

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 14 December 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Gym-locker fraudster who stole bank cards sentenced

A man who stole several bank cards from a gym locker and fraudulently used them to buy gift cards has been sentenced.

Mark Lindon, of Columbia Court, Uddingston, Scotland, appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 2 December, where he was jailed for 18 weeks. Lindon, 35, had pleaded guilty to five counts of fraud by false representation, theft by finding, theft from a motor vehicle and failing to provide a drug sample at the same hearing. During the hearing, the court was told that on the evening of 15 October, the victim in this case visited a gym in Handforth Dean and, after getting changed, placed his car keys and a watch he had been wearing into his shoe and put them in a locker. After he finished his session, the victim left the premises and returned to his car parked nearby, only to realise that a laptop bag kept in the boot was gone. In this bag was his wallet, and the victim also noticed that the watch that had been in his shoe had gone missing. Going on to check his online banking, the victim found that his cards had been used at a supermarket nearby.

He subsequently contacted Cheshire Police, and enquiries at the supermarket uncovered that five separate transactions on his cards had been made, all purchasing gift cards. Caught on self-checkout till cameras at the supermarket was Mark Lindon. The 35-year-old would additionally be caught on CCTV leaving the gym and walking over to where the victims' car was parked, unlocking it and opening the boot and then leaving again with the laptop bag. Lindon was subsequently identified as the suspect through facial recognition software and, following a number of enquiries to locate him, he was arrested on 1 December. Despite refusing to provide any account to police during his interview, due to the overwhelming amount of evidence against him, Mark Lindon pleaded guilty to all the charges facing him on his first court appearance.

PC Emily Mackintosh, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"We live in an age now where nearly every property and shop is covered by some form of video surveillance footage – it appears that Lindon forgot this piece of common knowledge when he chose to take several items simply did not belong to him. When investigating this case, online banking data told us that the victims' cards had been used at a local supermarket. All we had to do was find out by who, using the CCTV footage that was readily available. Lo and behold, it was Lindon, caught red-handed. Despite refusing to answer our questions in custody, the amount of irrefutable evidence against him resulted in him pleading guilty at the first opportunity."*

Dealer who hid class A drugs in his shoe jailed

A drug dealer from Widnes, who attempted to hide a quantity of cocaine in his own shoe, has been jailed for over five years following a warrant at his address.

Michael Kavanagh appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 14 November, where he was jailed for five years and seven months after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs. During his hearing, the court was told that on Thursday 18 September, officers from Widnes Beat Management Team conducted a warrant at an address in the Graham Road area of the town. Previous enquiries conducted by officers revealed that the address was linked to the sale of class A drugs, namely cocaine and ketamine, with one of the occupants of the address having been seen frequently leaving the property on a push bike to distribute the produce. This bike rider would later be revealed as Kavanagh.



During the search of the address, officers located the 31-year-old asleep in one of the bedrooms alongside several items, including multiple rolls of cash notes and a box of cannabis vapes. Several expensive watches and a number of bank cards were also found. PD Sana, who was promptly deployed to the scene to search the address with her handler, also successfully sniffed out a trainer that contained a hidden wrap of white powder on a shelf above Kavanagh's bed. All of these items, as well as his bike that was found in the kitchen, were subsequently seized and taken into custody, alongside Kavanagh.

When interviewed by officers, Kavanagh refused to answer any questions relating to the items found within his home or as to whether he was the owner of the bike thought to be linked to their enquiries. Despite his refusal to provide any comment, officers were able to further link him to the distribution of class A drugs in the local area through text message data found on his mobile phone. These messages, sent to various recipients, referred to the sale of "flake" (cocaine) as well as price listings for his products. It was this overwhelming evidence that resulted in Kavanagh pleading guilty to the charge on his first appearance at court in October 2025.

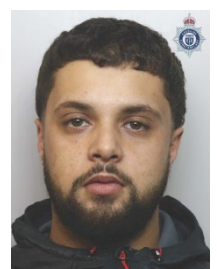
Sgt Pickering, of Widnes LPU's Neighbourhood team, said: *"Whilst we did give Michael Kavanagh a rude awakening during the warrant at his address, we found a substantial amount of evidence within his bedroom that directly linked him to the sale of class A drugs. Kavanagh thought he was smart by attempting to conceal some of his product from us in one of his shoes, but he did not account for the deployment of our very own PD Sansa, whose unmatched detection skills proved him wrong. I welcome this sentence handed to Kavanagh. It means that we have not only removed an individual who appeared to be a key player in the local drug trade for a considerable length of time, but our streets will be just that little bit safer as the distribution of illicit substances in this area will have been considerably disrupted."*

Man jailed for drugs offences in Chester

A man who supplied both class A and B drugs in Chester has been jailed for more than six years.

