

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 14 July 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Men who died following fatal collision on M62 named

Two men who died in a fatal collision on the M62 on Thursday 11 July have been named.

Matt Greenhalgh, 28, and Jamie Fernandes, 24, who are Captain and Senior First Officer for Ryanair respectively, were travelling to Liverpool Airport in a taxi when the collision occurred at 5.31am.

The car was in collision with two lorries on the westbound carriageway between junction 8 and junction 7. Sadly, Matt and Jamie died at the scene. Next of kin are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the car was taken to hospital with serious injuries. He remains in hospital. The driver of one of the two lorries, a 61-year-old man, has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving. Anyone with information or dash camera should contact Cheshire police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk//tell-us quoting IML 1867786.

Man jailed for county lines drug dealing in Macclesfield

A man who was part of the 'Manc Jack' county lines team has been jailed for drug dealing in Macclesfield.

Ciaran Laurie appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 12 July where he was sentenced to three years and six months in prison. The 23-year-old, of Edward Road, Manchester, had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine) and two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine).



The case against him began in March 2024 when officers became aware of a mobile phone number which was being used to sell illegal drugs in the Macclesfield area. Data showed that the phone was regularly sending out flare messages from the Manchester area and would then travel over the border to Macclesfield where the drugs were being sold. At 11.26am on Wednesday 13 March officers on patrol in Adlington, stopped an Audi A6 on London Road and spoke to the driver and passenger. Due to their behaviour a decision was taken to arrest the pair and search the car.

Following his arrest, Laurie admitted that he had drugs secreted in his underpants, he then retrieved two packages containing numerous wraps of white and brown powder. During a search of the vehicle officers also recovered a mobile phone, a sim card and a number of other wraps of class

A and B drugs. 164 wraps of heroin and crack cocaine were recovered in total, which were found to have an estimated street value of £1,670. Officers also confirmed that the phone seized from Laurie was the number which was being used by the 'Manc Jack' county lines team to sell drugs in the Macclesfield area. During questioning Laurie refused to answer any questions put to him, but despite his silence he was later charged with drugs offences.

Following the sentencing, Detective Inspector Rob Balfour, of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit at Cheshire Police said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Laurie and I hope that it acts as a warning to any other Manchester drug dealers who are thinking about coming over the border to Cheshire. Like Laurie has now discovered, here at Cheshire police we're committed to doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets by making the county an extremely hostile place for criminals. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. 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 us on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us."*

Disruptive address on a Macclesfield street closed following issuing of a closure order

Officers in Macclesfield have boarded up a troubled address after successfully securing a closure order against the property.



Officers in Macclesfield were granted the closure order at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 11 July. The successful securing of the order comes after officers presented the court with substantial evidence of anti-social behaviour and drug dealing, namely cannabis, heroin and crack cocaine, at the address on Penningtons Lane, Macclesfield.

Since December 2022, officers attended the address on 28 separate occasions in response to a number of criminal incidents, namely the usage and supply of both class A and class B drugs. The frequent visits to the address by known local drug dealers resulted in warrants being conducted on multiple occasions with drug paraphernalia found inside.



The address has, however, also been the subject of anti-social behaviour and, in 2023, officers attended the address in relation to the keeping of several XL Bully dogs that required six police dog handlers to control. The closure order will run for three months and during that time nobody is allowed to enter the addresses. As a result, the address has now been boarded up by officers. The orders will run for three months and during that time nobody is allowed to enter the addresses, including the tenant. Anyone who does enter the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested.

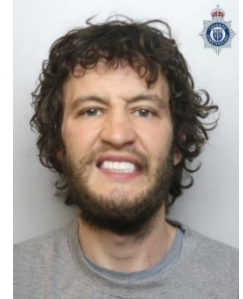
Sergeant Matthew Bassirat, of Macclesfield South Beat, said: *"Penningtons Lane is a quiet road on the outskirts of Macclesfield lined with bungalow properties, it is a lovely road and a sought-after location. However, one address on this otherwise peaceful street has caused nothing but distress and upset to the residents for well over 18 months, with frequent reports of criminality and the*

supply of illegal drugs. I am grateful this order against this disruptive address has been granted and hope they will bring reassurance to residents in the area that we are committed to doing all we can to tackle this kind of behaviour. But in order for us to continue to put a stop to those engaging in anti-social behaviour, I would urge anyone experiencing any issues with this type of offence to get in touch via the Cheshire Police website, by calling 101 or contacting Crimestoppers."

