

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 6th October 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man jailed for series of burglaries and attempted burglaries

A man has been jailed for more than six years for a series of residential burglaries and attempted burglaries across Chester, Northwich, and Warrington.

Neil Farthing, of Pennard Avenue, Huyton, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 4 October where he was sentenced to six years and six months. The 37-year-old had been charged with four counts of attempted burglary, three counts of burglary, and two counts of driving without insurance and driving while disqualified.



During the early hours of Tuesday 2 July, Farthing targeted three properties in Warrington. Occupants at addresses in Atlanta Gardens, Elmsett Close, and Brightwell Close, all reported the locks on their doors had been tampered with, although the offender had not managed to gain access to the properties.

On Wednesday 14 August, Farthing turned his attention to Northwich and targeted two different properties, again during the early hours of the morning. A resident in Priory Avenue, Davenham, reported someone had broken into their address by breaking the locks on the conservatory door, however they did not break through the internal door, preventing them from accessing the rest of the address. During the same morning, Farthing targeted an address in Headworth Close where he broke into the property and took the keys to an Audi which was parked on the driveway. He subsequently stole the vehicle, and was therefore driving without insurance and while disqualified.

Just a few days later, during the early hours of Monday 19 August, Farthing targeted two properties in Chester. A resident in Newhall Road was disturbed by noises in the address. They noticed a figure through the window and the suspect fled. They reported the kitchen window had been tampered with and was damaged. Occupants in Ormonde Road woke to find their doorbell camera had activated while they were sleeping and showed a man trying to get into the property. The man had gained access by forcing the lock to the patio doors. Once inside, he stole sunglasses, a watch, a wallet, and the keys to an Audi which was parked on the driveway. The vehicle itself had also been stolen but was subsequently recovered from the Golbourne area of Manchester.

Farthing was arrested on Thursday 22 August following a joint investigation between officers from Chester Proactive Team and Merseyside Police's Fugitive Team. Farthing was identified from CCTV of some of the incidents. Footwear prints found at one of the scenes also matched the trainers Farthing was wearing on arrest. He was subsequently charged with the offences and had no choice but to plead guilty after being presented with the evidence identified by officers.

Police Constable James Wright, of Chester Proactive Team, said: *"Farthing is a prolific burglar and has a number of previous convictions for similar offences. He travelled into Cheshire from Merseyside to commit this series of burglaries. Thankfully he did not manage to gain access to all of the properties he targeted, but this does not take away from the distress caused to residents. This case has been a real team effort, with officers from different areas and different departments pulling together to hold this criminal to justice."*

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their home and Farthing completely disregarded this, targeting people's homes while they were sleeping. I hope the sentence handed to Farthing will provide some reassurance to the community of how seriously we take offences of this nature."

Quick-thinking Roads & Crime Officer saves unresponsive driver from burning vehicle

An officer from the Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit has been commended after pulling an unresponsive driver from a smoking vehicle that burst into flames not long after the rescue.

In the early hours of Saturday 28 September, Police Constable Mark Jones, of the Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit (RCU), was driving home from work after a night shift. Whilst on his way home, PC Jones came across a black Seat on the A543 near Congleton that had left the carriageway and collided with a tree - sustaining considerable damage. Without a second thought for his own personal safety, PC Jones turned his car around and approached the Seat, which at this point had begun heavily smoking, and found a 49-year-old man unresponsive behind the wheel. With more and more smoke flowing out of the vehicle, PC Jones forced entry and removed the driver before pulling him to safety some 50 feet away just as the car burst into flames. Again, selflessly and at great risk to himself, PC Jones ran back to the now burning vehicle to conduct one last search for any potentially trapped or unconscious passengers. Luckily no one was inside. Thanks to PC Jones' intervention, the driver of the Seat was spared from, what would have been, a horrific situation that they would not have been able to save themselves from. Following PC Jones' heroics, the driver was taken to Leighton Hospital, and is expected to make a full recovery.



Police Constable Mark Jones is based in Congleton and has been with the Constabulary for around nine years, and his actions that night have subsequently been praised by colleagues across the Constabulary.

