

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 24th November 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Prolific Widnes burglar jailed

A prolific burglar from Widnes has been jailed after he pleaded guilty to a series of burglaries across the town.

David Spencer Power appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 22 November where he was sentenced to five years in prison. The 42-year-old of Cunningham Road, Widnes, had previously pleaded guilty to three counts of burglary, one count of attempted burglary and four counts of breach of a criminal behaviour order.



During the hearing the court was told how Power went on a weeklong burglary spree between Tuesday 17 November and Monday 23 September. His crimewave began on 17 September when he attempted to break into a residential address in Woodland Avenue, before fleeing empty handed. Undeterred, later that day, powers then went on break into an industrial unit in Appleton Village, climbing through a window to steal computer equipment. Then on 21 September, Power stole a quantity of jewellery from an address on Birchfield Road, after climbing on to the roof of an address and breaking in through a first floor window. His final offence occurred on 23 September, when he broke into an address on Frederick Street and again stole a quantity of jewellery.

Although Powers attempted to conceal his identify, his downfall came after he was identified by officers on CCTV footage. Following the discovery, officers attended an address on Lacey Street, Widnes on 25 September, where they located Power, along with some of the jewellery that had been stolen from the burglaries at Birchfield Road and Frederick Street. Powers was also wearing some of the clothing that he had worn during the burglary spree. Following his arrest, further forensic work was undertaken, which linked him to all four incidents.

PC Davis of Halton Proactive CID, who led the investigation, said: *"I am delighted with the sentence that Power has been handed today and I hope it acts as a deterrent to others. The impact that burglaries have on victims is huge and it can take a substantial amount of time for them to get over the effects of these crimes. Power was on a burglary crime spree that I am sure would have continued had he not been identified and promptly arrested. This investigation has been a great team effort and thanks go to CSI and forensic services for providing key evidence that helped secure this conviction. Cheshire police have a dedicated team of officers who deal with burglary offences and hopefully this sentence acts as a deterrent to anybody engaging in this type of criminality"*.

Man jailed for drug dealing in Northwich

A 41-year-old man has been jailed for dealing drugs in Northwich town.

Gavin Jones, of Denton Drive, Northwich, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 18 November where he was jailed for three years after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine, being concerned in the supply of cocaine, concerned in the supply of cannabis, and possession of criminal property.



On Friday 14 July 2023, officers conducted a warrant at Jones' then home address on London Road, Northwich, after receiving intelligence that he was involved in the supply of cocaine in the Northwich area. Upon entry into the address, Jones' was spotted by officers throwing a large clear coloured package out of the window. A set of scales were recovered following a search of the near vicinity, but the package was not located. Officers seized several items, including wraps of cocaine, a quantity of cash, and three mobile

phones. Jones was arrested at the scene and during questioning he declined to answer any question in relation to the drugs offences. Despite his denial, he was subsequently charged in relation to the incident.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Claire Heatley said: *"Jones thought he was untouchable and above the law, continuing to deal drugs even after he was charged. Unfortunately for him, our ears stay to the ground and a further warrant was executed at his home address. We seized phones and another large amount of cash, evidencing that he had continued to deal cocaine whilst on bail awaiting sentencing. Messages were also found where he was bragging to his customers about how long he had gotten away with drug dealing. I hope this sentence demonstrates that dealers like Jones are not untouchable, and our committed team of eagle-eyed officers are always watching and are always one step ahead."*

You can report suspected drug dealing to [Cheshire Constabulary online](#) or by calling 101. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man charged following Runcorn bomb hoax

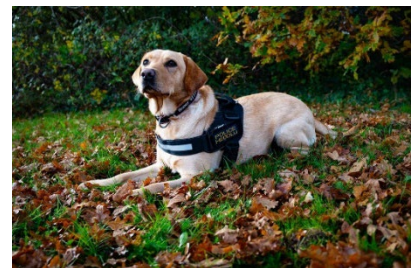
Officers investigating a bomb hoax in Runcorn have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At 2.30pm on Wednesday 20 November, police were called to reports a suspicious package had been left at an address on Crown Gate, Runcorn. EOD attended the scene and it was established that the item was not suspicious. Following enquiries a 50-year-old man from Widnes was arrested in relation to the matter. Geoffrey Rush, of Edinburgh Road, Widnes, has since been charged with Bomb hoax - communicate false information. Rush has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 22 November.

Rescue dog Honey succeeds in becoming a crime fighting canine

A rescue dog from Cheshire Dogs' Home has gone from underdog to super dog after being spotted by a police dog handler as a potential new recruit.

PC Stephanie Allinson from the Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police Alliance was on the lookout for a new dog to train up as a drugs, cash and firearms detection dog as PD Otis, her yellow labrador, was nearing a well-deserved retirement.



Last spring PC Allinson put the feelers out to the dogs' home for a potential would-be crime fighting canine and a couple of months later, a six-month-old yellow labrador who had come in as an unwanted pet was suggested to her. She went along to assess her and was blown away by the confident puppy who was happy to play with a ball and knew how to be respectful. She asked her then sergeant, now also retired, if it was okay to take on a rescue dog to train up. The green light was given, and PC Allinson picked up Honey the labrador for an exciting new life and a lot of love.

Honey was introduced to her new home and work environment, PC Allinson making sure she was exposed to as much of her potential new surroundings as possible - and crucially, got her playing with a ball. It wasn't long before she was showing the vital signs of being able to begin formal training, which she has now completed. She now has her licence and is an official furry crime fighter in her own right.

