

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 11 August 2024

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **Emergency services continue to work at the scene of a large fire in Crewe**

Emergency services are continuing to work at the scene of a large fire on Catherine Street in Crewe.

Some residents remain unable to return to their homes and are being supported by Cheshire East Council. Crewe Lifestyle Centre is being used as a rest centre for those residents. Firefighters are continuing to work at the scene of the fire which started at the disused building yesterday afternoon (Friday 9 August). There are no reports of any injuries. A number of road closures remain in place while the work continues at the scene. Police investigating the fire have arrested a 12-year-old boy on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life. Enquiries are continuing.

Superintendent Claire Jesson said: *"I'd like thank residents for their patience while emergency services continue to work tirelessly at the scene. We understand people will want to get back into their properties as soon as they can, and we are all working hard to ensure that it is safe for you to do so. Agencies will continue to work with displaced residents to keep them updated as to when they can return. While our colleagues from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service tackle the fire, we continue to urge residents in the nearby area to stay indoors with their windows and doors closed at this time."*

#### **Emergency services dealing with large fire in Crewe**

At around 4.15pm on Friday 9 August Emergency Services were called to reports of a fire at a disused building on Frances Street, Crewe. Police and fire attended the scene and on arrival they found a large fire in a former printers. A cordon is currently in place on Nantwich Road, Bedford Street, Frances Street and Catherine Street while firefighters deal with the incident. A number of homes have also been evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Superintendent Claire Jesson said: *"I'd like to reassure local residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident, which is not linked to the recent disorder we've seen elsewhere in the county. A large number of officers are in attendance at the scene to manage road closures and provide reassurance to the community. While our colleagues from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service tackle the fire, we would urge residents in the nearby area are advised to stay indoors with their windows and doors closed at this time. I would also urge people not to congregate at the scene as it could hamper our response to this incident"*

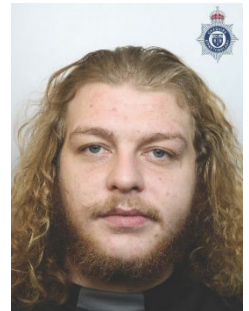
## Two men from Ellesmere Port jailed for serious assault

Two men from Ellesmere Port have been jailed after beating a man so severely he had to be put into an induced coma.

Joseph Howard, 32 from Swale Road, Ellesmere Port and Lewis Cull, 26, from Mill Lane, Great Sutton appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 7 August to be sentenced after being found guilty at an earlier hearing. Howard was sentenced to 10 years in prison extended for five years after being found guilty of section 18 wounding with intent, and Cull was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison after pleading guilty to Section 18 grievous bodily harm with intent. Both were handed restraining orders preventing them from contacting the victim.



On Sunday 29 October 2023 the 32-year-old victim had been at an address in Ellesmere Port when he was introduced to Howard who then left. Howard then returned with Cull and began to argue with the victim before they began repeatedly punching and kicking him as well as attacking him with a bottle. The two men then fled the scene leaving the victim with serious injuries which required hospital treatment. It was later discovered that the assault, which had been videoed and shared locally, was believed to be because the victim had messaged the mum of the girlfriend of an associate.



DS Tom Philpotts said: *"These two men carried out a horrific and violent, sustained attack on a man which resulted in him being put into an induced coma in hospital. The victim has been left traumatised by his ordeal and has life changing injuries to deal with for the rest of his life. No one should be subjected to such a vicious attack, and I hope these two men are realising the consequences of their actions while they are behind bars."*

## Four charged in relation to national disorder

Officers in Cheshire have charged another four people linked to the recent national disorder.

While there have been no incidents of violent disorder in Cheshire, nor is there anything to suggest there is any serious disorder planned in the county, the force has made several arrests for hate crime and inciting hatred.

