even a small opening
- Keep all valuables out of sight of prying eyes
- Do not let anyone you don't know into your home who calls unexpectedly – if you do answer the door, make sure you have it on the chain and ask for identification
- 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.

When you are going out

- Make sure that all of your doors and windows are closed and locked, even if you are only going out for a few minutes
- Double lock any door
- Make sure that any valuables remain out of sight
- Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places, such as kitchens or hallways
- In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- If you are out all day it is advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night



- Set your burglar alarm – you need to make sure that it has been installed properly and works
- Make sure side gates are locked
- Lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor.

#### When going away on holiday

- If you are off on holiday and wish to post anything about it on social media, make sure your posts are not public and that they are only seen by your friends
- Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make your home appear occupied
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property, or join a neighbourhood watch scheme
- Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
- Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries.

#### Other anti-burglary tips

- Always avoid keeping large amounts of cash in your home
- If you are replacing or fitting new doors and windows, get ones that are certified to British Standard BS7950 (windows) or PAS 24-1 (doors)
- Fit mortise locks (Kitemarked BS3621) to all front and back doors, as well as locks to all windows which are easy to reach
- Never leave a garage, shed or other outbuilding unlocked and easy prey for opportunist thieves
- Fit strong padlocks to outbuilding doors and make sure the doors are solid enough not to be kicked in
- Good external security lighting can put off or draw attention to a thief/burglar – motion-activated flood lights and high efficiency low energy lighting controlled by a dusk-to-dawn switch are advised
- If you have external security lighting that comes on when sensing movement, make sure the lights are directed downwards to prevent them from being annoying to neighbours and dangerous to passing traffic
- Strong fencing or gates will make it difficult for intruders to get onto your land
- Solid fences or walls, particularly those with a flat or rounded top, are relatively easy for a burglar to climb over – fixing trellising to the top will make it more difficult
- Check for weak spots where a thief could get onto your land, such as a low or sagging fence or a back gate with a weak lock
- A thorny hedge along the boundary of your property can put thieves off, as can gravel areas due to the noise of walking on them.

More advice is [available online via our website.](#)

## **People of Cheshire urged to play their part in the continued fight against coronavirus**

The people of Cheshire are being urged to keep playing their part as further restrictions are introduced in the fight against coronavirus.

Six months to the day after England first went into lockdown, those who live and work in the county are being reminded of new measures, which came into force this week. The rules apply to all areas of Cheshire – and include the “rule of six” – and coincide with additional specific measures for those living in Warrington and Halton.

ACC Jenny Sims said: *“The past six months have been a challenging time for us all but the people of Cheshire have come together and shown great solidarity and community spirit in the fight against this deadly virus. Now more than ever, as we enter a new phase of restrictions, we need the continued support of the local community in an effort to reduce the spread. It is clear that we all have a very important part to play over the coming weeks and months. COVID-19 is very much still out there, we must not let our guard down and the personal choices that we all make are crucial to protect others. We do not want to stop people from being able to do the things they enjoy but this needs to be done in a responsible and measured way to reduce any further spread of the virus as much as possible. Here in Cheshire we are in an unusual position in that a large proportion of the county is now facing tighter restrictions due to a sharp rise in cases. New measures are now in place for those living in Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn meaning that residents are no longer able to socialise with other households in their homes or private gardens. As a force we will continue to support the public to navigate the measures in place but we need local residents to take personal responsibility and make sure they are fully aware of the rules that apply to them in the part of the county they live in and ensure they stick to them. The rules are there for a reason – to keep us all safe – and we all need to play our part to protect our family, our friends, the communities we live in and, most importantly, the NHS.”*

Cheshire Constabulary is continuing to work closely alongside the four local authorities – Warrington, Halton, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester councils – as well as colleagues in Public Health and other agencies to ensure that residents, shoppers and businesses are acting within the regulations in every part of the county. The ‘rule of six’ remains in place meaning that people can no longer meet in groups of more than six – whether inside or outside anywhere in Cheshire. It also means that all hospitality, leisure, entertainment and tourism businesses will have to close by 10pm. Those that do not comply risk being fined or premises closed for breaches. There is now an increase in fines of up to £200 for people not wearing face masks, or those breaking the ‘rule of six’. In Cheshire, officers will continue to adopt the 4 E’s approach – engaging with people, explaining the law and encouraging individuals to follow the rules, but they will not hesitate to use enforcement where they have to.