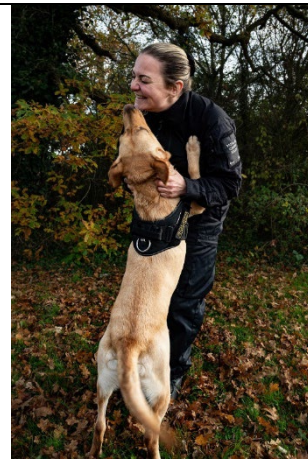
Otis is retired now and enjoying every minute lazing on the sofa while Honey picks up where he left off keeping residents in Cheshire and North Wales safe.



Now retired PD Otis, putting his paws up!



PD Honey and PC Allinson



PD Honey and PC Allinson

PC Allinson said: *"I think it's important that people know there are so many of these little gems with so much potential to be fantastic pets, or like Honey, a working dog, desperately waiting for a loving home. I've turned an unwanted rescue dog into a police dog - and that's incredible. These dogs have so much potential - to think they could be overlooked is heart-breaking."*

Anna Stansfield, Senior Manager, Cheshire Dogs' Home: *"Honey's story shines a light on the real potential that so many of our rescue dogs have, whether that's as wonderful companions or, in Honey's case, as working dogs on the front line serving the wider community. We're so proud of Honey and we all wish her the very best in her career fighting crime."*

For more information on Cheshire Dogs' Home and dogs available for adoption go to www.dogshome.net.

Northwich man charged with drugs offences at Lancashire prison

A man from Northwich has been charged with being concerned in the supply class A drugs while at a prison in Lancashire.

Samuel Watts was arrested on Thursday 21 November outside HMP Wymott, near Leyland, Lancashire. The 33-year-old, who was previously residing in the Northwich area, has since been charged with being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine). The charges relate to offences committed between 17 June 2024 and 30 August 2024, while Watts was residing at HMP Kirkham. Watts has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 22 November.

Woman jailed for causing death by dangerous driving in Handforth

A 42-year-old woman has been sentenced to four years in custody after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving following a collision in Handforth.

Seena Chacko from Tabley Road, Handforth appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on 21 November to be sentenced for this and failing to stop after a road accident, no licence and no insurance. She originally pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving, but the 62-year-old cyclist subsequently died and the charge was amended.



The collision occurred on Saturday 14 September when Chacko was driving a blue Citroen C4 Grand Picasso along Wilmslow Road and collided with a cyclist, knocking her to the roadside with serious injuries. The cyclist was treated at the scene by passers-by and then paramedics before being taken to hospital where she remained in a critical condition until she sadly died on 17 September. Chacko continued driving along the road with the bike underneath the vehicle before she was stopped by another motorist.

Investigating officer Sgt Russ Sime from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *"This was a horrific incident and shocking for those who witnessed it. I'd like to thank those who stopped the car, and those who*

gave the cyclist first aid while paramedics were called. Our thoughts are with the family of the cyclist. No one should have to go through these very sad circumstances and this tragic incident highlights the need to drive safely for everyone's sake."

The cyclist's family wish to retain their rights to privacy at this difficult time.

Chester man jailed for defrauding his partner out of more than £20,000

A 29-year-old man from Chester has been jailed after admitting defrauding his partner to the tune of more than £20,000.

Thomas Mark Leatherbarrow, from Sumner Road in Chester, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 21 November 2024 where he was sentenced to 30 months in prison and issued a 15-year Restraining Order. He pleaded guilty to six counts of fraud by false representation at an earlier hearing. Leatherbarrow admitted that between July 2017 and May 2022 he stole the money by taking out credit cards in her name, deceitfully using her credit cards and debit card, and taking money out of her current account and ISA.



PC Aleksandra Tymoszczuk said: *"To ensure that the victim did not go to police, he made up an email address and pretended to be Financial Ombudsman. He created a web of lies and went to the great length to cover it all. He stole from a woman he was meant to love, they even married during the period he was defrauding her. To facilitate the frauds, he used a range of controlling and coercive behaviour, subjecting his partner to years of suffering and misery. When I first met her, she did not even realise that she was a subject of prolonged Domestic Abuse. The victim showed great bravery. I know it was very difficult for her to come forward and report her partner of 10 years, who was meant to be protecting her and caring for her, for better, or for worse. I welcome the Court sentencing and hope it will be a deterrent to others."*

If you think you have been a victim of fraud you can contact Cheshire Police on 101 or report through our online portal at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us.

If you have concerns about a current or ex-partner, you can request information under Clare's Law, a domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. You can also request information about the current or ex-partner of a friend or relative if you're worried they might be at risk. For more information go to:

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/cl/triage/v2/request-information-under-clares-law/>

Who's taking you home this Christmas?

Cheshire's Road Safety Group are giving the public a stark reminder of the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs this Christmas.

The 'Who's taking you home?' campaign - which coincides with the National Police Chiefs Council's month-long operation - highlights to the public the ways they can get home safely after enjoying festive celebrations. It also shows the very real consequences people could face if they choose to get behind the wheel after drinking or taking drugs.

The campaign was launched at Barons Quay in Northwich, on Thursday 21 November, with a number of emergency vehicles - and the suggested alternate travel options - on display, giving the public a stark reminder to think about their actions this Christmas and an opportunity to speak to road safety specialists.



Throughout December the group will continue to actively engage with the public, raising awareness of the consequences of drink and drug driving with police officers enforcing the law against anyone caught under the influence.