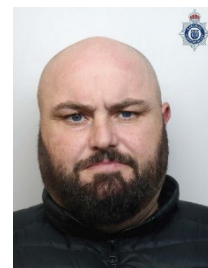
Inspector Alex Cairns, said: *"The actions of PC Jones undoubtedly saved the male's life and showed great courage and professionalism."*

Police Constable Mark Jones, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"I had seen the vehicle had crashed into a tree, but by the time I turned around and got out of my car, its engine bay was on fire and the smoke was horrendous. I'm so glad that this story concluded with a positive outcome as the potentiality of what could have happened does not bare thinking about. When you have been for a police officer for a prolonged period of time, you come to realise that you are never, truly, off the clock and my decision to, quite literally, run towards the fire was all apart of the "do the right thing" mindset that has been instilled within me during my years serving within Cheshire Constabulary alongside my fellow officers. I would like to thank my colleagues and the wider force in general for helping me develop that attitude and act upon the right instincts such as those that made me stop to help in the first place."*

Man jailed for Ellesmere Port assault

A 38-year-old man has been jailed after admitting assault occasioning actual bodily harm in Ellesmere Port.

Martin Ward from Main Road in Collin, Dumfries appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 2 October to be sentenced to 15 months in prison. He was also subject to a restraining order not to contact the victim.



On 7 April this year the victim left an address in Woodchurch Lane to get in his car when he saw another car approach. The car was driven at him hitting him on his elbow causing minor injury. Two men, including Ward

got out of the car and he was chased and assaulted with a baseball bat. A substance was thrown over him which smelled of bleach. The bottle was recovered by police and the substance tested. It was found to have low levels of ammonia.

DC Nick Smith said: *"Thankfully the victim had minor injuries but was left shocked by his ordeal. The victim was targeted by the men who travelled to his house with the sole purpose of assaulting him and putting him in fear. Ward is now paying the consequences for this violence."*

Man jailed for causing serious injury by dangerous driving

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

Craig Pryor, of Robinson Road, Ellesmere Port, was sentenced to four years in prison at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 17 September for causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The court heard how Pryor was driving his grey Mercedes C350 erratically at around 9.20pm on 26 May 2023, on Winwick Lane in Warrington.



The 46-year-old had gone to overtake the vehicle in front of him when he collided with a black Yamaha motorcycle travelling in the opposite direction. The motorcyclist, a 42-year-old man from Woolston, suffered life-changing injuries. The extent of the victim's injuries has left the motorcyclist still receiving treatment more than 18 months after the collision.

Following roadside tests, Pryor was found to have by-products of cocaine and cannabis use in his system and was charged with drug driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He had initially pleaded not guilty to the offences, but changed his plea to guilty just before his trial was due to begin. Pryor was also disqualified from driving for six years, after which he must pass an extended driving test.

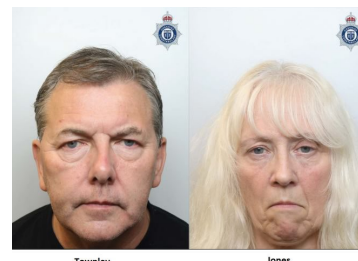
Following the sentencing, Inspector Steve Griffiths said: *"When you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, you're in control of a powerful machine, easily capable of causing serious injury or even death. Pryor completely ignored this, not abiding by the rules of the road, or considering the safety of others, ultimately colliding with a vulnerable road user who had been travelling on the same stretch of road. The victim has suffered tremendously, both psychologically and physically, as a result of Pryor's reckless choices."*

"I welcome the sentence handed to Pryor, and I hope he truly considers how his actions have permanently changed the victim's life. I also hope this case can serve as a reminder of the long-lasting impact of dangerous driving, deterring others from the same fate."

Couple jailed for historic sex offences in Middlewich

A man and a woman have both been jailed in relation to the sexual abuse of a child in Middlewich.

Alan Townley, of Elton Road, Sandbach and Patricia Jones, of Glastonbury Drive, Middlewich, both appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 1 October. Townley, 61, was sentenced to 17 years in prison plus eight years on extended licence, having previously been found guilty of 12 offences, including rape of a child under 13, sexual assault of a child under 13, causing a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity and actual bodily harm. Jones, 58, was sentenced to three years in prison for facilitating the offences.



