

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 30 March 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **Man charged following Macclesfield burglary**

Detectives investigating a burglary in Macclesfield have charged a man in relation to the incident.

On Tuesday 11 March police were called to reports of a burglary at a residential property on George Street West in Macclesfield. The caller reported that unknown persons had gained entry into the address and stolen a number of items. Following enquiries officers arrested a 51-year-old local man in relation to the incident. Christopher Carter, of Great King Street, Macclesfield, has since been charged with one count of burglary. He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 31 March.

#### **Two men charged with theft in Chester**

Officers from Chester Local policing unit have charged two men with theft offences thanks to partnership work between police and local authority.

At around 1.15pm on Thursday 27 March police were called to reports of a theft at Boots in Chester City Centre, the caller reported that the suspects had fled the scene. Following partnership work with CCTV operators at Cheshire West and Chester Council, officers stopped a black Ford Mondeo in Broughton. The two occupants of the car were both arrested, and a number of suspected stolen items were recovered from the car.

Francie McDonagh, 18, of no fixed abode, has since been charged with two counts of theft from a shop and two counts of going equipped for theft. His co-accused, Patrick O'Donnell, 18, of Shakespeare Avenue, Hayes, London, has been charged with one count of theft from a shop and going equipped for theft. Both men have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 28 March.

#### **Man charged with multiple offences following incident in Chester**

A man from Chester has been charged with multiple offences following an incident in the city centre.

Richard Cubitt, was arrested at around 7.37am on Thursday 27 March in the Souters Lane area of Chester. The 55-year-old has since been charged with two counts of assault by beating, two counts common assault, assault on an emergency worker, criminal damage, racially aggravated harassment, using threatening language likely to cause distress and exposure. Cubitt appeared at

Chester Magistrates' court on Thursday 27 March, where he was remanded in custody to appear at the same court on Thursday 17 April.

### **Residents urged to remain vigilant following courier frauds**

Officers are urging Cheshire residents to remain vigilant following a number of reports of courier frauds across the county.

Over the past few hours today, Friday 28 March, Cheshire Police have received three reports of courier fraud whereby victims have been contacted by fraudsters posing as police officers. This suggests a fraudster is currently active in the local area. If you are contacted by anyone claiming to be police officer who asks you to hand over money, bank details or purchase anything to pass across to them, please contact us immediately. Do not wait to report the fraud to police. The quicker we are told, the more likely officers can identify those responsible.

Courier fraud is where a victim is contacted by fraudsters who pretend to be police officers or bank officials. This can be over the phone or in person. The victims are then told to withdraw or hand over cash or valuable items, to purchase EUROS or provide bank cards or pin numbers. These can then be collected from their home address or at another meeting place by a courier. Officers in Cheshire have seen an increase in this type of fraud offence and are reminding people that police officers would never ask anyone for money or to hand over valuable items – as a result of a fraud ‘they are investigating’, to help with ‘an ongoing investigation’, or any other reason.

DI David Jarvis said: *“It is important to note that the fraudsters can be extremely convincing. They are persistent and often target elderly or vulnerable people. Many people may think they would never be a victim to this kind of crime, however this really can happen to anyone. We react very differently when under stress and these criminals are very sophisticated and use a whole host of tactics to persuade people to follow their instructions. Please remember that police officers and bank officials will never ask you to withdraw money, purchase goods, hand over valuable items or disclose private banking details, for any reason. Help us to raise awareness by sharing this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly.”*

If you believe that you have been a victim of courier fraud, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, using a different phone to the one used to communicate with the fraudsters. You can also report information to us via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us). You can report to Action Fraud via [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

Call 999 immediately in an emergency or if you suspect a fraud is currently in progress.

Please see some crime prevention advice:

- Be sceptical of unexpected calls, texts or visits, even from those who claim to be officials.
- Don't be afraid to stop the conversation with a brief 'no, thank you'.
- Never give personal information, such as your date of birth or bank details, to unexpected callers.

- Remember, criminals will use urgency or threats to cause panic and fear. When you are under stress you are less likely to think clearly about your actions.
- The police or your bank would never unexpectedly ask you to withdraw cash, hand over valuables, or move your money to another account, as a result of fraud or any other reason.
- If callers suggest you call your local police or bank to check who they are, use another phone or hang up and ensure the line has been fully disconnected by phoning a friend or relative first, or by waiting at least five minutes. Otherwise, you may think you've phoned a number, but you're simply talking to the fraudsters again. This is a common tactic used by fraudsters.
- If a caller asks you to type your bank PIN number into your telephone handset - do not do this, as fraudsters can use technology to identify the numbers.

