

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 12th January 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

More than 1,750 people arrested in Cheshire throughout Christmas period

Officers arrested 1,752 people across the county in a bid to keep people safe throughout the Christmas period.

Arrests were made for a number of offences including assault, drink or drug driving, theft and criminal damage. The Force's operation – which ran throughout December - saw officers targeting perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and drink and drug driving – with a particular focus on night-time economy hotspot areas.

High visibility policing activity took place throughout December in areas across the county, which saw more officers helping make the county's city and town centres safe so law-abiding people could enjoy their Christmas safely. Officers were also out stopping drivers as part of a crackdown on drink and drug driving, and as a result 224 people were arrested for these offences.

The Special Constabulary was also hugely valuable throughout the month, supporting frontline neighbourhood policing and carrying out targeted operations to help support the Force's operation. Warrington Town Centre in particular saw 19 special constables reporting for duty on Friday 20 December, giving up their free time to keep communities safe.

CI Jamie Lewis, lead for the Force's festive operation, said: *"Throughout December we urged the public to think before they act, or face action from officers, and while the majority of people enjoyed their Christmas safely and responsibly, there were still far too many people who ignored our warning and chose to commit crime regardless. I hope the visibility of our officers – and the action taken against those who tried to spoil it for others – will have reassured our communities that we were working hard to keep them safe over the Christmas period. Our efforts to keep people safe and keep criminals off our streets doesn't end with Christmas. We will continue working hard to make sure anyone who believes they are above the law face the consequences of their actions - all year round. I also want to say a massive thank you to all the officers, staff and volunteers who worked really hard over the Christmas period - some missing spending time with their own families - to keep the people of Cheshire safe."*

If you have been a victim of crime, report it via 101 or contact police via www.cheshire.police.uk

Rapist jailed for attacking woman in Crewe

A man has been jailed for 15 years after he was found guilty of raping a woman in Crewe.

The 28-year-old man followed his victim for hours before committing the heinous attack. Nzar Salah, of Derrington Avenue, Crewe, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 6 January, after he was earlier found guilty of three counts of rape following a 14-day trial which concluded on Friday 27 September 2024.



The court heard that the victim was out walking in Crewe on Sunday 23 July 2023 when she was first approached by Salah. He then followed the victim and sexually harassed her for hours before going on to commit the sustained attack. The incident was reported to Cheshire Police the following day and Salah was immediately arrested. Prior to the attack, the victim became fearful of Salah's suspicious behaviour as he followed her and began recording on her phone for her own safety. During the investigation, officers found that the victim's phone had recorded the entire attack on an audio file which provided crucial evidence in the case and led to a jury finding him guilty of three counts of rape.

DSupt Helena Banusic said: *"I would first like to commend the victim for her bravery and courage shown throughout this case, and I hope this result will provide her some closure after what she has had to endure. What Salah did to the victim is deplorable, and then he put her through the trauma of having to relive the experience by way of a trial. Securing justice for the victim and ensuring the local community is safeguarded from this dangerous and depraved individual has been our number 1 priority throughout this investigation. In addition, as Salah is originally from Iraq, we will now be starting the process to enable him to be deported once he has served his sentence."*

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please call us on 101 or [visit the website](#). Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Three people charged in relation to large scale fraud offences at Knutsford garage

Detectives investigating allegations of fraud at a car sales showroom in Knutsford have charged three people.

Richard Gleave, Rachel Gleave and Mark East have all been charged with Fraudulent Trading contrary to section 993 Companies Act 2006. Richard has also been charged with one count of theft. The charges involve more than 40 victims and relate to offences which occurred between May 2013 and March 2017 at VIP Car Sales on Mereside Road, Knutsford. The total value of the offences is believed to be more than £1 million.

Richard Gleave and Rachel Gleave, both of St Martins; and Mark East, from Congleton; are currently released under investigation and have been summonsed to appear at Liverpool Knowsley & St Helens Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 12 February 2025.

Officers tackle retail crime over the festive period in month-long joint operation

Operation Watchmaker was launched by officers from the Western Problem-Solving Team, with support from the Area Investigation, Response and Beat Teams, to directly tackle retail crime, focusing on prolific offenders who frequently cause misery and disruption to local businesses.

