

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 20 April 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **Cheshire road safety operation to launch on Easter weekend**

Cheshire Constabulary is launching a policing operation that will target motorcyclists in a bid to help keep all road users safe.

Operation Caesar, which is the force's seasonal proactive response to the forecasted rise in people out on their motorbikes, will begin on Friday 18 April and run throughout the spring and summer period. Officers will be in key hotspot areas on the lookout for any motorcyclist travelling at excess speed and riding dangerously - putting not only their own lives at risk but those of other road users.

During the operation, officers will be observing bikers, attending biker hot spots, and speaking to them about the importance of safe riding. Throughout the spring and summer months, footage from where bikers have been riding unsafely will be shared across the Force's social media channels, including the consequences they face for any illegal activity. It is hoped that these examples will act as a deterrent for anyone who thinks they can flout the laws of the road.

<https://youtu.be/I0PF0d6sFMA>

Sgt Andy Griffiths, from the force's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"While we want bikers to enjoy their ride, this cannot be at the expense of other road users' safety. Our officers spend a considerable amount of time educating riders on how to stay safe on their ride, with many heeding our advice and keeping themselves safe. However, there are unfortunately some people think the law doesn't apply to them, and my message for those individuals is clear – Cheshire's roads are not a racetrack and will not hesitate to take action."*

<https://youtu.be/YKb5nkpgHZ8>

Cheshire Constabulary will be running Bikesafe workshops throughout the summer period which motorcyclists are encouraged to take part in. Bikesafe workshops are ran by advanced police motorcyclists for other motorcyclists helping them to be a safer and more skilled motorcyclist. The workshop will give motorcyclists access to motorcycle skills eLearning, a facilitated theory class, an observed ride with an Advanced Police Motorcyclist or a BikeSafe Accredited Observer, and a comprehensive debrief on essential next steps.

The date of the Bikesafe workshops are:

- 19 April 2025

- 24 May 2025
- 31 May 2025
- 12 July 2025
- 16 August 2025
- 27 September 2025

The cost of the Bikesafe workshop is £84. To book onto a Bikesafe workshop or for further information relating to Bikesafe, please [visit the Bikesafe website](#).

<https://youtu.be/bV6nCVbcwdM>

### **Two youths charged following Warrington town centre fire**

Two teenage boys have been charged following an investigation into a large fire on Barbauld Street in Warrington.

The two local boys, aged 13 and 15, have both been charged with arson with intent to endanger life, and arson with recklessness as to whether life was endangered. The pair were remanded into custody to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court today, Thursday 17 April. The charges related to the fire at a disused building on Barbauld Street on Monday 14 April. The 14-year-old boy who was arrested and bailed has since been eliminated from the enquiries.

### **Man jailed for seriously assaulting his mother**

A man has been jailed for attacking his own mother with such violence she had to be put in an induced coma.

Alan Clegg, 42, of no fixed address appeared at Chester Crown Court on 16 April to be sentenced after pleading guilty to section 18 assault with intent at an earlier hearing. He also pleaded guilty to harassment – in breach of a restraining order against a former partner, and possession of a Class B drug (Cannabis) and a Class A drug (Cocaine). He was sentenced to 14 years, 10 and a half years to be served in prison and the rest on extended licence. He was also handed restraining orders against the two women.



On 26 December 2024 Clegg had an argument with his mother at her Frodsham address and carried out a violent attack on her. He then demanded she transfer money to his account, which she did in the hope he would stop hurting her. He carried on beating her before leaving her on the bedroom floor without a phone to call for help. He returned but left her again unable to move. He contacted a former partner to get her to take him to a hotel in Runcorn explaining he'd had an argument with his mother - breaching his restraining order.

On 27 December the victim was able to alert her other family members and call an ambulance. To their horror, the family found her curled up in a ball screaming in pain. Officers located Clegg at the hotel he was staying at and arrested him for assaulting his mother. He was found in possession of both Cannabis and Cocaine. She remained in hospital with multiple injuries and was terrified he was going to get to her in the hospital despite reassurances he was in prison. Her family were left agonising over whether she would survive her horrific ordeal and were devastated by the level of violence their brother had meted out on their mother.