ACC Sims added: *“The vast majority of people have been listening to the advice, sticking to the rules and following the guidance in place to limit the spread of the virus. However, it is disappointing that a small minority are still choosing to flout the regulations in place and, with the infection rate spreading rapidly, we will not hesitate to take action where we need to – especially for the most serious breaches. We will not allow those who continue to ignore the rules to reverse the hard work and efforts of everyone else.”*

Cheshire’s PCC David Keane added: *“The people of Cheshire need to remain vigilant, act responsibly and do everything they can to keep themselves and others safe. Over the past six months the vast majority of residents have followed the government’s advice and I hope that this continues as further measures are introduced. It is as important than ever that everyone who lives and works in the county plays their part and continues to closely follow the advice in a bid to halt any further spread of the virus to help protect the NHS and save lives.”*

Full details of the current regulations relating to Covid-19 can be found on [the Government website](#).

## **New community policing model for Cheshire**

- Local police working more closely with local communities to meet local priorities.
- Dedicated police officers and PCSOs for each 122 policing community
- Accessible police base in the heart of each community

- £200K funding package to deliver local projects which tackle crime and ASB

Cheshire Police has today launched its new approach to community policing, which will see dedicated police officers assigned to each of the county's 122 policing areas to tackle crime and support communities. The initiative has been developed by Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) David Keane who is striving for Cheshire to be the leading police service for delivering community policing. It builds on the already successfully delivered initiative to provide a dedicated PCSO and police community base for each area.



The new community police officers will work with their fellow PCSO, the wider policing team, and key partners to build relationships within the community, sharing the same mission to solve problems at their root-cause before they become more serious. They will spend more time in the heart of their dedicated communities and be given time to deal with issues that matter most to local residents. Another benefit of the changes is local residents will have more opportunities than ever before to directly contact their officers - either online, through social media, or face-to-face during police surgeries.

The work of the new community policing teams will be supported by a funding package for each community, made available by the Police and Crime Commissioner from money seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. This will consist of a £1,000 funding pot for all 122 communities and an additional £10,000 for all eight policing units that local people can bid for to deliver projects which work with the local policing team and key partners to address specific issues. By investing this money back into communities, the Commissioner hopes this sends a clear message that crime doesn't pay.

*PCC David Keane said: "My focus will always be to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, support victims and protect vulnerable people. I believe the best way to do this is by delivering a truly local police service that is fit for the future and an integral part of our communities. This project is about local police working more closely than ever before with local communities, to meet local priorities. With the support of Cheshire residents, we have been able to increase our officer numbers, which has helped make this next stage possible. Delivering it has been a key budget priority for me this year and I am pleased we have been able to deliver this initiative despite the challenges that Covid-19 has posed and continues to pose on our communities. I'm confident having dedicated officers will build on the success we've already had in providing each community with a dedicated PCSO and its own community base and will allow us to stay connected to our communities in light of new coronavirus restrictions. For me, community policing is an integral part of*

*protecting our communities and my ambition is to make Cheshire the best in the country at community policing. I know that we can only achieve this by investing in our communities and our workforce to ensure policing teams and local residents are given the support and tools they need to make our communities safer."*



Chief Constable Darren Martland added: *"This is a big step forward and exciting development in our policing model. Dedicated police officers will work with PCSOs, volunteers, partners and, most importantly, the communities that we serve, to adopt a preventative and problem solving approach to dealing with the issues that most affect our communities"*.

To find out who your community police officer and PCSO are and where you can meet them in your community, please visit: [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

## **Runcorn man charged with three offences after car stopped on the M6**

A 33-year-old man from Runcorn has been charged with three offences after officers stopped a car on the M6.

The blue Renault Scenic was stopped between junctions 22 and 23 on the northbound section of the motorway shortly before 3.30am on Monday 21 September. Steven Maughan, of Warrington Road, Runcorn, was arrested at the scene. After being questioned by officers in custody, he has been charged with going equipped for theft, fraudulently using a false number plate and driving without insurance. Maughan has been released on conditional bail and is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 8 October.

## **Woman jailed after heroin and cocaine discovered following warrant at Warrington home**

A 28-year-old woman has been jailed for four years after officers found heroin and cocaine with a street value of £2,410 during a warrant at her address.

Terrie Renwick, of Vulcan Close, Warrington pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 17 September. Officers executed a warrant at her address on 16 July 2020. While there, they found Renwick with her hand down the toilet. She was detained and officers began to search the 'U' bend of the toilet. When nothing was found, officers turned their attention to an external waste pipe and followed it to a grid outside the property. The officer opened the grid and found what they believed to be heroin and cocaine. A taser, phone and quantity of cash were also discovered during the raid. Further examination revealed that there was 120 wraps of cocaine and 121 wraps of heroin. Renwick was subsequently arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possession of a taser.