You can opt out of many cold calls by registering for free with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

### **Former teacher pleads guilty to sexual offences**

A former teacher from Ellesmere Port has pleaded guilty to almost 30 counts of sexual offences involving children.

Simon Clark, who previously worked at a school in the North Wales area, appeared at Chester Crown court on Friday 28 March where he pleaded guilty to a total of 29 offences, including-

- One count of inciting a child under 13 to engage in penetrative sexual activity.
- Two counts of inciting a child under 13 to engage in non-penetrative sexual activity.
- Two counts of inciting a child under 16 to engage in non-penetrative sexual activity.
- 21 counts of engaging in sexual communication with a child under 16.
- Making 26 indecent images of children of Category A.
- Make 29 indecent images of children of Category B.
- Make 81 indecent images of children of Category C.

The 46-year-old, of no fixed abode, Ellesmere Port, has been released on conditional bail and is set to return to Chester Crown Court on Friday 9 May to be sentenced.

The case against Clark began in January 2023 when police in North Wales were contacted by a concerned parent who reported that their teenage daughter had been receiving messages from an unknown man requesting naked images. Initial enquires suggested that the suspect was living in the Cheshire area, so the case was passed to Cheshire Police. An investigation was subsequently launched by detectives from the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) at Cheshire Police and during their enquiries officers established that Clark, who was working as a teacher, was the suspect in the case. A warrant was conducted at his home in May 2023 and a number of devices were seized from the address.

During subsequent analysis officers discovered that Clark had been posing as a teenager using a Snapchat account under the name 'Jamie\_jones6968'. Within the account detectives recovered hundreds of messages to a large number of girls, at least 30 of whom were under the age of 16. Many of the messages were of a sexualised nature, with Clark regularly requesting for the girls to

share indecent images of themselves. In addition, officers also recovered more than 100 category A, B and C indecent images of children from Clark's devices.

Following his guilty plea, DC Louise Murphy and DC Megan Griffiths, who led the investigation, said: *"Firstly, we would like to praise the victims in this case for the bravery and courage that they have shown throughout this investigation. Clark was a teacher, he held a position of trust, and the messages we recovered clearly showed that he was well aware that his victims were all under the age of 16, but despite this he continued his crimes in order to satisfy his own warped sexual desires. It was apparent throughout the investigation that Clark is a sexual predator who preyed on young girls, with no regard for the effects his actions would have on the victims or their families. While they will never be able to forget what he did, we hope the fact that he has admitted his crimes will provide them with some closure."*

For advice on identifying signs of sexual exploitation visit [Child Sexual Exploitation & How to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#) To report a sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be given online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Cheshire Constabulary's good practice highlighted in national report**

Cheshire Constabulary has been highlighted for its good practice in a national report looking at how forces across the UK investigate crime.

In a new report published today (Thursday March 27), 'Crime investigations: An inspection into how effectively the police investigate crime', His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found police investigations are hampered by ineffective ways of recording, assessing, allocating and investigating crime. Cheshire, however, was referenced throughout the report for its innovative practices which are helping meet these challenges to catch criminals and provide a better service to victims. This includes the work of the Constabulary's Cheshire CARES team to provide victim support, improved communication with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to resolve issues, extra training to identify vulnerable victims and opportunities for student officers to become detectives at an earlier stage.

Last month Cheshire Constabulary was praised for its excellent performance in keeping people safe, reducing crime and giving victims an effective service in its latest PEEL (Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) Inspection Report by HMICFRS. The results assessed the force as 'outstanding' in two areas, 'good' in four areas, and 'adequate' in two. Cheshire improved or maintained performance across all areas of policing since its last inspection, and was graded as outstanding in protecting vulnerable people and managing offenders and suspects. Inspectors also noted the positive changes which have been made in the Force Contact Centre to improve the performance in answering 999 and 101 calls, and the commitment to neighbourhood policing - using innovation and technology to effectively deal with criminality and anti-Social behaviour.

