

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

## Week ending 5 May 2024

### Cheshire News & Appeals



#### Latest Cheshire News

#### **A man in Ellesmere Port was caught using an encrypted messaging service to communicate on a large-scale drugs conspiracy during the Covid-19 lockdown.**

Jay Roberts, of Nelson Road, Ellesmere Port, appeared at Chester Crown Court today (Friday 3 May) where he was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

He had previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine, MDMA, ketamine, and cannabis, conspiracy to produce MDMA and possession of criminal property.



Detectives from Cheshire's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) analysed the encrypted data used by Roberts and read his messages to other EncroChat users where he discussed buying and selling cocaine, MDMA, ketamine, and cannabis, between March 2020 and June 2020. Following the breakthrough, officers discovered messages sent by Roberts, who went by the username 'Ripebrow', where he openly discussed how the Covid-19 lockdown could prove beneficial to his criminal enterprise.

The 31-year-old talked about how the additional restrictions put in place due to the pandemic would render other drug dealing competitors out of pocket and unable to access their supply, meaning the market for these illegal drugs would increase and Roberts could make even more profits. He then used his national upstream suppliers to source large amounts of class A and B drugs before redistributing the supply to other Encrochat users.

Roberts was also trusted to accrue multi-kilo drug orders on 'tick' (also known as credit) and would at times be in over £100,000 worth of debt with his suppliers. He began operating at such a high level of criminality that he was in early discussions about the potential importation of significant quantities of controlled drugs into the UK. The scale of his criminality was assessed, revealing that Roberts sourced 19 kilograms of cocaine, three kilograms of MDMA, 1.5 kilograms of ketamine, and 23 kilograms of cannabis between March 2020 and June 2020.



At around 1.40pm on Tuesday 28 November 2023, ANPR cameras alerted officers to a white Mercedes travelling on the M6 that had previously been linked to Roberts. With assistance from the police helicopter, officers surrounded his car, forcing him to come to a stop, and he was

subsequently arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class A controlled drugs. After he was arrested and taken into custody for questioning, his home was searched, and significant quantities of cocaine and cannabis were found. A storage unit used by Roberts was also identified and searched. This led to the discovery of a press used to produce ecstasy tablets (MDMA), a cash counting machine and other drug paraphernalia, including dealer lists. He was charged with an array of drug offences, including conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs and being concerned in the production of a class A drugs.

*Examples of the lifestyle Roberts led, in this one, a racehorse*



*Examples of the Encrochat messages Roberts would send*

ripebrow	[REDACTED]	<p>Think so be on complete lock down next week so no one will be able to move unless local, deffo won't be able to go on motorways even a roads I think so if u don't stock now be impossible to get out the way why I'm trying to grab so many bought two cash on</p> <p>Wednesday so hopefully have <u>17</u> in total if them 5 come in monday, got a week ☹️ complete lock down</p>
ripebrow	[REDACTED]	Iya bro sorted back now just checking them out now
ripebrow	[REDACTED]	
ripebrow	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	ripebrow	Look mad at first glance but the inside lookike belter

*A pill press found in a container linked to Roberts*



*Examples of the lifestyle Roberts led, in this one, a Range Rover linked to Roberts.*



*Examples of the lifestyle Roberts led, in this one, a holiday to the Maldives*



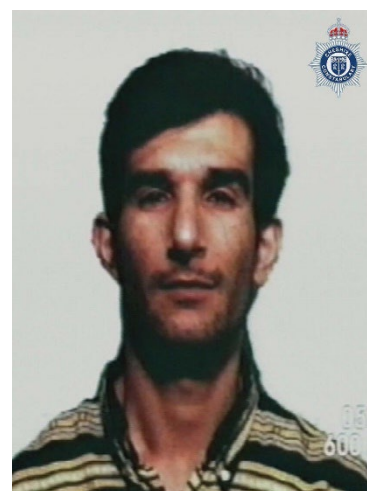
Detective Chief Inspector Nick Henderson, of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"We have been relentless in pursuing those who have so far been identified as using the secretive encrypted device in order to commit organised crime, and Roberts is one of many who thought they could operate above the law, but my team were hot on his tail."*

