

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 13 April 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Man charged in relation to Mobberley Burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary at a residential address in Mobberley have charged a man in relation to the incident.

On Tuesday 4 March police were called to reports of a break-in at an address on Blakeley Lane. The caller reported that a quantity of jewellery had been stolen from the property. Following enquiries a 29-year-old man from Manchester was arrested in relation to the incident. Macauley Coutts has since been charged with one count of burglary dwelling. Coutts, of Greatfield Road, Manchester, has been remanded in custody and set to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court on Saturday 12 April.

#### Men jailed following dangerous pursuit across Cheshire

Two men who led police on a 90-minute pursuit across three different police forces areas have been sentenced.

Jake Fagan and Connor Mitchell appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 10 April, both charged with multiple offences.

Fagan, 29, of Exeter Road, Ellesmere Port, was sentenced to four years and eight months. He pleaded guilty to section 47 assault, possession of a knife, criminal damage, possession with intent to supply class A drugs - cocaine, handling stolen goods, dangerous driving and driving without insurance. He is also disqualified from driving for five years and 28 months.

Mitchell, 29, of Farmdale Drive, Elton, Chester, was sentenced to three years and six months. He pleaded guilty to possession of a knife and possession with intent to supply class A drugs - cocaine.

Shortly before 2.45pm on Thursday 18 July, a motorist reported a road rage incident in Deansgate, Ellesmere Port, in which two suspects on a motorcycle had blocked the road and threatened her with a knife and smashed a rear window of her vehicle. The suspects then fled the scene on the motorcycle.

Cheshire Police's Roads and Crime Unit, along with armed patrols, attended the scene, guided by NPAS. A pursuit commenced and NPAS took the commentary from the air to aid the ground patrols. The pursuit lasted for almost 90 minutes and travelled from Ellesmere Port into Merseyside, across to Chester, then on to Frodsham, crossed into North Wales, then back into Chester. This included driving at speeds of 90mph and driving contra on the M56.



A stinger tactic was deployed in Grovensor Street, Chester, and another in Nicholas Street, near to Watergate Street, which led to the arrest of both the rider and passenger of the motorcycle after a short foot chase. Fagan was identified as the rider while Mitchell was the passenger. The suspects discarded a bag during the pursuit which was later recovered and found to contain class A drugs.

During interview, Fagan punched and headbutted a wall, causing two holes, and was further arrested for criminal damage. The pair were quickly charged with multiple offences. The assault charge Fagan was sentenced for also related to an incident on 14 July 2024. A man had been in Eton Road, Ellesmere Port, when two men on a motorcycle approached him. They made threats, before Fagan assaulted him.

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DC Demi Brownrigg said: *"I welcome the sentences handed to Fagan and Mitchell who clearly showed no regard for the safety of members of the public by leading police on an incredibly dangerous pursuit. The pursuit crossed into three separate police force areas, however, thanks to our officers working together, we were able to keep up with the suspects and eventually bring their alarming behaviour to an end. This included bringing them to court for class A drugs offences. This should serve as an example that if you commit crime in Cheshire, we will find you, and we will utilise all of the resources at our disposal to protect the communities that we serve while bringing you to justice."*

### **Operation Machinize: More than 60 premises targeted across Cheshire as part of NCA-coordinated crackdown**

Throughout March officers from Cheshire Police have taken part in Op Machinize, a national operation targeting barbershops and other cash-intensive businesses.

Cash-intensive businesses such as barbershops, vape shops, nail bars and car washes are often used by criminals to conceal the origins of illicit cash. Crime gangs use them to enter cash into the financial system, mixing legitimate funds with criminal profits to hinder subsequent law enforcement investigations. They are known to buy such businesses using the proceeds of crime, which provides them with a legitimate income and opportunities for money laundering. As part of the operation, officers from the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) and the Foreign National Offender Teams at Cheshire Police worked alongside colleagues from trading standards, Immigration and HMRC.

In total, 66 premises were visited, with officers engaging with more than 100 individuals - all of whom were checked for any outstanding offences, immigration status and potential modern slavery risk. Three arrests were made as part of the operation, with further individuals and premises identified by Immigration and HMRC. A number of premises suspected of being linked to human trafficking, Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime were also identified during the operation. Intelligence development for these premises is now ongoing and will result in Modern Day Slavery investigations. A significant seizure of illegal vapes was made at one premises and the investigation has been referred to Trading Standards.

DS Rich Garrett, from the PVP Exploitation Team at Cheshire Police, said: *"We work hard to tackle criminals operating in our communities and Operation Machinize demonstrates just some of the work that we do day in, day out. While many of these businesses are operating legitimately and within the law, we have seen links to drug trafficking and distribution, organised immigration crime, modern slavery and human trafficking, firearms, and the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes. I hope that the results from this operation will provide some reassurance to our communities and also act as a warning to those who are considering taking part in this type of activity."*

### **Man charged following burglary at Warrington Mosque**

Officers investigating a burglary at a mosque in Warrington have charged a man in relation to the incident.

On Monday 7 April police were called to reports of a break-in at a Mosque on Arpley Street. The caller reported that a mobile phone and jacket had been stolen from the premises. Following enquiries, a 43-year-old man was arrested in relation to the incident. David Roberts, of Clapgate Crescent, Widnes, has since been charged with one count of burglary other than a dwelling. Roberts has been released on police bail and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates Wednesday 30 April.

### **Man on the run subjected to proceeds of crime application for his part in a cannabis grow**

Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit has secured a POCA order against a man who has been on the run for six years.

