

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 25 August 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Cheshire Constabulary joins campaign for the surrender of zombie-style knives and machetes

Cheshire Police will be part of a surrender and compensation scheme for zombie-style knives and zombie-style machetes being launched by the Government on Monday 26 August.

The laws around knives are changing. From Tuesday 24 September 2024, it will be illegal to own certain styles of zombie knives and machetes. From 00:00 on 24 September 2024, it will be an offence to possess zombie-style knives or machetes. The manufacture, importation, sale and general supply of these items will also be prohibited. Ahead of the law change, a month-long national surrender and compensation scheme has been introduced by the government, allowing legal owners of zombie-style knives and machetes to surrender them to the police and claim compensation if they wish. Anyone surrendering knives that meet the criteria will be eligible for compensation, under the government scheme. Detailed guidance on the kinds of weapons that will become illegal and eligible for surrender and compensation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compensation-scheme-for-zombie-knives-and-machetes>.

You will be able to surrender weapons at one of five main police station Help Desks across Cheshire:

- Crewe Police Station, Crewe Street, Crewe, CW1 2DQ
- Warrington Police Station, Aprley Street, Warrington, WA1 1LQ
- Macclesfield Police Station, Brunswick Street, Macclesfield, SK10 1HQ
- Widnes Police Station, Gerrard Street, Widnes, WA8 6BE
- Chester Police Station, Blacon Avenue, Blacon, CH1 5BD

When bringing items to a police station for surrender, members of the public are asked to wrap it up securely and place it in a sealed bag or box, it must stay covered at all times. Members of the public need to bring along a completed surrender and compensation claim in case you are stopped by the police on the way to a police station.

Superintendent Andrew Blizzard, Cheshire Police's Knife Crime lead, said: *"Over the past year, crime involving knives and bladed articles has been an increasingly pertinent issue nationwide, so I welcome this change in legislation that will mean from Tuesday 24 September, it will be a criminal offence to possess and sell zombie-style knives and machetes. These knives in particular rarely serve a practical purpose and are mainly used to cause fear and intimidation, so this new law will significantly limit their availability.*

"We are particularly proud that knife crime in Cheshire remains low; but we are seeing a considerable number of people across the county in possession of knives and bladed weapons. This is something that we as a force will not tolerate. On a daily basis, our officers do their utmost to keep our Cheshire community weapons-free and a safe place for everyone who works, lives and visits here and we will ensure that this change in legislation will be enforced county-wide.

"I would urge anyone who is in possession of a knife or bladed weapon that is soon to become prohibited, to seriously consider surrendering it to police at one of our five Help Desks across the county. Please ensure that

any surrendered weapons are appropriately wrapped and are correctly secured when transferring them to the Help Desks, for your own safety and the safety of our officers."

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

Man jailed for causing serious injury by dangerous driving

A driver has been jailed after he collided with pedestrians in Northwich and caused them serious injuries.

Peter Adenuga, of Greengage, Manchester, was sentenced to four years and six months, for causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The 29-year-old appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 16 August. On 16 July 2022, five teenage pedestrians were walking down Budworth Road, Northwich, in the general direction of Knutsford. At 11.30pm, a grey Mercedes was travelling in the same direction and collided with four of the five pedestrians who had stopped to speak to a taxi driver.



Two of the pedestrians suffered serious injuries, with one receiving a bleed on the brain and fractures to the skull, shoulder, and elbow. The second suffered a dislocated knee, fractured hip, and fractures to the face. The other two pedestrians suffered minor injuries, including cuts and grazes. Adenuga was breathalysed at the scene by officers and was subsequently arrested. He gave an evidential reading at custody of 82mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, more than twice over the legal limit of 35mg. Adenuga was charged with drink driving, to which he pleaded guilty, and later also charged with causing serious injury by dangerous driving and was found guilty of this offence following a trial. On top of his custodial sentence, he is disqualified from driving for five years and three months, after which he must pass an extended driving test.

PC Martin Hilditch, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"When you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, you're in control of a powerful machine, easily capable of causing serious injury or even death. Adenuga completely ignored this, not abiding by the rules of the road or considering the safety of other road users, ultimately colliding with innocent members of the public who had been walking down the road. As a result of Adenuga's choices, his victims have been put through not only the emotional trauma of the incident, but also the physical and psychological injuries they suffered, and still suffer with to this day. I welcome the sentence handed to Adenuga and hope this serves as a reminder of the long-lasting impact of dangerous driving."*

Manager and shop assistant jailed for over four years after stealing over £23,000 from Warrington shop

Two men have been sentenced for a combined total of four and a half years following the burglary of a convenience store in Warrington.