*“Roberts was a well-established organised criminal and a key player in the large-scale commercial drugs business, supplying substantial amounts of illegal drugs in the Chester and Ellesmere Port areas which he profited from and led to him living a lavish lifestyle. He reaped the benefits of his ill-gotten gains while the rest of the country were adhering to lockdown restrictions, but it was always going to catch up with him. Thanks to the work undertaken by my detectives who analysed the messages, he is now behind bars facing justice. This shows that no matter what you think you are doing to cover your tracks, we are one step ahead. We will do everything we can to make sure that each and every individual involved in Serious and Organised Crime pay for the misery that they bring to communities across Cheshire.”*

Anyone with information about drug activity in their community is urged to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#).

### **A man who was on the run for 24 years has been jailed for causing the deaths of two cyclists by driving dangerously.**

Huseyin Ozkara (53) was extradited from France on 27 March to face the consequences of his actions, following a cold case review by Cheshire Constabulary’s Force Intelligence Unit in 2023.



He appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 2 May to be sentenced for causing the death of two men, Bryan Kenealy, 69, from Woolton, Liverpool and Roger Harris, 66, who had been living Crewe, by dangerous driving. Ozkara was found guilty of the two counts on 1 August 2000 and was bailed to be sentenced on 15 September 2000. However, he failed to show up at court and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Despite best efforts Ozkara had remained at large until now. He was finally sentenced to 12 years and eight months in prison.

Bryan and Roger were friends and the pair had been cycling together in Cheshire on 2 November 1999 when Ozkara failed to stop and give way at the junction of Wood Lane and Willington Lane, near Clotton. He collided with another car and in turn the vehicles collided with both cyclists. Sadly, both men died shortly afterwards from their injuries.

Officers over the years had tried to locate Ozkara, making numerous enquiries into his whereabouts and he also featured in an appeal on BBC’s Crimewatch. Despite there being no record of Ozkara leaving the UK or of his whereabouts, he came to the attention of French police in 2008 and 2009, but Ozkara remained undetected.

DCI Amber Hodson, who led the review said: *“Ozkara was always on our radar, however, with technology rapidly improving the tools of our trade in recent years, our ability to find those who deny victims and their families the justice they deserve quadruples. That’s something we’re really*

*proud of and keeps us doggedly on the trail of those who seek to evade justice – no matter how long they have been wanted for and where in the world they are hiding.”*

Detectives used specialist technology to trawl social media. Pictures of a man matching Ozkara but with a different surname led officers to believe he was still living in France. Liaising with the French authorities, they now had an address for Ozkara.

*DCI Hodson said: “We believe Ozkara had been living illegally in France under an alias to prevent being detected and has probably done so since 2000. We worked with CPS to extradite Ozkara back to the UK and informed the relatives of the two men. To see him finally in court to face the judge was a bittersweet moment. This should have happened decades ago, but Ozkara selfishly denied families closure and has wrought long-suffering hurt and distress to the families, but we are so pleased and thankful that we and the family finally got to see him get the justice he deserves. “The lives of the families of Bryan Kenealy and Roger Harris changed forever when they were taken from them that day – a day that should have been an enjoyable bike ride on an autumnal sunny day. Now, 24 years on, they have finally got the justice Ozkara had denied them.”*

Roger’s daughter said in her victim impact statement that she had been traumatised by her father’s violent death but that the impact was intolerable for her mum who spent years trying to find Ozkara. Her mum sadly died 10 years after Roger’s death. She said: *“Ozkara took from us and was too cowardly to face the consequences. I hope that now we get to face him in court and get justice for my dad and my mum.”*

### **A 19-year-old man has been charged in relation to a murder investigation following the death of a man in Ellesmere Port.**

Ben Ruddock, of Kendal Drive, Ellesmere Port, was arrested in the Halewood area of Merseyside at around 1.35am on Thursday 2 May. He has since been charged with murder and has been remanded in custody to appear at Crewe Magistrates’ Court on Saturday 4 May 2024. The charges relate to the death of 34-year-old Lloyd Velasquez following an incident on Summertrees Road, Ellesmere Port, at around 8.20pm on Wednesday 1 May.

A 20-year-old man and a 21-year-old man, both from Ellesmere Port, who were both arrested on suspicion of murder remain in police custody at this time.