Matthew Edward Anderson, 33, was arrested in 2017 by Ellesmere Port CID for his involvement in a large-scale Cannabis grow located at the Brimoto Recycling Centre on Rossbank Road. Anderson, along with others, was identified through extensive phone analysis and CCTV work and came to be charged with possession with intent to supply a controlled drug class B (Cannabis), the predicted yield of the grow being in excess of £370,000.00. He was to be sentenced for his part in the criminal enterprise but failed to attend court and has been on the run ever since, despite police and national agency efforts to locate him.

DS Keeley Powles from the Economic Crime Unit said: *"I started a POCA investigation and found Anderson had equity in a flat he owned in the area and this was subsequently secured. However, in 2019 prior to sentencing Anderson went on the run to Spain which meant that the confiscation proceedings couldn't be continued. The flat was subsequently sold under repossession and the equity was paid over to Cheshire Police where it has since been sitting in a holding account. On 8 April at Chester Crown the judge agreed that the Proceeds of Crime application could be heard and using section 28 under the legislation, the court proceeded in absence of the defendant and in absence of sentencing."*

*"The Proceeds of Crime case was successful with Anderson's benefit from his crimes being £108,351.06. The proceeds of the house sale exceeding £30,000 can now be released. Criminal funds*

*paid towards a defendant's confiscation is fed back into the investigating police force. Anderson may have escaped justice, but he hasn't escaped his POCA."*

### **Man charged with shoplifting offences in Bollington**

Officers from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit have charged a man in connection with shoplifting offences in Bollington.

Christopher Downes was arrested on Tuesday 8 April. The 61-year-old, of Bollington Road, was subsequently charged with theft from a shop and breach of a criminal behaviour order. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in on Thursday 3 April at a convenience store in Bollington. Downes was remanded in police custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Wednesday 9 April.

### **Over 100 taxis checked under joint licencing operation across Cheshire East**

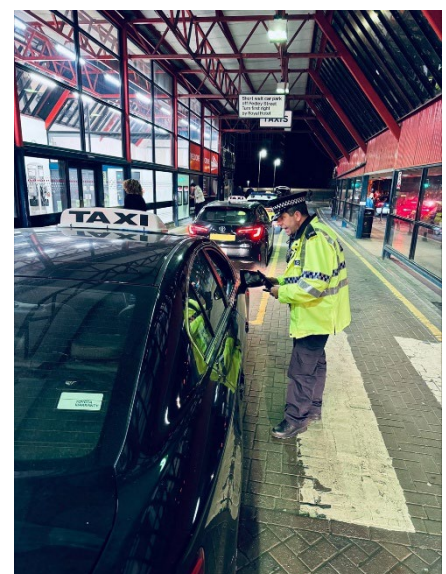
Nantwich Beat Team joined forces with Cheshire East Council to ensure taxis were operating lawfully in the area.

As part of a wider operation to keep residents safe when out and about, Nantwich Beat Team, with support from Crewe Local Policing Unit (LPU), the Roads and Crime Unit, Streetsafe, the Special Constabulary, and Cheshire East Council, launched Operation Withdraw across the town to ensure that the taxis ferrying visitors and residents were correctly licenced. The operation, which was conducted on Friday 4 to Saturday 5 April, revolved around officers conducting inspections of both locally licenced taxis and those licenced in other council areas that operated in Cheshire East. Whilst this is not illegal for taxis in licenced in other areas to operate in Cheshire East, it makes it much harder for drivers and vehicles to be safety checked by local authorities to ensure that they are suitable to transport the public.

Officers were deployed to Crewe Railway Station, a main hub for taxis registered both in and outside of Cheshire East. Whilst at the ranks, officers from both the LPU and Cheshire East Council engaged with the drivers and conducted a number of safety checks, including making sure all vehicle lights were fully operational, drivers were in possession of their IDs and, where appropriate, CCTV cameras were in operation. Operational activity took place across the entire Eastern area from Nantwich to Macclesfield and every town in between. In total, officers checked over 100 taxis during the operation in order to engage with drivers and increase visibility alongside partners in tackling unregistered and unsafe taxis operating in the area.

Sgt Matthew Stonier, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said:

*"Operation Withdraw was launched by the Nantwich Beat Team along with local partners including*



*taxi licencing officers for Cheshire East, in order to combat unlicensed passenger vehicles. The aim of the operation is to provide reassurance to those using taxis in Crewe, that they are safe to use and road worthy with enforcement action being taken where appropriate. It was really reassuring to see that so many of the taxis that operate in our area were compliant with the appropriate legislation. Our officers will continue to support the legitimate taxi drivers in Cheshire East and ensure those enjoying a day out here can return home safely."*

### **Man found guilty of murder following stabbing in Northwich**

A man has been found guilty of murder after fatally stabbing his friend in Northwich.

Matthew Higgins has been found guilty of the murder of 37-year-old David Eaton, who was killed on Saturday 28 September 2024 in Northwich. Higgins, 36, of Brook Lane, Northwich, previously denied the charge but was found guilty on Wednesday 9 April 2025 following a two-and-a-half week trial at Chester Crown Court. He pleaded guilty to a separate charge of assaulting an emergency worker. Higgins will appear back at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 15 April 2025 for sentence.