John Mozley and Ben Tyler appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 20 August, where they were sentenced to 30 months and two years imprisonment, respectively. The pair had previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary and theft by an employee at an earlier hearing.

The court had heard how both Mozley and Tyler had been employed as store manager and shop assistant at the premises on Thelwall New Road and on Saturday 10 June 2023, Tyler had been working a closing shift alongside another colleague. During the closing of the shop, Tyler informed his colleague that he had locked and secured the shutter covering the rear of the shop, and then left the store.



At around 3.55am on Sunday 11 June, Cheshire Police received a report from a neighbour who lived near the shop that a loud banging had been heard coming from the shop and that he had seen a man attempting to break into it. It was also reported that the shop's rear shutter had not been pulled down, leaving the building insecure. Shortly after this report was made, a Police Dog and Handler were deployed to the scene, with the dog tracking a scent to an address on Pelham Road, where Tyler was located in his back garden. Tyler informed the officer that he lived at the address and had stepped outside for a cigarette, with the officers then leaving the location.

Later that morning, at around 6.50am, staff members arrived at the store to find both Tyler and Mozley already inside. The pair informed their colleagues that a neighbour had informed them that there had been an attempted burglary overnight and they had arrived early to ensure everything was in order. Over the course of the morning, both Tyler and Mozley repeatedly entered the store's electrical cupboard, where the alarm panels were located. During these occasions, the alarm in the store was activated. At around 8.53am, the alarm was triggered again, and this time the store's smoke cloak system was also activated.

That evening, during the closing of the store, a staff member called Mozley to inform him that she could not activate the store's alarm system, to which Mozley stated that this was not his problem and that he was at home and going to bed as he was up early to come into work the next morning. Telephone data would later reveal that at the time of this phone call, Mozley was actually in and around the area of the store itself, despite refusing to attend to look at the alarm.

The following morning, Monday 12 June, the staff member was notified by Mozley that the store had been burgled, with the suspect gaining access to the store and locating the keys inside to the safe, taking its contents and the CCTV hard drive. A large quantity of cigarettes worth around £2400, alcohol worth £966 and over £11,400 in cash from the safe were also stolen during the burglary. Despite the store being accessed, the alarm had not sounded and the alarm company were subsequently called to examine a potential fault. An engineer concluded that the alarm wires had been cut at around 8.53 am on Sunday 11 June, which is when the smoke cloak had been activated in the store.

On Monday 19 June, Tyler was arrested on suspicion of burglary and attempted burglary. Text messages from his seized mobile phone revealed that Tyler and Mozley had been repeatedly stealing from the store's safe as well as the tills, leaving it short thousands of pounds. The duo had planned the burglary to account for the missing money and, during the night of the failed burglary attempt, Tyler had texted Mozley saying he "couldn't get on (in)" to the store and to call him as soon as possible. Also, during the investigation of the attempted burglary, officers located a spade

at the rear of the location that had likely been used to gain access to the building. A later forensic examination would provide a DNA match to Tyler.

Mozley handed in his notice following the burglary and created a handover document for other staff members that stated that the contents of the safe were correct. Mozley would not allow the other staff members to open the safe to confirm the amount of money inside and asked them to sign document, attempting to relinquish himself from being held responsible for the missing money. A visit from the store area manager would reveal a cash shortage of over £8500, with CCTV footage dated the 27 and 29 of June showing Mozley stealing cash and stock from the store.

Despite the overwhelming amount of evidence against them, both Mozley and Tyler denied any involvement in both the attempted burglary and the burglary of the store during their interviews with police, claiming they were at their respective homes during the incidents - telephone data would show otherwise. The pair were later charged and subsequently appeared at Chester Crown Court where they pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary and theft by an employee.

The pair were remanded in custody until Tuesday 20 August when they appeared at Chester Crown Court court for sentencing:

- Ben Tyler, 35, of Pelham Road, Warrington was sentenced to two years imprisonment.
- John Mozley, 55, of Ringwood Close, Warrington, was sentenced to 30 month imprisonment.