The court heard how at the time the offences occurred, between 2010 and 2012, Townley and Jones were in a relationship together. Jones was aware that Townley was a convicted sex offender, yet she facilitated Townley's access to the victim, enabling the offences to take place. During the trial the court heard how Townley flirted with the nine-year-old girl, buying them flowers and touching her inappropriately. His behaviour quickly escalated, and he went on to rape and sexually assault the girl on multiple occasions. When the victim tried to stop him, he would hit her. The only came to light in 2020 when the victim spoke out about what they had endured. Both Townley and Jones were subsequently arrested and charged in relation to the offences.

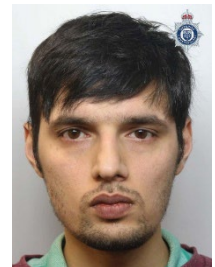
Following the sentencings, Detective Constable Stacey Thompson, who led the investigation, said: *"Firstly, I would like to commend the bravery of the victim in this case, who not only came forward to report what had happened to them, but also endured the process of a trial after Townley refused to take accountability for his horrifying actions. What Townley subjected them to is truly horrifying, systematically abusing them in order to fulfil his own sexual gratification. What makes this case worse, is the fact that Jones knowingly allowed Townley to have access to the victim, despite being well aware that he was a convicted sex offender. Putting her relationship above the safety and welfare of a vulnerable child."*

"The sentences handed to Townley and Jones reflect the severity of their crime and I hope that his conviction will encourage other victims to come forward. As this case demonstrates, we treat all reports of historic sexual offences seriously, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority, and any allegations will be thoroughly investigated."

Congleton man jailed for online sexual offences involving children from England and Wales

A man from Congleton has been jailed for 17 months for sexual offences involving two children

Syed Ali, 33, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 25 September 2024 where he was sentenced to 17 months imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13 and inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.



The court heard that on 7 July 2021, Cheshire Police had been contacted by Sussex Police informing them that they had identified a man from Cheshire who had sent sexually explicit images to a child. Sussex informed Cheshire officers that the parent of a 13-year-old girl had told them that she had been contacted on multiple social media platforms by a man in his 30s. The girl had entered a private chat with the man on the social media platform Discord. Once in the chat, the man proceeded to send the child sexually inappropriate messages, asking her for explicit photos of herself and requesting her location. Enquires conducted by Sussex Police had identified the man as living in Congleton, and he would later be confirmed as Syed Ali. Sussex Police's investigation was subsequently transferred to Cheshire Police.

On 8 August 2021, Cheshire Police received a further report from Dyfed Powys Police, stating that a 12-year-old girl had received several inappropriate messages and pictures from an unknown man. The man had asked the child their age, telling her he was 14, and sent multiple explicit pictures. Enquiries conducted by Dyfed Powys colleagues had, again, linked the man to an address in Congleton and he would later be identified as Ali, with their investigation also transferred to Cheshire.

A Cheshire Police investigation into similar offences committed by Ali was already underway, with the 33-year-old currently on police bail. The incidents from both Sussex and Dyfed Powys pre-dated the Cheshire investigation and, following these reports, officers conducted a raid at Syed's home address, where he was

arrested at the scene on suspicion of engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13 and inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.

His phone and other devices were also seized. Subsequent forensic enquiries revealed that Ali had created accounts on Tinder, WeChat, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and many others, including the online videogame Roblox. Internet search history was also taken from Ali's devices, with data revealing that he had searched phrases including "grooming schoolgirls" and "grooming web girls" and used several email addresses, internet aliases and usernames. When given the chance to explain himself in interview, Ali gave no comment to questions directed toward him. Despite this, he was subsequently charged and later pleaded guilty of engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13 and inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.

Syed Ali, of Wallworths Bank, Congleton was sentenced to 17 months imprisonment. The 33-year-old was also issued with a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order, an indefinite restraining order and must follow notification requirements for 10 years.

Following sentencing, Detective Sergeant Laura Fox, of Eastern CID, said: *"No one should be subjected to the type of explicit content Syed Ali was creating, let alone a child. There are many ways that children communicate online and I urge parents to remain vigilant and seek support if something does not seem right. I hope his prison sentence will provide the victims and their families with a sense of closure. Offenders such as Ali may think that they are anonymous or free from persecution just because they can hide behind a computer or phone screen, but that is not the case - we have the capabilities and resources to locate the creators of this type of content and will do all we can to bring them to justice. I would urge anyone, who has been a victim of a sexual offence, online or not, to come forward and report it to Cheshire Police on 101 or through our website."*

Four people charged with kidnap and assault following offences in Warrington

Detectives from Warrington CID have charged four men in connection to a series of incidents in the town.