Chief Superintendent Alison Ross said: *"Today and as we head into the weekend we will continue to have additional patrols out across the county to provide reassurance to residents. You might also see officers from other police forces - there's no need to worry, this is part of the national response to the ongoing disorder nationally. There's also nothing to suggest serious disorder is currently planned in our county and we'll continue to monitor social media for that. Don't panic with regards to rumours you might see or worry about contacting us to let us know - if you can see it, we'll already have seen it, will risk assess it and if needed, act upon it."*

*"We'd also ask that you don't share any malicious or inaccurate information that you might see. These messages have only been posted to create fear, hate and disorder in our communities. As we move forward, we will continue to have extensive resources in place to keep our communities safe"*

*and ensure that swift and robust action is taken against all those who are found to have broken the law.”*

The latest four people to be charged are:

- Joshua Sigley, 24, of St Chads Fields, Winsford, has been charged with possession of an offensive weapon and three counts of arson, following incidents in Winsford on Sunday 4 August. He will appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 9 August.
- Nigel Dodd, 65, of Cameron Avenue, Shavington, was charged with racially aggravated harassment with intent to cause alarm or distress, following an incident in Nantwich on Wednesday 7 August. He will appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 9 August.
- Daniel Billing, 45, of Plumtre Avenue, Warrington, has been charged with using threatening and abusive language and possession of a class B drug (cannabis), following an incident in Warrington on Wednesday 7 August. He will appear at Warrington Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 4 September.
- Zoe Houghton, 35, of St Marks Road, Chester, was charged with using threatening and abusive language, and two counts of misuse of the 999 service, following incidents in Chester on Wednesday 7 August. She appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Thursday 8 August.

### **Woman arrested in connection with inaccurate social media post**

Officers from Cheshire Police have arrested a woman in relation to social media post containing inaccurate information about the identity of the attacker in the Southport murders.

The 55-year-old woman from near Chester, was arrested earlier today, Thursday 8 August, on suspicion of publishing written material to stir up racial hatred (S19 of the Public Order Act 1986) and false communications (S179 Online Safety Act 2023). The woman has since been bailed pending further enquiries.

Chief Superintendent Alison Ross said: *“We have all seen the violent disorder that has taken place across the UK over the past week, much of which has been fuelled by malicious and inaccurate communications online. It’s a stark reminder of the dangers of posting information on social media platforms without checking the accuracy. It also acts as a warning that we are all accountable for our actions, whether that be online or in person.”*

### **Warrington man jailed after defrauding victims out of more than £27,000**

A tradesman from Warrington who invested money into cryptocurrency after defrauding his victims out of more than £27,000 has been jailed.

Oliver Booth appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 23 July where he was sentenced to 16 months in prison. The 42-year-old, of Southworth Avenue, Warrington, had previously pleaded guilty to five counts of fraud by false representation.



During the hearing, the court heard how Booth was employed as a groundworker and undertook work for five victims between 2021 and 2022, agreeing to complete gardening work on their homes. Booth asked his victims for deposits in advance so he could purchase supplies and materials. The victims handed over their money, but Booth spent it on cryptocurrency, drugs, and alcohol. When they tried to contact him, they were met with excuses, and the work was never carried out.

The incident was reported to Cheshire Police and Booth was subsequently arrested on Friday 9 December 2022. He was later charged with five counts of fraud by false representation.

Following his sentencing, Police Constable Haddon Hunter said: *“Booth has proven himself to be a prolific liar and his actions are down to nothing but greed. During his crime spree, he managed to steal £27,544.24 from people who had trusted him to complete work on their homes. Instead, their money was spent funding Booth’s cryptocurrency investments, drugs, and alcohol. He thought he could go under the radar, and even following his arrest, Booth continued to tell blatant lies to officers. Thankfully, he has now been held accountable and is facing the consequences of his actions.”*

## **Man banned from shops in Ellesmere Port**

A prolific shoplifter has been banned from several stores in Ellesmere Port after officers were successful in securing a three-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Brendan Fitzpatrick, of Forge Road, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port, was handed the order at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Thursday 1 August. As a result, the 52-year-old is required to comply with the following conditions:

- When entering any retail premises within Cheshire, he must not place any items within a carrier bag, rucksack, or any other article capable of concealing items prior to payment being made, unless said item is in a basket or trolley under the control of the store.
- Immediately leave premises when asked to do so by staff or security.
- Must not enter Tesco Express in Chester Road, Little Sutton.
- Must not enter Marks and Spencer in Cheshire Oaks, Stanney Woods Avenue, Ellesmere Port

In addition, if Fitzpatrick fails to comply with the order, he will be committing a criminal offence which may result in a custodial sentence and/or a fine.