Feras Al-Aghbari, of Wordsworth Crescent, Chester, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 11 December where he was sentenced to six years and nine months. The 28-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of cannabis, cocaine and ketamine, plus possession of criminal property.

On 16 October 2025, officers executed a warrant at Al-Aghbari's home address. He wasn't present but a search of the property revealed scales, 191g of cannabis, 4.5g of cocaine, more than £19,000 in cash hidden under the bed, and a number of mobile phones.



Analysis of the phones showed evidence of being involved in the supply of drugs. Officers established that Al-Aghbari had supplied cannabis, cocaine and ketamine between May 2025 and October 2025. Following the warrant Al-Aghbari handed himself in at Blacon Police Station on 21 October 2025 after becoming aware that he was wanted by police. He was later charged in relation to the offences.

DS Roy Wellings said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Al-Aghbari, who handed himself in to police knowing that the evidence was stacked up against him. He was in possession of a large quantity of cash, clearly reaping the benefits of dealing drugs which we know wreak havoc on communities. If you have information or intelligence about drug dealing in your area please don't hesitate to contact us on 101 or via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us – and we will do the rest. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."*

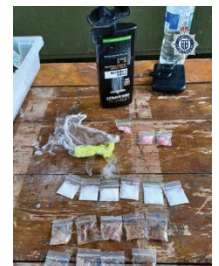
Creamfields drug dealer faces Christmas behind bars

A man from Pwllheli is facing Christmas behind bars after he admitted taking illegal drugs to a music festival in Cheshire.

Caleb Jones appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 9 December where he was sentenced to two years and four months in prison. The 21-year-old, of Ffordd Mela, Pwllheli, had previously pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs (MDNA) and possession with intent to supply class B drugs (ketamine).



At around 2.15pm on Friday 25 August 2023, Jones attempted to enter the Creamfields music festival via the North Gate entrance. As he walked towards the entrance, he indicated to security that he was in possession of illegal drugs. Jones was taken to a nearby area where he was searched and found in possession of drugs which had been hidden inside a bottle of shampoo, a bottle of shower gel and a bottle of talcum powder. In total officers recovered 85 MDMA tablets, 7.42 grams of crystalline MDMA and 4.34 grams of ketamine. The total value of the items seized was £1,250.



All of the items were seized by officers and Jones was refused entry to the festival. An appointment was also made for him to attend a voluntary interview. During questioning Jones stated that he was attending the festival with approximately 20 friends, and he had agreed to take all of the drugs into the event for them to share. However, messages recovered from his mobile phone showed that Jones was actively dealing illegal drugs and had been planning to deal at Creamfields.

Following the sentencing PC Tony Icke said: *"While Jones may have admitted his wrongdoing before he entered the festival, what he did was illegal. His defence was that the drugs he was found with were for social supply to friends at the festival for no reward or payment, however, the messages from his phone clearly showed that he was an active dealer and was planning to sell the drugs at the festival. As a result of his actions he can now look forward to spending Christmas behind bars where he'll be able to reflect upon his behaviour. Creamfields festival is a huge policing operation, and we work with the event organisers and security staff to prevent illegal drugs getting into the site. So let this be a warning, while a large majority of Creamfields festivalgoers are respectful, those smuggling drugs into the event will be charged and dealt with by the courts."*

Illegal cigarettes and vapes seized during joint Warrington Trading Standards and Warrington Police Operation

Warrington Neighbourhood Team and the Force Intelligence Bureau with Warrington Trading Standards and Home Office Immigration on Thursday 11 December targeting stores across Warrington linked to the sale of illegal tobacco, vapes and cigarettes and immigration crime.

As part of the operation officers conducted visits to four premises across the town. These included stores on Sankey Street, Buttermarket Street, and Winwick Street. A large quantity of illicit and illegal products was seized during the operation, including illegal cigarettes, loose tobacco and illegal vapes. Many of the items had been hidden in sophisticated concealments, which were out of sight within the shops. However, the products were quickly located and seized by officers. In total officers recovered 9,300 illicit cigarettes, 13kg of illicit tobacco, and 28 illegal vapes, which if legitimate would have had an estimated value of £21k.