Brendon O'Halloran, aged 58, of Newton Road, Winwick; Lee Emson, aged 56, of Hale Street, Orford; Lee Cooper, aged 40, of Station Road, Great Sankey; and Josh O'Halloran, aged 28, of Newton Road, Winwick; were all arrested on Tuesday 1 October. All four men have since been charged with kidnap, two counts of section 18 assault, aggravated burglary, and possession of an offensive weapon. Emson has also been charged with possession of cannabis. The charges all relate to offences which occurred at a skip yard and a residential address in the Dallam area of the town on Monday 30 September. All four men have been remanded in police custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates on Thursday 3 October.

Man jailed for series of thefts from bowling alleys

A man has been jailed for a series of thefts from bowling alleys in Cheshire, causing more than £4,000 in damages.

Damien Rigby, of Lancaster Road, Hindley, Wigan, was previously charged with four counts of theft and four counts of criminal damage. The 38-year-old appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 1 October where he pleaded guilty to the offences and was sentenced to six months.



Rigby attended Superbowl UK in Golden Square Shopping Centre, Warrington, on three separate occasions, damaging and stealing from arcade machines during opening hours, just metres away from members of the

public visiting the establishment. The first was on 19 May 2024, at around 2.15pm. A total of £273 was stolen from two arcade machines after damage was caused to them and cash was stolen from the cash box inside. The total cost of damages to the two machines was £1,195. Two months later, on 15 July, Rigby entered the same Superbowl bowling alley in Warrington and was captured on CCTV using a screwdriver to tamper with an arcade machine and empty money into his pockets. On this occasion he stole a total of £309.50 and caused £1,045 in damages.

At around 6.15pm on 14 August, Rigby returned to the location a third time and damaged three arcade machines, stealing a total of £178.30, and causing £1,485 in damages. Less than two weeks later, on 25 August, Rigby targeted another Superbowl UK location, this time in The Hive Leisure Park, Widnes. He stole a total of £95.20 from two arcade machines and caused £905 in damages.

Rigby was subsequently arrested on Monday 30 September following CCTV enquiries and later charged. On top of his sentence, he will need to pay back almost £5,500 in compensation to account for the money he stole and the damages caused.

Inspector Lee Hillyard said: *"Rigby was completely brazen in his offending, targeting premises during opening hours, just metres away from those who were enjoying time at the bowling alley. It's clear he had absolutely no regard for others, or for those he was stealing from, only wanting to get a bit of extra cash. But his efforts were to no avail. His offending was clearly captured on CCTV, leaving him with no choice but to plead guilty. Not only is he now behind bars for his crimes, but he will also have to pay back a hefty sum of money to cover both what he stole and the damage he caused to the arcade machines. This should serve as a reminder that crime really does not pay."*

Wrexham man charged with drug and dangerous driving offences

A 30-year-old man from Wrexham has been charged with drug and dangerous driving offences.

Maredudd Francis was arrested at around 9.24am on Sunday 29 September by officers from the Roads and Crime Unit at junction 10 of the M56. The 30-year-old, of Coed Aben, Wrexham, has since been charged with dangerous driving and possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine), possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis) and possession of criminal property. Francis appeared at Chester Magistrates' on Tuesday 1 October where he was remanded in custody to appear at Mold Crown Court on Tuesday 29 October.

Man jailed for shining laser beam at police helicopter

A man has been jailed after shining a laser beam at a police helicopter which was searching for a missing person.

David Warren, 41, of Eagle Mount, Latchford, appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 26 September where he was sentenced to 35 weeks. This includes 12 weeks for shining a laser beam towards an aircraft, and also the activation of a 23-week suspended sentence for threatening a person with a weapon, which was originally handed to him on Tuesday 20 August, one week before he committed the second offence.



At around 1.30am on Tuesday 27 August, police were called to concerns for the welfare of a man in Warrington who was missing. Officers began conducting enquiries in a bid to locate him and NPAS (National Police Air Service) was deployed above the Latchford/Stockton Heath area to assist the search. Shortly before 3.15am, an officer on board the helicopter stated over the police radio that someone was shining a

green laser out of the window of a property, aiming it at them. Officers were able to trace where the laser was coming from. Warren was located at the property and refused to allow officers into the address.