## **A 25-year-old man who raped a woman in Knutsford has been jailed for 17 years.**

Marcell Koekemoer, of HMP Bristol, but previously of Stretford, was sentenced on Tuesday 30 April. He was previously found guilty of two counts of rape in relation to the incidents following a trial at Bristol Crown Court.

The case first came to the attention of Cheshire Police in August 2022 when the victim submitted an online report stating she had been raped by Koekemoer. She told officers Koekemoer had asked to stay at her address in Knutsford two days previously, after being locked out of his own address. She agreed he could stay, providing he slept on the sofa. However, during the early hours of the morning, Koekemoer entered her bedroom and proceeded to rape her. The following morning, he raped her again when she asked him to leave her address.



Koekemoer was arrested in August 2022 and interviewed in relation to the allegations, which he denied. He was subsequently released on conditional bail while further enquiries were undertaken. While on bail, Koekemoer went on to commit further offences in the Avon and Somerset area. Following a joint investigation by both forces, Koekemoer was charged in October 2023. On top of his custodial sentence, he is subject to an indefinite restraining order and must sign the sex offender register for life.

*In a victim personal statement read in court, the victim said: "As a result of this crime, I was having flashbacks for several months. I have to live where the crime happened, and for a long time I was not able to sleep in my own bedroom. I had to sleep on my sofa or on the floor. Straight after, I kept myself to myself. I stopped going out and socialising for quite a few months after the incident. It's massively affected my job due to the amount of time I had to take off. My anxiety has been very bad since the incident. I am still very up and down after what happened."*

Detective Constable Charlotte Dutton and Detective Constable James Atherton of Macclesfield CID added: *"I would like to recognise the courage of the victim in this case by coming forward and reporting what happened to her. Not only did Koekemoer subject her to a horrific ordeal, but despite being on bail for rape offences, he went on to commit further offences in another force area. He then forced his victims to sit through a trial rather than take accountability for his actions. But he was found guilty of his crimes and is now behind bars. I hope that this encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us. We treat all reports extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority."*

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or report online through our website. Information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

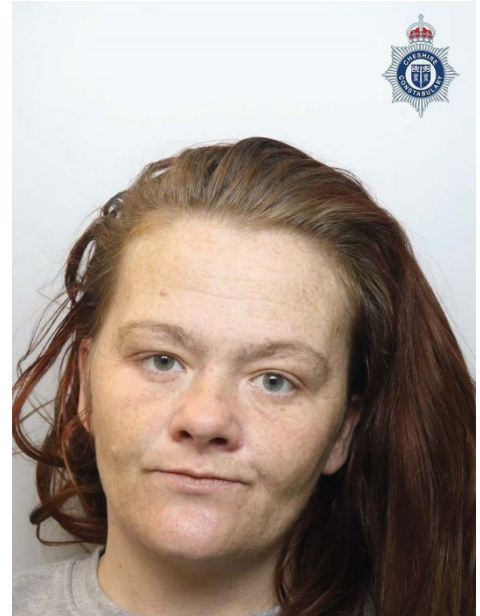
## **A woman from Crewe has been banned from several shops in the town after neighbourhood officers secured a two-year a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).**

Nadine Lyons appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on Tuesday 30 April where she was handed the two-year order, following several shoplifting incidents across the town.

Under the terms of the CBO, which was successfully applied for by officers from the Crewe Neighbourhood Team, the 36-year-old has been banned from entering the Cooperative stores on both Parkers Road and Remer Street, Crewe. Lyons has also been banned from entering Heron Foods store on Bradfield Road. If Lyons fails to comply with the CBO, she will be committing a criminal offence which may result in a recall to prison or fine.

Police Constable Justin Taylor, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *“This result shows the lengths that we will go to in stopping offenders such as Lyons in their tracks and causing disruption and harm to businesses across our town. Orders such as CBOs are one of many tools that allow officers to further protect communities from harm caused by offenders. If Lyons fails to comply with any of the conditions of the order, she could receive a final penalty or imprisonment.”*

Anyone who encounters Lyons breaching any of the above restrictions is urged to contact Cheshire Police via [the website](#) or call 101, to report it.