PC Lucy Hawkins said: *“Fitzpatrick is a prolific shoplifter who has 62 previous convictions for these types of offences; it is hoped that these robust conditions, that have been imposed by the court, will deter him and others from committing such offences in the future. I hope this result will provide reassurance to local businesses in the area, highlighting that we are doing all we can to tackle offending of this nature.”*

## **Residents thanked following another peaceful night across Cheshire**

Police are thanking residents for their continued support following another peaceful night across the county.

While there were widespread rumours in relation to planned protests, none of these materialised and there were no reports of any violent disorder in Cheshire.

Chief Superintendent Jon Betts said: *"We understand the uncertainty and worry that people are feeling due to the recent disorder seen elsewhere in the country. This has been largely fuelled by the widespread sharing of misinformation online, much of which has been created for the purpose of causing fear and inciting intolerable hate. It has been humbling over recent days as we have seen our communities of all faiths pull together and support each other, and I want to thank residents for their continued support. We remain fully prepared to deal with any disorder should it occur, and our advice to residents and businesses is to remain calm and to try to go about your every-day life. I would also urge residents not to share any of the malicious or inaccurate information which has been posted on social media platforms. These messages have only been posted in order to cause fear, hate and disorder in our communities."*

While there have been no reports of any violent disorder in Cheshire, the force has made a number of arrests for hate crime and inciting hatred.

Chief Superintendent Jon Betts added: *"Since the start of the disorder in other areas of the UK we have been clear that we will not tolerate this kind of behaviour in Cheshire. We have also been clear that those who attempt to incite violence and hate in our communities will also be held account. Since the start of the week we have already arrested and charged a number of people for a variety of offences linked to the recent unrest. These have included people posting hateful messages online, people attempting to incite violence and people who have been verbally abusive to minority groups in our communities. As we move forward, we will continue to take this approach, with extensive resources in place to ensure that robust action can be taken against anyone who breaks the law."*

## **Increased police presence amid national violent disorder**

Increased police presence amid national violent disorder

Officers in Cheshire have been given more powers to help reassure the public amid ongoing national violent disorder. While there have been no incidents of violent disorder in Cheshire, to reassure the public additional powers have been granted temporarily. It follows speculation about possible planned protests across the country, including in Crewe, Widnes and Warrington.

From 4pm today, Wednesday 7 August, dispersal orders have been put in place in the three towns. The orders will allow officers to ban anyone from the areas for up to 48 hours to prevent disorder. They have been imposed under Section 34 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In addition, officers in the three towns have also been given additional stop and search powers under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994). The orders means that officers can stop and search any person or vehicle they believe may be carrying weapons or causing serious violence in a particular area, whether or not they have any grounds of suspicion.



Chief Superintendent Jon Betts said: *"I would like to assure the public that this is just one of the ways we are utilising the powers available to us to prevent any potential disorder. Along with the order you will see an increased police presence - this has all been put in place to reassure the community."*

The additional powers remain in place until at least 3.00am on Thursday 8 August, and apply to all areas highlighted on the maps.

Chief Superintendent Betts added: *"We are aware of speculation surrounding possible planned protests across the country, and the rumours circulating in our communities regarding potential incidents in Cheshire, and I want to reassure residents that we are fully prepared to deal with anyone intent on causing disorder in our communities. Violent disorder will not be tolerated in Cheshire and we're working closely with our partners to ensure the safety of our residents."*

*"We have extensive resources in place to ensure that robust action can be taken against anyone who breaks the law. We will also use all the resources available to us, including facial recognition and ANPR, to ensure that anyone who commits an offence is held accountable for their actions."*

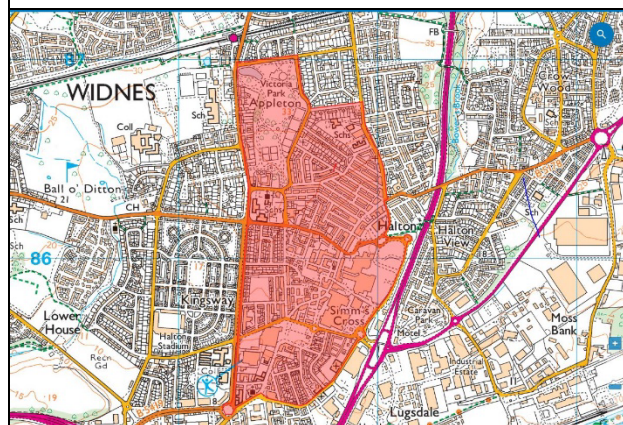
*"I would also urge residents not to share any of the malicious or inaccurate information which has been posted on social media platforms. These messages have been posted in order to cause fear, hate and disorder in our communities. We have already arrested and charged a number of people in relation to these messages, and anyone else who is found to be encouraging such offences, be that online or in person, will also be dealt with."*