Officers forced entry to the address, and he was subsequently arrested. A green laser was found at the property and was seized. In interview Warren admitted the offence, saying he was using the laser to point out the helicopter in the sky while recording it on his phone. He was subsequently charged with shining a laser beam towards an aircraft and pleaded guilty.

Sergeant Michael Hayes said: *"While the person the police helicopter was searching for during this incident was ultimately located, shining the laser beam in its direction was incredibly dangerous, and could have seriously hindered their efforts to locate someone in need of help. The sentence handed to Warren should serve as a reminder of how serious this offence is considered. I hope it also reminds people of the risks associated with lasers, which some people may think of as a harmless device. This is far from the case and can have very serious consequences."*

Man charged following fatal collision in Warrington

Officers investigating a fatal collision in Warrington have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Mason Hodgson has been charged with causing a death by dangerous driving. The 23-year-old of Glen Road, Morley, is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on Tuesday 15 October. The charge relates to a collision between a car and a pedestrian which occurred at a car meet on Kingsland Grange, Warrington at 9.40pm on Sunday 10 April 2022. The pedestrian, 20-year-old Sam Harding from Stockport, died as a result of the injuries he sustained during the incident

Lorry recovered and lanes reopen on M6 following serious incident on Thelwall Viaduct

Road closures have been lifted on the M6 northbound following a serious collision which saw a HGV leave the carriageway.

Shortly after 6.50pm on Monday 30 September, police were called to reports of an incident on the M6 northbound at Thelwall Viaduct, between junction 20 and 21. Officers attended the scene and found a lorry had come off the carriageway and landed on the embankment below the bridge. The driver of the lorry, a 56-year-old man, is not believed to have suffered any life changing or life-threatening injuries. He was taken to hospital following the incident and is set to be discharged with suspected minor injuries.



Lane closures remained in place overnight on the northbound carriageway due to serious damage caused to the motorway barrier. The lane closures were lifted this afternoon (Tuesday 1 October) following repairs to the barrier and all lanes are now open. Cheshire Police, assisted by recovery agents, worked to recover the lorry from the embankment below the carriageway and the vehicle has since been moved.

Inspector Anton Sullivan said: *"This was a major operation right from the outset, utilising a multi-agency approach with colleagues from NWS, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Highways, National Highways' Regional Control Centre, and other departments all working together. It is remarkable that the driver of the HGV was not more seriously injured, and other road users managed to escape unscathed. This incident had a rapid response and the scene was well managed by officers in dangerous motorway conditions, due to poor visibility and heavy rain. The recovery phase of the incident was hampered by poor weather and challenging terrain where the lorry had landed."*

"Police, along with Highways and the specialist recovery agents, have been working all day to recover the vehicle and trailer which were completely destroyed and to repair the damaged railing on top of Thelwall Viaduct, focussing on ensuring safety and a return to normal on the M6 as soon as possible. We want to thank members of the public for their patience with the delays that have inevitably occurred as a result of the incident."

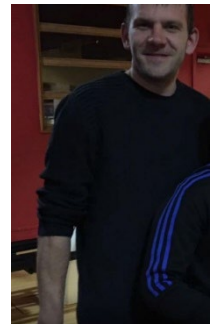
An investigation into the cause of the collision is ongoing and anyone with any relevant footage or information should contact Cheshire Police on 101, or through the Cheshire Police website, quoting IML-1929945.

Family of man murdered in Northwich pay tribute to him

The family of a man who died following an incident in Northwich have paid tribute to him.

David Eaton, 37, sadly died following an incident at an address in Brook Lane, Northwich, on Saturday 28 September. Following his death, David's family said: *"David was a popular, loveable rogue, with a heart of gold."*

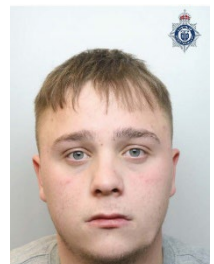
Matthew Higgins, of Brook Lane, Northwich, has since been charged with the murder of David. The 35-year-old appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 1 October and will next appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 2 October. He was also charged with a separate count of assaulting an emergency worker. A 41-year-old woman who was arrested on suspicion of murder has been released on conditional bail.