Following the publication of the new Crime Investigations Report, Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *"Whilst this report outlines some of the challenges facing policing nationally, it is pleasing to*

*see Cheshire referenced throughout for having good practice in a number of areas. We saw in our latest inspection the huge improvements we have made across the force, and we are continuing to work through our recommendations from HMICFRS in order to build on our strengths and be outstanding in every aspect of the service we provide. Investigating crime, catching criminals and supporting victims are absolute priorities for us, and our officers and staff will continue the hard work to keep Cheshire even safer."*

### **Man found guilty of sexual offences against child in Warrington**

A 53-year-old man has been found guilty of sexual abuse against a child in Warrington.

Andrew Mackintosh was found guilty of six counts of sexual activity with a child, which occurred between 2016 and 2022. The jury reached their verdict on Thursday 27 March 2025, following an eight-day trial at Liverpool Crown Court.

Mackintosh, of Moorside Gardens, Halifax, has been remanded in custody until he appears back at court on Wednesday 23 April for sentence.



In November 2022, a woman reported she had been sexually assaulted by Mackintosh throughout her teenage years in Warrington. This included sexual assault by touching and penetration. Mackintosh was subsequently arrested and denied the allegations during interview. However, following a thorough investigation, Mackintosh was charged with the offences.

Speaking after the guilty verdict, DC Cadman said: *"I welcome the verdict reached by the jury, which demonstrates that Mackintosh is a sexual predator who showed no regard for how his crimes would impact his victim. He was only concerned with his own twisted sexual gratification, at the expense of an innocent young girl. He then put her through the stress of a trial by cowardly refusing to admit responsibility for his sickening actions. In contrast, the victim in this case has shown immense strength by coming forward to tell police what had happened to her, and I would like to commend her courage throughout this investigation. I hope this will encourage anyone who believes they have been a victim of sexual abuse to contact us. We treat all reports of this nature extremely seriously. You can report to us through our website or by calling 101."*

### **Two men charged in relation to Indian restaurant burglary spree**

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries at Indian restaurants have charged two men in relation to the incidents.

Mohammed Alam and Masum Alom were both arrested Wednesday 26 March after officers stopped a car on the A535 Holmes Chapel Road in Chelford. Following questioning, Alam has been charged with going equipped for theft and two counts of burglary other than a dwelling. Alom has been charged with one count of burglary other than a dwelling, one count of theft, one count of going equipped for theft, two counts of driving without insurance and two counts of driving without a licence. The burglary charges relate to incidents at Indian restaurants in Walsall, on Friday 9

August 2024, and Northwich, on Saturday 1 March 2025. The theft charge relates to an incident at an Indian restaurant in Penketh, Warrington, on Saturday 22 March 2025. Alam, aged 39, of Hamsted Road, Birmingham, and Alom, aged 50, of Clews Close, Walsall, have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 27 March.

### **Crewe man who persistently harassed women over the phone jailed**

A man who made sexualised phone calls to women as they worked has been jailed.

Alastair McMullan, from Bridge Close, Wistaston appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on 21 March to be sentenced after admitting to three counts of harassment without violence, stalking, and sending offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing messages. He was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison, was given restraining orders against his five victims, and handed a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

The 39-year-old targeted women working in a shop, petrol station and beauty salon as well as a dog walker between December 2024 and March 2025. He would ring them at the business they were working at making lewd comments and asking them to come over to his. When a male colleague of one of the four women tried to intervene, he too was subjected to McMullan's vile comments as well as repeated demands to let him speak to the woman.

Insp Matt Chapman said: *"McMullan put these four women in fear. They didn't know who he was or why they had been targeted and they felt unsafe in both in their workplace and in their daily life. He made them feel like he was watching them and was alarmingly persistent in his pursuit of the women. This type of warped behaviour caused them and their colleagues real concern for safety. Hopefully, knowing that he is now subject to restraining orders and a Sexual Harm Prevention Order should help them get back to living their lives as they did before he invaded their privacy and decency. It is never acceptable, and we will stop at nothing to convict those who target anyone in this malicious and perverted way."*

### **Man charged following serious collision in Lymm**

A man has been charged following an investigation into a serious collision in Lymm.