Crewe Town Centre



Crewe - Nantwich Road



Widnes

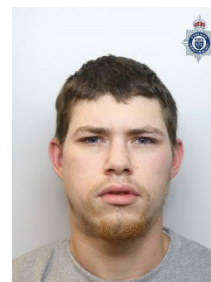


Warrington

## Man jailed following burglary spree across Cheshire and North Wales

A man who went on a six-hour burglary spree across Cheshire and North Wales has been jailed.

Brendon Bell appeared at Preston Crown Court on Wednesday 7 August where he was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison. The 22-year-old, of Main Avenue, Cowlersley, Huddersfield, had previously pleaded guilty to four counts of burglary of a dwelling in relation to Cheshire and North Wales.



Bell, also pleaded guilty to two other burglaries which occurred in Lancashire on Wednesday 6 March. The court heard how Bell began his crime spree at around 6.55pm on Monday 4 March when he broke into an address on Bay View Road, Benllech, in Anglesey. Over the next 12 hours he went on to target a further three addresses, starting with a house on Llwybry y Gwent, in Bangor, which occurred at around 8.30pm. Bell then travelled over the border to Northwich in Cheshire, where he broke into an address in the Landswood Park area at around 11.47pm. The final burglary occurred in the Pulford Close area of Kingsmead shortly after 12am on Tuesday 5 March. During the incidents an unknown quantity of jewellery was stolen from the address in Bangor, while Bell left empty handed during the other three burglaries.

An investigation was launched by Northwich Proactive Policing Unit who quickly recovered CCTV footage which showed a man wearing a distinctive camouflage jacket – the same as the jacket worn by the offender in North Wales. Following the discovery, officers conducted ANPR enquiries which identified a Renault Laguna which travelled from Anglesey to Northwich and then over to Huddersfield on the night of the incident and matched the timings of the burglaries.

Unfortunately, the car was displaying false number plates, so officers were unable to identify the owner. However, a marker was placed on the vehicle and the car was subsequently stopped by officers in Halifax, West Yorkshire, at 9.30pm on Wednesday 6 March. Bell, who was driving the car, attempted to decamp the vehicle but he was quickly located and arrested.

Upon his arrest, officers seized a mobile phone from Bell and analysis of the phone placed it in North Wales and Northwich on the night of the burglaries. He was subsequently charged in relation to the offences.

Following Bell's sentencing, Police Constable Matt Uren, of Northwich Proactive Policing Team, said: *"Bell is a prolific offender and I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him by the courts. Burglary is an absolutely terrifying offence. No one should have to wake up to find the place where they should feel safe has been broken into and their belongings have been stolen. The emotional impact of this cannot be underestimated. Thankfully, we were able to identify Bell as the offender, thanks to the evidence gathered by the team here at Northwich Proactive Team. I hope the fact that Bell has now been convicted of the offences and is behind bars facing the consequences of his actions gives some closure to his victims, and the local community. I also hope that this case acts as a warning to others who are looking to come to Cheshire to commit crime."*

## **Chester man charged with racially aggravated harassment**

A man from Chester has been charged with multiple offences following two incidents at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

Steven Hall was arrested on Wednesday 6 August following two incidents at the hospital which occurred on 31 July and 6 August. The 60-year-old was subsequently charged with racially aggravated harassment, use of threatening and insulting language with intent to cause alarm & distress and causing a nuisance at an NHS premises. Hall, of Heron Place, Chester, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 7 August where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 14 August.

Chief Superintendent Jonathan Betts said: *"As this case demonstrates, we treat all reports of racial and religious harassment extremely seriously and will ensure that swift and robust action is taken against all those found responsible."*

## **Runcorn man jailed for arson attack at a Wetherspoon pub**

William Morris appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 2 August where he was sentenced to 32 months in prison.