DC Peta Ticer said: *"The level of violence was horrific and has left his victim, his own mother, not only with physical scars but psychological damage which has left her too afraid to leave the house and reliving her ordeal repeatedly in her nightmares. "He has changed her, and his own family's lives, forever. What this man has done to his own mother and his family is unforgivable. We will continue to do all we can to take people like him off the streets and get justice for those they harm."*

### **Operation Incinerator tackles pick-pocket offences in Warrington town centre**

Officers from Warrington's Town Centre Beat Team are continuing their efforts in protecting residents from falling victim to pick-pocket type offences.

In November last year, officers from Warrington Town Centre Beat Team launched Operation Incinerator, which aims to detect, deter and detain those responsible for pick-pocket and distraction theft offences. Operation Incinerator involves multiple teams from the Local Policing Unit including the Pro-active CID and problem-solving teams, to pursue those responsible for these offences, which have a large effect on victims who are often both at a financial and confidence loss as a direct result. As part of their approach to tackle the issue head-on, plain-clothed officers will be deployed across the town in order to try and spot those who may be looking to steal from vulnerable people and engage with anyone displaying suspicious behaviour. A visible uniformed police presence will also be seen with officers engaging with members of the public using cash machines and banks to withdraw large sums of money, in order to give advice on how to best prevent being pick-pocketed.

This advice includes:

- Make your trip to the bank the last place you visit before going home
- Keep any money withdrawn in a secure pocket, ideally on the front of your body
- Keep any bags on your person zipped up and, again, towards the front of your body

The operation has also seen officers work closely with banks themselves, giving them guidance on how to both advise people withdrawing large sums of money and also to spot those who may be waiting for a target to emerge from the bank so that they can contact police as soon as possible. Operation Incinerator has already proved successful as, most recently on Thursday 13 February 2025, Warrington's Incinerator officers played a key role in the swift arrest, charge and remand of a

woman who travelled to the town from Sheffield by train to commit a pick-pocketing. Their intervention resulted in the recovery of more than £400 that had been stolen.

PC Lewis Hand, of Warrington Town Centre Beat Manager, said: *"Pick-pockets are extremely brazen and their actions can have a long-lasting and devastating impact on victims, leaving them with anxiety which can affect their lives going forward. As part of this long-running operation, we will be intensifying patrols in hotspots areas, increasing visibility and targeting those who are intent on committing crime. This really can happen to anyone, anywhere, and thieves can have very sophisticated ways of distracting you before stealing your belongings. Some people may not even realise it has happened to them until much later. If you are approached by anyone you do not know, feel like you are being followed or simply if you feel you have been the victim of a distraction theft, report it straight away or call 101."*

### **Officers secure closure order for address in Warrington**

Officers have secured a closure order following reports of anti-social behaviour, excessive noise and drug use at an address in Warrington.

The address in St Peter's Way has been shut down by officers from the Northern Problem Solving Team after they secured a closure order at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 15 April. This order was granted thanks to evidence collated by officers and intelligence from the local community following multiple reports of anti-social behaviour, drug use, and excessive noise. The occupant has since been ordered to leave the property and find alternative accommodation, with all windows and doors being secured for a period of three months. Anyone who enters the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence.

PC Darren Wood said: *"Closure orders are just one of the many tools we use to help keep communities safe and crime free. This three-month closure order will provide respite for the community from the issues arising from the address. I would urge anyone with concerns about anti-social behaviour or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address these issues and achieve justice."*

Anyone with concerns about anti-social behaviour in their area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

### **Man charged with robbery offences following incident in Widnes**

Officers investigating a robbery in Widnes have charged a man in connection to the incident.

Connor Outten, 27, of Brennan Lodge, Widnes, was arrested at 2.40pm on Monday 14 April and has since been charged with robbery possession of a bladed article in a public place. Outten appeared

at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 16 April, where he was remanded in custody to next appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 14 May. The charges relate to an incident that took place at around 3pm on Monday 14 April in the Andrew Street area of Widnes.