Warrington man jailed for class A drugs offences

A man who was caught selling class A drugs in Warrington has been jailed.

Michael Wickham was sentenced to five years and six months at Chester Crown Court today, Thursday 11 July. The 29-year-old, of no fixed abode in the Warrington area, previously pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and heroin.



Officers had been made aware of a mobile phone sending a number of 'flare' messages to facilitate the supply of class A drugs. On Tuesday 11 June, officers on patrol in Victoria Park, Warrington, sighted Wickham who was suspected of drug dealing. He was detained by officers and arrested on suspicion of drug offences. A search conducted upon his arrest revealed Wickham was in possession of the mobile phone earlier identified by officers to be involved in the illegal drug supply. Wickham was subsequently charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin).

Detective Constable Tom Dale said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Wickham and I hope that his conviction sends out a warning to others. Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact, and we are committed to doing all we can to remove those involved in the supply of such drugs from our communities. In Wickham's case he made a full admission to the fact that that he was involved in the sale of illegal drugs and is now facing the consequences of his actions. While Wickham is now behind bars, our fight against illegal drugs and those who supply them continues. Intelligence supplied by members of the public is crucial to this fight and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter."*

Anyone with any information in relation to supply of illegal drugs in their community is urged to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [visit the website](#).

Man arrested on suspicion of drugs offences in Crewe

A man has been arrested after being found carrying a large quantity of suspected drugs in Crewe.

At around 4pm on Monday 8 July, officers on patrol in Crewe, stopped and searched a 36-year-old man near West Street. He was found to be in possession of around 15g of what is believed to be cannabis and a large bag of white powder, suspected to be amphetamine, with a street value of approximately £1,000. The man was subsequently arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class B drugs. He has been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries.

Inspector Cliff Goodwin said: *"This arrest forms part of our ongoing efforts to crack down on drug-related behaviour in Crewe and I hope it will reassure the community that we will continue to tackle this head on. We regularly patrol areas identified as hotspot locations for potential offending, many of which have been identified as such by members of the community. If you have any information about any drug-related activity in your community, please contact us on 101, or through our website."*

Retired officers take a trip down memory lane at Museum of Policing

A group of retired senior Cheshire Police officers visited the Cheshire Museum of Policing to reminisce about their time serving with the force.

On Monday 1 July, ten retired Cheshire senior officers of varying roles visited Cheshire's Policing Museum on Arpley Street Warrington. D/Supt Frank Ball, Ch Supt Derek Barnett, Ch Supt Gary Finchett, D/Ch Supt Phil Charlton, Ch Insp Steve Gould, Ch Supt Tim Jackson, D/Supt Richard Hood and D/Ch Supt Steve Wilkins visited the Warrington-based museum to reminisce about their time serving with the Constabulary and patrolling the streets of Cheshire.



Also among the guests at the museum was retired Detective Superintendent and the museum's own researcher, Will Brown and retired Deputy Chief Constable Graeme Gerrard, who first raised the idea of bringing a policing museum to Cheshire. The senior officers were given a tour of the museum and enjoyed seeing their old haunts, beats and various items of equipment, uniforms and historic policing artefacts on display within the museum. The group regularly keep in touch but for most, it was their first time visiting the museum, and some their first time in a police station for 20 years.