The 32-year-old, of Boston Avenue, Runcorn, had previously pleaded guilty to arson with recklessness as to whether life was endangered. The court heard that during the early hours of Friday 21 October 2022, police received a report from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service of a suspected deliberate ignition at a JD Wetherspoon pub on Church Street, Runcorn.



CCTV from the venue showed a man setting a fire at the rear of the premises. Staff at the venue soon recognised this male to be Morris – who had previously been employed by the venue but had been dismissed the previous month. Once he was identified, Morris was promptly arrested by officers at his home address. Clothing was seized from his bedroom which matched the description of the clothing seen on the CCTV, along with a mobile phone.

During his interview, Morris denied the allegations and told officers he was at home when the offence took place. However, following telecommunications analysis, officers were able to disprove Morris' initial account as his phone was shown to be near the area of where the incident took place. He was subsequently charged with arson with recklessness as to whether life was endangered. It was established that the total cost of the damage caused by Morris amounted to £1385.

Following the incident, Cheshire Fire & Rescue stated that had the fire developed further, it would have had the potential to spread further to adjoining premises, posing a risk to life for residents. In addition to his sentence, Morris was issued a 7-year restraining order prohibiting him returning to the venue.

Following the sentence, PC Morgan Bower said: *"I am very pleased that this case has concluded, and the sentence Morris has received shows the gravity of his crime. Despite Morris initially denying the offence, significant evidence was obtained leaving him no choice but to plead guilty. I hope Morris uses this time behind bars to reflect on the recklessness of his actions. I also hope the*



*sentence handed to Morris deters others from committing similar offences – you will be caught, and you will be brought to justice.”*

### **Man arrested following cannabis farm discovery in Widnes**

Hundreds of cannabis plants have been seized and a man has been arrested after a cannabis farm was discovered in Widnes.

At around 7.25am on Tuesday 6 August, officers executed a warrant at an address in Brookdale, Widnes. A total of 200 cannabis plants were seized from the property. Officers also discovered the electricity was being abstracted as part of the set up. A 35-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the production of a class B drug. He remains in police custody at this time.



Chief Inspector Daniel Haddock said: *“This is a great result, with a significant quantity of cannabis removed from the streets of Widnes. The supply and use of illegal drugs has an incredibly negative impact on the community, and our fight against this type of behaviour is never over. We will continue to do all we can to put a stop to this activity. Residents are urged to report any suspicions of illegal drug-related activity to the police.”*

### **Detectives investigating an incident at a place of worship in Widnes have charged a man.**

John Lefevre was arrested on Monday 5 August.

The 35-year-old of Albert Road has since been charged with racially aggravated intentional harassment. Lefevre has been remanded in custody and is next due to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 3 September.

Chief Superintendent Jonathan Betts said: *“As this case demonstrates, we treat all reports of racial and religious harassment extremely seriously and will ensure that swift and robust action is taken against all those found responsible.”*

### **UPDATED - Alsager woman charged with hate related communications**

A woman from Alsager who was arrested in relation to hate related communications has now been charged.

Julie Sweeney was arrested on Monday 5 August after police received a complaint in relation to the hateful tone of a message which had been posted on a community group in the Kidsgrove area. The 53-year-old of Crewe Road in Alsager has since been charged with sending communications threatening death or serious harm (S181 Online Safety Act 2023). She has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 7 August.

Chief Superintendent Jonathan Betts said: *"As this case demonstrates, we treat all reports of hate crime seriously and will ensure that swift and robust action is taken against all those found responsible."*

### **Man arrested for religiously aggravated harassment in Chester**

Officers have arrested a man on suspicion of religiously aggravated harassment following an incident in Chester city centre.

At around 6.40am on Monday 5 August, police were called to reports that a man was making racial slurs in the Eastgate Street area. Following enquiries, a 26-year-old local man was quickly identified and arrested on suspicion of religiously aggravated harassment with intent to cause alarm and distress. The man has since been released on bail until 30 August pending further enquiries.

Following the arrest, Chief Superintendent Jonathan Betts said: *"Hate crime and inciting violence in our communities is not acceptable and will not be tolerated in Cheshire. Those inciting such violence are doing so to cause hate and disorder in our communities, and I want to send a clear message that anyone who is found to be encouraging such offences, be that online or in person, will be dealt with robustly."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 1887537.