### **Ellesmere Port drug dealer jailed after eagle-eyed officer spots him speeding in a car full of class A drugs**

A man from Ince, Ellesmere Port, has been jailed for over two years after an officer stopped his car after witnessing him speeding and found a large quantity of cocaine wraps and cash inside.



Jay Ellis, of the Square, Ince, Ellesmere Port, was sentenced to two years and three months behind bars after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine and possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine). Ellis' case began on 9 December 2023, when, at around 11pm, a Cheshire Police officer in a patrol car noticed a grey Vauxhall Insignia travelling at a considerable speed on Bebington Road, Ellesmere Port. Aware that the Vauxhall was driving in excess of the legal limit, the officer quickly caught up with the car and pulled it over a short time later on Greasby Drive - finding a nervous Ellis behind the wheel. The 27-year-old was then tested by the roadside for drugs, failing by testing positive for traces of cocaine in his system.

Ellis was then detained whilst the officer conducted a search of his vehicle, where she found a plastic tube containing ten wraps of white powder and subsequently arrested him on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs. It would later be confirmed that the drugs found within the car would be worth over £500. After being taken into custody, officers found two further bags of white powder later revealed to be cocaine and ketamine, a phone and around £970 in cash on Ellis' person. Officers would then conduct a Section 18 search at Ellis' home address, where they would find a Nokia phone in Ellis' bedroom that was subsequently seized as evidence. Despite Ellis not providing the the PIN details for his devices, officers were able to retrieve a substantial amount of content such as text message data, pictures of him posing with drugs and notes relating to the sale of cocaine and ketamine.

Investigating officers would also access Ellis' bank accounts, which showed that he was moving large amounts of money from one account to the other, suggesting one was used from the transaction of drug sales. It was estimated that around £43,320 in criminal property had gone through his accounts. Despite this overwhelming amount of evidence against him, Ellis would deny the onward supply of drugs, claiming the quantity that was found on him was for personal use - buying the drugs in bulk to save money - and could not provide an answer as to where the Nokia phone had come from. He would later be charged by investigating officers and, at a plea hearing at Chester Crown Court in February, would plead guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine and possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine).

DS Roy Wellings, of the Western Proactive Team, said: *"It was evident from the very beginning that Jay Ellis was hiding something and when he was pulled over by one of our response officers, he instantly knew he'd be caught out and it was only a matter of time until we uncovered the truth that*

*he was bringing in a considerable amount of money through the sale of illegal drugs. In Cheshire, we take the production and supply of illicit substances very seriously and no one should benefit through the breaking of the law, which is why, alongside his two-year custodial sentence, our officers have already begun the process of applying for a confiscation order under the Proceeds of Crime Act."*

### **Woman sentenced for faking paternity tests**

A woman has been sentenced after pleading guilty to fraud for deceiving her ex-partner that he was the father of her unborn child for financial gain.

Beth Fernley from Wroxham Road, Warrington pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation at an earlier hearing. She appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 15 April and was given 13 months in prison suspended for 18 months. She must complete up to 10 rehabilitation activity requirement days as well as 200 hours of unpaid work. She also has to pay £300 the victim in compensation.

The two had previously been in a relationship but this had broken down in January 2019 as he suspected she was cheating on him. The 26-year-old got back in touch in March 2019 saying she was pregnant, and the other man was the father. She then re-contacted him in April and said she had got her dates wrong and he was the father. He asked her for a paternity test and she organised this at a cost of £300. However, the test never took place and she instead forged documents to show that he was 99.9% positive as the child's father.

They rekindled their relationship and he put a deposit on a house for them to live together as a family. He paid the bills and the mortgage which Fernley did not contribute to. She put his name on the birth certificate and they continued to live as a family until April 2022 when Fernley produced another fake document saying that there was a lab error and he wasn't the father. The victim became suspicious and arranged for another paternity test which confirmed he wasn't the father. Another test was done which proved the other man was the father.

