

CNWA Monthly Newsletter



We have Facebook and Instagram pages which we post to daily. Below is a selection of the posts from this month which you may find useful. If you would like to see these posts (and additional ones) in real time please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/cheshirenwa>

[SCAM ALERT] Nationwide gift card scam - Full details in the post below

[Cheshire Police](#)

WARNING | We're urging residents to remain cautious following reports of a nationwide gift card scam. 'Gift card draining' involves the suspects copying the codes to the gift cards prior to the legitimate purchase of the card.

This means that once a genuine customer buys the card and tops it up, the suspects have automated bots running in the background which allow them to drain the funds and use the card before the genuine customer is able to use it themselves.

There have been a number of reports of the scam across the country, including in Cheshire.

For more details visit - <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/.../warning-issued-in.../>



This takes 30 seconds but could protect your identity 🙌

Many people don't realise their email or personal details may already be involved in a data breach. 🗉

If your information is out there, it can be used for:

- ! Scam emails
- ! Fraud attempts
- ! Account hacking

The good news?

You can check, and take action.

- ✓ Use strong, unique passwords
- ✓ Enable two-factor authentication
- ✓ Stay alert to suspicious emails

Crime isn't just happening on the streets anymore, it's happening online too.

💬 Share this to help someone stay safe

🎥 Video credit: @cheshirepolice

[#CyberAware](#) [#StaySafeCheshire](#) [#NeighbourhoodWatch](#) [#OnlineSafety](#) [#ScamAwarenes](#)



Social Media Scam Awareness

Scammers are increasingly targeting young people through social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat. They may pretend to offer jobs, prizes or even friendships to gain trust and personal information.

Here are a few simple ways to stay safe online 📱

- ✓ Verify profiles and offers – Fake accounts often copy real brands or influencers. Always double-check before responding. 📄
- ✓ Never share personal or financial information – This includes addresses, phone numbers, passwords or bank details. 📄
- ✓ Be cautious of “too good to be true” opportunities – Many scams involve promises of quick money, prizes or easy jobs. 📄
- ✓ Talk to someone you trust – If a message or request feels suspicious, speak to a parent, teacher or trusted adult before replying. 📄
- ✓ Use privacy settings – Keeping social media profiles private can reduce contact from unknown accounts. 📄

Staying informed helps protect not only you but your whole community. If you believe you've been targeted by a scam, report it to Action Fraud:

🔗 <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

#CyberhoodWatch #OnlineSafety #Cheshire #NeighbourhoodWatch



[POLICE APPEAL] Can you help [Winsford Police](#) with the location of Callum Talbot. Full details below.

[Winsford Police](#)

Appeal | Do you know the whereabouts of Callum Talbot?

The 30-year-old is wanted after failing to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court for Driving offences.

Talbot is described as white, around 5' 4" tall and of average build. He resides in Wolversey Place, Winsford, and is known to have a number of associates in the local area.

If you know where he is, please don't comment on here, call us on 101, or visit <https://orlo.uk/j1J8g>, quoting reference number 26000154436.



🚒 Could an emergency vehicle get down your street?

It's something we don't always think about, but how we park can make a real difference in an emergency.

Fire engines and ambulances need at least 3 metres (about 10 feet) of space — roughly the width of two cars with doors closed.

Before you park, ask yourself:

- Can an ambulance or fire engine get through?
- Am I blocking a junction or driveway?
- Could my car slow down someone needing urgent help?

Taking a few extra seconds to check your parking could save a life. Let's all do our part to keep Cheshire streets safe and accessible.

#ThinkBeforeYouPark #CommunitySafety #CheshireNWA #CheshireFire



[INFORMATION ALERT] It's National Bystander Awareness Day today.

13 March is

National bystander awareness day

What is the bystander effect?

The bystander effect occurs **when the presence of others discourages a person from intervening** in an emergency, against a bully, or during an assault or crime.

What is the bystander effect?

Why is it important for a bystander to act?

Why is it important for a bystander to act?

Crimes and harmful behaviours like sexual harassment and hate crime are **under-reported by the victims**.

They can escalate if not addressed.

How can you be an active bystander?

1. Don't expect others to act first
2. Take responsibility to do something
3. Empathise with the victim
4. A small act of kindness can make a big difference
5. Ask others for support

How can you be an active bystander?

Find out about free bystander training on our website

[Neighbourhood Watch Network](#)

It's horrible when you see someone being harassed or behaviour that makes you uncomfortable, but you don't know what to do.