### **Two people arrested for inciting violence in Cheshire**

Officers from Cheshire Police have arrested two people on suspicion racially aggravated harassment with intent to cause fear and violence.

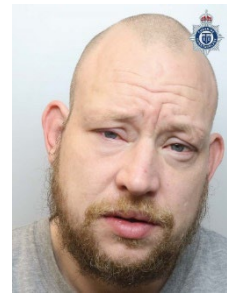
On Sunday 4 August officers received several reports from concerned members of the public in relation to a snapchat post encouraging members of the public to attend a protest at a hotel in Cheshire. The post contained misleading information stating that the hotel was home to a number of asylum seekers. Thankfully, the post did not result in any disorder. Following the reports an investigation was launched by Cheshire police which resulted in the arrest of 32-year-old man and 34-year-old woman from Chester, on Monday 5 August. The pair have since been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries.

Chief Superintendent Jonathan Betts said: *"Firstly I would like to thank the local community for all their support during this investigation. As these arrests demonstrate, inciting violence online, whatever the motivation, will not be tolerated in Cheshire and we will take robust action against all those involved in such activity. These messages have been posted in order to cause hate and disorder in our communities. Anyone who is found to be encouraging such offences, be that online or in person, will be dealt with."*

### **Man sentenced after robbing betting shop in Crewe**

A man has been jailed after robbing a betting shop in Crewe.

Benjamin Hargreaves, 35, of Holmes Chapel Road, Holmes Chapel, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 2 August. He was sentenced to 45 months after previously pleading guilty to robbery, criminal damage, and possession of a class B drug. At around 1.50pm on Thursday 18 April, Cheshire Police received a 999 call from a betting shop in Market Street, Crewe.



They reported that a man had been into the shop and demanded money from the till, stating he had a gun under his jacket. Members of staff handed £300 to the man, who then left the premises. After initial enquiries with the staff, officers identified Hargreaves as a suspect and discovered he had got into a taxi. Information regarding the taxi was passed and officers were able to trace the vehicle to the Sandbach area. They stopped the taxi on Middlewich Road, where Hargreaves was arrested. Cash was recovered from him, as well as a quantity of cannabis.

The taxi driver reported that during the journey from Crewe, Hargreaves made comments about possessing a gun and that he had just robbed a betting shop. During the journey, Hargreaves was smoking, causing burn marks to the rear passenger seat and damage to the vehicle. In interview, Hargreaves admitted to the robbery. He told police he then went to a public house where he drank alcohol, before asking a staff member to book him a taxi. He also said during the taxi journey he made the driver stop at two stores to allow him to buy cigarettes and alcohol. He was subsequently charged with the offences.

Following the sentencing, Detective Sergeant Ryan Ogden said: *"Hargreaves showed no regard for the innocent members of staff who understandably must have been shaken by what happened. Instead, he decided to try and get some easy money, almost immediately spending some of the cash on cigarettes and alcohol. Thankfully, our officers quickly established him as a suspect and he was tracked down and arrested a short time later. I hope that the outcome of this case demonstrates to local residents how seriously we treat robbery, and also acts as a warning to others who are intent on committing crime."*

## **UPDATE – Richard Burrows charged with additional sex offences**

A man who was arrested after almost three decades on the run is set to be charged with a number of additional offences.

Richard Burrows was arrested on Thursday 28 March at Heathrow Airport having returned to the UK from Thailand. Following his arrest the 80-year-old appeared in Court on Tuesday 2 April where he was remanded in custody and is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 5 August. Ahead of his hearing the Crown Prosecution have now authorised additional charges relating to four victims. The new charges are:

- 21 counts of indecent assault
- 2 counts of Buggery

This brings the total number of charges against Burrows to:

- 6 counts of Buggery contrary
- 78 counts of Indecent Assault

- 2 counts of Indecency with a child
- 3 counts of Making Indecent Images of Children,
- 4 counts of Possession of a False Identity Document with Intent

These relate to 26 victims and offences which were committed between 1968 and 1995 in Cheshire, West Midlands and West Mercia areas. The offences in Cheshire occurred between 1969 and 1971 while he was working as a carer, looking after vulnerable children at Danesford Children's Home in Congleton. His victims in the West Midlands and West Mercia areas, were all young boys who were abused between 1968 and 1995, the majority through local Scout groups where Burrows worked as a leader.