Crewe man jailed for domestic abuse

A man from Crewe who abused his former partner has been jailed.

Christopher Peberdy, of White Avenue, Crewe, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 30 September where he was sentenced to 45 months imprisonment. The 21-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to five counts of non-fatal suffocation, non-fatal strangulation, section 47 assault, section 39 assault and criminal damage.



The court heard how the victim was in a relationship with Peberdy for around four years, during which time he gradually stopped her from seeing her friends or even leaving the address. Their relationship initially started well, however, Peberdy became increasingly physically and verbally abusive to the woman. Peberdy hurled continual verbal abuse at the victim, calling her various derogatory names. When the victim and Peberdy would go out together, she would be forced to look at the floor as Peberdy wouldn't allow her to look at anyone else.

As the relationship continued, Peberdy systematically cut the victim off from her friends and family, turning her into a prisoner in her own home. The victim finally found the strength to report the matters to police on Tuesday 27 February following an attack the day before. At around 10am on 26 February, Peberdy quickly became aggressive and violent following a verbal disagreement with the victim. He pulled her hair from behind resulting in the victim falling backwards. She ran to the window and screamed for help but was stopped when Peberdy punched her to the face, causing a cut to her lip. He then spat at the victim and smeared his saliva in her face, before pouring half a bottle of washing up liquid in her hair.

Later that day, as the sustained attack and Peberdy's aggression continued, he knocked the victim to the floor and kicked her to the stomach and groin area. As she lay there, he put his full weight on her chest and

gripped around her throat, restricting the victim's breathing. When she tried to get up, Peberdy bit her arm and resumed his abuse. He pulled the victim over the sink, facing her upwards, and turned the tap on so that the waterflow was over her mouth, once again stopping her from breathing. Peberdy told the victim he was going to kill her as she struggled for breath. The victim managed to free herself from Peberdy's grip but as she got up, he threw a metal grill pan at her. Following the reports, officers attended Peberdy's address where he was arrested and subsequently charged on Thursday 26 January 2024.

Following the sentencing, Inspector Victoria Shelton, of the Area Investigations Team East, said: *"Firstly, I would like to commend the bravery the victim has shown throughout the investigation into Peberdy's frequent offending; he is a manipulative and violent domestic abuse perpetrator, whose behaviour left his victim feeling vulnerable, humiliated and in fear of even leaving the house. While no sentence will ever be able to make the victim forget what happened to her, I hope the fact that Peberdy will now be behind bars and will be continually managed upon his release from prison to prevent further offending, can provide her with both reassurance and a sense of closure. As this case demonstrates, for anyone suffering through domestic violence, there is always hope, and the Constabulary takes all offences of this nature extremely seriously. Any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority."*

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of domestic abuse please report it by calling 101 or visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us. In an emergency always call 999.

Man charged in connection to Superbowl crime series

Detectives investigating a series of thefts at bowling alleys across Cheshire have charged a man in relation to the incidents.

Damian Rigby, of Lancaster Road, Hindley, Wigan, has been charged with four counts of theft and four counts of criminal damage. The 38-year-old has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Tuesday 1 October. The charges relate to a series of incidents at Superbowl venues in Widnes, Warrington and St Helens, which occurred between 30 April 2024 and 25 August 2024.

Man jailed for dealing class A drugs in Northwich

A man from Northwich has been jailed after he pleaded guilty to supplying class A drugs.

Ryan Foster appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 1 October where he was sentenced to three years and six months in prison. The 35-year-old of Linnards Lane, Wincham, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine).



The court heard how on Tuesday 21 November 2023, detectives launched an investigation after becoming aware of a drugs line operating in Northwich. The drugs line, a mobile number being used to send flare messages advertising the sale of illegal drugs, was used on multiple times, before changing to a new number on Tuesday 12 December 2023, which was again used to send flare messages for around a month.

Then, on Wednesday 7 February 2024, officers on patrol in Northwich conducted a stop check on a black Mercedes-Benz which was seen speeding on Manchester Road, Lostock Garam. Foster was driving the car, and upon searching the vehicle officers located a Nokia mobile phone in a storage compartment. Checks revealed that the phone was the same one that had been used to sell drugs in November and December.