David Boyer, Chair of the Cheshire Road Safety Group and Director of Environment and Transport at Warrington Borough Council, said: *“This campaign is designed to get the public to think about their actions before getting behind the wheel under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Do you want to be taken home safely by a taxi or spend the night in a police cell – or even worse – end up in hospital, or not return home at all? Plan your journey home before you go out, chose a designated driver who stays on the soft drinks and doesn’t take drugs, use the bus, walk, or pre-book a taxi so you can get home safely. Think – who do you want to take you home?”*

In 2023 more than 2,300 people were arrested for either drink or drug driving – just over 10% of those arrests occurred throughout the Christmas period.

John Forshaw, CI for Cheshire Constabulary’s Roads and Crime Unit said: *“People are well aware that driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is incredibly dangerous, yet thousands of motorists selfishly decide to do it regardless. It is so important that road users understand the seriousness of their actions and the consequences that drink or drug driving can have, not only for themselves, but for other road users too. We want you to have a great time celebrating Christmas, but please remember alcohol and drugs can take longer to leave your system than you may realise - you may still be over the limit the next day.*



“Rest assured officers will be out morning, noon, and night every day - in marked and unmarked vehicles - stopping and testing anyone they believe to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. You might not see them, but they will see you – and if you selfishly put other road users lives at risk, then we will take action.”

Police presence on Dragons Lane

At around 9pm on Wednesday 20 November officers were called to reports of a firearms discharge in the Dragons Lane area of Moston.

On arrival a 38-year-old man was discovered with injuries to his chest and eye. He was subsequently taken to hospital for treatment. His injuries are thought to be life changing. Officers remained on scene throughout the evening and are conducting further enquiries today. A visible policing presence will remain in the area.

Superintendent Claire Jesson, Eastern Area Policing Commander said: *“I understand this report will cause residents some concern, please be assured that my officers will be in the area providing a high visibility presence. If you have any information regarding the incident, please contact us via 101 or the website quoting IML-1967229.”*

Cheshire Police launches new tool to help find missing armed forces veterans

Cheshire Police has launched a new tool to support officers searching for armed forces veterans who go missing when returning home from tours of duty.

The Forcer Protocol came into use this month in line with the force’s commitment to veterans through the Armed Forces Covenant and in collaboration with founder, Claire Lilley. Claire’s former husband, Alan Forcer, tragically died by suicide following concerns over his whereabouts. Alan suffered with complex PTSD, extreme anxiety, physical pain and debilitating depression following service in Northern Ireland and Kosovo during the height of the conflicts. His story and the issues he encountered along the veteran care pathway were sadly not unique to him. If the information contained had been immediately available to the police when he went missing, it is conceivable that he could have been found and given the support that he needed.

Cheshire has a large number of veteran and serving service personnel living in the force footprint, and recent research from the University of Manchester has shown that veterans under 25 have a two to four times higher risk of suicide than the general population. It has never been more important to protect our veterans.

The Forcer Protocol follows a three-step approach (as per below)

When veterans return home, [Forcer Protocol - Safe and Found Online](#) will provide the opportunity for professional carers, family members and friends to complete a form which records vital information in relation to the veteran. Officers will only ever ask for the information provided on the form if the person is reported to them as a missing person. They will do so by using the below three-step approach:

1. The person is reported missing to Cheshire's Control Room, who will then ask whether that person is known to be a veteran in every missing case as part of the initial assessment. Staff can then access Safe and Found Online, giving them crucial information in a matter of minutes which can be shared with officers conducting searches and other enquiries.
2. Officers will then identify the risk, investigate, and will hopefully locate the missing person safe and well.
3. [A referral is then completed on a single veterans pathway, particularly thorough Operation Nova and the NHS](#), to ensure that the veteran gets the correct support they need.

Whilst anyone can sign-up, it is important to note that if the missing person is in the Cheshire area, officers will automatically be able to access the details through Safe and Found Online when checking if they are a veteran. If in another force area, the person reporting the missing person needs to make it clear to the respective police force that details have been submitted through the Forcer Protocol so an access request can be granted to them.

Superintendent Sam Billington, who has assisted in bringing this protocol to Cheshire, said: *"The Forcer Protocol has been designed to support veterans in our communities, ensuring we reduce the risk to vulnerable people and put support in place to prevent repeat demand by employing a multi agency approach to problem solving and sharing accountability with the NHS and Veterans Charities. Serving within, and particularly transitioning from the Armed Forces, can be an overwhelming experience at times and in some instances difficult and distressing. Essentially, veterans are forced to leaving behind a way of life, a lifestyle. This can be a daunting and uncomfortable time. Cheshire is leading the way in relation to our Armed Forces Covenant and Veteran support, which will hopefully be adopted nationally as more forces get on board and implement the Forcer Protocol."*

Claire Lilly added: *"In my opinion preventative measures are ultimately the cure. Police forces are key figures within the community and at some point, will encounter a veteran reservist or serving member, so it is extremely important we inform and educate."*

Actor, author, and television presenter Ross Kemp, who is a key public advocate of the protocol being adopted, said: *"Having worked with our armed forces and veterans for over 20 years, I know that many who have served our country often struggle adapting to civilian life. The Forcer Protocol is vital to ensuring the safety of vulnerable veterans and I fully endorse it and Cheshire in adopting it. I believe it should also be implemented at a national level."*

Man sentenced after driving to Police HQ with a car boot full of cannabis.

A man who drove to Cheshire Police HQ with a car boot full of cannabis has been sentenced.

Dilshad Ahmed appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 20 November where he was sentenced to 15 months in prison, suspended for two years. The 39-year-old, of St Pauls Road, Smethwick, had previously pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class B drugs. During the hearing, the court was told how at 3.45pm on Tuesday 27 June, Ahmed and his friend visited Cheshire Police HQ with to collect his friend's belongings from a previous incident.