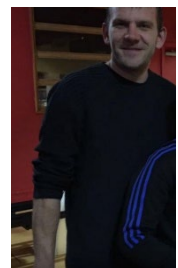
At around 3.35pm on 28 September 2024, police were called to reports of someone being stabbed at an address in Brook Lane, Northwich. This was Higgins' address, who was friends with David. The pair had been together at the property along with a 41-year-old woman and all three were intoxicated. Neighbours reported hearing a female screaming and then being approached in the street by Higgins, who had blood on his hands, and told them 'I've stabbed my mate'.

Police and paramedics attended the scene where they found Higgins with David inside the address, attempting to administer first aid. He told police, 'he fell on the knife'. Officers and paramedics provided first aid however despite their best efforts, paramedics pronounced David dead shortly after 4pm. He died from two stab wounds to the heart.

Both Higgins and the woman were arrested on suspicion of murder. Higgins became aggressive while in custody and headbutted an officer. Several officers were required to bring him under control. The woman was ultimately released with no further action against her, while Higgins was charged with murder, and assaulting an emergency worker, on Monday 30 September 2024.

Following the guilty verdict, the family of David Eaton said: *"Regardless of the verdict, what happened has changed our lives forever. It has been a distressing and emotional few weeks. We have lost a son, brother, dad and nephew and nothing can change the devastation caused to our family."*

DI Eleanor Atkinson added: *"This was a senseless crime which could easily have been avoided. Higgins let his anger after an argument get the better of him, foolishly choosing to pick up a knife – with devastating consequences. Despite his admissions at the scene which were heard by multiple witnesses, Higgins refused to accept responsibility for David's death and put his family through the ordeal of a trial. I welcome the verdict reached by the jury and*





*although nothing will bring David back, I hope the fact that Higgins has now been held accountable for his death will help to bring some closure to his friends and family. Our thoughts remain with them at this time."*

### **Three arrested following warrants in Macclesfield**

Three people have been arrested on suspicion of drugs offences after officers in Macclesfield conducted several warrants in the town.



At around 6.30am on Friday 4 April, officers in Macclesfield conducted a warrant at an address on Cedar Grove. Inside the address, officers located a quantity of cannabis, cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Also found in the address was a 23-year-old man and a 49-year-old man, who were subsequently arrested at the scene on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs (cocaine and cannabis). The pair have since been released under investigation.

Following the warrant on Cedar Grove, officers conducted a second strike at an address on Manor Park, Knutsford, at around 7.12am. Here, officers located a 23-year-old man, who was also arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs. He has since been released under investigation.

CI for Macclesfield, Zoe Bowden, said: *"Our officers take an evidence-based proactive approach, working around the clock to remove harmful and illegal drugs, as well as those intent on supplying them, from Macclesfield's streets. We cannot execute warrants such as these without vital information from members of the local community, so I would encourage anyone with any concerns about drug supply or cultivation in their area to contact their local beat teams or come to us directly via the website or on 101."*

### **Over £10m lost to investment fraud in Cheshire in 2024**

Data from Action Fraud reveals that people aged 35-44 were more likely to be targeted for investment fraud, while those aged 55-64 suffered the greatest financial losses.

Investment fraud occurs when criminals approach individuals, often out of the blue, and persuade them to invest in schemes or products that are either worthless or entirely fictitious. Fraudsters may claim to offer opportunities in foreign exchange, gold and other valuable metals, overseas time-shares, or cryptocurrency, promising unrealistically high returns that far exceed normal market trends.

In 2024, Cheshire Constabulary received 298 reports of investment fraud – with victims losing a total of £10,334,447. Nationally, Action Fraud received 25,843 reports related to investment fraud, with victims collectively losing £649,062,146. While the number of reports represents a 7 per cent decrease compared to 2023, the total financial loss saw a 13 per cent increase highlighting that fewer but potentially larger scams were in operation. Cryptocurrency continued to be the most common asset fraudsters claimed to be investing in, accounting for 66 per cent of all reports - a 16 per cent increase from the previous year.

DS Christopher Jacques, of the Economic Crime Unit at Cheshire Police said: *“Investment fraud is a huge concern to us, and the figures released by Action Fraud act as a stark reminder of the scale of this type of crime. Here in Cheshire, we work hard to raise awareness of Investment Fraud and ensure that those responsible are held accountable. I hope that the figures released by Action Fraud will raise awareness of this type of crime and I urge people to remain vigilant and follow the guidance.”*

DSupt Oliver Little, from the Lead Force Operations Room at the City of London Police, said: *“Investment fraud continues to be a key focus area for the City of London because of its prevalence - which is evident from the stark figure of £649m that has been lost last year. It may seem obvious, but we would really emphasise the age-old ‘if it is too good to be true it almost certainly is’ mantra. Investment fraudsters will often be incredibly skilled in what they do and will spin a convincing and alluring pitch of how much money they can make you, in often a short amount of time. Do not be seduced by the promise of making “easy money” as the world of stocks and shares is anything but. Whether it’s £200 or £200,0000, our advice is always the same - do your research independently, check if the company is FCA registered and never take financial advice via social media or from people who have approached you out of the blue. If it were that easy to make profit on an investment, we would all know about it.”*

Social media remained a key tool for fraudsters, with 36 per cent of all investment fraud reports linked to a social media platform. As was the case in 2023, WhatsApp was the most frequently used platform by scammers, appearing in 40 per cent of reports, followed by Facebook (18 per cent) and Instagram (14 per cent). Given this trend, individuals should be extremely wary of anyone contacting them via social media or messaging platforms who claims to be an investor or trader who can guarantee high returns. The data also showed that fraudsters frequently impersonated well-known public figures to build credibility. Out of 537 reports, the most commonly used identity was Martin Lewis (44 per cent), in all likelihood due to his reputation as a trusted financial expert. Victims of fraud using his name ranged in age from 31 to 93, but 68 per cent of cases targeted those aged 60 and above, a demographic that may be more familiar with Lewis through his frequent appearances on daytime television. The top three impersonated figures remained unchanged from



2023, with Elon Musk (40 per cent) and Jeremy Clarkson (8 per cent) also being used to deceive victims.