Lord Michael Bichard, Chair, National Trading Standards, said: *"The illicit tobacco trade is driven by organised criminal gangs and poses serious risks to local communities, especially young people. Since its launch in January 2021, Operation CeCe – a National Trading Standards initiative in partnership with HMRC – has removed 69 million illegal cigarettes, 19,750kg of hand-rolling tobacco and almost 175kg of shisha products from sale, helping to clamp down on this illicit trade and protect communities and honest businesses across the UK."*

Cllr John Kerr-Brown, Warrington Borough Council cabinet member for housing services and licensing, said: *"This operation sends a clear message that illegal tobacco and vaping products have no place in Warrington. Working alongside our partners, we will continue to focus on tackling those supplying illicit products across the town. I would urge anyone with concerns about illegal sales to report them – your information is vital in helping us keep our communities safe."*

Insp Lee Connor, of Warrington Neighbourhood Policing Unit, said: *"We and our community partners work very hard to tackle those attempting to sell illicit products in Warrington and while the vast majority of businesses across the borough are operating within the law, unfortunately there are some who feel it's acceptable to break the law, as we have seen at the premises we've visited yesterday. However, there really is nowhere to hide when it comes to distributing products that are illegal for a reason and today's results are the product of the excellent work of our officers and partners who are committed to bringing organised criminals, as well as those who exploit the most vulnerable people in our society, to justice. With that in mind, we cannot take action like this without your support. Information submitted to us from members of the public is vital to our investigations, so I would encourage anyone with any information or concerns about illegal activity in their area to get in touch."*

Dispersal order in place in Chester to keep residents and festive visitors safe

A dispersal order will be put in place across Chester city centre this weekend as we enter the last few weeks before Christmas.

There is expected to be increased footfall in Chester city centre this weekend as people enjoy Christmas festivities. A dispersal order will therefore be in place from 4pm today (Friday 12 December), until 4pm on Sunday 14 December. The dispersal order will allow officers to ban



anyone from the area for up to 48 hours to prevent disorder. It has been imposed under Section 34 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, making it an offence for anyone to return to a specific area for up to 48 hours. The area covered by the order is highlighted in the map attached. The map is also provided to anyone issued with a direction to leave.

Inspr James Wilson said: *“As a result of the increased footfall we are expecting in Chester, there will be an increased police presence in the city centre and a dispersal order in place to keep everyone safe. The powers will enable officers to deal with incidents at an early stage before they escalate. I would also continue to urge residents and businesses to report any issues to us.”*

Anyone with information about anti-social behaviour in their area is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

Constabulary set to donate £50,000 to community-based charities this Christmas

Christmas is coming early for five Cheshire-based charities this year as Chief Constable Mark Roberts has announced they will each receive a share of £50k to support their work within our local communities.

Last Christmas, Chief Constable Mark Roberts launched the Cheshire Constabulary in the Community Christmas Initiative and announced that charities were set to receive a donation on behalf of the Constabulary to go towards their efforts in supporting communities across Cheshire. As we step into Christmas this year, representatives from the Constabulary will be visiting five charitable organisations from across the county to present them with a share of £50,000 that will go a substantial way to helping them continue their fantastic work into 2026.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Cheshire Constabulary, and I am absolutely delighted to announce that we will again be supporting the Cheshire Constabulary in the Community Christmas Initiative. This is our opportunity to say thank you to those who are committed to serving our communities, with residents across the county at the heart of all the work that they do and ensure those they work with have a wonderful Christmastime and receive the continued support they need well into the new year. The share of this £50,000 that we are donating this festive season comes from funds recovered under the Police Property Act and will go directly to supporting the communities the officers and staff of Cheshire Constabulary serve around the clock, 365 days a year.”*

In the run-up to Christmas, we will be sharing the work of the five chosen charities as they are presented with their share of the £50,000 by the Chief Constable and representatives from across the Constabulary.

Two people charged in relation to the supply of illegal drugs in Congleton.

Detectives investigating the supply of illegal drugs in the Congleton area have charged two people.