Foster was arrested at the scene and his personal iPhone was also seized. He was later questioned by officers but answered no comment to all of the questions put to him. During subsequent examination of the iPhone, officers recovered evidence which showed Foster had purchased large quantities of cocaine in May 2023, along with messages about how many drugs he had supplied. Images were also located on the phone showing large amounts of cash, along with a number of messages asking for Cocaine. Officers also recovered further evidence, including cell-site data and ANPR footage, which showed that Fosters had been in the same location as the drugs line. After gathering a catalogue of evidence, Foster was charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs.

Following the sentencing, Detective Sergeant John Lyons, of Northwich Proactive CID said: *"It's great to see another drug dealer taken off the streets of Northwich and I hope Foster's sentencing acts as a warning to others. Despite his refusal to answer any questions, the strength of the evidence against him was overwhelming and he had no option but to plead guilty to the charges against him. While Foster is now behind bars, our fight against illegal drugs continues and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure those responsible are held accountable for their actions. However, this is not an issue that we can tackle alone, information from the public is vital if we are to breakdown the organised crime groups who bring misery to our streets, and I would appeal to anyone who has information to come forward."*

Anyone with information or concerns in relation to drug dealing in the Northwich area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101.

Man arrested for fraud offences following police raid in Warrington

Detectives from the Economic Crime Unit at Cheshire Police have arrested a man in connection with the fraudulent mis-selling of cars in Warrington.

At around 5.30am today, Tuesday 1 October, officers executed a warrant at an address on Templeton Drive, Warrington. A 38-year-old man was arrested at the address on suspicion fraud by false representation and theft. A number of items were seized at the address including mobile phones and financial documentation. The warrant follows an investigation involving cars purchased on finance through a garage in Warrington.

Detective Constable Matt Furlong, who is leading this investigation, said: *"Today marks a significant step forward in what has been a complex investigation into the fraudulent mis-selling of cars. The victims have reported how they discovered outstanding debt that they weren't aware of, while others have reported loans being taken out in their names without their knowledge. They all purchased vehicles believing that everything was above board, only to discover later that they owed large amounts of money and their credit ratings had been severely damaged."*

The suspect remains in police custody at this time, where he is assisting officers with their enquiries.

Man jailed for Warrington cannabis farm

A man who was operating a cannabis farm in Warrington has been jailed.

Francesco Vrapì appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 30 September where he was sentenced to six months in prison. He was also ordered to pay a £187 victim surcharge and there was a destruction order for the drugs.



The 31-year-old of Ludlow Close, Warrington, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to cannabis cultivation and abstracting electricity. The case began on Tuesday 4 June, after officers received intelligence which led to a warrant being conducted at Vrapì's home address in Warrington. A large cannabis farm was found inside

the address, consisting of 458 cannabis plants, and Vrapì was arrested at the scene. Following analysis, the drugs seized were priced at an estimated value of £450,000. Vrapì stated no comment throughout questioning, but as a result of the evidence gathered against him, he was charged in connection with the cannabis farm.

Following his sentencing, PC Jen Harrison, of the Northern Problem Solving Team, said: *“Vrapì was running a professional cannabis farm, this wasn’t simply just a few cannabis plants, the whole building had been fitted out with the thousands of pound worth of equipment to maximise the potential yield. Thankfully, we were able to seize all of these plants and prevent them from being sold on the streets of Warrington, and Vrapì is now being held accountable for his actions behind bars. While this site has now been closed, and all of the equipment destroyed, we urge residents to remain vigilant and anyone who suspects this activity is happening near them to come forward and tell us about it.”*

There are a number of signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

- A strong and sickly-sweet smell
- Equipment to grow cannabis being taken into a property, such as lighting and ventilation equipment.
- Constantly covered or blocked-off windows – cannabis farms often have constantly closed curtains, black-out blinds, or foil coverings.
- People coming and going at all hours or neighbours you never see.
- Strong and constant lighting day and night.
- High levels of heat and condensation – cannabis farms often give off heat and windows stay misted up.
- A constant buzz of ventilation – listen out for a whirring sound as the growers try to create an ideal climate for cannabis plants to grow.
- Lots of power cables – offenders often dig underground to lay cables that hook up to things like lamp posts so they do not have to pay for the enormous amounts of electricity they use.

To report a suspected cannabis farm or any other type of drug-related offence, call us 101, give the details via our website or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man charged with murder following death of man in Northwich

Detectives investigating the murder of a man in Northwich have charged a man in connection with the incident.