A Hyundai Tucson was in a collision with a Lexus on Rectory Lane near to the junction with Rectory Gardens at 3.49pm on Monday 17 March. The driver of the Hyundai, Brian Robinson, 85, sadly died on Saturday 22 March. His passenger, an 80-year-old woman, is recovering at home and the family are being supported by specialist officers at this difficult time. The driver of the Lexus, a 56-year-old man from Lymm, was arrested on suspicion of driving whilst over the drug drive limit.

Paul Groarke, 56, from Northway, Lymm has now been charged with causing death by dangerous driving, causing serious injury by dangerous driving and drug driving. He appeared at Chester Magistrates on Wednesday 26 March and has been bailed to appear at Chester Crown Court on 23 April.

### **Crewe woman who stalked ex is jailed**

A woman has been sentenced after making false accusations against an ex-partner.

Jade Parker from Hungerford Road, Crewe appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 26 March to be sentenced after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice, harassment and stalking. She was sentenced to 30 months in prison.



Between 16 December 2023 and 16 February 2024 the 37-year-old made two false allegations of assault against the man, which he was arrested for on both occasions. Enquiries into her allegations proved that the man was not even in the same location as her when the assaults were meant to have happened. She was subsequently arrested for making the false allegations which had turned this man's life upside down and deprived him of his liberty.

Sgt Keith Graham said: *"Parker's actions had a huge impact on this man, his work life and his family. Not only was he arrested and kept in a cell for hours on end, he was made to feel unsafe, having to buy dashcam and doorbell cameras to protect himself from further false accusations. Allegations of domestic violence are treated extremely seriously and are investigated robustly in order to protect real victims of abuse from further harm. Using this type of crime as a weapon is unforgivable. I hope that Parker understands the impact of her actions on the victim now that she is facing the consequences of her actions."*

### **Man pleads guilty to causing grievous bodily harm to an 8-week-old baby**

A man has pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm to an 8-week-old baby.

Adam Reeves pleaded guilty to the charge of unlawfully and maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm upon a child under 10 years of age (section 20 assault) on Tuesday 18 March at Chester Crown Court. The 31-year-old of Mayfield Mews, Crewe, is due to be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 2 May.

The court heard that on 24 December 2021, Reeves messaged the baby boy's mother while she was at work to say that the baby wasn't drinking his milk and that he looked "spaced out". Reeves then made a call to 111 before taking the baby boy to A&E as he was struggling to breathe. Upon arriving at Leighton Hospital, concerns were raised by staff over an injury to the baby boy's chest. Upon further examination, staff found the baby had sustained multiple fractured ribs, a fractured pelvis, and had bruising all over his body. An investigation was launched, and officers arrested Reeves and subsequently charged him in relation to the allegations.

DC Stacey Thompson said: *"This has been an extremely difficult and emotional case for all involved, and I would like to thank the team of officers involved who have helped to secure this result and get justice for the victim and his family. What Reeves did is unimaginable, and he is now facing the consequences of his actions behind bars. I hope that that this conclusion will in some way help the victim's family find some form of closure after an incredibly difficult experience."*



## **Man charged following fatal collision near Northwich**

Detectives investigating a fatal collision near Northwich have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Graham Worthington has been charged with causing a death by dangerous driving following a collision on A533 Northwich Road, Bartington, on Friday 15 September 2023. Worthington was riding a Benelli TRK motorbike which was involved in a collision with a Ford Transit flatbed tipper near to the entrance of Dones View Farm. Sadly, 54-year-old Nicola Connolly, who was a passenger on the motorbike, died as a result of the collision. Worthington, 54, of Roscoe Crescent, Runcorn, has been summonsed to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 16 May in relation to the charges.

## **Widnes officers put the brakes on anti-social e-bike riding as illegal vehicles seized**

Officers from several teams across the Widnes area are stopping illegally converted e-bikes in their tracks as part of the Constabulary's ongoing efforts to tackling anti-social and dangerous riding in pedestrian zones.

Operation Stinging, a Widnes-based multi-department initiative designed to curb irresponsible riding of illegal e-bikes and off-road vehicles across the town, was launched last year in direct response to concerns from members of the local community.