These findings underscore the growing sophistication of investment fraud and the importance of public awareness. Fraudsters continue to exploit digital platforms, social media, and the reputations of trusted figures to convince victims into handing over money. As always, if an investment opportunity seems too good to be true, it almost certainly is. As a general guideline, legitimate investments in the FTSE 100 typically yield annual returns of 4-5.5 per cent. Any individual or company promising guaranteed returns of 10 per cent, 12 per cent or even 20 per cent should be treated with extreme caution, as such claims fall well outside standard market expectations.

What to look out for:

- Being approached via social media: the use of social media platforms as an enabler was identified in 36 per cent of the reports, with WhatsApp being the most prevalent. If you are approached, out of the blue, by someone telling you they can make you guaranteed returns on an investment, then block the number and don't respond. For example, on Whatsapp you can do this by pressing and holding the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.
- Investment opportunities that mention cryptocurrency, trading or stocks and shares: cryptocurrency and trading (unspecified) alone made up 75 per cent of all commodity types mentioned in Action Fraud reports. These two categories hugely outweigh traditional investment in commodities like natural resources (oil and gas), energy, precious metals, alcohol and forex (foreign exchange) that were mentioned in fraud reports.
- An advert which uses a well-known celebrity: over £10m was lost in 2024 to fraudsters who convinced victims to invest by using an influential identity like Martin Lewis, Elon Musk or Jeremy Clarkson. AI generated images and videos were produced which helped to promote the bogus investment schemes.

How to protect yourself from investment fraud:

- Investment opportunities: don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into investing on the spot.
- Seek advice first: before making significant financial decisions, speak with trusted friends or family members, or seek professional independent advice.
- FCA register: use the [Financial Conduct Authority's \(FCA\) register](#) to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

For more information about how to invest safely, please visit: <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart>

What to do if you've been a victim of investment fraud:

- You could be targeted again - fraudsters sometimes re-establish contact with previous victims claiming that they can help them recover lost money, this is just a secondary scam. Hang up on any callers that claim they can get your money back for you.



- Identity theft: if you suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit rating quickly and easily online. You should do this every few months anyway, using a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.
- Legal advice - in many cases of fraud there is a close correlation between what may be considered fraud and the civil tort of deceit and/or breach of contract, for which there are civil litigation options. We would always advise that you seek professional legal advice or contact Citizens Advice to understand your options.

You can also contact the Financial Conduct Authority's consumer helpline on 0800 111 6768 or report suspicious businesses or individuals by using the reporting form on their website. If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040. Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

### **Man charged following investigation into Crewe assault**

A 22-year-old man has been charged following an investigation into three assaults near Valley Park in Crewe.

On the evening of 5 April an 18-year-old woman was assaulted by a man. He was confronted by the woman's father and a woman who was also assaulted. Enquires led to an arrest of a man who has now been charged with three counts of assault by beating. Mohammed Aziz from Crewe will appear at Chester Magistrates on 9 April.

### **Somerset man who was found with £50k worth cocaine in the boot of his car during a stop check is ordered to repay over £425k worth of ill-gotten gains**

A 62-year-old man from Somerset, who was caught with thousands of pounds worth of class A drugs by officers conducting a stop check on the M6 southbound, has been ordered to hand over £425,000 worth of illegally sourced funds that will now go towards frontline policing.

Gary Boone, 62, was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Chester Crown Court on 21 September 2023 after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine) and possession of class B drugs (cannabis).



It was heard that in July 2023, police colleagues from Merseyside Police reported that they believed a car being driven by Boone may be transporting a quantity of drugs. Later, Boone's Grey Mazda CX-5 was spotted by officers from Cheshire's Roads and Crime Unit on the M6 motorway, travelling southbound near Knutsford. The Mazda was subsequently stopped on the motorway and officers conducted a search of the vehicle, finding a sack and sandwich bag, both containing quantities of white powder, and a small cellophane wrap containing cannabis. A mobile phone and a quantity of cash were also seized by officers, with Boone being subsequently arrested.

The substances seized during the search were later examined by forensic officers and confirmed to be 500g of cocaine, with an estimated street value of up to £50,000. The substance found in the sandwich bag was also confirmed as cocaine, with an estimated street value of up to £1,350. But that was not the end of the story as, following Boone's conviction, Accredited Financial Investigators (AFI's) from the Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit launched a confiscation investigation under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

As part of their enquires, officers uncovered that Boone had over £150,000.00 that was being kept outside of the UK in an overseas bank account in Bangkok. Along with the cash seized and other property, his total assets amounted to £179,490.00. In total, their investigation ascertained that Gary Boone had received well over £380,000.00 into his bank account through the dealing of class A and B drugs.

On Monday 7 April 2025, the confiscation hearing took place at Chester Crown Court, where officers were successful in obtaining an order for £425,169.10, an estimated value of Boone's crimes, that will stay with him for life or until it has all paid off.