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### Appeal for witnesses following attempted robbery in Northwich

Officers are appealing for witnesses and those with CCTV or dashcam footage to come forward following an attempted robbery in Northwich.

At 12.55pm on Thursday 8 August, police were called to reports of an attempted robbery at an antiques shop in Blakemere Village, Chester Road, Cuddington. The caller reported two men had entered the store, believed to be armed with a metal pipe, and caused damage before fleeing the scene. Nothing is believed to have been stolen during the incident. They fled in the direction of Kennel Lane. Officers are now asking anyone who witnessed what happened or may have any relevant footage to get in touch with them, quoting incident number IML-1890170.

DS James Elliott said: *"This occurred in the middle of the day and even if people may not have witnessed the incident itself, we're urging those who were in the area to think about whether they saw anything suspicious either before or after the incident. The same goes for anyone who may have captured footage which could aid our ongoing investigation."*

You can report information via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](https://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), or call 101.

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

Paul Watson was last seen near to Arpley Street in Warrington at around 4pm on Monday 5 August.

The 45-year-old is described as white, around 5' 7" tall, of thin build and has short grey hair.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert McLoughlin said: *"Our officers have been out searching for Paul for two days, and we are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare. I'd urge anyone who has seen Paul or has any information as to his whereabouts to contact us*



*immediately. I would also like to appeal directly to Paul to get in touch with us so that we know you are safe and well. “*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML-1888403.

### **Appeal for witnesses following fatal collision in Adlington**

Officers investigating a fatal collision in Adlington are appealing for any witnesses or those with dashcam footage to come forward.

At around 7.45am on Wednesday 7 August, police were called to reports of a collision on the A523 Poynton Relief Road. The collision involved a silver Peugeot 208 and a blue Mercedes A Class.

The driver of the Peugeot was sadly pronounced dead by paramedics at the scene. Their next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the Mercedes, a 35-year-old woman, has been arrested on suspicion of death by dangerous driving. She remains in police custody at this time.

Officers are now appealing for anyone who witnessed what happened, has any dashcam footage of the incident or the moments leading up to the incident, or any other information which could aid their investigation to get in touch.

Sergeant Russell Sime said: *“Enquiries are currently ongoing, and we are now looking to speak to anyone who witnessed what happened. The same goes for anyone who may have any dashcam footage which could help our investigation. You can report information to us via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](https://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), or call 101, quoting IML-1889097.”*

### **Appeal for information following ATM attack in Congleton**

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an ATM attack in Congleton.

At around 1.50am on Saturday 3rd August two unknown offenders approached the Morrisons Daily store on St Johns Road, Buglawton, and tampered with the CCTV cameras. They forced open the shutters at the front of the building before leaving the area.

The pair then returned to the store shortly after 3.30am, along with a third offender, and forced entry into the store. Two of the offenders entered the store and used an explosive substance to blow open the cash machine but failed to gain access to the cash. There was also a failed attempt to open the tills, the offenders fled the store empty handed at around 3.45am, via the ramp on to St Johns Road, in the general direction of the A54 Buxton Road.

The first suspect is described as a man, of heavy build/overweight and around 6’ tall. He was wearing a black hoody, black tracksuit bottoms, black trainers and a light grey full mask/balaclava. The second suspect was also a man, of slim build and around 6’ tall. He was wearing a black waterproof type top, possibly with a front zip, black bottoms, and white soled training shoes, wearing a darker grey mask. There is no description of the third suspect, however this suspect was wearing dark clothing and attended and left the scene on a motorbike/moped.



Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid the investigation.

Detective Constable Andrew Street, of Macclesfield, CID, said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we are committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our investigation we would like to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or saw anything suspicious in the area. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. I'd urge anyone with any information – no matter how small – to get in touch."*

Information and video footage can be submitted online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>, or by calling 101, quoting IML 1886158. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>.

### **Police appeal to trace wanted man from Runcorn**

Police are appealing for help from the public in tracing a 53-year-old man from Runcorn.

Stephen Story is wanted for failing to appear at court. Story is described as white, around 6 foot tall, of medium build, and has short brown hair. He is known to have links to Runcorn, Warrington, and Liverpool.