Peter Hampson, Museum of Policing Manager, said: *"The trip brought back happy memories for the officers, who were mostly senior CID Detectives. They enjoyed seeing their former offices and the museum cells – where they had spent many hours with offenders."*

Retired Chief Superintendent Phil Charlton, added: *"It was a fabulous visit to the museum and a great trip down memory lane."*

Cheshire's Policing Museum is an independent charity run by volunteers in co-operation with Cheshire Constabulary to allow members of the public the chance to explore the history of policing within the region. Found on Arpley Street in Warrington, the Museum of Policing in Cheshire is home to a large collection of policing artefacts; including handcuffs and shackles, murder weapons and police equipment that has been preserved from local police stations from across the Constabulary's history. For more information about the museum you can visit the Museum of Policing [website](#) or call 01606 365803

Merseyside man jailed for drugs offences in Congleton

A 25-year-old man from Liverpool has been jailed for drugs offences after being stopped by police in Congleton.

Shaun Gargan from Pencombe Road, Huyton pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine and heroin) and money laundering at an earlier hearing. He appeared at Chester Crown Court on 10 July and was sentenced to four years in prison.



At 9.40pm on Tuesday 11 June two officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime team were on patrol in Congleton. They saw two men exiting a side street off West Street and walk off. Their manner led them to suspect they had bought drugs. Then two further men came of the same side street acting suspiciously. One of the officers stopped to speak to the men, and one of these men - Gargan - fled along West Street. The officer gave chase and Gargan dropped a smartphone on the pavement as he ran.

The officer then managed to detain Gargan and searched him. He discovered cash and drugs in a pocket of his coat. The coat contained £1,108 in cash and a number of bags containing Class A drugs. He was immediately arrested and taken into custody. Macclesfield Pro Active CID then took over the reigns and interviewed Gargan, gathered the evidence and prepared the file for CPS to authorise the charges that would put Gargan before the courts for his crimes.

<https://youtu.be/kCrgYaPhA2c>

A drugs expert said the 176 individual deals of crack cocaine and half an ounce of crack cocaine had the potential estimated street evaluation of £2,360 to £3,310. The 73 individual deals of heroin and half an ounce of heroin had a potential estimated street valuation of between £1,130 and £1,730.



Superintendent Saf Ali said: *"Our eagle-eyed officers are out there 24/7 patrolling the communities of Cheshire and proactively targeting people suspected of illegal activity. Our experienced officers know what to look out for and are ever determined to root out those intent on committing crime and swiftly take them off our streets. Gargan is another example of our proactive commitment to making Cheshire a no-go area for criminals."*

Summer Burglary Advice from Cheshire Police

Cheshire Constabulary is issuing home safety advice to residents across Cheshire to help keep their homes safe this summer.

As warmer days and lighter evenings are upon us, and more people are outdoors, the Constabulary want to remind the public of how they can make their homes more secure to intruders. As temperatures increase, unfortunately so can the number of burglaries, and Cheshire Police are urging residents to protect themselves, their valuables, and their properties in every possible way.

Insecure properties provide an ideal opportunity for thieves, and something as simple as closing your windows and locking your doors can prevent such an intrusive crime from taking place.

Cheshire Constabulary is launching a campaign which highlights 'everyday' scenarios people often find themselves in throughout the summer period. It aims to highlight the blasé attitude's some people can have towards their home security through thought-provoking social media content - encouraging the public to become more security conscious during the warmer months.

Here are some top tips to help keep you and your home safe:

- Make sure all windows and doors are locked if you are not in
- Securely lock sheds and outdoor storage to keep valuables safe and also to protect your entire home.
- Make sure all valuables are left out of sight.
- Consider a video doorbell system which will alert you when someone approaches your property.
- If you are going out or away, consider installing smart plugs that run your lights by a timer.
- Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house when you go on holiday.
- Consider installing a security light which is activated by movement in an evening.





Superintendent Mike Ankers said: *"Many people open their doors and windows when temperatures are higher to circulate the cooler air, but they need to know it does make it easier for opportunistic thieves to gain access to your house. When you leave the house, go upstairs or into the garden for any length of time, it is important you make sure your windows and doors are shut and locked to help prevent this. The same applies for your outer buildings. Thieves may steal garden furniture or tools, or use the tools left in these buildings, as a way of breaking into your property. Anyone who has been burgled will know how upsetting and difficult it can be to come to terms with. Some things are simply irreplaceable and crimes like this can have a lasting impact. By raising awareness of burglary through a social media campaign, we hope the public keep home security on the forefront of their minds this summer, and we can help to prevent burglary from occurring."*

For more information on protecting your home from crime, please visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

Man charged following incident in Burgess Place, Northwich

A man who was arrested following an incident on Burgess Place, Northwich has now been charged.