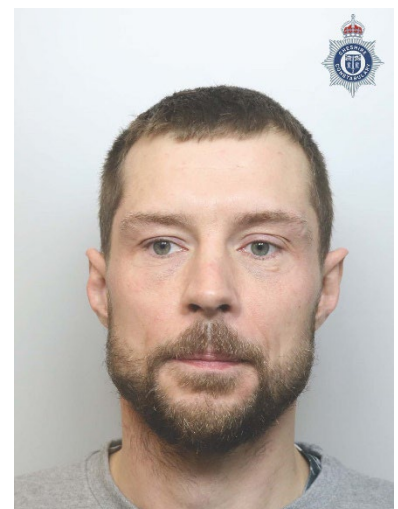
## **A couple from Warrington have been sentenced after admitting dealing cannabis and cannabis edibles.**

Dawn Wilkinson, 36, and Liam Wimbleton, 39, from Waywell Close, Warrington, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 1 May to be sentenced.

Both pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to possession of cannabis with intent to supply, possession of cannabis edibles with intent to supply, possession of psilocin and possession of LSD. Wilkinson was sentenced to 20 months in prison suspended for 12 months and Wimbleton was sentenced to 32 months in prison.

On 22 November 2022, acting on intelligence, a warrant was executed at Wilkinson’s address in Waywell Close. Officers seized a number of items relating to drug dealing including tubs of cannabis and cannabis gummies, gummy maker equipment and ingredients to make the gummies, and dried mushroom.

They also seized £525 in cash and two mobile phones. Messages advertising drugs were found on Wimbleton’s phone and messages between the pair discussing the drugs were found on both.



Sgt Kerry Barber said: *“We have taken another two dealers and their drugs off the streets and will continue to do so. I hope this reassures people that we do act on information and with your help we can pursue those who bring our communities down with their illegal activity.”*

## **Ahead of Cheshire Constabulary supporting the national week of action tackling the impact of knife crime, Crewe is set to host the six-metre-long bee monument made up of thousands of weapons.**

Following on from the success of the Knife Angel project last year, this month will see Crewe play host to the Anti-Violence Bee Monument, a six-metre-long statue made up of weapons that have been voluntarily handed over to police.

Originally commissioned by Greater Manchester Police, and brought to the town by Crewe Town Council and supported by the Local Policing Unit (LPU), the Anti-Violence Bee represents Cheshire Constabulary's continued zero-tolerance stance against violence and aggression of any kind. It is hoped that the presence of the monument, and its accompanying programme, will inspire social change in both Crewe and across our wider Cheshire community.

During the Bee's residency in Crewe, the force will be taking part in the first of two national weeks of action this year known as 'Operation Sceptre'. The operation, which will run from Monday 13 May to Sunday 19 May, will see the force join a national effort to reduce knife crime and its impact in our communities.

A knife amnesty bin will be located on Memorial Square on Sunday 19 May for members of the public to surrender any bladed articles. Several knife arches are also planned to be deployed at schools across the town. The Anti-Violence Bee will provide an opportunity to educate children, young people and adults about the harmful effects of violent and aggressive behaviour and officers from the LPU will be working alongside Crewe Town Council, the Safer Cheshire East Partnership and the CrimeBeat charity in providing a vast programme of activities. Some of these events include community and youth engagement, with officers planning to deliver safety talks and gang culture workshops at schools across the town. As part of the workshops, pupils will also be given emergency first aid demonstrations.

Residents are also invited to join members of the Crewe Local Policing Team at the Bee on Tuesday 7 May at 6.30 pm for a free self-defence class and a session of songs of hope and reflection at 1pm on Monday 13 May.

The Constabulary's Safer Street bus will also be parked up near the Bee in Memorial Square across the bank holiday weekend (Saturday 4 May and Sunday 5 May) and on Tuesday 7 May. The bus is designed to provide a safe space for anyone working in, living in or visiting Crewe to speak to officers for advice or support, receive first aid or simply charge their phones.