After speaking to security staff, an officer was called to speak to Ahmed due to the strong smell of cannabis coming from the vehicle. Officers attended and during a search of the car they discovered eight one-ounce bags of cannabis from the boot along with another one-ounce bag from under the driver's seat. It was

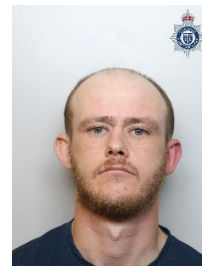
estimated that the drugs had a potential street value of between £1,440 and £2,250. Ahmed was arrested and later charged with possession with intent to supply class B drugs.

Following his sentencing, PC Matt Uren, of Northwich Proactive Policing Team, said: *"To drive to a police headquarters with a boot full of illegal drugs and think that you'd be able to get away with it is either arrogant or stupid. Ahmed was well aware that the drugs were in his car, but he thought that it was worth the risk to drive all the way to Winsford from Smethwick in order to retrieve his friend's property from a previous arrest. Fortunately, the security staff at HQ, sniffed him out and reported him to officers who were quickly able to reprimand him for his actions."*

Widnes man jailed for multiple offences

A man from Widnes has been jailed after pleading guilty to multiple offences.

Kieran Gallagher, aged 28, of Cherry Sutton, Widnes was sentenced to 44 months in prison on 15 November 2024 at Liverpool Crown Court. He pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Class B drugs (cannabis), two counts of possession of Class A drugs (cocaine), possession of a Class B Drug (Cannabis), racially aggravated harassment with fear of violence, racial harassment without fear of violence, threatening a person in public with a weapon, harassment with fear of violence, harassment without fear of violence and criminal damage.



This followed his arrest on 18 September 2024 when he was spotted on Cherry Sutton, Widnes by officers from Widnes Proactive CID. At the time Gallagher was wanted on wanted for other matters and was cycling across Hough Green Road before seeing officers and abandoning the bike - making off on foot before being detained and arrested. When searched Gallagher was found to be in possession of a large amount of cannabis, a quantity of cocaine, a 'burner' style mobile phone and a quantity of cash. Gallagher was charged with possession of cannabis with intent to supply and possession of cocaine and was remanded into custody. Gallagher was also convicted of racially aggravated harassment and criminal damage in relation to the warrants carried out following his arrest as well as the offences he was wanted for.

PC Chris Nicholls said: *"Gallagher believed that he could not only evade justice in relation to a previous investigation, but also commit serious offences whilst wanted. Officers from Widnes Local Policing Unit will not allow this to happen and will continue to work tirelessly to locate and arrest such offenders and bring them to justice."*

Major delays in Wilmslow due to overturned tanker

At 12.15pm on Wednesday 20 November police were called to reports of a collision on the A34 in Wilmslow.

Officers attended the scene and found a tanker had overturned near on Birrell Way and was leaking onto the carriageway. There are no reports of any serious injuries, and the contents of the tanker are not believed to be hazardous to the public. As a result of the collision the A34 was closed in both directions between Bollin Valley Roundabout and Prestbury Road. Local diversions were in place, but there were significant delays in the area and motorists were advised to avoid the area. Following the incident the Environment Agency will be conducting routine testing on the River Bollin as a precautionary measure.

Family of 11-year-old who died following Chester collision issue tribute

The family and school of an 11-year-old boy who died following a collision in Chester, have paid tribute to him.

Evan Rothwell, of Chester, was struck by a grey Nissan Qashqai outside of the Kings School, Chester, at around 5.12pm on Tuesday 12 November. Officers and paramedics quickly attended, with Evan being taken to Alder Hey Hospital via air ambulance after initial treatment at the scene. Sadly, despite the best efforts of those involved, Evan passed away at the hospital on Saturday 16 November. Next of kin are being supported by specialist officers. There have been no arrests made in relation to this incident at this time.

Evan's family said: *"It is with great sadness that we can confirm that our beautiful son Evan Rothwell has passed away as a result of the road traffic accident near King's School last Tuesday."*

"Evan loved life and used his talents to entertain and bring joy to others. Evan lit up the world around him when he was making friends laugh with jokes and magic tricks, playing cricket with his friends, performing with Ama-sing on Britain's Got Talent and entertaining audiences as part of the Chester Scout's Gang Show. He made us proud every day. "We are shocked and devastated at his loss. We would like to thank the emergency services staff and the staff at Alder Hey Children's Hospital for their expertise, care and commitment and most of all for their kindness."

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from our local community. We really appreciate your love and support."

"The speed limit on the road where Evan was hit is a 40mph limit. This road is outside a school, and we strongly feel that this needs to be lowered to prevent anything like this from happening again."

Evan's Head Teacher, George Hartley, said: *"Evan will be forever remembered as a bright, joyful and fun-loving classmate, with an intellectual curiosity that belied his young years. Our thoughts throughout this past week have remained with Evan's heartbroken family, loved ones and friends. This devastating news has shaken our school community to its core and there are immense challenges ahead for our pupils, staff and parents. We have drawn great strength from the many messages of support and from the countless tributes being paid to Evan. We are united in grief and shock, and we are doing all we can to support each other with compassion and understanding as we face the loss of one of our own."*

Head of Evan's year, Emily Sherriff, added: *"Evan arrived at King's in September with an enormous smile and a sense of fun that brought joy to everyone he encountered. As a King's Entry Scholar, he showcased an insatiable appetite to learn about the world. In his form, he was a dedicated charity rep who was committed to bringing new ideas and excitement to his tutor group. Outside of the classroom, Evan could be found in all areas of school life: belly laughing in Dungeons and Dragons Club, catching up with friends in the library whilst taking out his latest read and making a big splash in the swimming pool. He was kindness personified and there has not been a single student who we have encountered over the past week who hasn't made a comment on the happiness Evan carried with him throughout the school day. The way he lived his life - full of wonder and enthusiasm- is something that will stay with us all forever."*

Officers are continuing to appeal for anyone with information or dashcam footage from around the time of the collision to come forward. Anyone with information or dash camera footage should contact Cheshire police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-1961446.