DC Josh Darby said: *"This isn't just about money, the deceit had real and devastating emotional consequences which are enduring for both the victim and his family. For two years the joy, love and bond of a loving father and grandmother was so strong that the impact of the deceit and betrayal was truly profound. To go to these lengths for financial gain is cruel and calculating. It has left a family grieving and trying to pick up the pieces, while enduring deep sorrow that what they thought was a joyful reality was in fact a wicked lie."*

### **Teenager sentenced for stabbing another boy in Congleton**

A 16-year-old Congleton boy has been sentenced after admitting wounding another teenaged boy without intent.

The boy, who can't be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to wounding without intent at an earlier hearing. He appeared at Cheshire Youth Court on Monday 14 April to be sentenced and was given a 12-month referral order and a restraining order not to contact the victim.

The court heard how on the evening of Friday 17 January the boy got into an altercation with another boy in West Heath near Tesco. At some point the 15-year-old victim was stabbed in the back causing a serious injury which needed hospital treatment. Despite best efforts the knife was never recovered. The defendant denied stabbing him but the wound left no doubt that it had been caused by a knife.

DS Tom Binder said: *"Thankfully, while the injury was serious, it was not life threatening and the victim is making a good recovery. Teenagers inflicting serious injuries with dangerous weapons is not something we're used to hearing about in Congleton and this level of violence has shocked the community. We already educate young people about the dangers of knife crime, but after this, we also enlisted an external company to deliver knife crime prevention education to every pupil supported by neighbourhood police officers. We will continue to work with our schools to ensure this type of dangerous behaviour remains a rarity for Congleton."*

### **Man jailed for murder following stabbing in Northwich**

A man who was found guilty of murder after fatally stabbing his friend in Northwich has been jailed for 18 years.

Matthew Higgins was found guilty of the murder of 37-year-old David Eaton following a trial at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 9 April 2025. He previously pleaded guilty to a separate charge of assaulting an emergency worker. Higgins, 36, of Brook Lane, Northwich, appeared back at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 15 April 2025 where he was handed a life sentence, to serve a minimum of 18 years.



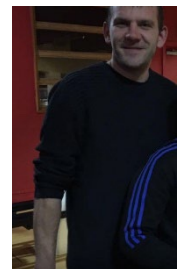
At around 3.35pm on 28 September 2024, police were called to reports of someone who had been stabbed at an address in Brook Lane, Northwich. This was Higgins' address, who was friends with David. The pair had been together at the property along with a 41-year-old woman and all three were intoxicated. Neighbours reported hearing a female screaming and then being approached in the street by Higgins, who had blood on his hands, and told them 'I've stabbed my mate'. Police and paramedics attended the scene where they found Higgins with David inside the address, attempting to administer first aid. He told police, 'he fell on the knife'. Officers and paramedics provided first aid however despite their best efforts, paramedics sadly pronounced David dead shortly after 4pm. He died from two stab wounds to the heart.

<https://youtu.be/1u4ah-D40HA>

Both Higgins and the woman were arrested on suspicion of murder. Higgins became aggressive while in custody and headbutted an officer. Several officers were required to bring him under control. The woman was ultimately released with no further action against her, while Higgins was charged with murder, and assaulting an emergency worker, on Monday 30 September 2024. He pleaded not guilty to murder but was found guilty after trial.

DI Eleanor Atkinson said: *"The afternoon that David was killed, Higgins chose to pick up a knife and let his anger get the better of him - that decision had devastating consequences. Despite knowing what he had done, he denied the charge of murder and forced David's loved one to sit through a two-and-a-half week trial. But the jury saw through his lies and convicted him of murder. I welcome the sentence handed down to Higgins and while nothing can bring David back to his family and friends, I hope the fact Higgins is now behind bars for his murder will bring them some sense of closure, knowing justice has been served."*

Previously, following the guilty verdict for murder, the family of David Eaton said: *"Regardless of the verdict, what happened has changed our lives forever. It has been a distressing and emotional few weeks. We have lost a son, brother, dad and nephew and nothing can change the devastation caused to our family."*



### **Illegal bikes seized during day of action across Widnes**

As part of a day of action across the town, officers from departments across the Constabulary joined forces as part of continued efforts to remove bikes and illegally modified e-vehicles that are being driven anti-socially on Widnes' streets.