Perhaps you are worried you might make things worse? Maybe you hope someone else might help? It's a stressful situation and it can feel risky.

But there are tips and techniques you can use, and tackling this behaviour early on can prevent it from escalating into something more serious.

📍 If you are based in London we have some free Bystander training available

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/activebystander>

📍 Not in London? The [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#) hosts free online harassment training

<https://www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/Events/Category/events...>

[#bystanderintervention](#) [#nationalbystanderawareness](#)

Thinking about starting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

Warrington South Police recently shared this helpful guide from PC Henderson explaining how simple it can be to get started.

Safer streets start with neighbours looking out for each other. Join using the link in bio

Warrington South Police

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 🗣️ | After some foot patrol on Ashbery Drive in Appleton Thorn, I noticed a neighbourhood watch sign up on a post. It is proven that a residential community that looks out for one another is statistically safer. Here's how to get started:

- 1 Speak to a couple of neighbours who are interested. You only need 2–3 households to begin.
- 2 Visit the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association website (<https://orlo.uk/VUuKh>) to register your street or check if a scheme already exists.
- 3 Choose a coordinator – just a point of contact, not a leader.
- 4 Set up a simple way to communicate, like a WhatsApp or Facebook group.
- 5 Agree what the group is for, mainly about looking out for each other, reporting concerns properly, sharing crime prevention advice.
- 6 Order your free Neighbourhood Watch materials, including signs and window stickers.
- 7 Stay connected with your neighbours and local policing team who can offer support when needed.

Neighbourhood Watch is about community, not confrontation.

A few minutes of organising now can make a real difference to your street. If you'd like support getting started, feel free to message us here.

- PC Henderson



🗣️ What's a VPN – and do you really need one?

You may have heard the term VPN, but what does it actually do?

A VPN (Virtual Private Network) helps protect your online privacy by encrypting your internet connection. This makes it harder for hackers, advertisers or other third parties to see what you're doing online.

📱 A VPN can be useful if:

- You're using public Wi-Fi in cafés, hotels or on public transport
- You want to reduce online tracking
- You're adding an extra layer of protection to your devices

However, a VPN isn't a complete security solution. You should still:

- ✓ Use strong, unique passwords
- ✓ Turn on two-factor authentication
- ✓ Keep your devices updated
- ✓ Stay alert to scams and suspicious links

If you're considering using a VPN, make sure you research providers carefully and choose a reputable service.

For independent advice, Which? has a helpful guide explaining the pros, cons and what to look out for.

Online safety is about layers of protection — not just one tool.

[#OnlineSafety](#) [#DigitalSecurity](#) [#CheshireNWA](#) [#CommunitySafety](#)



Worried about a partner's past — or concerned about someone close to you?

You have the right to ask.

Under Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme), you can request information from the police about whether a partner or ex-partner has a known history of violence or abuse.

This information can help someone make informed decisions about their safety and wellbeing.

You can apply if:

- ✓ You're concerned about your own partner or ex-partner
- ✓ You're worried about a friend or family member who may be at risk

The scheme has helped protect thousands of people by giving them vital information when they need it most.

If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999.

For confidential support, you can also contact the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247 (24/7).

Stay informed. Stay safe.

[#ClaresLaw](#) [#DomesticAbuseAwareness](#) [#CheshireNWA](#) [#CommunitySafety](#)



Top Tool Tuesday!

Knowing the right number to call can save time and reduce stress.

⚡ Power cut? Call 105

105 is a free, nationwide helpline that puts you straight through to your local electricity network operator. They can:

- Let you know if there's a fault in your area
- Provide updates on restoration times
- Share advice to help you stay safe until power returns

It's free to call from mobiles and landlines, and it's easy to remember.

📱 Take a moment to save 105 in your phone — so you're prepared if you ever need it.

[#CommunitySafety](#) [#CheshireNWA](#) [#KnowWhoToCall](#)



Hello March!

It's your friendly Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch reminder to press the button and test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms today.

It only takes a few seconds — and it could save a life.

While you're there:

- ✓ Check the batteries
- ✓ Check the expiry date (most alarms last around 10 years)
- ✓ Replace any that are out of date

A working alarm is a safe alarm. Let's protect our homes, our families and our neighbours.

Take a minute today — and encourage someone else to do the same.

[#FirstOfTheMonth](#) [#TestIt](#) [#FireSafety](#) [#CarbonMonoxideAwareness](#) [#CheshireNWA](#)