Inspector Cliff Goodwin, of Crewe Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: *"Having the Anti-violence Bee here in Crewe is a real honour. Its presence not only represents our continued zero-tolerance towards violence and threatening behaviour of any kind in Crewe, but it also highlights the outstanding efforts from our neighbourhood teams in deterring violent incidents across our town and keeping residents safe. Our officers work daily to tackle violent behaviour, and during the Bee's stay here in Crewe, we will be stepping up our presence across the town to reassure residents that we are taking a proactive approach to tackling violence in Crewe. We are working with local councils, charities and schools to engage and educate our young people with a vast number of programmes, activities and initiatives for all ages planned. During the Bee's stay, residents can expect to see the deployment of knife arches funded by our Safer Streets partnership, community knife sweeps across different areas of Crewe, the regular deployment of drug detection dogs, engagement in the community, amnesty bins and regular patrols around hotspot areas."*

PSCO Lizzie Jolley, of Crewe Neighbourhood Policing Team, added: *"It is so important that the Anti-Violence Bee is featured in Crewe, as it brings to the surface a topic which affects many of our residents in the town and its surrounding areas. Our programme of community events are vital opportunities to bring people together to show that kindness and community will always conquer violence."*

To report any type of crime involving weapons call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, or 999 in an emergency. Information can also be passed to the force online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries>. Anyone who knows someone that carries a knife can report it to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

### **A man from Warrington has been jailed for supplying class A drugs following a stop and search in Warrington.**

Christian Foster appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 3 May where he was sentenced to 28 months in prison.

The 55-year-old of Farrell Street, Fairfield & Howley, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine and heroin). The court heard how at around 2.30pm on Tuesday 26 March, two plain clothed officers on patrol on St Elphin's Close noticed Foster acting suspiciously.



As the officers were watching him, he was approached by two men and appeared to pull a package out of his top. Foster was subsequently stopped by officers and during a search he was found in possession of a mobile phone, a small amount of cash and bag containing wraps of heroin and crack

cocaine, valued at approximately £790. Foster was arrested at the scene and subsequently charged in relation to the incident.

Following the sentencing Detective Constable Vicky Hancox of Warrington Proactive Policing Team said: "Thanks to the work of the two eagle-eyed officers another drug dealer is now behind bars. This is a fantastic result and I hope it acts as a warning to others planning to deal drugs in Cheshire – demonstrating that you never know who is watching. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact, not only to drug users, but also the community around them. Here in Warrington, we are doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets to make the town a safer place to live and visit, while also making it extremely difficult for these offenders to operate. We will always act on any information about drug activity provided to us and would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them to get in touch."

### **Officers investigating the supply of illegal drugs in Chester have charged eight people following a series of raids in the city.**

On Tuesday 30 April, officers from Chester Proactive Policing Unit, supported by other officers from across the force, executed drugs warrants at six addresses in Lache, Blacon, and Saltney.

Six men and two women were arrested during the raids on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class A drugs. Seven of them have since been charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine and MDMA) and one count of count of conspiracy to supply class B drugs (ketamine).

The seven defendants are:

- Kai Bradley, aged 20, of Stratford Road, Chester
- Jordan Cook, aged 20, of Sycamore Drive, Chester
- Jamie Lee Kelly, aged 37, of Whitemere Court, Ellesmere Port
- Lucy Pagett, aged 33, of Englefield Avenue, Saltney
- James Phelan, aged 20, of no fixed abode
- Edward Chadwick, aged 28, of Oakfield Road, Chester
- Ryan Paul Yates, aged 33, of Roughlyn Crescent, Marslton-cum-Lache, Chester

Yates has also been charged with being concerned in the fraudulent evasion of a prohibition of the importation of a class B drug (cannabis). The eighth defendant, Sian Elisha Tomlin, aged 33, of Stamford Road, Chester, was charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine) and being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine). Seven of the defendants appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Wednesday 1 May. They will next appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 29 May. Chadwick will appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 2 May.

### **Officers have issued a warning to members of the public following an illegal car meet near Wilmslow.**

Shortly after 10pm on Saturday 27 April, police were made aware of reports of a large number of vehicles gathering near the A34 between Wilmslow and Alderley Edge.