Running from 1 December to 31 December, officers worked alongside representatives from the Chester and Ellesmere Port Business Crime Reduction Partnerships focusing their attention on retail crime in Chester city centre, Cheshire Oaks and several retail outlets in Ellesmere Port. Plain-clothes officers were deployed in shops and their surrounding areas during the operation, with multiple offenders being caught red-handed.

On day one, officers hit the ground running with the arrest of a woman by Chester Response officers after she was detained by staff at the Cotswold Outdoor shop in Chester, having been observed de-tagging items of clothing worth over £360. She was subsequently taken into custody for the offence and was also spoken to regarding an outstanding matter that had occurred earlier in December, where she was alleged to have taken £130 worth of items from a pet food shop in Ellesmere Port. She was remanded in custody and appeared in court the following day where she was found guilty on both charges and handed an eight-week suspended prison sentence, a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement and ordered to pay £100 in compensation.

On 5 December, a man who had attempted to steal over £1,060 worth of clothing and perfume from four shops in the city centre was arrested. The man has since been released on conditional bail, and all items have been recovered and returned to their respective shops.

On 9 December, when patrolling in the city, Western Problem-Solving officers observed an individual who was selecting items from a shop and leaving without paying. They were detained by the officers and issued with a Community Resolution.

Furthermore, on 23 December an offender who was linked to a £346 theft from a shop at Chester Retail Park in April and had since fled the country was arrested by officers upon his return to the UK. He was handed a Community Resolution by the Area Investigation Team.

In total, over the month of December, officers dealt with a total of 33 individuals, securing a total of 32 charges against 18 of them, of those:

- Five individuals have been bailed for further enquiries with investigations still ongoing
- Eight individuals were remanded and have already appeared in court
- Eight individuals were issued with Community Resolutions
- Ten individuals have been bailed to appear in court throughout January 2025

Insp Scott Fletcher, of Western Response, said: *"We know that shoplifting and retail crime are topical issues that are seen nationwide, which is why we decided to launch Operation Watchmaker over the most recent festive period - one of the busiest times for shopping in the year- in both Ellesmere Port and the city centre. Yet this is not just an operation we run over Christmas; tackling retail crime and safeguarding our local business owners is part of the Constabulary's day-to-day operations."*

"With that in mind, I would like to thank our officers from the various Western teams that helped us pull off this operation successfully, as well as the team from Chester and Ellesmere Port Business Crime Reduction Partnerships who helped us liaise with local retailers and secure a number of arrests and vital charges. The results do speak for themselves. As demonstrated in the case of one perpetrator who fled the county and later returned thinking they had got away with their crimes scot-free, we take retail crime very seriously in Cheshire and will leave no stone unturned in securing justice."

Man charged in relation to Northwich burglary series

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries in Northwich have charged a man in relation to the incidents.

Jonathon Maddock was arrested on Friday 3 January following a burglary in the Brook Lane area of the town. Following questioning the 43-year-old has been charged with four counts of burglary, possession of an offensive weapon in a private place and one count of attempted burglary. The charges relate to incidents which occurred in the Northwich area between Wednesday 1 January and Friday 3 January 2025. Maddock, of Dean Street, Northwich, has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 6 January 2025.

Prolific sex offender jailed for possession of indecent images of children

A prolific sex offender who was found with thousands of indecent images of children on his device has been jailed.

Daniel Tunney, of Manor Way, Crewe, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 3 January where he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The 42-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to making indecent images of children (IIOC) and breaching his Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO). The case against him began in September 2024, after Cheshire Police received intelligence that Tunney had been engaging with indecent images of children online. As a result, officers from the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team conducted a warrant at his address on Tuesday 24 September.

<https://youtu.be/tWkb3x2M4MY>

As part of his sex offender registration conditions, Tunney is required to notify police of any digital devices he owns or has access to. During the warrant and a subsequent search of his address, Tunney was arrested, and officers seized three unregistered digital devices - a mobile phone, a hard drive, and a memory card. Following a digital forensic analysis of his devices, officers discovered Tunney was in possession of thousands of images and videos displaying child abuse, these included at least 603 category A images, 240 category A videos, 735 category B images, 40 category B videos, 46,045 category C images, and 13



category C videos. He was also found in possession of 104 images and 36 videos of extreme pornography. A further 72,659 images and videos remain uncategorised.