Matthew Higgins, 35, of Brook Lane, Northwich, was arrested on Saturday 28 September. He has since been charged with murder, and assaulting an emergency worker. Higgins has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 1 October. The charge relates to an incident at an address in Brook Lane, Northwich, on Saturday 28 September. David Eaton, 37, from Northwich, was found with serious injuries and was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. A 41-year-old woman who was arrested on suspicion of murder has been released on conditional bail.

Cheshire Police opens recruitment window for new PCs

Cheshire Constabulary is asking the public “could you walk in our boots?” as part of a drive to recruit new police officers.

The application window opens today, Monday 30 September, for the Police Constable Entry Programme. No two days are the same as a police officer, and the roles provide opportunities to develop both personally and professionally – all while helping to make a real difference to the communities of Cheshire. The Constabulary

is also giving the public an insight into what officers get involved in through a video which has been released on the Force's social media channels.

Chris Armitt, Deputy Chief Constable said: *"We want hardworking, reliable, and dedicated individuals to join Cheshire Constabulary. If you work hard, give your best and always put victims and the communities of Cheshire at the heart of everything you do then you'll be rewarded with a career like no other."*

The Police Constable Entry Programme (PCEP): The Police Constable Entry Programme (PCEP) has been designed for those aspiring to be a Police Constable and will make sure they have the relevant knowledge and skills and demonstrate the appropriate behaviours to perform their duties lawfully and safely. Student officers will attend their initial training programme at Headquarters in Winsford. After completing initial training all student officers will deploy to their Local Policing Unit (LPU) and begin their tutor phase, working to become independent officers. Student officers will be tutored in a frontline operational setting. Once Independent Patrol Status (IPS) has been achieved, students will be deployed onto an Area Investigation Team (AIT) where they will further develop key police investigation skills before a final rotation into one of our Neighbourhood Policing Units.

Superintendent Jez Taylor, Head of Police Officer Training, said *"In Cheshire, Constables are given the training and support they need to give them the confidence to deal with whatever the next call brings. Our trainers work hard to give student officers the knowledge and skills they need to be an officer - supporting them through each stage of the training process. We will challenge you; we push you to your limits, but if you want to walk in our boots and make Cheshire even safer – then we want to hear from you."*

Candidates can be 17 at the point of application but must be 18 at the point of appointment to apply. There is no maximum age limit on applications, candidates are required to be both physically fit and healthy to perform policing duties safely and effectively. Applicants can apply to Cheshire if they have a live application with another force. Please bear in mind that other forces have different eligibility criteria candidates are asked to check before they apply.

[Visit the careers section of our website](#) for more information on the role of a police constable.

To apply for the Police Constable Entry Programme visit: <https://cheshirepolice.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/channel-1/appcentre-13/brand-3/user-1001778/xf-2364109ab99f/wid-9/candidate/so/pm/6/pl/24/opp/2791-Police-Constable-Entry-Programme/en-GB>

Appeals

Appeal for witnesses and footage following robbery in Poynton

Officers investigating reports of a robbery in Poynton are appealing for any witnesses or those with footage to come forward.

Shortly before 5.10pm on Wednesday 2 October, police were called to reports of a robbery in Poynton. A man stated he had been riding an e-bike along London Road, Hazel Grove, at 5pm when he became aware of two men on a red motorbike who started to follow him into the centre of Poynton. On Park Lane, Poynton, the passenger on the motorbike dismounted and tried to kick the victim to remove him from the e-bike.

The victim fled to a nearby car park close to Waitrose on Park Lane, where he was threatened with a knife by the motorbike passenger. This suspect then made off on the victim's e-bike in the direction of Hazel Grove, along with the second suspect on the motorbike. The e-bike was subsequently located later that evening abandoned in Stockport.

The two suspects are described as male, were wearing black clothing and black balaclavas, and are believed to be around 18-20 years old. Officers are now appealing for anyone with any information, anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone who has footage which could aid the investigation, to get in touch.

Detective Sergeant Tom Binder said: *"Although the stolen e-bike has since been recovered, we are now working to trace those responsible. This incident happened at a busy time of day, so we are looking for anyone who may have witnessed what happened, or saw anything suspicious around the time of the incident, to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may help us with our investigation."*

You can report information via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML-1931348.

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



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