The illegal car meet began in the Manchester area before participants travelled into Cheshire. Cheshire Police officers attended the scene, along with a police helicopter. A 37-year-old man was subsequently arrested on suspicion of drug driving, while Traffic Offence Reports (TORS) were issued to two vehicles, one for its illegal number plate, and one for its tinted windows and insurance. A further four Section 59 warning notices were issued to motorists for inconsiderate or careless driving. Police are reviewing footage and will look to identify and prosecute further drivers due to their manner of driving.

Inspector Nick Rogers said: *“Illegal car meets not only cause upset and frustration to communities and residents, but put those participating in such events, other road users, and members of the public in danger. This is not a question of officers ‘spoiling the fun’, but rather the police taking robust action to prevent harm, and even serious injury or worse. The incident in Wilmslow at the weekend resulted in an arrest, TORS being issued, and section 59 warnings, but we are reviewing footage to identify any further drivers and hold them accountable. These events will not be tolerated – we cannot allow vehicles to be driven at excessive speeds or in an anti-social manner. Be warned, when we are made aware of such unauthorised events happening, we will use every resource available to us to disrupt these illegal gatherings. We have a job to do in making the roads in Cheshire safe for everyone, and anyone who puts that at risk will be dealt with accordingly.”*

### **Eight members of an organised crime gang who were responsible for the large-scale supply of illegal drugs in Runcorn have been sentenced to more than 25 years in prison.**

The six men and two women were convicted as part of Operation Winkled – an investigation launched by Cheshire Police into the large-scale supply of crack cocaine and heroin into the Murdishaw area of Runcorn over the course of 13 months.

All eight appeared at Chester Crown Court today (Monday 29 April) for sentencing having previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin.

The defendants were handed the following sentences -

- Scott Doran, 35, of HMP Altcourse – nine years
- Darren Garbe, 24, of Fenton Green, Liverpool – four years
- David Keegan, 52, of Nortonwood Lane, Runcorn – three years
- Marcus Pike, 22, of HMP Altcourse – three years and four months
- Samantha Bushall, 37, of HMP Styal – three years and nine months
- Michelle Bushall, 59, Mooring Close – nine months suspended
- Stephen Redmond, 22, of Talisman Close, Runcorn – three years and four months
- Zachery Rizzotti, 22, of St Andrew Road, Liverpool – two years suspended years

During the sentencing hearing officers produced evidence from their investigation that took place between 15 August 2021 and 19 September 2022. The investigation established that Doran acted as the ringleader of the group based in Murdishaw. Garbe, Doran’s brother, was evidenced to be one

of Doran's deputies, assisting in orchestrating the movement and supply of drugs. Keegan worked as a taxi driver in a bid to operate under the radar, helping to facilitate the supply line under Doran and Garbe's command. Samantha Bushell and her mother, Michelle Bushell, would assist with money laundering for the OCG and for Samantha's then partner, Doran. They also allowed their home to be the hub for the line to operate from.

Two mobile numbers linked to the county lines team were identified sending daily bulk messages advertising the sale of class A drugs in the Runcorn area. The defendants were identified following a number of enquiries, including telecoms analysis, CCTV, and ANPR. In the early hours of Wednesday 14 December 2021, 200 officers from Cheshire Police with support from Merseyside Police, raided 14 addresses across Runcorn, Widnes, and Merseyside. All eight defendants were subsequently arrested and charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs.



Top row to bottom row, left to right: Doran, Garbe, Keegan, Pike, Bushall and Redmond

Following the sentencing, Detective Inspector Ali White said: *"I welcome the sentences handed to Doran and his associates, who have collectively been put behind bars for more than 25 years. This OCG thought they could operate under the radar and establish a cocaine and heroin supply line into Murdishaw, with drugs being openly supplied in the community. Little did they know we were hot on their trail, gathering a catalogue of evidence against them so that the defendants had no choice but to enter a guilty plea.*

*"Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team of officers throughout a lengthy investigation, these individuals are now facing the consequences of their actions and a large amount of class A drugs has been taken off the streets. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. In Runcorn, we are doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets to make the town a safer place to live while also making it extremely difficult for these gangs to operate. We will always act on any information about drug activity provided to us and would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them, to please contact Cheshire Police."*

A county line is operated by an organised crime group 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 areas. In some cases, organised crime groups can target and exploit children, vulnerable adults, and disabled people to deliver and deal drugs on their behalf. To help make Runcorn a safer place to live, spot the signs of county lines drug dealing and report it to Cheshire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously 0800 555 111.