Robert McNally has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or harm and criminal damage. The 43-year-old, of Burgess Place, Northwich, has been remanded in custody and will appear at Chester Magistrates Court later today, Wednesday 10 July.

Statement issued following incident on Burgess Place, Northwich

At 2.08pm on Monday 8 July police were called to an address in Burgess Place, Northwich, following concerns for the welfare of the occupant.

Officers attended the scene and contained the address. The 43-year-old man was subsequently arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence. A number of shots were fired while officers were dealing with the incident, although there were no reports of any serious injuries.

Assistant Chief Constable Una Kelly said: *"We understand the concern this incident is likely to cause, but we would like to reassure residents that this is an isolated incident and there is no risk to the wider community. Officers will remain in attendance at the scene for several hours and I would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to an officer."*

Congleton man jailed for string of non recent sex offences

A 60-year-old man from Congleton has been jailed for 30 years after being found guilty of a string of sex offences.

Eric Mottershead of no fixed address was found guilty of 29 of the 35 offences following a three-week trial in March. The offences included rape, indecent assault, assault of a child under 13 by penetration, assault by penetration and taking indecent photos of a child.



Mottershead appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 5 July to be sentenced to 30 years in prison and two years on an extended licence. He was also given a restraining order and made subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order and ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life.

The offences related to four children between 2001 And 2007 in the Congleton area. On 8 September 2020 one of the victims came forward to Cheshire Police reporting that they had been abused when they were a child by Mottershead. Mottershead was subsequently arrested on 16 September 2020, his house was searched and a number of devices were seized. These proved pivotal to the case. They were later examined by the Digital Investigation Unit and numerous indecent images of children were recovered.

Investigating officer DC Lee Ferris, now a Sergeant, went on to discover a further three victims over the course of the investigation. Each victim was approached, and each provided video evidence to Cheshire Police. Over the course of a 12-month period, Sergeant Ferris interviewed Mottershead on four separate occasion and each time he strongly denied the offences that were put to him. He claimed each victim had made it all up and colluded with each other to bring him down. Evidence

including the indecent images on his phones and computer devices proved that this was not the case.

In January 2022, the Crown Prosecution Service authorised the charges against Mottershead and he was released with bail conditions not to contact the victims. Due to the complexity of this case, a trial at Chester Crown Court did not take place until March 2024. During that time, Sergeant Ferris transferred from Cheshire Constabulary to Greater Manchester Police, but the officer refused to pass on the case to someone else and he remained in touch with each victim. He worked closely with detectives from Macclesfield LPU to get the case to Chester Crown Court.

Sergeant Ferris said: *"I'd like to thank the victims for their bravery in coming forward and speaking out about the abuse they suffered. Mottershead is now paying the price for preying on them when they were children and carrying out horrific and degrading acts on them. I'm hoping that getting justice will help them in some way and encourages others who have been subjected to such abuse to come forward, no matter how long ago the abuse was. You will be taken seriously. You will be supported. And we will do everything we possibly can to get justice for you."*

Two wanted men arrested at Manchester Airport following fatal collision near Wilmslow

Two men who fled the country part way through their trial in relation to a fatal collision near Wilmslow have been arrested.

Osama Saeed and Asgar Taj were arrested at Manchester Airport on Monday 8 July after travelling to the UK on a flight from Abu Dhabi. Both men will appear at Minshull Street Crown Court this afternoon, 8th July 2024.



Osama Saeed

Asgar Taj

The pair fled the county in October 2023, partway through their trial for causing the death of a man by dangerous driving, after taking part in a street race which resulted in the death of a man on the A34, near Wilmslow in 2020. They subsequently pleaded guilty to the charge after dialling into the court from abroad. However, both men failed to return to court for their sentencing, so they were sentenced in their absence. Saeed, 32, of St Pauls Road, Manningham, Bradford was jailed for 12 years and Taj, 35, of Heather Grove, Bradford, was also sentenced to 12 years behind bars.