Following the result, DC Vicky Hancox, of Warrington Proactive CID, said: *"By repeatedly taking considerable amounts of stock and cash from safe they had access to John Mozley and Ben Tyler abused their positions of responsibility as store employees to benefit only themselves. Their greed resulted in a considerable deficit in store funds and, to cover up for the significant amount of money that was no longer present, they attempted to throw other staff members and police off of their trail through the planning of this robbery. However, thanks to the work of our officers involved in this investigation, their efforts to mislead police failed and they are now facing the consequences of their actions behind bars. This case shows that our officers are committed to doing all they can to ensure those who are intent on financially damaging local businesses in Cheshire will be dealt with to the full extent of the law."*

If you have any information regarding a burglary or any other suspicious activity, please contact Cheshire police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Chester man jailed for his involvement in an EncroChat commercial drugs and firearms operation

A man who was involved in the supply of cocaine, cannabis, and firearms, through an encrypted device has been jailed for 12 years and 6 months.

Robert Duff, of Hoole Lane, Chester, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 19 August after previously pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs and conspiracy to transfer prohibited weapons.

Using the handle 'Tommybooth', the 32-year-old used EncroChat to partake in a large-scale drugs conspiracy - a secretive communications network that was used exclusively by serious and organised criminals before it was cracked by



international law enforcement in May 2020. After EncroChat was brought down, Cheshire Police became part of a huge operation led by the National Crime Agency and working with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit and the Crown Prosecution Service. This led to Duff being identified as a suspect.

Data from a three-month snapshot - March to June 2020 - showed Duff using EncroChat to operate as a high-level broker of drugs and firearms. He was seen to negotiate prices for kilo amounts of class A drugs from those involved in the importation of the bulk amounts. He conspired to facilitate the supply of 7.5 kilos of cocaine, acting as a broker, sitting between the seller and end purchaser. He also ran his own multi-kilo cannabis supply operation in the Chester area, supplying 27.5 kilos of cannabis during the EncroChat capture period. Duff also conspired to act as a broker for firearms, including AK47 assault rifles and sub machine guns. He circulated a 'firearms shopping list' and images of the weapons around his EncroChat contacts, offering them for sale.

On Wednesday 6 December 2023, officers from Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit arrested Duff. He was subsequently charged with conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs (cocaine, cannabis), and conspiracy to transfer prohibited weapons.



Following the sentencing, Detective Chief Inspector Nick Henderson of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"This is part of a long running operation to strike at the heart of gangs who peddle drugs on a large-scale, causing misery and pain in our communities for their own monetary gain. Duff acted as a broker, negotiating prices for a multi kilo drug supply, on behalf of a number of well-established organised criminals via the EncroChat network.*

"As part of his role, he sought out potential buyers for significant quantities of cocaine and deadly firearms, all to make a quick profit. Duff was motivated to become a key player like his associates - he had his own cannabis supply operating locally in Chester and was also conspiring to set up a substantial cocaine supply network in the north of England. He ran his conspiracy through a platform he believed would keep him under the radar. But after EncroChat was infiltrated, officers were able to comb through messages attributed to Duff under a codename and collect a catalogue of evidence against him. Thanks to this hard work, he is now facing a lengthy spell behind bars.

"We will continue to pursue drug dealers and those instrumental in the distribution of illegal drugs to protect the public from harm. I hope today's sentence sends yet another message to the criminal fraternity that we will not stop making life difficult for those intent on committing crime within

Cheshire. If you have any information in relation to drugs offences, please contact us [via the website](#) or call 101.”

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for witnesses following attempted robbery in Widnes

Officers in Widnes are appealing for any witnesses or those with dashcam or CCTV footage to get in touch with them following an attempted robbery.

On Wednesday 21 August, police were called to reports of an incident in a car park area off Lakeside Close, near to Clinton Woods. The caller reported that the incident occurred at around 9pm. The victim had returned to his vehicle, a black Ford Fiesta, when he was pulled out of the vehicle by an unknown man who demanded the car keys. The victim was assaulted and suffered cuts and bruises during the incident before managing to flee in the direction of Clinton Woods.

The suspect and a further two unknown men started to leave the area on foot, before spotting the victim and all three again demanded the keys. When he refused, the first suspect kicked and jumped on the vehicle, causing significant damage. The three suspects then left the scene.

The first suspect is described as a white man, around 5' 9" tall, of a heavy build, around mid 30s, with a ginger beard. He was wearing a black face covering, black trainers, black trousers, a black coat, and spoke with a local accent. The two other suspects were wearing black clothing and face coverings.