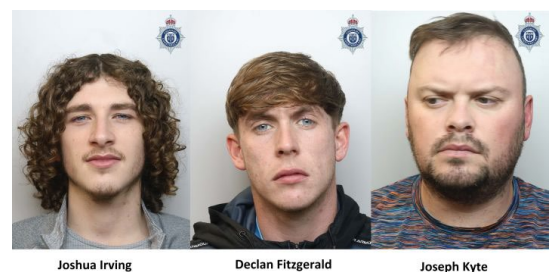
Financial Investigator Kirsten Jones, who led the successful confiscation investigation, said: *"Gary Boone, who is still serving a four-year sentence as a consequence of his actions, will have the cloud of this £425,000-plus payment hanging over his head for the rest of his days, or until he has been able to pay the full amount off. The confiscation order we have been able to secure against Boone today is the work of an extensive investigation from financial investigators that sends a clear message that the Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit takes the recovery of the proceeds of criminals' ill-gotten gains very seriously to ensure dealers like him do not benefit from their illegal activities."*

DS Keeley Powles, of the Economic Crime Unit, added: *"The fantastic investigation by FI Jones means that the £179,490.00 worth of assets found within the offshore bank account is now available and will be paid immediately. This is a huge amount and it's rare in cases to find such high value assets that we are able to strip away from the criminals. We will continue to use the POCA's asset recovery powers to work tirelessly to hit those who engage in the supply of drugs and over criminality and strip them of the wealth they have derived from their illicit activities."*

### **Three men jailed following Wilmslow burglary series**

Three men who carried out car and key burglaries in the Wilmslow area have been jailed.

Declan Fitzgerald, Joseph Kyte and Joshua Irving all appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 7 April where they were sentenced to a total of five years in prison. Fitzgerald, 21 of Dorwood Avenue, Manchester, was sentenced to two years in prison; Kyte, 33 of Charlestown Road, Manchester, was jailed for two years and Irving, 21, of HMP Altcourse, was sentenced to 12 months in prison. All three men had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary and two counts of theft of a motor vehicle.



The court heard how on the morning of Wednesday 14 August 2024, police received two separate reports from residents on Racecourse Road and Alveston Drive who reported that their cars had been stolen overnight. Both callers reported that they had awoken to find that unknown offenders had forced entry into their homes and then stolen cars which were parked outside the addresses, a Mini Countryman Cooper and a BMW 14.

An investigation was launched and during ANPR analysis officers noted how both of the stolen cars had travelled out of Wilmslow towards Manchester in convoy with a third vehicle – a BMW 320i. Details of the convoy car were shared with other forces and on the evening of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, the car was spotted by officers from Greater Manchester Police on the A580 near Swinton. Police stopped the car and arrested the four occupants, which included Fitzgerald, Kyte and Irving.

All of the men were transported to custody and questioned, while searches were also conducted at their homes in Manchester. During the searches officers recovered a vehicle grabbing key from Irving's home, which are often used by burglars. Meanwhile, while analysing their mobile phones officers discovered a number of messages which linked the men to the theft of cars, these included one message where Fitzgerald told his girlfriend he was out 'robbing cars'.

Officers also established that the BMW the group were travelling in was a hire car, and through telematics data they were able to locate the stolen Mini in the Warren Drive area of Hale. The data also showed that on the morning of the burglaries the hire car had travelled from Kyte's home to Irving's address before travelling to Wilmslow. Following the incidents the car then returned to the suspects' homes in Manchester.

Following the sentencing, DS Williams from Macclesfield CID said: *"It is clear that Fitzgerald, Kyte and Irving are all prolific offenders and I welcome the sentences that have been handed to them by the courts. Burglary is a horrific offence, to wake up and find that an intruder has been inside your home, the one place we should all be able to feel safe, is something that nobody should have to experience. Thankfully, as a result of the evidence we gathered, Fitzgerald, Kyte and Irving had no option but to plead guilty to the offences and they are all now facing the consequences of their actions."*

*"I hope the fact that the trio are now behind bars facing the consequences of their actions gives some closure to his victims, and the local community. I also hope that this case acts as a warning to others who are looking to come to Cheshire to commit crime."*

### **Man charged following Wilmslow burglary**

Detectives investigating a burglary at a residential address in Wilmslow have charged a man in relation to the incident.

On Saturday 29 March police received reports of a burglary at an address on Hawthorne Lane, Wilmslow. An investigation was launched and following enquiries a 36-year-old man from Manchester was arrested in relation to the incident. Ryan Beevers of Hindsford Close, Manchester,

has since been charged with one count of burglary dwelling. He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court later today, Wednesday 9 April.

### **Crewe man given two-year Criminal Behaviour Order**

A man from Crewe has been banned from a number of shops in the town after neighbourhood officers secured a two-year a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Cody Goodall appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on 7 April where he was handed the order to curb him stealing from shops in the town. Under the terms of the CBO, which was successfully applied for by officers from the Crewe Beat Team, the 27-year-old has been banned from Morrisons in West Street and Gainsborough Road, the Co-Op on Parkers Road, Readsdales Road and Rope Lane (Shavington), and The One Stop Shop in Haslington. If Goodall fails to comply with the CBO, he will be committing a criminal offence which may result in a recall to prison or fine.



Insp Dan Welch, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"Retail crime is very much on our radar and we are doing everything we can to support our local businesses and protect them from the threat thieves pose to their staff and their livelihoods. Orders such as CBOs are one of many tools that allow officers to deter thieves and prevent crime in our communities. Where we have information from the public that there is a problem, we will work with them to come up with long term solutions. You too can get involved in helping us fight crime by telling us the issues that matter to you. You can do this by going to our [Residents Voice](#) page."*

Anyone who encounters Goodall breaching any of the above restrictions is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the website or call 101, to report it.