<https://youtu.be/y2NLS6TX4Ts>

Following the arrest, Inspector Steve Griffiths, of the Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit at Cheshire police, said: *"As this result demonstrates, we will not give up, if you commit a crime in Cheshire, you will be arrested and you will be held accountable. On their arrival at Manchester Airport this morning, Saeed and Taj were both greeted by a team of officers from the Cheshire Police Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit, along with support from the Roads and Crime Unit and GMP. Both men were promptly detained at the arrival gate and will be put in front of the courts later today."*

A third defendant, Mohammad Zubair Chaudhry, 31 of Kingsway, Cheadle, who also pleaded guilty to the offence, remains outstanding and enquiries to locate him are ongoing.

You can [read our original release here - Three men sentenced following fatal collision near Wilmslow](#)

UPDATE - Man charged following Chester drugs raid

A man who was arrested following a drugs raid in Chester has now been charged.

Tahir Ahmed was arrested on Friday 5 July after officers from Western Problem Solving team, with the assistance of Beat management team and Chester Proactive policing team, executed a warrant at an address on Sherbourne Avenue. The 30-year-old has since been charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs (Heroin and Cocaine) and one count of possession with intent to supply Class B drugs (cannabis). Ahmed, of Sherbourne Avenue, Chester, appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Saturday 6 July where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown court on Monday 5 August. A second man who was arrested during the warrant has been released on bail.

Do you know what your child is looking at?

Detectives from Cheshire Police are urging parents to speak to their children about sharing images online following a recent case in Warrington.

On Saturday 6 July detectives from the Protecting Vulnerable People team were contacted by a concerned parent who reported they believed their 13-year-old daughter was being groomed on social media. Following enquiries officers have since found that an unknown man had sent the teenager a number of inappropriate videos on snapchat, and that the child had also sent images of themselves to the offender.

As a result of the report, officers have discovered that the man also appears to have been in contact with at least six other children via social media. An investigation into the reports is ongoing and officers are doing all they can to identify the offender. While the investigation is ongoing, detectives are urging other parents to speak to their children about what they are doing online.

Detective Sergeant Joe Davies, of the Northern Proactive Policing Team, said: "While mobile phones and social media can be a valuable tool for parents and their children, unfortunately we know they are well used by those who prey on children and are only interested in fulfilling their own sexual gratification. Many of these people will specifically target young children, convincing them that they are in love, and coercing them into sharing images and videos of themselves through social media. That is why we want all parents to speak to their children about what they are doing on their phones, what apps they've got installed and who they're communicating with.

"While we understand that this can be a difficult conversation, it essential that young people understand that it's not normal to view or share inappropriate images and videos online, not only is it really dangerous and harmful, but also once an image has been sent, they never know where it will end up."

Further advice and support for parents in relation to online child abuse is available on the Cheshire Police website at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/online-child-abuse/> and at <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal for witnesses following an altercation on a bus in Warrington

Police are appealing for witnesses following an altercation on a bus in Warrington.

At 7pm on Saturday 13 July police were called to Cotswold Road in Poplars and Hulme following reports that there had been an altercation between two men on the 6.40pm number 20 bus travelling from Warrington Bus Station to Poplars Avenue. One of the men, a 74-year-old, had collapsed. The man was taken to hospital but sadly died. A 48-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. Enquiries are continuing into the circumstances.

DI Dave Hutcheon said: *"We are keen to speak to any witnesses on the bus who have yet to come forward so that we can get a clear picture of the events leading up to the man's death. I'd urge them to come forward - either ring on 101 or go to our website www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us."*

Police appeal for witnesses after serious collision on the M62

Police are appealing for information following a serious collision on the M62.

At 5.31am today (Thursday 11 July) police were called to a collision involving two lorries and a car on the M62 westbound between junction 8 and junction 7. Sadly, two men from the car died at the scene. Next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the car was taken to hospital with serious injuries. The driver of one of the two lorries has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The carriageway was closed between junction 9 and junction 7 while emergency services worked at the scene but has since reopened.

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 1867786.

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