Since its launch in June last year, the operation, similar to that of the Warrington-based Operation Hardhit, has seen Widnes Beat Management Team and the wider LPU exploring a number of methods to reduce the number of non-road legal vehicles being ridden within Widnes, with a particular focus on dangerous and anti-social driving on busy roads and heavily populated pedestrian areas. Examples of this have included executing a number of search warrants in relation to anti-social driving, with numerous electric and petrol motorbikes, as well as quadbikes, being seized. Officers have found that many arrests to dangerous driving have been linked to other forms of criminality, such as the supply of controlled drugs. Officers will use all available legislation and policing powers to prevent vehicles from returning to the streets. A motorbike, several e-bikes and a scotter were seized during a warrant on 13 March

On Friday 21 March 2025, officers further stepped up their efforts to disrupt the riders of dangerous non-road legal vehicles by conducting a multi-faceted day of action involving several teams from across the Widnes Local Policing Unit, including Motorcycle Operations, Beat Management, Roads and Crime Unit and the Northern Problem-Solving Team. Their work across the day ranged from a deployment in the area of Victoria Park and the outer areas of the town. On that day, officers seized eight vehicles which included of a mixture of uninsured e-scooters and illegally converted electric pedal cycles across the town through proactive patrols. As well as this, two men and a teenage boy were arrested on suspicion of drugs supply offences and a number of people were also reported for associated insurance and driver's license related offences.



PC Matt Salmon, who led the day of action, said: *"Our officers are constantly working to expand our efforts in tackling the growing issue of illegal e-bikes being ridden in a dangerous and anti-social manner across the northern area and I would like to thank the public in their ongoing support in this operation by coming forward and providing us with vital information that helps us put a stop to the disruption. The anti-social behaviour and other crime associated with the unsafe use of motorbikes in pedestrian areas is a priority issue, and your local Beat Teams continue to carry out high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas at key times of the day across the northern area, targeting those intent on causing a nuisance in their community. The Constabulary will always take action against anyone riding motor vehicles, both legal or illegal, in a dangerous and anti-socially. Whether that be on roads, in public spaces or in rural areas - we will also do all we can to bring them to justice."*



Anyone with information regarding the riding of electric bikes, motorbikes or quad bikes in pedestrian areas should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [give the details via the website](#). Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 [or via the Crimestoppers website](#).

### **Man jailed for historic sexual abuse in Congleton**

A man has been jailed for sexually abusing children in Congleton.

Philip Rigby, previously known as Philip Benson, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 24 March where he was sentenced to 13 years and 3 months in prison and ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life. The 55-year-old of River Street, Congleton, had earlier pleaded guilty to indecent assault on a girl under 14, and five counts of buggery. The court heard how Rigby sexually abused three children between November 1982 and November 1988.



DC Vicky Taylor, who led the investigation, said: *"I would like to commend the three complainants who have shown such bravery in this case, despite having to relive what Rigby put them through. Their detailed testimony and cooperation with the investigation was crucial in securing the convictions in this case. Rigby was entrusted to look after and protect the victims, and instead he took that trust and used it to take advantage of them, using them for his own sexual gratification. It is truly a testament to the strength, courage and determination of the complainants in this case that we have been able to bring Rigby to justice, more than 40 years since the abuse occurred. I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide them with some closure and help them with their recovery."*

*"Sexual abuse of children causes trauma to all involved, not least the victim themselves, and I urge anyone who has been the victim of a sexual abuse – no matter how long ago the incident took place – to come forward and report it. We treat all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority, and any allegations will be thoroughly investigated."*

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please call us on 101 or [visit the website](#). Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

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

50 cannabis plants have been seized and a man has been arrested after a cannabis farm was discovered in Macclesfield.

At around 8am on Saturday 22 March, officers executed a warrant at an address on Broken Cross, Macclesfield. A total of 50 cannabis plants were seized from the property, all at varying stages of growth, along with heat lighting, fans, irrigation systems, and a Cannabis Grow Bible. In addition, officers also seized further cannabis in a variety of forms, including ground cannabis and loose cannabis buds. A 48-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the production of a class B drug. He has since been released on conditional bail until Monday 23 June.



PC Callum Burness, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *“This is another great result, with a significant quantity of cannabis removed from the streets of Macclesfield. The supply and use of illegal drugs has an incredibly negative impact on the community, and our fight against this type of behaviour is never over. We will continue to do all we can to put a stop to this activity. I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter.*

There are a number 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 the 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.

## **Two men charged following burglary in Wilmslow**

Detectives investigating a burglary in Wilmslow have charged two men in relation to the incident.