Warrington officers support rollout of emergency bandages in taxis

As part of Operation Sceptre, officers from Warrington police have given their support in the rollout of RAPID bandages to taxi drivers throughout the town, designed to stem serious blood loss following a knife attack or serious accident.

The rollout in Warrington coincided with Cheshire Constabulary's response to Operation Sceptre, the nationwide week of intensified action to reduce the impact of knife crime within our communities, with the Neighbourhood officers and Chief Inspector Neil Drum meeting the team and helping with the rollout of the kits over course of the morning's operation.

CI Neil Drum, of the Warrington Command Team, said: *"Knife crime is a key priority and Cheshire Police has an excellent history of partnership working. This distribution of emergency bandages to taxis across Warrington could be the difference in saving someone's life. It was great to meet Charity founder Alex and*



his RAPAIID team during their trip to Warrington to distribute these extremely important bandages to our local taxi drivers that are easy to use and store. The implementation of the RAPAIID campaign is a welcome addition to a range of initiatives that we already have in place across our town designed to keep everyone who lives, works and visits Warrington safe."

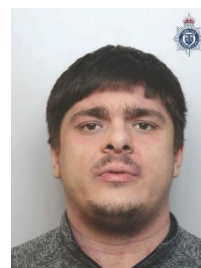
The RAPAIID charity was founded by retired firearms officer and veteran Alex Chivers in 2020 and has since handed out over 3,000 kits to taxis across the country.

Charity founder Alex Chivers added: *"With a serious haemorrhage it's a grim fact that you can bleed to death in under five minutes - time literally does save lives and the quicker treatment begins the better your chances of survival. I knew that a solution had to be simple enough for the untrained public and easily accessible to find in those vital first moments. It made perfect sense to use the same military bandages designed for the battlefield and to have these bandage kits carried on taxis that are in and out of our community day and night".*

Man jailed for drug dealing in Widnes

A county lines drug dealer from Widnes who was dealing class A drugs in Widnes has been jailed.

The court heard how on Wednesday 21 August, officers from Widnes Proactive CID spotted Jordan Alja leaving an address on Lower Appleton Road, Widnes. Alja had a pre-existing protection from harassment order, with conditions not to enter the address he had been sighted at, and so he was swiftly arrested for the breach of the order. Upon arrest, Alja was found in possession of three 'burner' style phones, used by county lines gangs to send 'flare' messages advertising the sale of drugs in the local area. While the investigation into his drug dealing continued, Alja was charged and sentenced to 16 weeks in prison in relation to the breach of the protection order.



Following his release from prison, Alja was subsequently rearrested and later charged with being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and heroin. The 23-year-old of no fixed abode in Runcorn, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine, heroin). Alja appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 14 November where he was sentenced to 40 months in prison.

Following the sentencing, PC Chris Nicholls of Widnes Proactive CID said: *"Alja targeted Widnes thinking that it would be an easy place to deal drugs, what he didn't realise is that we were hot on his trail. We were able to provide a catalogue of evidence against him, leaving Alja no option but to plead guilty to the charges. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. I'd like to thank Widnes Proactive CID who are doing all they can to stop drug activity on our streets to make Widnes a safer place to live, work and visit, while also making it extremely hostile place for criminals. We will always act on any information about drug activity provided to us and would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them, to please contact us on 101 or [visit the website](#)."*

Man sentenced for assaulting his grandparents in Winsford

A man who assaulted his grandparents in Winsford has been jailed.

Lewis Courtney, of HMP Altcourse, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 18 November, where he was sentenced to 47 months in prison. The 24-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of section 20 grievous bodily harm and one count of section 47 assault. Shortly before midnight on Thursday 30 May, police received a report that an elderly couple living in Winsford had been assaulted by their grandson.



The court heard that on Wednesday 29 May, Courtney, who was staying with his grandparents at the time, had attended their address and quickly became volatile and verbally abusive. As his aggression escalated, Courtney attacked his 63-year-old grandmother – striking her to her face and hips, causing significant bruising and swelling. Courtney's abuse continued the next day when the victims returned home from

visiting the local chip shop. He immediately became irate and attacked his grandmother for the second time. He grabbed at the back of her top and pulled her backwards, dragging her from the bathroom to the bedroom. He then assaulted his grandfather, a 74-year-old man, punching him in the face and ribs. The abuse continued, and both victims were hospitalised due to their injuries.

Following the police report, Courtney was swiftly arrested and subsequently charged with section 18 assault against both grandparents.

Following the sentencing, Detective Sergeant James Elliott said: *"Courtney took full advantage of his grandparents, who were already vulnerable and recovering from pre-existing health conditions when they welcomed him into their home at a time when he had nowhere else to live. The victims have suffered a horrific ordeal and were made to live in fear, petrified of the abuse at the hands of their own grandson. I welcome the sentence handed to Courtney, and I hope this result will provide closure to the victims and their family and allow them to move forward with their lives."*

Man jailed for dangerous driving in Chester

A man who led police on a dangerous pursuit in Chester before trying to abandon his vehicle has been jailed.