When interviewed, Tunney answered “no comment” to all questions, but was charged with the offences regardless due to the amount of evidence gathered against him. Tunney was left with no choice but to plead guilty.

Following the sentencing, DS Nathanael Johnston said: *“Tunney is a prolific sex offender who posed a significant risk to children. During our investigation, we found that he was in possession of more than 90,000 indecent images of child sexual abuse. Through the work of our officers, we were able to quickly bring him to justice and he is now facing the consequences of his actions behind bars.”*

DC Meg Griffiths, of the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team, said: *“It is important to note that these crimes are not victimless, and as this case demonstrates, we are committed to pursuing and bringing to justice those who engage in online child sexual exploitation and play a part in the sexual abuse of children in Cheshire and beyond.”*

To report a sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [visit the website](#). Information can also be passed on anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

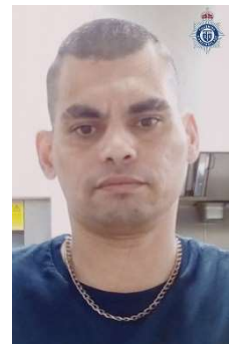
Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal for help to locate missing man from Crewe

Police are appealing for information from the public to help to locate a missing man from Crewe.

Jan Balogh was last seen at around midnight on Monday 6 January 2025. The 40-year-old is described as around 5' 3" tall, of skinny build and bald. He was last seen wearing black shoes, light coloured trousers and a dark jumper. He also wears glasses.

Insp Penny Jones said: *“We have been conducting a number of enquiries to locate Jan and we are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare, particularly with all the cold weather we are experiencing at this time. Jan currently resides in Crewe, but he also has a number of links to Newcastle Upon Tyne. I would urge anyone who thinks they have seen Jan since he went missing to contact us. The same goes for anyone who thinks they know where he may be or has any CCTV or dashcam footage which could aid our search. I would also like to appeal directly to Jan to ask him to get in touch with us.”*



Anyone with information should ring 101, quoting IML 2000879. You can also report information to us through our website via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us

Appeal for witnesses and footage following collision in Ellesmere Port

Police investigating a collision that occurred in Ellesmere Port are appealing for information and video footage.

At round 3.51pm on Tuesday 7 January, officers in Ellesmere Port responded to reports of a collision on Sutton Way. Attending the scene, officers found that a pedestrian had been involved in a collision with a Red Citroen C4 that was being driven by a 33-year-old local man. The pedestrian, a 13-year-old girl, sustained minor injuries and she was taken to hospital as a precaution. She has since been discharged.

No arrests have been made at this time. Enquiries in relation to the collision have been ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are now appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid officers in their enquiries to come forward.

Insp Anton Sullivan, of the Force's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *“In this instance the pedestrian involved did not sustain any life-threatening or life-changing injuries, but given the recent weather conditions, this could*

have been a different story - which is why are appealing for any information and video footage so we can establish exactly what took place here. I would urge anyone who witnessed the collision to get in touch and the same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid our enquiries."

Anyone with any information in relation to the collision is asked to call 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2000771.

Appeal for witnesses and information following altercation in Holmes Chapel

Officers are appealing for witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them following reports of an altercation in Holmes Chapel.

At approximately 7.20pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024, police were called to reports of an altercation in a beer garden at the George and Dragon public house, Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel. During the incident, a number of people were assaulted. One female victim suffered a broken wrist, another female victim suffered a fractured knee, and a male victim suffered glass-related facial injuries. The suspects are believed to be a group of young local men who left the scene prior to police arrival. Officers investigating this incident are now urging any witnesses or those with any information to come forward.

DS Robert Bushell said: *"This incident occurred on what should have been an enjoyable evening as local people and families gathered to celebrate Christmas. As a result of the incident, a number of individuals were injured, and enquiries have been ongoing since it was reported to try and identify the males responsible. Therefore, we would urge anyone who witnessed what happened or has any information relating to the identity of the suspects to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have any footage which could aid our enquiries."*

You can report information to Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting 24001078425.

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