At around 11pm on Sunday 23 March police were called to reports of a break-in at an address on Mobberley Road, near Wilmslow. Officers attended and discovered that unknown offenders had forced entry into the address and stolen a number of items, including three cars. Following enquiries two men were arrested by officers from Greater Manchester Police in the Stockport area. Geoffrey Alan Pearson and Dale Fitzpatrick have both since been charged with burglary with intent to steal. Pearson has also been charged with dangerous driving, driving without a licence, driving without insurance, driving while disqualified and failing to stop for officers. Pearson, 47, of Nelstrop Road, Heaton Chapel, and Fitzpatrick, 40, of no fixed abode, have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court on Tuesday 25 March.

## **Man jailed for manslaughter after stabbing in Ellesmere Port**

A 20-year-old man has been jailed after fatally stabbing a man in Ellesmere Port.

Ben Ruddock, of Kendal Drive, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port, was found not guilty of murder, but guilty of manslaughter on Tuesday 21 January 2025 following a 15-day trial at Chester Crown Court. On Monday 24 March 2025, Ruddock appeared back at court where he was sentenced to 13 years. The court found Ruddock had killed 34-year-old Lloyd Velasquez by stabbing him on Wednesday 1 May 2024.



At approximately 7.15pm that evening, Lloyd and a female friend of his attended Ruddock's home address to collect an e-bike which they believed had been stolen from an associate. There was a minor altercation between Lloyd and Ruddock. The e-bike was recovered, and Lloyd and his friend left the address. Ruddock proceeded to send multiple threatening voice notes to the woman's phone, directed towards Lloyd. Ruddock armed himself with a knife from a barbecue set and told Lloyd to meet him at a park.

At approximately 8.10pm, Lloyd and his friend were driving along Hollybush Way, Ellesmere Port, when they sighted Ruddock, who was with two other men. Lloyd exited the vehicle and a confrontation occurred. Ruddock produced the knife from his waistband and brandished it towards Lloyd, who got back into the car and left.

Lloyd's friend received further voice notes in which Ruddock made more threats to harm Lloyd. Minutes later, Lloyd and his female friend were driving along Summertrees Road when they again saw Ruddock and the two men. Lloyd exited the vehicle and an altercation ensued. During the incident, Ruddock produced the knife and stabbed Lloyd. He then ran from the scene. Paramedics and officers attended and Lloyd was taken to hospital where he was sadly pronounced dead.

Chester Crown Court heard Ruddock then attended his address and left the knife in the garden, before changing his blood-stained clothes at a nearby address. He then arranged to be driven to Hapsford Services before booking a taxi and travelling to an address in Merseyside. Officers attended Ruddock's address in Ellesmere Port that evening and seized the weapon. Following

enquiries, Ruddock was subsequently arrested during the early hours of Thursday 2 May at the address in Merseyside.

On Friday 3 May 2024, a post-mortem revealed Lloyd died from a stab wound to the chest. Ruddock was charged with murder the same day. The two men who were with Ruddock on the evening of the incident were arrested at the time but later released with no further action against them. Ruddock was instead found guilty of manslaughter.

DI Andrea Price said: *"While no sentence is going to bring Lloyd back, I hope the conclusion of this investigation and subsequent court process will help to bring some closure to his family and friends, knowing Ruddock has been jailed. This incident was entirely avoidable. Ruddock chose to arm himself with a knife and made continued threats towards Lloyd. The incident itself was over in a matter of seconds – and I hope this serves as a warning of the dangers of knife crime and the devastating consequences it can have. Instead of owning up to what he had done, Ruddock chose to flee Cheshire. Thankfully he was later arrested in Merseyside and now, as a result of our investigation and the evidence against him, he has been jailed for the manslaughter of Lloyd. Our thoughts remain with Lloyd's family and friends at this difficult time."*

A statement from Lloyd's mother reads: *"There are no words to describe the amount of hurt and heartache Lloyd's death has left, not only for his immediate family, relatives and close friends, but for his baby son, born just nine weeks after Lloyd was tragically killed on that fateful day on 1 May 2024. Everyone who mourns Lloyd knew him and loved him. Yet, his son will never have the opportunity to meet and get to know his dad, something no child should have to endure. And from Lloyd's baby's point of view, justice will never be served. Lloyd is not able to speak for himself, and sadly two lives have been ruined as the result of Ben Ruddock's horrific actions."*