Robert Machin, 49, and Sophie Brown, 22, were both arrested by the Op Apollo team on Thursday 11 December as part of an ongoing investigation into the supply of illegal drugs. Machin, of Albany Mill, Canal Street, Congleton, has since been charged with one count of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine), four counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs

(heroin and cocaine) and one count of possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis). Brown, of the Parklands, Congleton, has been charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine), four counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and cocaine) and one count of possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis). The pair have been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 12 December.

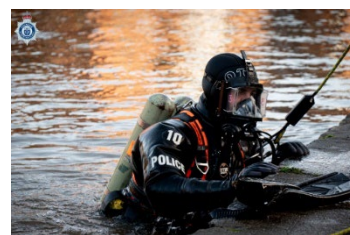
High visibility operation takes place in Chester in run-up to Christmas

Officers in Chester have conducted a high visibility operation in the city centre to provide reassurance to members of the public as footfall increases during the festive season.

On Wednesday 10 December, officers were out in force engaging with residents, businesses, and visitors, offering advice and support and conducting foot patrols around key areas of the city centre. The day of action attracted a lot of attention from passers-by thanks to mounted patrols. The two Greater Manchester Police horses carried out patrols in the city, stopping regularly to engage with the public. More four-legged friends travelled to the city centre to carry out training at various venues. The Digi dogs put their noses to good use practicing sniffing out digital evidence.



The Roads and Crime Unit carried out drink and drug driving checks, the Underwater Search Team proactively searched areas of the canal, and overt armed patrols were also utilised. The Safety Bus was on hand, with officers engaging with the public to give out crime prevention advice. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service also attended to provide safety advice.



Project Servator deployments took place during the operation. This involves uniformed and plain-clothes officers who are specially trained to spot the tell-tale signs that someone is planning or preparing to commit an act of crime. Servator officers engaged with businesses, partners, and members of the public to remind them to report anything suspicious – especially as Chester gets busier as we approach Christmas - to build a network of vigilance where everyone looks out for each other.

Inspector James Wilson, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"This operation provided a visible policing presence in the city centre and across Chester to provide reassurance to residents, businesses and visitors, while disrupting criminality. Many people stopped to ask what we were doing, and we had lots of positive feedback – especially about the two police horses who drew quite the crowd!"*



"We hope the policing presence serves as a reminder of the various tactics we use to support members of the public and disrupt criminal activity in the area every day. We are continuing operations like this in Chester throughout December while footfall is busy, but we'd like to remind everyone to look out for each other and report anything which doesn't feel right to police and security staff – you are our extra eyes and ears on the ground. If you have any information about

criminal activity in your community, please contact Cheshire Police online or call 101. In an emergency, always call 999."

Reminder to Warrington residents to secure vehicles as dark nights continue

As we approach the end of the year and the winter months are well underway, residents are being asked to ensure their vehicles and property are properly secured.

In the winter months, police often see a rise in reports of vehicle-related burglaries and thefts, as opportunistic thieves look to exploit the longer dark nights. With this in mind, car owners are being encouraged to take an extra few moments of their day to ensure their vehicles are locked and any high-value items left inside are hidden from view or correctly secured.

Leaving vehicles insecure on driveways overnight or even leaving them momentarily when going back into your house to get something are perfect examples of how easy it is to turn your back for a moment and leave your car vulnerable to thieves. Along with this, leaving high-value items such as jewellery, fragrances, phones and tablets on dashboards, in cupholders or on passenger seats also acts as an incentive for anyone passing by to force entry into your vehicle and take them. Consider taking them inside or hiding them from view in your boot or glovebox.

If you have a garage, use it to keep your vehicle properly secure. Alternatively, if you are parked on the drive or roadside, think about how you could improve lighting, or consider doorbell cameras or CCTV to deter any trespassers from accessing your property. If your car has keyless entry, make sure your key and any spares are stored well away from the car. If you can, turn off wireless signals on your fob when it is not in use.

CI Rob McLoughlin, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, added: *"I'd urge car owners to be vigilant; to review any security measures they have in place and to take steps to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime. Car thieves often scout for desirable cars in the day before returning to steal them at night, so I also ask residents to keep an eye out for suspicious behaviour in this regard and report any suspicions to us. Additional security devices such as mechanical steering locks and trackers are also effective in protecting vehicles from thieves. Tracking devices in particular are very useful as they can help police locate any vehicles should they be removed from your property. As always, if you see any suspicious activity in your area, you should report it to police on 101 or via the Cheshire Police website."*

Scaredy-cat burglar fled from Widnes home after being confronted by fearless feline

A scaredy-cat burglar has been jailed after admitting sneaking into a property in the town.