### **Woman who stalked ex in Warrington is jailed**

A woman has been jailed for stalking her ex-partner after she egged a house and posted dead mice through her letterbox.

Eleanor Hepburn, formerly of East Street, Havant, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 4 April, where she was sentenced to 22 months in prison. The 22-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to Stalking involving serious alarm and distress at an earlier hearing.



During the hearing, the court heard how Hepburn began stalking her ex-partner shortly after they'd re-formed a previous relationship. The court heard how in August 2024, Hepburn attended the victim's home address in the early hours of the morning, banging on their door and screaming. The following month, the victim returned home to find Hepburn had used five large waste bins to barricade the address and block the entrance to her home.

Hepburn's behaviour towards the victim continued and soon began to escalate with Hepburn exhibiting increasingly concerning and unpredictable behaviours. Hepburn began calling the victim from withheld numbers, would leave cigarette stubs outside her address, and push others through her letterbox. On one occasion, Hepburn was captured on CCTV delivering a dead mouse to the victim's home address, where she posted one and scattered numerous others outside her address. The court heard how Hepburn attended an address linked to the victim and recorded herself throwing eggs at the property. Following this Hepburn threatened to post fireworks through the victim's front door.



Hepburn was arrested on Monday 23 September 2024 and released on bail with conditions not to enter Cheshire or contact the victim. Hepburn failed to adhere to these conditions and was rearrested, charged and remanded into custody from Saturday 11 January 2025.

<https://youtu.be/iYnTQhHIMCs>

Investigating officers from the Harm Reduction Unit subsequently located further concerning material on Hepburn's phone, including a video of a hammer on Hepburn's knee, along with voice notes whereby Hepburn threatened to use this hammer to cause injury to the victim and those close to her: other threats included that she would run the victim and her partner over. Appearing at court, Hepburn had no choice but to plead guilty to the offence due to the overwhelming evidence against her. She was jailed for 22 months.

During the investigation, the Harm Reduction Unit submitted an application to the courts for Hepburn to be issued with a Stalking Protection Order. On Thursday 13 March, Warrington Magistrates' Court issued Hepburn with a 5-year Stalking Protection Order, prohibiting her from contacting the victim, entering Warrington, and requiring her to allow officers to inspect her electronic devices.

DC Katie Ashcroft of the Harm Reduction Unit said: *"Hepburn's actions towards the victim in this case were abhorrent. She appeared to take pride in her actions, videoing herself throwing eggs at addresses, and delivering dead mice to her victim. Hepburn boasted about her actions and has shown little appreciation for the distress she caused. The victim in this case was extremely courageous in coming forward, having been subjected to such a continued campaign of harassment and intimidation. I hope that the sentence imposed by the courts highlights the seriousness of Hepburn's actions and demonstrates the severe consequences of stalking. Cheshire Constabulary take all reports of stalking extremely seriously. It is an insidious crime that steals lives, and we are committed to using every tool and power available to us to protect the public from the risk's stalkers pose."*

The Harm Reduction Unit is a specialist risk management service delivered by Cheshire Constabulary in conjunction with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the Probation Service. The unit also includes a dedicated investigation team taking primacy for the most serious and complex stalking investigations.



## Four jailed following car and key burglary series

Four men have been jailed following a series of burglaries in Cheshire.

Joshua Irving, Brandon Day, Aaron Gee and Mason Kenny appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 7 April.

- Irving, aged 21, of HMP Altcourse, was sentenced to four years after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to steal motor vehicles, burglary, attempted burglary, and theft of motor vehicles.
- Gee, aged 21, of Victoria Avenue, Manchester, was sentenced to 30 months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal motor vehicles.
- Kenny, aged 18, of Lodge Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, was sentenced to eight months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal motor vehicles.
- Day, aged 20, of Longton Road, Manchester, was sentenced to 12 months after pleading guilty to assisting an offender.



Between March 2024 and April 2024, officers in the Warrington Proactive Policing Team saw a sharp increase in the number of burglaries in the area close to the M62. They found it predominantly involved detached houses, and the target appeared to be high-powered motor vehicles outside the addresses. The method of entry was through the rear patio doors of the properties. As a result, Operation Reprimanded was commenced.

The 14 offences occurred between 24 March and 20 April, including 13 in Warrington and 1 in Middlewich. Eight vehicles were stolen during the incidents. Following enquiries, on Thursday 26 September, a team of officers from Cheshire Police and Greater Manchester Police executed warrants at three addresses in Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne. Gee, Kenny and Day were arrested during the raids, while Irving was produced from prison.

Following questioning all four men were charged in relation to the offences. Irving's sentence also includes charges of burglary, attempted burglary, and theft of motor vehicles which are separate to the conspiracy offences. These relate to separate burglary offences committed between 9 June 2022 and 5 July 2022. Irving targeted eight properties in Warrington and stole five motor vehicles.

