

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 29 December 2024

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Two men sentenced following Warrington distraction thefts

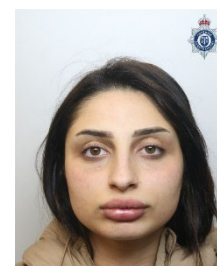
Two men who travelled to Warrington to commit crime have been jailed after they were tracked down by local officers.

Iulian Vladu and Lorin Moga both appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 27 December where they were sentenced for their roles in relation to two distraction thefts in Warrington town centre. Vladu, 48, of Gladstone Road, Northampton, and Moga, 33, of Fowleshill Road, Coventry, were both sentenced to 16 weeks in prison. Both men had earlier pleaded guilty to theft, fraud by false representation and likely to breach police bail. Vladu, also pleaded guilty to a second count of theft in relation to an earlier incident.



The case initially began on Monday 16 October 2023, when Vladu travelled to Warrington with a separate accomplice, Geta Marin, 20, from Scunthorpe, and stole a wallet from a man who was shopping in the town. The matter was reported to police who recovered CCTV footage of the pair and the vehicle that they were travelling in. A marker was placed on the vehicle and on Thursday 26 October 2023 officers from West Yorkshire Police arrested Vladu and Marin after stopping the car on the M62.

Officers from Cheshire Police attended Bradford Custody suite and both Vladu and Marin were charged in relation to the theft. The pair were released on bail, and later failed to attend court so warrants were issued for their arrests. Then, on Wednesday 25 September 2024, Vladu returned to Warrington town centre, this time with a different accomplice - Lorin Moga. While in the town, the pair worked together to distract a man and steal his wallet. The wallet contained £400 cash along with a number of bank cards, which the offenders used to withdraw £1,000 from the victim's account.



Once again officers were able to use CCTV footage to identify the vehicle that the offenders were travelling in, and a marker was placed on the car. Vladu and Moga were subsequently arrested on Thursday 3 October after the vehicle was stopped in Oxford by officers from Thames Valley police. The pair were both transported to Warrington where they were charged in relation to the offences. Vladu and Moga appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Saturday 5 October where they were released on conditional bail by the court. Following their release from court Vladu and Moga drove to Holyhead where they attempted to flee the country by catching a ferry to Ireland. The pair were stopped by officers and later charged with being likely to breach police bail. Both men were subsequently remanded in custody.

Following their sentencing PC Graham Davies, of Warrington Town Centre Beat team said: *"Vladu and Moga purposefully travelled to Warrington in order to commit crime. They thought that by travelling from outside the area they'd be able to get an easy ride and that police wouldn't be able to track them down. However, as this result demonstrates, the pair seriously underestimated the tenacity and dedication of the team here at Warrington to ensure those who commit crime in our town are brought to justice. I would particularly like to recognise the work of PC Sam Horton and PC Abbie Delaney, who helped to gather all of the CCTV footage*

*which enabled us to identify Vladu and Moga as the offenders. I'd also like to thank our colleagues at Thames Valley Police and West Yorkshire Police for helping us to catch the pair. I hope that the outcome of this case acts as a warning to others who are thinking about coming to Warrington to commit crime. The message is clear – you will be caught, and you will be held accountable."*

A warrant for the arrest of Geta Marin remains active and anyone with any information in relation to her whereabouts is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting 23001015475.

### **Man arrested following warrant in Alderley Edge**

A man has been arrested following a warrant in Alderley Edge as part of an investigation into fraud offences.

On Monday 23 December, officers executed a warrant at an address in St Hilary's Park, Alderley Edge. This followed a morning briefing at Cheshire Police headquarters and involved officers from the force's Cyber Crime and Economic Crime Units. The warrant was in relation to a number of suspected investment fraud scams involving cryptocurrency. A 59-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of fraud, money laundering and theft of a motor vehicle. He remains in police custody at this time. A number of items, including a computer and a mobile phone, were also seized during the warrant.

<https://youtu.be/g2pYAVX-8L0>

DS David MacFarlane said: *"The warrant conducted this morning in Alderley Edge is the culmination of an ongoing investigation into a cryptocurrency investment scam which we believe has been taking place. This and the subsequent arrest shows how seriously we take fraud offences and we are committed to identifying individuals who decide to take advantage of people in this way. I hope that this ongoing investigation provides reassurance to members of the public and acts as a warning to anyone planning to commit such offences in the future."*

### **Detectives renew appeal on 30th anniversary of the death of Tracey Mertens**

Detectives have renewed their appeal for information on the 30th anniversary of the death of a woman in a churchyard in Cheshire.