Christopher Foster, of Longlands Lane, Market Drayton, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 4 November, where he was sentenced to two years. The 34-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, drug driving, driving without insurance, and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.



At 12.15pm on Saturday 4 March 2023, an officer in a marked police vehicle attempted to stop a silver Vauxhall Astra on the A41, Rowton, Chester. The Astra initially indicated and pulled into a bus stop as if to stop, however as the officer pulled in behind it, the vehicle accelerated away at speed. The vehicle proceeded to drive on the wrong side of the road into the path of oncoming vehicles and even mounted a kerb on the opposite side of the pavement and drove down a cycle path. It then drove through two different sets of red traffic lights at speed in heavy traffic. The officer lost sight of the vehicle, however shortly after this, a report was received from a member of the public to say a vehicle matching the description of the Astra had been found abandoned in Hoole, Chester.

Officers identified Foster, who matched the description of the suspect driver, not far from the vehicle and he was subsequently arrested. Foster was also shown to have been driving more than three times above the specified limit for cannabis. On top of his custodial sentence, Foster is disqualified from driving for 45 months.

A spokesperson for Cheshire Police said: *"Foster could easily have seriously injured himself or innocent members of the public with his erratic and dangerous driving, constantly driving into oncoming traffic and even mounting pavements. It is a miracle that he did not cause a serious collision. And this was all in vain. Despite Foster trying everything he could think of to evade our officers, he was located the very same day and swiftly arrested. This should serve as a reminder that we will do everything in our power to bring people to justice. If you commit a crime on Cheshire's roads there really is nowhere to hide."*

Speeding biker banned from roads for two years

A man from Stoke-on-Trent has been banned from driving for two years after he was caught reaching speeds of 134mph in a 60mph zone.

Martyn Billings appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 14 November where he was issued with a two-year driving ban after previously pleading guilty to dangerous driving. During his hearing, the court was told that on Sunday 17 August, Billings was riding a BMW S1000RR motorbike along the A534 between Bulkeley and Farndon in convoy with another rider. Unbeknownst to Billings and the other rider, they were observed by a Cheshire Constabulary officer, who was riding an unmarked police motorcycle fitted with

recording equipment. The officer noticed that the registration plate of Billings' motorcycle was obscured and began to follow the bikes.

During the officer's pursuit of Billings, they observed him repeatedly exceeding the speed limit, being witnessed travelling 74mph in a 40mph zone near Bulkeley, crossing over the solid white line road markings and overtaking several vehicles in one manoeuvre. Billings later made no attempt to slow at a set of bends further down the A534 and his speed remained between 60 and 70mph upon entering a 50mph speed limit zone.

His motorcycle approached traffic ahead, now in a series of bends, with solid white line centre markings. Despite these obvious hazards and road markings, without any hesitation, Billings contravened the end of the solid white lines and overtook the rearmost car at over 60mph. It was at this stage, the pursuing officer lost sight of Billings and the other rider due to their increased speed and their dangerous riding making it unsafe to follow. Concerned for the safety of other road users and pedestrians, the officer activated the blue lights on their motorbike in an attempt to make ground on the speeding riders.

The officer eventually caught up with the duo but, despite having blue lights activated, the riders increased their speed upon the road straightening out. Fitted equipment on the police captured Billings reaching 100mph in a 60mph zone, before accelerating even further and reaching a top speed of 134mph. Billings, who was travelling in the rear position of the convoy, eventually reacted to the officer's presence, still travelling at a speed nearing 100mph, and pulled over. The other motorcycle, which the officer noted had no obvious number plate displayed, made no attempt to stop and fled from the scene.

At the roadside, Billings was apologetic to the officer, justifying his actions by claiming he only exceeded the speed limit in areas where he felt it was safe to do so. He also declined to reveal the identity of his fellow rider. The officer then explained the potential tragic outcomes that his driving could lead to, cautioning him and informing him that he would be prosecuted.

Appearing at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 14 November, Billings was issued with a 16-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months. The 44-year-old, of Merrion Drive, Burslem, was also issued with a two-year driving ban and ordered to pass an extended driving test before being allowed to drive again. The court also issued him to serve 300 hours of community service along with being required to pay a victim surcharge of £239.

PC Philip Brewster, of the Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"The riding observed by Billings was extreme and unnecessary. Throughout he subjected himself and other road users to significant risk of harm without good cause. Regardless of whether you choose to ride a bike or drive a car, we take road safety in Cheshire very seriously and we will always take swift action against you if you choose to flout the rules of the road and put the lives of others in danger."*

Crewe police partner with local retailers for festive safety trails

Officers in Crewe are to launch a festive trail for residents and their four-legged friends aiming to promote child safety and responsible dog ownership.



As the festive period approaches and footfall across Crewe is likely to increase, Crewe Police are partnering with the Homefeeds Pet Food Supermarket and Tesco in launching two Christmas-themed Safety Trails. One for children and families, and one for dogs and their owners. The Santa Paws Trail involves various checkpoints that will cover the relevant rules and regulations that come with responsible dog ownership. As for the two-legged attendees, the Family Trail will require groups to solve a number of riddles focusing on the safety of young people - whether that be when out and about across the town or online. After successfully completing the trials, participants will be rewarded with a small gift from Santa Claus and Tesco, and the dogs will receive a free treat bag courtesy of the Homefeeds Pet Food Supermarket for dogs.