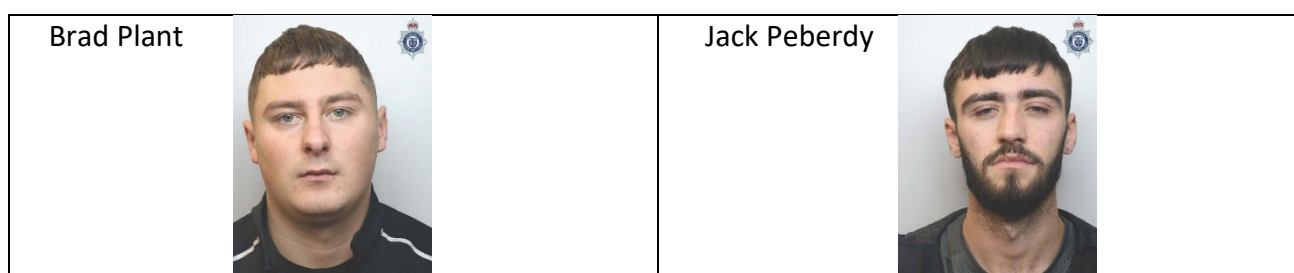
Following the sentencing for Op Reprimanded, DC Rob Catterall said: *"These men clearly targeted these properties with the intention of stealing high-powered motor vehicles from the driveways. This totalled £244,000. They had no regard for the impact their crimes would have upon their victims. People's homes should be spaces where they feel safe and secure, so to have that cruelly violated, often during the early hours of the morning when they were asleep, must have been frightening. I*

*hope the sentences handed to these four men will reassure the community that we take offences of this nature incredibly seriously and will work tirelessly to find those responsible and bring them to justice."*

### **Two men jailed for dealing drugs in Nantwich**

Two men have been sentenced for drugs offences following an investigation by Crewe Pro-active CID.

At an earlier hearing, Jack Peberdy, 22, from Vincent Street, Crewe pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply a class A drug (cocaine) and Brad Plant, 20, from Edward Phipps Way, Haslington pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply a Class A drug (cocaine). They both appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 7 April to be sentenced. Peberdy was sentenced to 27 months and Plant was sentenced to 24 months.



The court heard that on 20 June 2024 a warrant was executed at an address in Hightown in Crewe. Officers recovered snap bags of cocaine valued at approximately £1000, empty snap bags, scales, and £1315 in cash. Further enquiries established that the men had been supplying drugs in Nantwich.

DS Williams said: *"This is one of many successful warrants we have carried out to take illegal drugs off the streets of east Cheshire and will continue in our relentless effort to disrupt drugs coming into our towns and villages."*

### **Macclesfield Central Police retail crime success**

Macclesfield Local Policing Unit has been hard at work tackling retail crime in the town centre.

Figures for 2024 show their efforts are paying off with more incidents being reported and more crimes being successfully detected. Retail crime across the country has come into stark focus in recent times and Macclesfield Central is one of many zeroing in on thieves for very good reason. The Association of Convenience Stores reported recently that the UK's local shops recorded 5.6million incidents of shop theft over the last year (2024), a growing number of them becoming violent in their attempt to steal.

Sgt Matt Bassirat said: *"This is not something we are prepared to tolerate here in Macclesfield and my officers have been doing everything they can to tackle the issue and deter crime. We had a real push in tackling retail crime last year and it shows, with our Macclesfield Central team seeing the*

*number of solved crimes rising from 24.5 per cent in 2023 to 52.2 per cent in 2024. We are determined to build on this in order to deter those who steal from shops and businesses. It's not a victimless crime and the costly impact is immense, especially for repeat victims, which we know some shops sadly are. Theft also impacts on the staff who are often left shaken or worse, injured when they encounter a thief. They should be able to go to work without fear and we are doing what we can by working with them to reduce the risk and keep them safe from harm."*

Local officers have been working closely with the business community to increase confidence in reporting thefts and using, where possible, NICE Investigate to make it easier for staff to send us their CCTV images. They've also been visiting shops to give them crime prevention advice and improve confidence in reporting a crime in action.

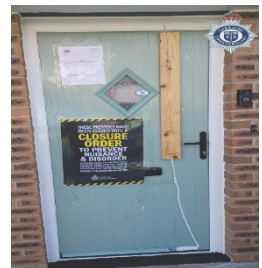
Sgt Bassirat said: *"We will not stop in our efforts to tackle retail crime and would urge shops to report the thefts to us when it happens. It is vital its reported to us so we can find those responsible and make Macclesfield a safer place for those who live, visit and work in the town."*

Anyone who sees a theft should contact police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

### **Hartford drug hotspot shut down after police secure closure order**

Officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit (LPU) have closed a disruptive address that negatively impacted on the day-to-day lives of their neighbours through drug-related crime.

The property on Beaufort Close, Hartford has been shut down by officers following the securing of a closure order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 3 April. The order, which came into effect Thursday, will run for three months and is a direct result of officers responding to the concerns of residents regarding anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.



Officers from Northwich worked alongside and encouraged local residents to come forward to provide evidence against their disruptive neighbour is a great example of communication between officers and the public. For the next three months, the occupant will need to find alternative accommodation, as all windows and doors into the address have been secured. Anyone who enters the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested.

PC Adam Baxter, of Northwich South Neighbourhood Team, said: *"Our Neighbourhood Beat Teams work tirelessly day in and day out to keep local communities and residents safe, and by securing this closure, we have kept that promise. This was an example of excellent community engagement between our team of officers and those who lived in the area, who have been incredibly supportive and are extremely grateful for the closure – without them, we would not have secured this result that we have today. I want to urge anyone with concerns about ASB or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address these issues head-on and achieve justice."*

Anyone with concerns about anti-social or suspicious behaviour in their area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

### **Man charged following robbery in Alderley Edge**

Detectives investigating a robbery outside a restaurant in Alderley Edge have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At around 10pm on Saturday 29 March, a 35-year-old woman was robbed outside San Carlo restaurant on Wilmslow Road. During the incident a gold Rolex watch and a Birkin handbag were stolen. Following enquiries by detectives at Macclesfield CID, a 25-year-old man from Bradford was arrested a man in relation to the incident on Wednesday 2 April.

