

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 22 March 2026

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Northwich man convicted of abusing former partners

A Northwich man who led police on a high-speed pursuit across Winsford has been jailed after he was found guilty of controlling, assaulting and abusing two women.

Jason Lamb was convicted of two counts controlling and coercive behaviour, three counts of intentional strangulation, and one count of intentional suffocation following a trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Tuesday 17 March. The 27-year-old of Celandine Court, Lostock Gralam, Northwich, was also convicted of criminal damage and animal cruelty, dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, riving without insurance and possession of a weapon.



Lamb reappeared at Chester on Wednesday 18 March where he was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison. The court heard evidence from Lamb's two former partners who described how they were subject to a relentless campaign of abuse from Lamb, who was controlling and jealous. The women, who were in relationships with Lamb between February 2023 and August 2025, stated that Lamb regularly controlled who they were allowed to see and speak to, prevented the women from leaving their homes and often accused them of cheating.

<https://youtu.be/0jSe8N-94OM>

One of his victims was also forced to quit her job, as Lamb was unhappy with who she was working with. While one of the women described how he had attempted to strangle her on multiple occasions and also attempted to suffocate her. After suffering a catalogue of abuse, both women reported Lamb to Cheshire Police, and he was subsequently arrested and charged with multiple offences. He appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on 27 August 2025, where the judge released him on conditional bail.

Following his release, a further incident was reported by one of the victims and a police manhunt was launched for his arrest. On 6 September 2025, officers on patrol in Winsford spotted a black Audi registered to Lamb driving on High Street. Officers pursued the vehicle as it travelled across the town and through Whitegate, reaching speeds of up to 60mph in a residential area, contravening red lights and dangerously overtaking vehicles. However, the pursuit was later abandoned after Lamb drove onto a grass verge in Wharton, close to a number of children who were playing on a field. Despite losing sight of the car, officers continued the hunt for Lamb, and his car was subsequently found abandoned on Severn Walk. Additional officers attended the scene, along with the police helicopter, and Lamb was quickly located on Crook Lane where he was arrested.

Following the guilty verdict, Detective Constable Adam Worth, of Northwich CID said: *"Firstly, I would like to commend the victims for bravely speaking to police about what happened to them.*

*Both women were subjected to a relentless campaign of abuse from Lamb which left both physically and mentally scarred. Through his controlling and coercive behaviour, Lamb was able to control everything both women did, isolating them from their friends and family, and leaving them both trapped with nowhere to turn.*

*“Thankfully, as a result of the support that they received from their families and the team here at Northwich, both women have finally been able to break free from Lamb. While they will never be able to forget what happened to them, I hope that the conclusion of this case will help them to move forward and start to rebuild their lives.”*

### **Man jailed for drug dealing in Ellesmere Port**

A man has been jailed for drugs offences in Ellesmere Port.

Jack Smith, of Glen Road, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port, was sentenced on Wednesday 18 March at Chester Crown Court. The 24-year-old was jailed for two years and eight months after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine, being concerned in the offer to supply MDMA, and possession of cannabis.



Between March and June 2025, a mobile phone number was identified as sending out flare messages advertising cocaine and MDMA for sale. This number was strongly attributed to Smith by police and was in close proximity to his address. The number also sent a message on 23 March 2025 saying, ‘Jack new num’. On 4 June 2025, officers executed a warrant at Smith’s address and arrested him for drugs offences. When officers called the number of the dealer phone, a phone in Smith’s possession rang. During a search of the address a small amount of cannabis was located. He was later charged with the offences.

PC Adam Critchley said: *“Smith was caught in possession of a mobile phone which officers knew was being used to deal drugs, so he was left with no choice but to plead guilty to these offences. I welcome the custodial sentence handed to Smith and I hope this case shows how seriously we take drugs offences and the work which goes on to trace offenders and bring them to justice.”*

### **Man jailed for groping woman on night out in Warrington**

A man who groped a woman on a night out in Warrington town centre has been jailed.

Mohammed Esmati from Afghanistan appeared at Warrington Combined Court on Thursday 19 March to be sentenced after being found guilty of sexual assault on a female at an earlier hearing. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison and also has to sign the sex offenders register.



On 23 August 2025 a woman on a night out was approached by Esmati in the street while she was standing outside the nightclub Reef at 5.41am. He hugged her against her will, kissed her and grabbed her breast under her clothing before she was able to push him away. A CCTV operator spotted the incident as it was happening and was able to alert police to the incident. Police were able to get to the scene and arrest him just as he was trying to leave.