Callum Quirk, 27, from Thirlmere Way, Widnes appeared at Chester Crown Court 11 December to be sentenced after pleading guilty to burglary at an earlier hearing. Quirk was jailed for 35 months. On the evening of Tuesday 9 September 2025 Quirk snuck into a house on McClellan Place, Widnes by climbing through a downstairs window. The victim heard footsteps in the hallway approaching her bedroom and hid in her wardrobe in sheer panic as she continued to listen to him approach. The terrified woman then called 999 to report that



somebody was in her house. The 13-year-old cat, Nexi, took this moment to leap off the bed and run out into the hallway confronting Quirk before he could get into the bedroom. This led to Quirk taking fright and fleeing empty-handed from the property.

Widnes response officers swiftly attended the scene, but Quirk had already fled. The hunt for him began with CCTV and forensic opportunities gathered at the scene. This led to Widnes proactive CID identifying the suspect as Quirk. He had been captured on CCTV at the victim's front door preparing to carry out the burglary and then captured on further CCTV climbing through an open downstairs window to enter the house. Quirk originally denied the offence to officers when interviewed however further forensic work on a discarded can found at the scene found his DNA present, and a forensic footwear report matching trainers seized from Quirk's feet to the CCTV footage nailed Quirk to the crime.

PC Stuart Beswick from Halton Proactive CID said: *"The impact burglary can have on a victim should never be underestimated. This woman was terrified in her own home – a place where she should rightfully feel safe. The effect on victims can be long-lasting and even lead to some wanting to move house once their safe space has been violated by these thieves. Career criminal Callum Quirk knows this all too well having been convicted of previous burglary dwelling offences. Knowing the impact that burglary has Quirk made a conscious decision to target yet another victim and cause further harm in the community of Halton. This time he met his match in Nexi the cat. When confronted in the victim's hallway Quirk ran scared from the property empty-handed. The bravery of Nexi is to be commended in this case and her actions most certainly stopped the victim having a terrifying confrontation with Quirk and kept her belongings safe from him."*

PC Beswick continued: *"The identification, arrest and prosecution of Quirk has been a real team effort, and I would like to thank my colleagues in the Proactive CID, Crime Scene Investigators and the forensic footwear unit for providing key evidence that resulted in Quirk being left with no option but to plead guilty to his crime. This team effort led to Quirk being put behind bars for a significant period of time and as a result the community of Halton is now a safer place. I would like to reassure residents that we will continue to target and bring to justice anybody involved in burglary."*

Cheshire police cracking down on drink and drug drivers this Christmas

Increased police patrols are taking place across Cheshire in a crackdown on drink and drug driving to keep the county safe over the festive period.

The operation runs alongside the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Op Limit, bringing together police forces across the UK in a targeted and collaborative effort to tackle drink and drug driving - aiming to reduce serious harm on the roads and deter reckless behaviour. This year there is an increased focus on drug driving, which continues to be a growing concern across the county. Officers are carrying out enhanced patrols, intelligence led stop checks and roadside testing as part of a proactive approach to identify offenders and prevent serious collisions.

Drink and drug driving remains a policing priority, and officers are working closely with partner agencies to do everything possible to address dangerous and selfish behaviour. Since Monday 1 December, there have been 55 people arrested for drink or drug driving across the county. The crackdown also coincides with the government's Safer Streets Winter of Action – which runs from Monday 1 December to Saturday 31 January. The national campaign follows on from the Safer

Streets Summer Initiative and focuses on night-time economy safety and VAWG, retail crime and ASB

CI Cameron Taylor from the Roads and Crime Unit, said: "Every year, drink and drug driving ruins lives, and is completely avoidable. Collectively with our partner agencies, we are doing all we can to stop this reckless behaviour and make our roads safer for everyone. Our officers are trained to identify drivers who may be under the influence and have the technology to detect and test for alcohol and drugs at the roadside. If you are found to be over the limit, you will be arrested. There are no excuses."

"On average, more than 1,800 people are killed or seriously injured on UK roads each year as a result of drivers being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. That is 1,800 too many. We are urging people to think before getting behind the wheel and make safe alternative travel arrangements this Christmas."