### **Officers have charged a man following an incident in Chester.**

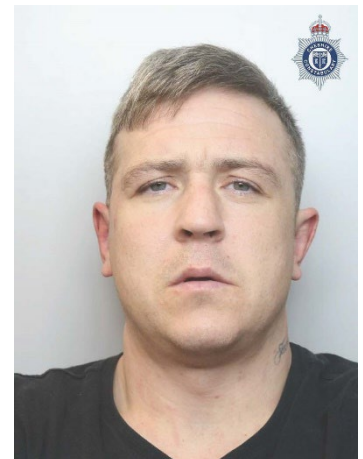
Dariusz Michalski, 52, was arrested on Saturday 27 April and has since been charged with threatening to destroy property and endangering life.

Michalski, of Long Lane, Waverton, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Monday 29 April. He has since been bailed to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 28 May. The charge relates to an incident that occurred on Saturday 27 April near an address on Long Lane, Waverton.

### **A 39-year-old man who breached a restraining order against him on several occasions has been jailed.**

Lee Jones appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 26 April, where he was sentenced to 27 months in prison.

The 39-year-old, of Mold Road, Ewloe Green, had previously pleaded guilty to four counts of a breach of a restraining order. The court heard that, following the breakdown of their relationship, Jones was issued with a restraining order on Tuesday 16 January 2023, preventing him from contacting his ex-partner or going near her home address.



Across the following October, the victim reported that she was receiving around 30 calls a day from a number believed to be Jones'. Later, on 1 November, the victim received a voicemail message from an unknown caller. Listening to the message, she recognised the voice as Jones. In the message itself, Jones told the victim that he wanted to continue seeing her and was struggling to comprehend why she did not want to be with him. A further voicemail from Jones followed the next day, claiming that he was not seeing anyone else romantically and that he wanted her to be happy. A third call then followed two weeks later on 21 November, when Jones was a week away from being released from prison.

The victim said that the voicemails made her feel horrible, with the constant contact resulting in her fearing for her safety. At the time of the phone calls, Jones had been serving a sentence in HMP Altcourse and was due for release toward the end of November. Officers from Cheshire Police met Jones upon his release from prison and promptly arrested him breaching his restraining order.

Following Jones' arrest, the victim found the courage to disclose to Cheshire Police incidents of controlling and coercive behaviour that he had exhibited toward her. She recalled an incident where he once put a knife to her neck in an attempt to try and stop her from going to work, which subsequently resulted in her giving up her career. She also recalled how Jones would stop her from seeing her friends and family, would use their money for drink and drug binges and how the words he would use against her would make her feel threatened, frightened, demeaned and degraded.

When interviewed, Jones denied all knowledge of the phone calls made to the victim, claiming that he had no interest in being with her romantically and denying the number that had called her was his. He also denied that he had prevented her from seeing family and friends and using abusive and degrading language toward her. Despite his denials, Jones was charged and later appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 21 February 2024 where he pleaded guilty to four counts of breach of a restraining order. On Friday 26 April, Lee Jones returned to Chester Crown Court where he was sentenced to 27 months in prison.

Following his sentencing, Police Constable Emily Dodd of Ellesmere Police Local Policing Unit said: *"Firstly, I would like to commend the bravery the victim has shown throughout the investigation into Jones' frequent offending; he is a manipulative and violent serial domestic abuse perpetrator, whose behaviour left his victim feeling vulnerable, humiliated and fearing that he could be around every corner whenever she left the house. While no sentence will ever be able to make Jones' victim forget what happened to her, I hope the fact that he will now be behind bars, and will be continually managed upon his release from prison to prevent further offending, can provide her with both reassurance and a sense of closure."*

*In addition, if you have concerns about your current or ex-partner, because you're worried they may have a history of abuse and are a risk to you, then you can submit a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application. The scheme, also known as Clare's law, enables the police to release information about any previous history of violence or abuse that a person might have. The Constabulary takes all offences of this nature extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority."*

To find out more, or to submit a DVDS application, you visit [Request information under Clare's Law](#) from the Cheshire Police website.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Officers in Chester are appealing for information and video footage after a number of tools were stolen from a garage.**

At around 12.30pm on Tuesday 30 April, officers responded to reports of a burglary at an address in Chester.