On Friday 11 April, officers Widnes Beat Management, supported by the Constabulary's Motorcycle Operations, Drone Unit, Northern Problem Solving Team, Vehicle Recovery and Fleet teams and the Force Control Centre, launched a day of action across the town as part of continued intensified efforts to remove illegally and anti-socially used e-vehicles from the streets of Widnes.



Across the day, officers focused their attention on several locations across the area, with both uniformed and plainclothes patrolling areas including Pickering's Pasture, Spike Island, Victoria Park and King George's Park, engaging with the public and tackling anti-social riding head-on. Officers issued several Traffic Reports to anti-social drivers and riders as well as seized nine vehicles, comprising of a mixture of motorbikes, illegally adapted pedal bikes (one of which was recorded driving at a top speed of approx. 45mph) and e-scooters. A 37-year-old man was also arrested for driving whilst disqualified and being in possession of a bladed article.





PC Matthew Salmon, who led the operation in Widnes, said: *"We know the nuisance that these anti-social riders and their bikes cause for residents across Widnes, and we spoke to lots of members of the public who were happy to see officers out and about proactively tackling this issue. Not only are these riders disrupting residents in town, but their dangerous driving on roads and pavements is also posing a risk to other road users and themselves. From what we have previously seen, the dangerous riding of motorised and illegally-converted e-vehicles is often linked to other forms of crime including that of drug supply and wider anti-social behaviour, which is why we conduct operations such as this to show that we take a zero-tolerance approach to anyone who feels they can use the roads as they please."*

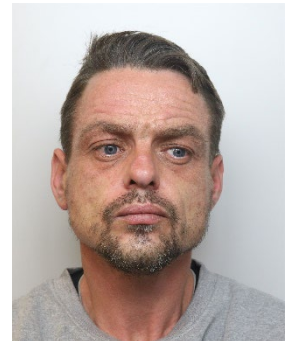
*"With that in mind, we cannot conduct operations like this without the support of the general public, so if you have any concerns or information regarding the use of illegal bikes or anti-social driving of any vehicles, I would urge you to contact your local beat officers or contact us on 101 or via the Cheshire Police website and let us do the rest."*

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### **Police appeal for help in finding wanted Liverpool man**

Police are appealing for help in finding a man wanted for criminal damage, assault and intentional strangulation in Runcorn.

Anthony Humphries, 40, has links to the Liverpool areas including Speke and is described as 6ft 1ins tall, of slim build, with brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone who sees Humphries or knows of his whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting 23001010588. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



### **Appeal for witnesses and footage following collision in Walgherton**

Officers are appealing for witnesses and footage following a fail to stop collision in Walgherton.

On Saturday 12 April, police were called to reports of a collision on the A51 London Road at Walgherton near to Nantwich. The incident took place at around 4.40pm and involved a yellow Honda motorcycle and a van. The rider of the motorcycle is believed to have suffered injuries to their shoulder. The van, which is believed to be a grey/blue Ford Transit style van, failed to stop at the scene.

Sgt Jon Dixon said: *"Enquiries are ongoing into the circumstances, and we are now looking for anyone who witnessed what happened or may have dashcam footage of the incident to come forward to help us identify the vehicle involved. Anyone with information can contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#), or call 101, quoting IML-2068695."*

### **Appeal for witnesses and footage following collision in Alderley Edge**

Police investigating a collision in Alderley Edge are appealing for information, video and dash cam footage to aid their enquiries.

At around 3.30pm on Thursday 3 April, officers were called to reports of a collision on Wilmslow Road, Alderley Edge. Attending the scene, officers found that a collision had occurred between a black Lamborghini Huracan and a silver Mercedes E 220 d AMG. No arrests have been made, but officers are now appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or may have any dashcam or CCTV footage of it, to get in touch so they can better understand the circumstances of the moments that led up to the collision occurring.

PC Scott Simmons, of the Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"We would urge anyone who witnessed what happened or has any other information in relation to the incident to come forward. The same goes for anyone who may have any relevant CCTV, dashcam, or video doorbell footage. You can report information to Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or call 101, quoting 25000273427."*

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

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