Drivers are urged to plan ahead and organise safe transport before drinking alcohol, whether that is arranging a lift, ordering a taxi, using public transport or have a designated sober driver. One bad decision can change lives forever. Cheshire Police will not hesitate to take action against anyone who puts others at risk on the road.

Three men arrested for money laundering following M6 stop check

Officers from Cheshire Police have recovered more than £12,000 cash and arrested three men following a stop check on the M6.

At around 12.30am on Thursday 11 December officers from the Roads and Crime Unit were on patrol on the M6 northbound when they were overtaken by an Audi which was travelling at around 90mph. Due to the speed, police followed the car and stopped the vehicle on the slip road at junction 22. Upon approaching the car, the vehicle smelt strongly of cannabis and checks shows that the driver was not insured.

Following the discovery officers conducted a search of the vehicle and the three occupants resulting the in recovery of £12,160 cash. The driver of the car, a 29-year-old man from Birmingham was subsequently arrested on suspicion of driving without insurance and money laundering. The two passengers from the vehicle, a 34-year-old man from Birmingham and a 21-year-old man from Smethwick, were also arrested on suspicion of money laundering.

PS Michael Volynchook of the Northern Area Investigation Team said: *"This investigation is in the early stages; however, I am sure that these arrests provide reassurance for residents in the area and the wider community. I also hope that it acts as a warning to other offenders who are thinking about using the Cheshire road network to commit crime."*

All three men remain in custody at this time where they are being questioned by detectives.

Man charged with multiple offences

A man from Macclesfield has been charged with multiple offences.

Nathan Machin, of Earlsway, Macclesfield, was arrested on Sunday 7 December 2025. The 34-year-old has since been charged with rape, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault by beating and using threatening and abusive words or behaviour. These relate to incidents involving one female victim between September and December 2025. Machin has also been charged with attempted section 18 assault, criminal damage, and assault by beating of an emergency worker. These relate to assaults on police officers at Middlewich Custody Suite on Sunday 7 December. Machin appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 9 December 2025 where he was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 6 January 2026.

Man charged following Sandbach Robbery

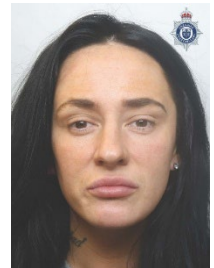
Detectives investigating an armed robbery in Sandbach have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Daniel Eckersley has been charged with robbery, driving without insurance, possession of a knife and drink driving. The 39-year-old of West Way, Little Hulton, Worsley, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 8 December where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 5 January 2026. The charges relate to an armed robbery on Dragons Lane, Sandbach, at around 9.50pm on Saturday 6 December.

Woman handed CBO in Crewe

A woman from Crewe has been handed a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order.

Casey Lee, 34, appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Saturday 6 December where she was handed the CBO, which will remain in place until 5 December 2027. Lee is prohibited from entering any Asda store in Crewe and must not enter Grand Junction Retail Park.



Inspr Dan Welch, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"CBOs are preventative orders with strict restrictions that are imposed in a bid to stop offenders committing further crimes. As such, Lee is now banned from areas and shops in Crewe. It is an offence to breach the terms of a CBO and we would urge anyone who witnesses her breaching the order over the next two years to contact us via our website or by calling 101 to report it."*

Prolific shoplifter jailed after targeting stores in Wilmslow, Alderley Edge and Handforth

A prolific shoplifter who repeatedly targeted stores across Wilmslow, Alderley Edge and Handforth has been jailed.

Edward Stokes appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 4 December, where he was sentenced to 15 months in prison. The 39-year-old of Jane Street, Salford, had previously pleaded guilty to nine counts of theft from a shop. The court heard how between Tuesday 1 July 2024 and Thursday 16 October 2024, police received multiple reports of shoplifting from Waitrose, Next and Wells Pharmacy, all involving the same man. An investigation was launched by local officers and



following enquiries Stokes was identified as the offender. In total it is estimated that he stole more than £5,000 worth of items from the three businesses.

Following the sentencing, PC Emily Mackintosh, of Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team said: *"This outcome reflects the ongoing commitment of Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team to tackle retail crime and protect our local businesses. Cheshire Police recently supported Safer Business Action Week, an initiative intensifying our efforts in supporting the retailers of our county and further cracking down on prolific shoplifters like Stokes."*

"In the run up to Christmas, when we know our retailers are going to be increasingly busy with an increased footfall of shoppers, we will remain proactive in targeting those who feel they are above the law and think they can get away with stealing items worth substantial amounts without facing any form of repercussion. I would urge anyone who has any concerns regarding shoplifting, or any other form of retail crime, in their town centres to speak to their local beat team and let them do the rest."