PSCO Lizzie Jolley, of Crewe LPU, said: *"Last year over 250 local children joined us for the trail, and we are excited to grow and open up the trail to offer safety advice for local dog owners, as well as local children and families. There is a competition running throughout the day for the best dressed child and dog, with the dog prize being for up to 4 dogs and owners to visit Happy Paws, Train and Play in Shavington. These events are being held to help us reduce incidents involving local young people, local dog walkers and their dogs and to make Crewe a safer place."*

The Safety Trail will be running from 11am to 3pm on Saturday 14 December 2024. The starting point for the trail is outside the Taste For Life Café at Queens Park, Victoria Avenue, Crewe, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Appeals

Police appeal for witnesses following widespread disruption in Chester City Centre

Police are continuing to hunt the person responsible for causing widespread disruption to Chester City Centre yesterday.

At 5.09pm on Friday 22 November police received a report of suspicious activity on two busses in Chester City Centre. One near the train station and one near the bus interchange. As a precaution a cordon was put in place and a number of roads were closed while we investigated the report. EOD attended with other emergency services to assist.

DI Rupert Morrey said: *"Thankfully there was no substance behind the claim made by a passenger that there was a package on either of the busses. It appears to have been malicious, and we are doing everything we can to find the person responsible. This person caused widespread disruption in the middle of rush hour and caused considerable concern among the community. We have an abundance of CCTV in Chester and on the busses as well as other lines of enquiries to help us with our investigation and are relentlessly pursuing these to find the person responsible."*

Police are keen to speak with the female passenger who alerted the bus driver to assist with our enquiries. Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting IML 1968640. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information and footage following burglary in Warrington

Officers investigating a burglary at an address in Warrington in which a vehicle was stolen are appealing for those with information or footage to come forward.

On Friday 22 November, police received reports of a burglary at an address in Poplars Avenue, Warrington. The caller reported the incident had occurred overnight, during the early hours of Friday morning. During the incident, access had been gained to the property and car keys had been stolen. A white Volkswagen Golf R was subsequently stolen from outside the property. Officers investigating the burglary are now appealing for anyone with any information or footage to get in touch with them.

DS Christian Gordon said: *"Firstly, we would like to reassure the community that we are committed to doing all we can to trace whoever may be responsible for this incident. To aid our enquiries we would like to appeal to anyone with any CCTV, video doorbell, or dashcam footage from Poplars Avenue, particularly between the hours of 1.30am and 3.15am on Friday 22 November to get in touch with us. We would also like to ask anyone with any information or who may have seen anything suspicious to contact us. You can contact Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML-1968171.*

"Please can we remind people to keep car keys secure and away from your front door. There is burglary prevention advice available on our website at cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/keep-burglars-out-property/."

Appeal for witnesses following Alderley Edge burglary

Officers investigating a burglary in Alderley Edge are appealing for any witnesses, or anyone with information, to come forward.

At around 7.20pm on Friday 15 November, police in Alderley Edge responded to reports of a burglary on Marlborough Avenue. The caller reported that an unknown number of individuals had forcibly gained access to the property, using a neighbour's ladder to reach an exterior window, smashing it, and climbing inside. Once inside the address, the individuals conducted an untidy search of the property and stole a number of jewellery items before fleeing the scene. As part of enquiries into the incident, officers are appealing for anyone with any information, has any CCTV footage, or saw anything that did not look right to contact them.

DC Harry Bayley, of CID Proactive East, said: *"To have one's home broken into and have their personal property stolen is very distressing and the victim has been left considerably shaken by this ordeal. We are asking anyone who was in the Marlborough Avenue area of Alderley Edge around the time of the incident and saw anything suspicious to get in contact. The same goes for anyone who has any useful information, CCTV or dashcam footage."*

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML-1963706.

Appeal following serious collision in Congleton

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Congleton.

At around 11.30am on Wednesday 20 November a elderly man was involved in a collision with a red Kia Seed on Mill Street, near to Ableworld. A 78-year-old man was treated at the scene by paramedics before being taken to the Royal Stoke Hospital. His condition is currently described as critical but stable. The driver of the car was uninjured and no arrests have been made.

PC Chris Luke, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Enquiries in relation to this collision are ongoing and we're doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. As part of our investigation we're keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid our enquiries. I would ask anyone with any information to call us on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 1966813."*

Appeal for information following serious collision near Nantwich

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Nantwich.

At around 8am on Wednesday 20 November police were called to reports of a collision on the B5074, Main Road, Worleston. Officers attended the scene and found there had been a head on collision between a white Nissan Juke and a black Hyundai Tucson, near to Park Farm. The drivers of both cars sustained serious injuries and they were both taken to hospital. The 38-year-old man and 58-year-old woman both remain in hospital at this time.

PC Chris Hough, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"This collision left two people with serious injuries, and we are committed to doing all we can to establish what took place. As part of our enquiries we're keen to hear from anyone who was in area and witnessed the collision taking place. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or CCTV footage which may aid the investigation. I'd urge anyone with any information to call us on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 1966690."*

CCTV Images released following distraction theft in Warrington

Officers have released CCTV images of three people they are looking to speak to following a distraction theft in Warrington.

At around 11.30am on Monday 14 October, a vulnerable man in a wheelchair withdrew £4,000 from Barclays Bank on Market Gate. After leaving the bank, the man returned to his car in Legh Street car park. As the man was putting his wheelchair back into his car, he was distracted by an unknown woman who began talking to him. While the man was being distracted, a second woman then entered his car and stole the £4,000 cash from the vehicle. Both women then left the scene. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and as part of the investigation officers have now released CCTV images of three women they are looking to speak to.

PC Graham Davies, of Warrington Town Centre Beat Team, said: *"From our initial investigation it would appear at that that the suspects have followed the victim across Warrington after watching him withdraw the cash. After stealing the money we believe that the offenders have fled in a taxi, which took them to the Paddington area, but from there we've been unable to trace their whereabouts. Although it is likely that they have travelled to Warrington from another area. As part of our ongoing investigation, we're keen to identify the three women in the CCTV images, as we believe they may hold vital information."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the identities of the women is urged to contact Cheshire police at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting 24000875860.