A statement from Lloyd's father reads: *"The family would like to thank everyone involved regarding the investigation into the death of Lloyd Velasquez. From the police and legal team for their swift capture of the offender and work on the case, to the bystanders and ambulance service who assisted at the scene. We are so grateful for all their hard work and support throughout this awful ordeal. Our Lloyd was a much-loved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, uncle, and dad to the lovely son who he sadly never got the chance to meet. The loss of Lloyd has left a massive hole in all of our lives. We can now only cherish our memories of him."*

### **Man charged following armed robbery in Frodsham**

Detectives investigating an armed robbery at a shop in Frodsham have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Peter Thomas Lea was arrested on Saturday 22 March in relation to the robbery at a convenience store on Main Street, Frodsham, which occurred at around 4.50pm on Tuesday 18 March. The 34-year-old of Kingfisher Road, Larkfield, Aylesford, has since been charged with one count of robbery and one count of possession of a knife in a public place. Lea has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 24 March.

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### Appeal for information following disorder in Congleton

Officers investigating disorder in Congleton are appealing for information and video footage from members of the public.

At around 12am on Tuesday 25 March, police became aware of a dispute involving a number of people on Bromley Road, Congleton. Officers attended the scene and found that two people had sustained serious injuries. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and officers have already spoken to a number of witnesses. Following the incident, 6 people were arrested and have since been released on bail pending further enquiries. Now as part of ongoing enquiries officers are asking anyone who may have information which may assist the investigation to get in touch.

CI David Levins said: *"We understand the concern this incident is likely to have caused, but we would like to reassure the public that we are doing all we can to establish what took place. As part of our enquiries, we would like to appeal to anyone who witnessed the incident to get in touch with us. We're also asking anyone who was in the area around the time of the incident to contact us if they saw anything suspicious which could aid our investigation."*

Anyone with any information, CCTV, or dashcam footage in relation to the incident, is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting IML 2054858. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Appeal for information following robbery in Alderley Edge

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an armed robbery in Alderley Edge.

At around 10pm on Saturday 29 March, a 35-year-old woman was walking on the car park outside San Carlo restaurant on Wilmslow Road when she was approached by an unknown man who was wearing a balaclava. The man threatened the victim before stealing a gold Rolex watch and a Birkin handbag. He then made off on foot in the direction of the Texaco garage and onto Davey Lane. Thankfully the victim was uninjured as a result of the incident. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information to come forward.

DI Ross Hamilton said: *"This was a terrifying ordeal for the victim, which left her extremely shaken up and I would like to reassure residents that we are doing everything we can to establish the identity of offender. There will be an increased police presence in the area, and we would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to an officer. As part of the investigation I am keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and thinks they have witnessed something suspicious, or even may have seen the offender before or after the robbery. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may have CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation."*

Anyone who has information, CCTV or dash cam footage is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary online [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or via 101 quoting IML 2058703. Information can also be provided by calling Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>.



### **Police release CCTV in Macclesfield retail theft investigation**

Police have released a CCTV image of three men they would like to speak to in relation to a theft at a supermarket in Macclesfield.

At 4.12pm on Friday 21 March three men went into Sainsbury's in Cumberland Street and took three shopping bags which they then put a significant amount of Gillet and Nicorette products which they stole from the shelves. They then forced their way out of the store through the no exit barriers. When challenged by a security guard they assaulted him and fled on foot in the direction of Westminster Road.



PC Callum Burness said: *"We are dedicated to tackling retail crime and protecting staff from violence in the workplace. We have been carrying out a number of enquiries to find those responsible, including checking CCTV, and I would urge anyone who recognises the men in the CCTV image to contact us so that we can progress with our investigation."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting 25000238524. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Police appeal following fatal collision in Alsager**

Police are appealing for information from the public following a fatal collision in Alsager.

At 7.22am on Friday 28 March, police received reports of a collision at the junction with Crewe Road and Close Lane, Alsager. The collision involved a Lexus NX and a fire engine, which is believed to have been responding to an emergency call. The driver of the car, a 59-year-old woman, suffered serious injuries. She was taken to Royal Stoke Hospital and was sadly pronounced dead. Her next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. Officers are now appealing for any witnesses to contact Cheshire Police.