Attending the scene Muir Road, Chester, officers found that an unknown number of individuals had gained access to a garage stolen a toolbox and a work trolley and then fled the scene. The trolley was found shortly after the incident, but the tools were not recovered. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of their investigation, officers would like to appeal for any witnesses to come forward.

Police Constable Jack Ryder, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *“As well as appealing for witnesses, we are also looking to speak to anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area shortly before or after the time of the incident. The same goes for anyone who may have CCTV or dashcam footage which they believe will be of assistance. While our enquiries continue, we’re also urging residents in the area to remain cautious and ensure that their properties and outbuildings are kept secure at all times.”*

Anyone with any information which may aid the investigation is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting 24000396764. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Three men arrested in connection with murder investigation in Ellesmere Port.**

At around 8.20pm on Wednesday 1 May, police were called to reports that a man had been assaulted on Summertrees Road, Ellesmere Port.

Officers attended the scene, and it is believed at this stage that the victim was stabbed. He was treated by paramedics at the scene before being taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, he has since died. The victim has been confirmed as 34-year-old Lloyd Velasquez from Ellesmere Port. His family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers at this time.

Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing throughout the night, and it is now believed that the victim was assaulted by three men who were known to him. Two men have since been arrested in relation to the incident, a 19-year-old man and a 21-year-old man, both from Ellesmere Port. Both remain in police custody and enquiries remain ongoing.

Chief Superintendent Jon Betts said: *“We would like to reassure the local community that this is believed to be an isolated incident. Two people have already been arrested and we still have enquiries ongoing. I understand the concern that this is likely to cause, but we would like to assure residents that this type of incident is incredibly rare in Cheshire. There will be extra patrols conducted in the area to provide reassurance and anyone with any concerns is urged to speak to an officer. As part of the investigation, we’re still keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and witnessed what took place. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage.”*

If you have information or footage that could assist with the investigation, please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML1812889 or [visit the dedicated investigation portal](#). Information can also be passed on anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Our previous statement, 07:26 2/5/24**

Detectives have launched a murder investigation following the death of a man in Ellesmere Port. At around 8.20pm on Wednesday 1 May, police were called to reports that a man had been assaulted by three unknown men on Summertrees Road Ellesmere Port.

Officers attended the scene and found that the man had been stabbed several times. He was treated by paramedics at the scene before being taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, he has since died. An investigation into the incident has been launched and a police cordon is currently in place on Summertrees Road.

Chief Superintendent Jon Betts said: *"I understand the concern that this incident is likely to cause, and I want to reassure the local community that we are working hard to establish exactly what has taken place. Patrols have been stepped up in the local area to provide reassurance, and officers will also be conducting house-to-house enquiries near to the scene of the incident. As part of the investigation we're keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and may have witnessed what took place. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation."*

If you have information or footage that could assist with the investigation, please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 1812889 or visit our website. Information can also be passed on anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Police are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man from Wilmslow.**

Oliver Curley, 29, is wanted on recall to prison. He is described as white, around 152cm tall of medium build with brown hair and brown eyes.

Curley is believed to have links to Wilmslow, Macclesfield, and Liverpool. Anyone who sees Curley or has any information regarding his whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML1789692 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us). Information can also be reported online to Crimestoppers anonymously via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> or by calling 0800 555 111.



### **Police are appealing for witnesses following an assault in Macclesfield.**

At 2.30pm on 4 April a 36-year-old man was assaulted outside Throwster's Court on Maydew Passage in Macclesfield.

The suspect is described as male, of Asian origin, medium build and around 5'10". He had black hair and was wearing a black jacket.



PC Ben Hooper said: *"I would urge anyone with any video footage or dashcam footage of the incident to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any information which may help us with our enquiries."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk//tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk//tell-us) quoting IML 1792784. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)**

c/o Corporate Comms | Cheshire Constabulary HQ | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA

Email: [cheshirenw@outlook.com](mailto:cheshirenw@outlook.com)

Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw](https://facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw)



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: [www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org)