Tracey Mertens, 31, was doused in petrol and set alight in Eaton churchyard near Congleton on 23 December 1994 – she sustained horrific burns to her body and died shortly after. Officers are urging anyone who may have information in relation to her death to come forward.



DI Nigel Reid said: *"This week marks the 30th anniversary of Tracey's death – a time that is understandably still very difficult for her family. Tracey met a violent and horrific death at the hands of her killers. She was so brave and told detectives as much as she could before she died. Although extensive enquiries have been completed, including arrests, forensic reviews, and CPS advice, to date no-one has been convicted in relation to the death of Tracey, and the file remains open. As an*

*organisation, we continue to review undetected investigations and will always act on any new information. Therefore, as Tracey's family prepares to spend another Christmas day without her, I would appeal to anyone who has any information about Tracey's death to get in touch."*

The mother-of-two, who was living in Rochdale at the time, had travelled down to Birmingham on 22 December 1994 to collect a benefits book from her former home in Cattells Grove, Nechells. It is believed she initially intended to return the same day but instead ended up staying overnight at her sister-in-law's and visited her former home the next morning. Shortly before midday on 23 December 1994 she answered a knock at the door of the house in Cattells Grove. She was confronted by two men. Police believe Tracey was abducted and bundled into the back of a yellow Ford Escort, which was parked outside the address. Tracey was then driven to Eaton churchyard in Cheshire where she was set on fire and left to die. A member of the public came to her aid and she was taken to hospital where she was able to tell detectives what had happened to her. She had sustained 95% burns to her body and bravely clung to life for a further 12 hours before she sadly died.

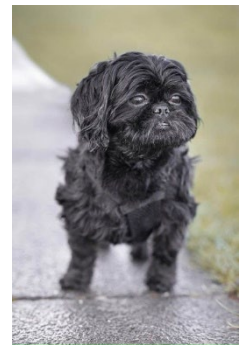
Anyone with any information should contact the Operation Eaton investigation team on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 1983827. Information can also be passed on anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

## Appeals

### **Appeal for witnesses and footage following collision in Crewe**

Officers are appealing for witnesses and footage following a fail to stop collision in Crewe.

On Tuesday 17 December, police were called to reports of a collision on Underwood Lane, at the junction with Windsor Avenue. The incident took place at around 5.27pm and involved a pedestrian who was walking her dog, and a car. The female pedestrian is believed to have suffered minor injuries, however her dog Pixie sadly died at the scene. The car, which is believed to be a white SUV-type vehicle failed to stop.



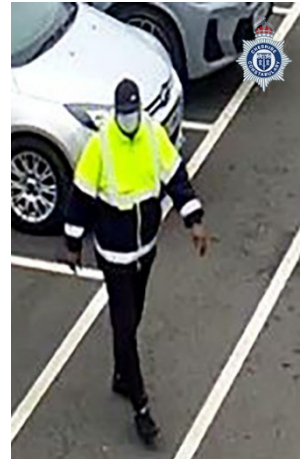
PC Lorna Allix said: *"This is a very sad incident which not only left a member of the public injured, but her beloved dog sadly died as a result of the injuries caused by the collision. We would urge anyone who witnessed what happened or has any other information in relation to the incident to come forward. The same goes for anyone who may have any relevant CCTV, dashcam, or video doorbell footage. You can report information to Cheshire Police via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting 24001059083."*

### **CCTV Image released following reports of a fake traffic warden in Wilmslow**

Police have released a CCTV Image of a man they are looking to identify after an elderly man was defrauded in Wilmslow.

Sometime between 12.10pm and 12.30pm on Friday 6 December, a 76-year-old man parked his vehicle at the South Drive car park in Wilmslow. After exiting his car, he was approached by an unknown man wearing a high-visibility jacket, a cap, a face mask, and black trousers. The man told the victim that he was a traffic warden and that the ticket machine was broken so he would need to pay him directly by bank card. The victim handed over his debit card and the offender then fled the scene, claiming that the machine had swallowed the victim's card. A quantity of cash was subsequently withdrawn from the victim's account.