Sgt Andrew Dennison said: *"As part of our investigation into the circumstances of this tragic incident, we would like to appeal to anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to police to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who has any CCTV or dashcam footage. You can report information to [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML-2057282. Our thoughts remain with the woman's family and friends at this sad time."*

### Police appeal for help in finding wanted Widnes man

Police are appealing for help in locating a wanted Widnes man.

Ellis Clegg, 18, from Widnes is wanted after failing to appear at court. He has links to Widnes, Runcorn, Merseyside and Blackpool. Clegg is described as white, with brown hair, 5 feet 10 inches tall and of slim build. Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101 or 999 if sighted and quote reference 25000077539. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



### Police appeal following robbery in Warrington

Police are appealing for information from the public following a robbery in Warrington.

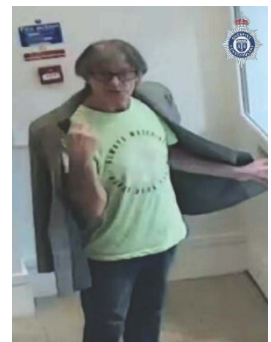
At around 1.15pm on Tuesday 25 March, police received reports of a robbery at a barbershop in Knutsford Road, Latchford. During the incident, an unknown suspect entered the premises, believed to be armed with a knife, and made off with a quantity of cash. The suspect is described as male, of a slim build and is believed to be of Asian origin. He was wearing a dark pair of tracksuit bottoms with white stripes down the leg, black trainers, and a long sleeved jacket. The suspect fled the scene in the direction of Grove Street and then towards Slater Street and on to Oxford Street.

DS David Gerrard said: *"Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and anyone with any information or who witnessed what happened is asked to contact Cheshire Police. We would also urge anyone with any relevant footage, including CCTV or dashcam footage, as well as anyone who saw anything suspicious around the time of the incident to get in touch with us. You can contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML-2055149."*

### CCTV image released following theft from Chester Art Gallery

Police investigating reports of the theft of a sculpture from an art gallery in Chester have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to speak to.

At around 3pm on Monday 10 March an unknown offender stole a sculpture worth around £1,800 from a gallery on St Michaels Row in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to.



PC Darren Franks, of Chester LPU, said: *"Enquiries are currently ongoing and as part of our investigation, we would like to speak to the man pictured in the CCTV image. If anyone recognises this man, please contact us via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting occurrence number 25000208493. I would also like to appeal directly to the man pictured to come forward."*

Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.



### **CCTV image released following burglary in Warrington.**

Detectives investigating a burglary at an address in Warrington have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to identify.

At around 6.30am on Sunday 2 February an unknown offender gained entry into an address on Roome Street. The man was disturbed by a number of dogs at the address and fled the scene empty handed. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to speak to as part of the investigation.



DC Vicky Hancox, of Warrington CID said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we're committed to doing all we can to identify the person responsible. As part of our investigation we're keen to identify the man in the CCTV image as he may hold vital information. If you recognise the man, please contact us. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV image to get in touch."*

Anyone with information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting 25000088426.

### **Appeal for information following fatal collision on M6 motorway**

Police are appealing for witnesses, information and video footage following a fatal collision in on the M6 motorway.

At around 6.30pm on Monday 24 March, officers responded to reports of a collision on the M6 motorway southbound close to Junction 16 at Crewe. Officers, along with colleagues from the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and National Highways, attended the scene and found that the collision involved a red Hyundai, a silver BMW and a black Mercedes. Despite the best efforts of all involved, the driver of the Hyundai, a 67-year-old woman from Liverpool, was sadly pronounced dead. The driver of the 51-year-old man from Staffordshire, sustained minor injuries and was taken to hospital as a precaution. The driver of the Mercedes, a 41-year-old man from Stoke-on-Trent, sustained no injuries. The motorway was closed whilst the incident was managed, with it being fully reopened at around 2am on Tuesday 25 March. Enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances and officers would now like to ask anyone who witnessed what happened to get in touch with them.

Lead Investigator DI Steve Griffiths from Cheshire Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"The M6 is one of the main routes that runs through Cheshire and this incident would have occurred at a busy time of day, so we are urging anyone who witnessed the incident to come forward. We would also like to ask any motorists with any dashcam footage from around the time of the incident to get in touch. You can report information to us via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML- 2054666."*

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

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

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw](https://facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw)



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

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: [www.cheshirenw.org](https://www.cheshirenw.org)