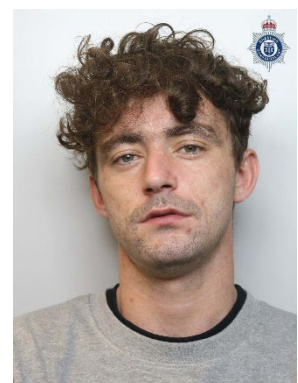


Police appeal for help in tracing wanted Wilmslow man

Police are appealing for help in finding a 27-year-old man who is wanted for theft in Wilmslow.

Daniel Carter is described as 5ft 5ins tall, of slim build with brown hair and green eyes. He has links to the Crewe area.

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting 24000938319. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Police appeal to trace missing teenager in Widnes

Officers in Widnes are appealing for help from the public in tracing a missing teenager from Widnes.

Sasha Stewart, 15, was last seen at around 4pm on Sunday 17 November in the town centre area of Bury, Greater Manchester. She is described as British Jamaican, around five feet tall, with black hair and brown eyes. Sasha is originally from the Ditchfield Road area of Widnes but has links to the Burnley area of Lancashire. As part of enquiries to locate Sasha, officers in Widnes are now appealing for help from the public in tracing Sasha.



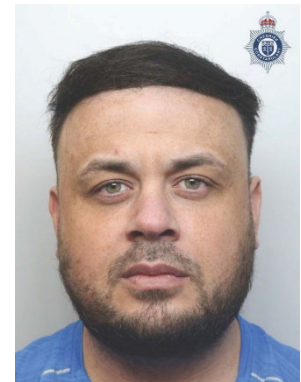
CI Cath Jones, of Runcorn LPU, said: *"We are following a number of enquires in order to locate Sasha, but we are now appealing to the public for support. If anyone has any information regarding Sasha's whereabouts, or may have captured her on any CCTV or dashcam footage, is urged to please contact our officers. I would also like to appeal to Sasha directly to please get in touch and to let us know you are safe and well."*

Anyone with information should visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting 24000974784.

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Runcorn

Police are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man from Runcorn.

Callum Patterson, of Grangemoor, Runcorn, is wanted in connection with an incident involving stalking, harassment, criminal damage, and assault in Runcorn. The 33-year-old is described as white, 5' 7" tall, of a large build, with dark brown hair in a comb-over hairstyle, and green eyes. He has links to the Halton and Warrington areas and potentially further afield. Anyone with any information as to Pattersons whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#), or call 101, quoting 24000819226.



Appeal for witnesses following an assault in Chester

Officers investigating an assault at Chester Railway Station are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 22 October, police received a report that a man had been assaulted by an unknown man near to Chester Railway Station. The offender then made off in an unknown direction. He is described as white, of a slim build, with brown hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a hi-vis jacket at the time of the offence.

Constable Jordan Lloyd-Richards, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"This incident happened at a public place, and we are keen to speak with anybody who may have been in the area at the time and either seen it take place or have any information to help us with our enquiries."*

Anyone who may have seen the incident take place or have any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or call 101 quoting IML 1946056. Information can also be passed on anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

UPDATE - Appeal to trace missing pensioner in Warrington

Officers searching for a missing pensioner in Warrington have sadly located a body.

Carole Potts was reported missing by her family at 10.30pm on Monday 18 November. Sadly, a body was located earlier today, Tuesday 19 November, near to the westbound slip road of junction 9 of the M62. Formal identification has not yet taken place, but it is believed to be that of Carole. Her next of kin have

been informed. The death is not believed to be suspicious and a case file will be prepared for the coroner. As a result of the incident the westbound slip road the M62 at junction 9 was closed.

Appeal for witnesses following robbery in Widnes

Officers investigating reports of a robbery at a convenience store in Widnes are appealing for any witnesses to get in touch with them.

At 9.50pm on Sunday 17 November, police were called to reports of a robbery at the Co-op store in Hale Road, Widnes. It was reported that two unknown suspects wearing balaclavas had entered the store and stole a quantity of cash and cigarettes from behind the tills. It is believed that a third suspect was also waiting outside the store wearing a balaclava. The suspects made away from the scene on foot in the direction of Baguley Avenue. A suspicious vehicle, a Mercedes G-Wagon, was spotted at around this time in the area and was subsequently stopped by police near junction 8 on the M62, Warrington. The driver, a 30-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of robbery. He remains in police custody at this time.

DS Christopher Sheffield said: *"Staff would understandably have been alarmed at this incident and we would like to reassure the community that we have arrested one individual. We believe there were further suspects involved, and we are doing everything we can to trace them. We would like to appeal to anyone who witnessed what happened to get in touch with us. We'd also like to ask anyone who saw anything suspicious either before or after the incident took place, or anyone with any relevant CCTV, dashcam, or video doorbell footage to contact us. You can report information to Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML-1965106."*

Police appeal for witnesses following a collision in Congleton

Police are appealing for dashcam and CCTV following a collision involving a Ford Iveco tipper truck in Congleton.

At 12.30pm on 14 November the driver of a Ford Iveco tipper truck was parked up on West Road at the junction of Holmesville Avenue. While getting out of the vehicle, a red HGV passed by and caught the truck door causing a serious injury to the man's hand. Anyone who witnessed the collision or has any video footage, dashcam or doorbell footage capturing the incident should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 1962623.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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