Liam Ross, of High Street, Wibsey, has since been charged with one count of robbery and one count of being concerned in the supply of class B drugs (cannabis). He appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 4 April where he was remanded in custody. He is next se to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 2 May.

### **Two men sentenced for drug dealing in Northwich**

Two men who were arrested following a stop check in Northwich have now been sentenced.

Todd Davies, 39, and David Williams, aged 40, both appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 3 April having previously pleaded guilty to a number of drugs offences. Davies, of Sixacre Gardens, Warrington, was sentenced to four years and two months in prison after he pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin), possession of criminal property and possession of a knife in a public place.



Williams, of The Avenue, West Felton, near Oswestry, was sentenced 20 months suspended for 18 months after he admitted one count of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine). He was also ordered to complete 200 hours unpair work.

The court was told how on Thursday 11 August 2022 Davies and Williams had been spotted acting suspiciously in a Range Rover on Albemarle Avenue, Hartford. Officers followed the car until it stopped on Beaufort Close and spoke to the occupants. Davies was driving the car, while Williams was sat in the passenger seat. Upon speaking to the pair, Davies initially attempted to provide officers with false details, which resulted in officers conducting a full search of the vehicle. During the search, officers located several items including a bag containing 4.76g heroin and more than £2,300 cash. A knife was also recovered in the glovebox of the vehicle.

As a result of the discovery both Davies and Williams were arrested, and two mobile phones were seized. During analysis of the phones, officers discovered a number of messages which linked both men to the sale and delivery of illegal drugs. These included messages between the pair boasting

about taking over the sale of cocaine in the Northwich area. After gathering all the evidence, a case file was presented to the Crown Prosecution Service who authorised charges against both Davies and Williams.

Following the sentencing, PC Daniel Lee, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *“Davies and Williams thought that Northwich would be an easy target. They came to the town thinking that they’d be able to make their fortune through the sale of illegal drugs. Unfortunately for them, they seriously underestimated the commitment of our dedicated team of eagle-eyed officers who are always on the lookout. So instead of making their fortune, they we're both quickly caught and brought to justice. While Davies and Williams have now been held accountable, our fight against illegal drugs continues and I would appeal to anyone who has any information about illegal drug activity or any other criminal activity taking place in their communities to contact us on 101, via the website or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”*

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>, or by calling 101.

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### **Appeal for witnesses and footage following collision on M6**

Officers are appealing for any witnesses or those with footage to come forward following a serious collision on the M6.

At around 4.30pm on Thursday 10 April, police were called to reports of a collision on M6 southbound between junction 19 and 20. The collision involved one vehicle, a blue Subaru Outback, which had left the carriageway onto the grass verge. The driver, a 63-year-old man, was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The passenger, a 63-year-old woman, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. As part of their enquiries into what happened during the incident, police would like to speak to any witnesses who have not already spoken to officers, plus anyone with any footage.

Insp Bradley Hughes said: *“As we carry out our investigation into this incident we would like to ask anyone who saw what happened to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have dashcam footage of the incident. You can report information to Cheshire Police via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML-2066865.”*

### **Appeal for witnesses and video footage following serious collision near Macclesfield**

Officers are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision near Macclesfield.

At 1.15pm on Thursday 10 April police were called to a collision on the A537, Buxton New Road near to the Cat and Fiddle. Officers attended and found there had been a collision between a beige camper van and a blue Suzuki motorcycle. The rider of the bike, a 70-year-old man, sustained serious injuries as a result of the collision and was taken to the Royal Manchester Hospital by air



ambulance; his injuries are not believed to be life threatening. The occupants of the camper van, a 60-year-old man and a 60-year-old woman, were uninjured. Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information or video footage is asked to visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us-or-call-101), quoting IML2066728.

### **Police release CCTV following Macclesfield shop theft**

Police have released CCTV images of four people they would like to speak to in relation to theft at a Co-Op in Buxton Road, Macclesfield.

The theft occurred sometime between 4.45pm and 5pm on 25 March. A group of women came into the store and took various items and left the shop without paying.

PC Melissa Mellor said: *"I would urge anyone who recognises the people in the CCTV images to contact us so that we can progress with our enquiries into the theft."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) quoting 25000247133.

Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



### **Police appeal for help in tracing wanted Whitchurch man**

Police are looking to locate Lewis Higgins, 34, from Whitchurch.

Higgins is wanted in connection with drugs supply offences and has links to Whitchurch, Chester, and Malpas. He is described as a white, with short, light-coloured hair, and is 5ft 3 ins tall and of proportionate build. Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101 or 999 if sighted and quote reference 25000268809.



### **Appeal for information following serious collision in Grappenhall**

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

Shortly after midnight on Sunday 6 April police were called to reports of a collision on Knutsford Road. Officers attended the scene and found that a 50-year-old man had been hit by a motorbike. The man sustained serious injuries as a result of the collision and was taken to hospital where he remains at this time. The rider of the bike, a 24-year-old man from Northwich, was also injured and was also taken to hospital.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML 2063762.

## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

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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](http://www.cheshirenw.org)