Anyone with any information about Story's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or by calling 101, quoting 2422251273.



### **Two men arrested following arson incidents in Winsford**

The first incident occurred at around 5.17pm on Sunday 4 August, when police became aware that two men had set a fire on High Street, Winsford, causing a nearby telegraph pole to catch light.

Then, at around 9.43pm that night, officers assisted Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service following reports that a school bus had been set aflame near to the Lifestyle Centre. At 10.21pm, while officers were conducting enquiries in relation to these incidents, they were made aware that a number of wheelie bins and telegraph poles had also been set on fire on Leyland Walk, Glebe Green, and Ford Road. A further small fire was reported at 12.27am in the area of Mount Pleasant Drive. Officers were then called to reports of criminal damage at an address on St Chads Field, and two men from Winsford, aged 30 and 24, were subsequently arrested on suspicion of arson. They remain in custody and are being questioned by officers.

Detective Sergeant Thomas Philpotts said: *"I would like to reassure members of the community that these incidents are believed to be isolated and unrelated to the ongoing disorder across the country. As a result of the work of quick-thinking local officers, we have been able to identify two suspects in relation to the incidents and they are currently being held in custody. Their behaviour was not only extremely dangerous and completely unacceptable, but it will also cost tax payers a considerable*

*sum of money with damage repairs. Thankfully, no-one was injured as a result of these fires, but these men showed no regard for the safety of the local community or the owners of the property they set aflame. We are treating these incidents incredibly seriously and enquiries are ongoing. As part of our investigation, we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and saw anything suspicious. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation."*

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) quoting IML 1887434 or call 101.

### **Appeal to locate missing teenager in Widnes**

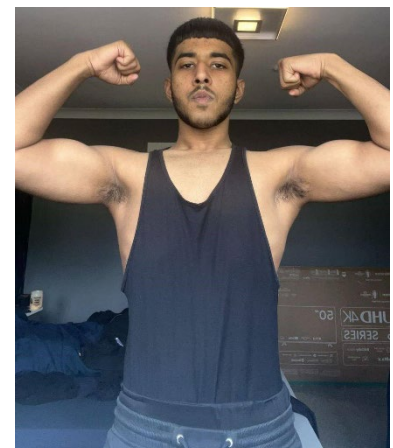
Cheshire Police is appealing for information from the public to help find a 17-year-old boy who is missing from Cannock.

Mohammed Sealall, who is known as Azan, was reported missing from an address in Hednesford area on Monday 22 July.

Azan is described as of proportionate build, 5' 6" tall, with short dark brown hair. He was last seen wearing a black top, black trousers, a black jacket and black trainers. He has a number of links to Stoke on Trent and Rochdale, although intelligence suggests that he is currently in the Widnes area.

Detective Chief Inspector Kersten Southcott, of the force's Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, said: *"Officers have been looking for Azan for a number of days now, so we are growing considerably concerned for his welfare and safety. While intelligence is suggesting that Azan may be in the Wines area, he is also known to frequent areas outside of Cheshire, including Stoke on Trent and Rochdale, so I would urge anyone who thinks they may have seen him, or has any information on where he may be, to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage of him since he disappeared as this may help us find him. I would also appeal directly to Azan to please contact us to let us know that you are safe and well."*

Anyone who has seen Azan or knows of his whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101 quoting IML 1885785 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us)



### **Appeal for information after man found collapsed in Widnes**

Detectives are appealing for information and video footage after a man was found collapsed in Widnes.

Shortly before 1am on Saturday 3 August officers were called to reports that a man had been found collapsed on the Cherry Sutton estate. Police and paramedics attended the scene and located a 63-year-old local man who had a number of injuries to his head. The man was treated at the scene by

paramedics before being taken to hospital where he is condition is currently described as critical but stable. His next of kin have been made aware. An investigation has since been launched to establish how the man sustained the injuries.

Detective Inspector Claire Barber said: *"We understand that this incident may cause some concern and I would like to reassure the public that we are committed to doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. As part of our ongoing enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area between 12am and 1.00am and believes that they may have seen the man or anything out of the ordinary. The same goes to anyone who was driving in area around the time of the incident and may have any CCTV or dashcam footage."*

Anyone with information is asked to visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) , or call 101, quoting IML 1886068. Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 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)