Enquiries in relation to the matter are ongoing and officers are urging residents in the local area to remain cautious. Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), or call 101, quoting IML 1986613.



### **Police appeal for information following serious collision in Macclesfield**

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious collision involving a car and pedestrian on Chester Road in Macclesfield.

At approximately 8pm on Tuesday 24 December a purple Alfa Romeo Mito was in collision with the pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 70-year-old man, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Sadly, the man died the next day.

Anyone who witnessed the collision and has not yet spoken to police, or anyone with dashcam that may help with the investigation, should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting IML 1992007.

### **Police are appealing for information following serious assault in Congleton**

Police are appealing for information following an assault outside a garage in Canal Street, Congleton.

At 4.50am on Saturday 21 December an 18-year-old man was walking along Canal Street in Congleton with friends when they were followed by a group of people. One of them pushed his friend and then punched the 18-year-old causing a serious injury, which needed hospital treatment.

DS Steve Kaminski said: *"We are checking CCTV in the area and have been making a number of enquiries to identify the suspect. If anyone has any information about the assault or the suspect, I'd urge you to come forward to help us find the person responsible for this violent attack."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting IML 1989667. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **UPDATE: Appeal renewed following serious collision in Congleton**

UPDATE: The 78-year-old pedestrian has sadly since died in hospital. Officers are continuing to appeal for witnesses and anyone with video footage to come forward.

Anyone with any information can get in touch with Cheshire Police using the details in the original appeal.

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Original appeal: Detectives investigating a serious collision in Congleton have renewed their appeal witnesses and video footage.

At around 11.38am on Wednesday 20 November, an elderly man was involved in a collision with a red Kia Ce'ed on Mill Street, near to Ableworld. The 78-year-old man was treated at the scene by paramedics before being taken to hospital, his condition is currently described as critical but stable. The driver of the car was uninjured, and no arrests have been made. Enquiries in relation to the collision have been ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to identify the driver of a blue Toyota Hilux which was seen in the area at the time of the collision.

DC Nicola Rimmer, of the Serious Collision investigation Unit, said: *"The pedestrian in this case sustained potentially life-threatening injuries and we are committed to doing everything we can to establish exactly what took place. As part of our investigation we are keen to speak to the occupants of a blue Toyota Hilux which was driving on Mill Street at the time of the incident. The vehicle travelled from Mountbatten Way onto Mill Street and the occupants may be able to assist with our enquiries. I would urge the occupants of the car, or anyone else who witnessed the collision, to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid our enquiries."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the collision is asked to call 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 1966813.

### **Police in Congleton appeal for information following late night assault**

Police are appealing for witnesses following an assault outside a pub in Swan Bank, Congleton.

At around 11.10pm on Saturday 21 December a 28-year-old man was assaulted causing head and facial injuries. The victim is currently being treated in hospital.

DS Steve Kaminski said: *"I'd urge anyone who witnessed the assault or has any information on the identity of the suspect, to contact us. We have an injured man needing medical care just before Christmas. If you can help, please contact us."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 1990174. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



## Police appeal for information after police station damaged during incident in Wilmslow

Police in Wilmslow are appealing for information after a window at the Police Station was damaged.

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 December, an unknown man approached Wilmslow Police Station on Hawthorn Street. The man then proceeded to aggressively hit the window, resulting in it cracking. Officers exited the building to confront the man, who was seen hurling abuse at them from a distance. He then fled across a nearby car park. A search of the area was conducted, but the man could not be found. However, officers did also find that a security gate into the station itself has also been damaged. The man was described as being white, wearing a light grey Berghaus jacket and dark blue jogging bottoms. Officers are now appealing to anyone who may have been in the area at around the time of the incident, or captured the man in question on any CCTV or dash cams, to get in touch.

Insp Nick Rogers, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"Deliberately targeting and damaging our police buildings and hurling threatening abuse at our officers and staff is totally unacceptable and something that we as a force will not stand for. A number of enquiries are already underway to identify this individual, which is why we are now appealing to anyone who may have witnessed this incident, or saw anything that did not look right near to the station at around 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 December, to please get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dash cam footage that could help us in our investigation. Information or video footage that may help the ongoing investigation should contact Cheshire Police on 101, or via the website at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us> quoting IML-1987685."*

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

## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

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