PC Andrew Dolan said: *"I welcome the sentence which has been handed down from the courts to Renwick. This result means that we have prevented heroin and cocaine reaching the streets of Warrington and I hope that it will send a strong message to those who think they get away with any aspect of illegal drug activity in our community. We will continue to do everything we can to remove illegal drugs from our streets and I would ask the public to please contact us with any concerns about drugs in their neighbourhood as we will act on all information provided to us."*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *"I would like to thank the officers involved in this case for taking another drug dealer off the streets and securing a fantastic result from the courts. By removing drugs from the street we are preventing them from getting into the wrong hands and causing misery across Cheshire. I would urge everyone who has been affected by illegal drug activity to report it to Cheshire Police on 101."*

## **Widnes man jailed following serious assault using a screwdriver and scissors**

A 33-year-old has been jailed after stabbing a fellow Widnes man with a screwdriver and a pair of scissors.

Mark Collins, of Albert Road, pleaded guilty to wounding with intent at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 3 September. He returned to the court to be sentenced on Friday 18 September. Collins was jailed for eight years, and given an additional four years on licence. The incident occurred at a flat in Dean Street, Widnes, on Friday 31 July. The victim, a local man in his 20s, had been told by a friend that Collins was looking for him. He let Collins, an acquaintance of his, into the flat at about 10pm. Once inside, Collins grabbed a screwdriver from the top of a book unit, demanded money from the victim and threatened to stab him. With the victim stating that he did not have any money, Collins stabbed him twice in the side, once with the screwdriver and once with scissors that were in the flat. Collins also threw the victim around the flat and strangled him. After being stabbed by the scissors, the victim managed to climb out of a window and escape to a friend's address. Collins had tried to pull him back in from the window. Police and paramedics were called to the friend's address and the victim was subsequently taken to hospital to receive treatment for the injuries he sustained as a result of the incident. None of the injuries were serious ones and he was discharged the following day. Police quickly identified Collins as being the man responsible for the victim's injuries but he fled when officers knocked at his door. Following a sustained manhunt, Collins was located and arrested in the Appleton area of Widnes at around 5pm on Wednesday 5 August. He denied assaulting the victim when interviewed in custody but pleaded guilty as soon as the case progressed to a crown court.



Following his sentencing, DC Rob Catterall, who led the investigation on behalf of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"Mark Collins subjected the victim to a vicious and sustained assault in a bid to steal money from him. The victim sustained two puncture wounds to his side, as well as minor injuries to his neck, stomach and arm, before managing to escape Collins' clutches. He had no idea that he was going to be assaulted when he let Collins into the flat, and the frightening ordeal he was forced to endure understandably left him extremely shaken up. I am delighted that Collins is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions and I hope that the culmination of this case and the length of the custodial sentence he has received gives his victim some closure and enables him to begin to move forward with his life. I also hope that this case and the sentence imposed by Liverpool Crown Court deters others from committing similar offences."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"Considering the nature of the assault he was subjected to, the victim in this case is lucky to have not sustained more serious injuries. Violent incidents of this nature are completely unacceptable, and I would like to thank the officers who have been involved in securing this conviction for their hard work and dedication. I hope that this case reassures residents that Cheshire Constabulary is committed to bringing violent offenders to justice and making our communities safer places to live, work and visit."*

## **New Chief Inspector at Chester Local Policing Unit**

Chief Inspector Gareth Wrigley is taking the reins at Chester Local Policing Unit this week.

He succeeds Steve Griffiths, who is moving to another role within the force. Gareth originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2001, and during his career he has worked in a variety of operational roles across the county, most recently as the Chief Inspector for the Roads and Crime Unit. Prior to serving as a Chief Inspector, Gareth worked as a Critical Incident Manager and a Force Incident Manager and led the training for armed policing and police dogs across both Cheshire and North Wales. He also works on the National Police Chiefs' Council vehicle crime portfolio that endeavours to prevent, reduce and detect vehicle crime offences nationally. Gareth is joining a well-established team of officers at Chester, including Inspectors Emma Parry, Anna Galloway and Brian Green and Detective Inspector Nick Henderson.