Ex-footballer sentenced for malicious communications

Ex-footballer Joseph Barton has been sentenced for malicious communications.

Barton, of Fox Bank Close, Widnes, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court today, Monday 8 December, where he was sentenced to six months in prison suspended for 18 months. He must also complete 200 hours of unpaid work, 20 rehabilitation activity requirement days and will also need to pay more than £23,000 in prosecution costs. The 43-year-old was previously found guilty of sending grossly offensive communications following a 5-day trial.

During the trial, the court heard how Barton subjected three victims to a slew of grossly offensive messages between January and March 2024. Barton targeted the victims, Eniola Aluko, Lucy Ward, and Jeremy Vine, over social media on twelve separate occasions. The incidents were reported to police and following an investigation, a case file of evidence was presented to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a charging decision. Barton was charged with 12 counts of malicious communications. He pleaded not guilty on 14 March 2025, and the case was sent for trial. A jury subsequently found Barton guilty of six counts of sending grossly offensive electronic communications with intent to cause distress or anxiety.

Following the verdict, a Cheshire Police Spokesperson said: *"We hope that the conclusion of this case will serve as a reminder to Barton, and others alike, that using social media with the intent of sharing abusive and hateful messages, does indeed come with its own consequence. Barton was well aware that his derogatory and deliberately offensive social media posts would be seen by hundreds, if not thousands of people, and yet he showed no regard or consideration for how this would impact on his victims and their wellbeing. The sentence handed to him today comes with a number of strict conditions and should he breach these in any way he may face the prospect of time behind bars."*

Three people charged in relation to Macclesfield burglary series

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries across east Cheshire have charged three people in relation to the incidents.

Zachary Sanderson, Keaton Samuel and Sogol Shiraz, have all been charged with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary. The charges relate to 21 burglaries across Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Knutsford and Mobberley, involving 21 offences which occurred between August 2025 to December 2025. Sanderson, 26, of Walter Street, Oswaldtwistle; Samuel, 34, of Netherton Road, Manchester; and Shiraz, 27, of Tarvin Avenue, Heaton Chapel, have all been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 8 December.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following ATM attack in Warrington

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an ATM attack at a retail store in Warrington.

Sometime between 12.25am and 12.50am on Friday 12 December, four unknown men travelling in a dark coloured car arrived at Marks and Spencer on Europa Boulevard, Warrington. The men exited the vehicle armed with tools, including a crowbar and a large angle grinder, which they used to gain entry into the store. Once inside the building they attacked an ATM machine and stole a quantity of cash. The men then left the scene shortly before 12.50am.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information that may aid the investigation.

Detective Sergeant Christian Gordon said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we are committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our investigation we would like to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or saw anything suspicious in the area. We are also keen to speak to anyone who may have CCTV or dashcam footage around the M&S car park and Ikea area between 12.25am and 12.50am. I'd urge anyone with any information – no matter how small – to get in touch."*

Information and video footage can be submitted online [via the website](#) or by calling 101, quoting IML 2231730. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal following robbery in Crewe

Officers investigating a robbery in Crewe are appealing for anyone with any information to come forward.

At 8.50am on Tuesday 9 December, police received reports of a robbery near to Coleridge Way, Crewe. The incident occurred at 8.15am in an alleyway off Coleridge Way, leading towards Earle Street, in which a bag was stolen from a woman. The bag is a beige Michael Kors shoulder bag

which has small 'MK' logos covering the bag in a brown-coloured font. The bag also contained a Michael Kors purse. The suspect is believed to be a man, of a stocky build, who was wearing a black balaclava and riding a dark-coloured pedal cycle.

DC Lauren Audley said: *"We are currently conducting enquiries to trace the person responsible, and we would ask any witnesses or those with information to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any relevant CCTV, dashcam or video doorbell footage, or anyone who sees the bag matching the description provided. Anyone with any information should contact 101, quoting incident number IML-2229824, or report through our website. Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."*

Appeal for vigilance following purse thefts in Warrington

Officers are appealing for people to be vigilant following recent purse theft in the town centre.