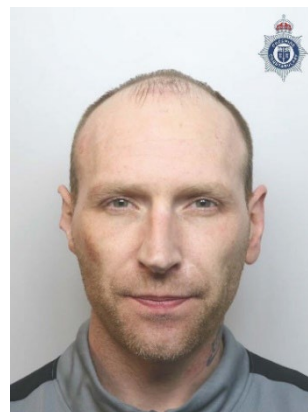
Detective Constable Nathaniel Walkowiak said: *“As part of our ongoing investigation into this incident, we are now asking anyone who witnessed what happened or has any relevant footage which may aid our enquiries to get in touch with us. You can report information online via [cheshire.police.uk](#) or call 101, quoting IML-1900360.”*

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Macclesfield

Police are appealing for help from the public in tracing a 39-year-old man from Macclesfield.

James McNally is wanted for criminal damage. McNally is around 6' tall, of a slim build, and has short, receding, light brown hair. He is also known to have links to the Congleton area.

Anyone with any information about McNally's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or by calling 101, quoting IML 1859498.

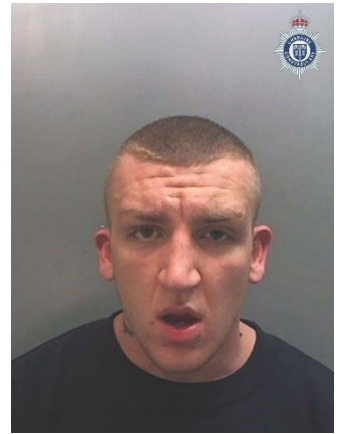


Police appeal to trace wanted man from Macclesfield

Police are appealing for help from the public in tracing a 32-year-old man from Macclesfield.

Haden Whittaker is wanted for stalking. Whittaker is around 6' tall, of a medium build, and has short light brown hair. He is also known to have links to the Knutsford area.

Anyone with any information about Whittaker's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or by calling 101, quoting IML 1884679.



Police appeal for information and witnesses following 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 around 10.23pm on Sunday 18 August, police were called to reports of a robbery near Robert Street, Northwich. The caller reported that he had been cycling on the pedestrian footbridge over Hunts Lock when an unknown man stepped out in front of him, blocking his path. A second unknown man then appeared from behind the cyclist, trapping him. The first man proceeded to pull out a knife and held it at the victim's neck, causing two superficial cuts, and asked him to empty his pockets. However, the victim claimed he had nothing of value on his person and the two individuals then left the area in the direction of The Crescent on e-bikes. The men were dressed in all black, with ski masks and were wearing blue latex gloves.

Officers are now asking anyone who witnessed what happened or may have any relevant information or video footage to get in touch with them, quoting incident number IML-1898201.

Detective Constable Kelly Mitchell, of CID Reactive West, said: *"We are asking for anyone, who may have witnessed the incident or saw anything suspicious in the surrounding area around the time it occurred to please contact us. The same goes for anyone who may have any captured CCTV, doorbell or dashcam footage which could aid our ongoing investigation."*

You can report information via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101.

Police appeal for help in tracing wanted man

Police are appealing for help in tracing a 63-year-old man from Chester.

Patrick McCaffrey is wanted by Cheshire Police after being charged with fraud. He is originally from the Stoke on Trent area and has links to Dubai, Africa and the USA. McCaffrey is described as white, 5'7" tall, of proportionate build, with blue eyes.



Anyone with information in relation to the whereabouts of McCaffrey, is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting 20000233189 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us

CCTV image released following incident in Crewe
Police investigating an incident on Laura Street in Crewe have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to.

Between 4.05pm and 4.15pm on Wednesday 14 August a motorbike rider was involved in a near miss with a red Vauxhall Astra on Laura Street at the junction of Gresty Road, Crewe. The rider of the motorbike then turned around and pulled alongside the Astra and proceeded to punch the driver's side window, smashing it and then driving off in the direction of Jack Mills Way. Officers are now appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has any information or dashcam footage that may aid officers in their enquiries to get in touch.



PCSO Dan Walley, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"No one should be made to unsafe whilst driving, so we are asking anyone who may have witnessed this incident or has any information that may aid our enquiries to please contact us. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or CCTV footage which may aid our enquiries. We would also like to appeal directly to the man pictured to get in touch. If you have any information, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, or via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML-1894234"*

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com

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

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw



Scan to visit [website](https://www.cheshirenw.org)

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