*Gareth said: "I have served with Cheshire Constabulary for more than 18 years and am so proud to be taking up the role of Chief Inspector at Chester Local Policing Unit. I am looking forward to bringing my experience and skills to Chester and the various teams and people I will be working with. I am keen to make sure that the dedicated, committed and professional people who work with me are able to fulfil their potential and make a real difference every day. As a local resident, I know that the team here already do a fantastic job of protecting the local community and I look forward to working with them to help make Chester and all the surrounding villages even safer places to live, work and visit. My focus will be listening to and really understanding the needs and concerns of the communities we serve, to ensure that the team can continue to deliver an effective service, both now and in the future. I will ensure that we continue to work closely, alongside local people and our key partners within the community, to help reduce crime in the area, and I encourage residents to get in touch if they have any issues or concerns that they want to raise."*

Outside of work, Gareth enjoys running, cycling and generally keeping fit. He is a football and motorsport fan and likes nothing more than spending time with his family and friends.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"I would like to congratulate Gareth on his new role. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience and I am sure that he will make a great addition to the leadership team at Chester. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve."*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Investigation launched following fatal collision near Congleton**

An investigation has been launched after two people died in a collision in Marton, near Congleton.

At around 3am on Sunday 27 September an officer came across a car that had collided with a tree on Congleton Road. Sadly, the two occupants of the grey Mini Cooper were pronounced dead at the scene.

Formal identification has not yet taken place but they are believed to be a 22-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman both from the Congleton area. Their families have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. An investigation into the circumstances of the fatal collision has been launched. Anyone with any information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 814688, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>

## **Appeal for information and footage following fatal collision in Handforth last month**

Officers investigating a fatal collision in Handforth have renewed their appeal for information.

The incident on Dean Road, which becomes Handforth Road, involved a black Suzuki Grand Vitara car and a cyclist. It was reported to the police around 1am on Saturday 22 August. Officers attended the scene and discovered that the cyclist had sustained serious injuries. Sadly, the 43-year-old local man was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. His family are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the SUV car stopped at the scene following the collision. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and no arrests have been made. The enquiries that have been carried out so far have established that the cyclist was lying in the road when the collision occurred. Officers want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the cyclist prior to the collision, or captured relevant footage on a dashcam. They particularly want to talk to a woman with dark hair who was driving a small black saloon car, possibly a BMW, along Dean Road around the time of the incident, between 12.40am and 1am. Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 786461, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Appeal following arson incident in Ellesmere Port**

Detectives are appealing for information and footage from members of the public following an arson attack in Ellesmere Port.

At around 10.20pm on Tuesday 22 September firefighters were informed of a parked car being on fire in Smithy Lane, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port. The blaze caused extensive damage to the orange Peugeot 2008 before being extinguished by firefighters. The fire is believed to have been started deliberately. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

DC Iain Ross, of Ellesmere Port CID, said: *"Fire spreads quickly and can put lives as well as properties and possessions in danger. The car was parked near to a building, but thankfully firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it had chance to spread beyond the vehicle. The car sustained extensive fire damage but no-one was injured as a result of the blaze. The consequences of this incident could have been far worse. I would like to reassure members of the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish who started the fire and make them face the consequences of their actions. As part of our ongoing enquiries we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes they may have seen something that could help our investigation. We also want to hear from anyone who thinks they may know who started the fire, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them."*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 811562, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **CCTV images released following robbery incident at Warrington store**



Officers have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to in connection with a robbery incident at a convenience store in Warrington.

A woman working at the store in Chapel Lane, Burtonwood, was threatened by a man holding a sharp instrument after challenging him as he attempted to leave the shop with items that had not been paid for. He then fled with the stolen items in the direction of the Chapel House pub. Enquiries in relation to the incident, which occurred at around 4.30pm on Thursday 17 September, are ongoing. Detectives believe that the man in the CCTV images may be able to aid their enquiries.

DS Mark Naylor, of Warrington CID, said: *“This incident has understandably left the store worker extremely shaken up. We are determined to establish who threatened her with a sharp instrument and stole the items from the store and have him brought to justice. As part of our ongoing enquiries we have released CCTV images of a man we believe may have important information to help our investigation. If you think you recognise the man in the CCTV images or know who or where he is please call us on 101, quoting IML 807399, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV images to get in touch.”*

## **Police appeal for information following an arson in Runcorn**

Detectives investigating a motorbike set on fire in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

At around 12.25am on Monday 21 September police found a motorbike and a car ablaze on Parker Street. The fire had quickly spread to a house nearby causing damage. A number of people inside the property were



safely evacuated as a precaution and the fire was extinguished by firefighters. Enquiries in relation to the fire are ongoing and it is being treated as arson. Detectives are appealing to the public to come forward with information and if they saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area surrounding Parker Street and the Old Town prior to the fire.

DC Paul Cullen, of Runcorn CID said: *“The blaze caused significant damage to the motorbike and a house close by and we believe it was started deliberately. A number of people were evacuated as a precaution and the consequences could have been far worse if they had not become aware of the fire. We have been following a number of lines of enquiry and are determined to identify those responsible and ensure they face the full consequences of their actions. I would encourage anyone with information to please get in touch with us.”*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 810089, or via the website at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>