On Wednesday 3 December one woman discovered her purse had been taken while she was in the Cancer Research shop in Sankey Street, while another was in Golden Square Shopping Centre when she discovered her bag was open and cash had been taken.

Insp Lee Connor, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"While everyone is busy Christmas shopping, its it is easy to be caught up in the moment. That's why we're urging people to remain vigilante and keep your eye on your bags and on your surroundings. These criminals can be incredibly good at distracting you and using other methods to steal your belongings - so stay alert and make life difficult for thieves."*

There are a few simple precautions people can take to deter opportunistic thieves:

- Carry your purse in a zipped-up bag and always keep the bag close to you and where you can see it.
- Attach an audible alarm to your purse/wallet, such as purse bells.
- Never leave your bag in a shopping trolley or basket.
- Avoid withdrawing large amounts of money if not necessary.
- Be aware of people around you, following you, or getting too close to your person and your belongings.

Anyone who sees someone acting suspiciously around others or has any information about incidents of this nature is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101.

Appeal for information following reports of suspicious activity in Hartford

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following reports of suspicious activity in Hartford.

At around 8.30pm on Sunday 7 December, a dark coloured SUV type vehicle stopped on Chester Road, opposite Willows Veterinary Centre. A woman then attempted exit the vehicle by the passenger door. As she was doing so, a man also got out of the vehicle and pushed the woman back into the car. The man shouted to witnesses that the woman was drunk. He was described as Asian, around 5' 7" tall, and of a slim build. He had dark hair, a goatee beard and was wearing a white t-shirt. Following the incident the man got back into the car and drove off on Chester Road, towards

Northwich. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information to come forward.

DS Paul Cullen, of Western CID, said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we're doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. At this stage we have been unable to trace the occupants of the vehicle and as part of our ongoing enquiries we're keen to hear from anyone with any information. We're also asking residents on Chester Road, Beach Road, and Moss Lane to check their CCTV and video doorbells to see if they have any footage which may aid our investigation. The same goes for anyone who was driving in the area between 8pm and 9pm and may have captured footage of the vehicle involved. I would also like to appeal directly to the occupants of the vehicle to get in touch directly so we can clarify what took place and confirm that you are all safe and well."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML-2229016 or visit [Appeal for information following reports of suspicious activity in Hartford | Cheshire Investigate | Community Portal](#) Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following serious assault in Northwich

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage after a man was seriously assaulted in Northwich.

At around 7.20pm on Sunday 7 December, a 33-year-old local man was involved in an altercation with four unknown men near to the back of Witton Chimes, on Venables Road. As the altercation continued, the group travelled up Witton Street, towards Station Road. Police were called to the incident at around 7.40pm and on arrival the victim was found with serious injuries near to Northwich Methodist Church. The man was treated at the scene by paramedics before being taken to Leighton Hospital where he remains at this time.

The suspects are all reported to have been white men who were wearing balaclavas and dark tracksuits. Following the incident, two of the men are believed to have been collected by an unknown person in a silver 4x4, while the other two men fled on foot. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information to come forward.

DS Paul Cullen of Western CID said: *"The victim in this case has sustained serious injuries and we're committed to doing all we can to identify the people responsible. As part of our investigation we're urging anyone who witnessed the incident to get in touch. I'd also ask residents and businesses on Witton Street, Albion Road, Chester Way, and Church Road to check their CCTV and video doorbells to see if they have any footage which may aid our investigation. The same goes for anyone who was driving in the area between 7pm and 8pm and may have captured footage of the incident or the offenders fleeing the scene – this includes motorists who were travelling on Leicester Street and Chester Way."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML-2228987. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for witnesses and footage following fatal collision in Chester

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision in Chester.

At 12.19pm on Monday 1 December, police received reports of a collision in Meadows Lane, Saughall, Chester. The incident involved a yellow Ford KA which had collided with a house. The driver of the car, a 78-year-old woman, and the passenger, a 90-year-old woman, were both taken to hospital with serious injuries. Sadly, the passenger has since died. Her next of kin were informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver remains in hospital at this time.

DS Russell Sime: *"This is an incredibly sad incident, and we have been working to establish the exact circumstances of what took place. To aid us, we are asking anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to police to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have any relevant dashcam, CCTV or video doorbell footage. You can contact Cheshire Police on 101 or by visiting cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting 25000981393. Our thoughts remain with the family and friends of the woman who has died at this time."*

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

Facebook page: facebook.com/cheshirenwa



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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