PC Hannah Mooney said: *“Despite denying his crime, not only did we have his actions captured on CCTV, but we also had an eagle-eyed CCTV operator picking up on the behaviour and alerting us to a crime in action. I’d like to thank the operator for their professionalism and quick-thinking actions. Thanks to you, we have a sexual predator arrested, convicted and now jailed.”*

<https://youtu.be/b0fX3FkffrM>

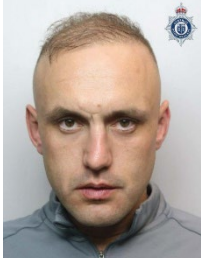


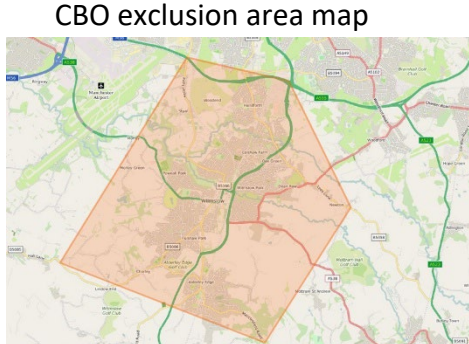
### **Three men sentenced after stealing thousands of pounds worth of designer clothing**

A total of three men have now been sentenced for stealing thousands of pounds worth of designer items from stores in Handforth and Wilmslow.

Two of the men are now also subject to Criminal Behaviour Orders banning them from numerous stores in the area. Benjamin Gittings, 33, of no fixed abode, appeared at Manchester Mohammed Esmati Minshull Street Crown Court on Friday 13 March 2026 where he was sentenced to 22 months in prison. He had admitted stealing clothing worth £2,320 from JD Sports Handforth on 14 December 2025, £1,580 worth of clothing from Ralph Lauren in the Hoopers store in Wilmslow on 15 December 2025, and £2,500 of beauty items from Boots in Handforth on 19 December 2025. This sentence also encompasses offences dealt with separately by Greater Manchester Police, including possession of cocaine, theft from a motor vehicle, dangerous driving, and driving while disqualified.

Karl Braisdell, 40, of no fixed abode, was previously sentenced to 30 weeks in prison on 6 January 2026 for the same theft offences at JD Sports, Hoopers, and Boots. His sentence also includes separate offences committed in the GMP force area, including a theft from an Aldi store and Mai’s Pharmacy. Meanwhile, Michael Higginbotham, 46, of Brook Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, was handed a 26-week sentence suspended for 12 months on 6 January 2026 for the JD Sports and Hoopers offences. His sentence also included a theft from a Tesco Express store in the GMP area.

Gittings and Higginbotham are now banned from entering any retail premises in the Wilmslow area as defined by the attached map under the terms of a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). They must not enter any JD Sports, Marks and Spencer, Hoopers, Tesco or Waitrose store within Cheshire East, including petrol stations which have these stores. They cannot wear any form of headgear (hats, caps, hoods etc) or face coverings when entering or while in any retail premises. In addition to this, Higginbotham cannot enter any retail premises without the means to pay for goods, or enter or remain in any store that he has been banned from, or requested to leave.

			
Benjamin Gittings	Karl Braisdell	Michael Higginbotham	

A spokesperson said: *“It’s a fantastic result that two of these individuals have been issued with CBOs which should further safeguard businesses in the area from their disruptive behaviour. Anyone who witnesses Gittings or Higginbotham breaching the terms of their CBOs should contact us via 101 or through our website to report it. We take retail crime incredibly seriously and know the impact it can have on retailers and business partners. That’s why we are undertaking Operation Watchmaker this week to target shoplifting and other retail-related crime. If you have any concerns please speak to an officer or call 101.”*

### **Two people charged following drugs warrant in Congleton**

Two people who were arrested following a police raid in Congleton have now been charged.

Brian Byrne and Sarah Teszke were both arrested on Thursday 19 March following a warrant at an address on Bradshaw Drive, Congleton. The pair have since been charged with being concerned in the supply of cocaine and possession with intent to supply cocaine. Byrne, 41, and Teszke, 39, both of Bradshaw Drive, Congleton, have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court today, Friday 20 March.

### **Two charged following burglary in Warrington**

Officers investigating a burglary in Warrington have charged two people.

Kerry Jones, of Reynolds Street, Latchford, and Paul Morris, of Wilkinson Street, Orford, were arrested on Thursday 19 March. Jones, 48, and Morris, 38, have since been charged with burglary and have been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 20 March. The charges relate to an incident that occurred on the St Katherines Way area of Warrington on Wednesday 18 March.

### **Man banned from Crewe town centre under terms of CBO**

A man has been banned from Crewe town centre after he was handed a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

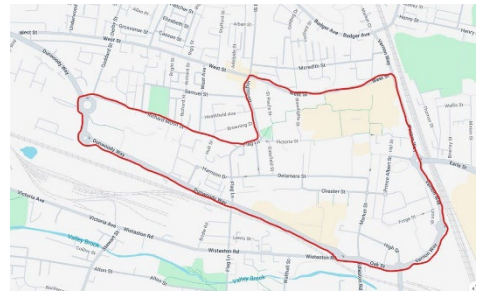
William Woodward, of Crewe, was handed the order at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 18 March, after officers from Crewe Local Policing Unit successfully evidenced repeated shoplifting offences in the town. The 41-year-old must not enter Crewe town centre as per the exclusion map area. He must also not enter the following stores:

- Queens Park Service Station, Victoria Avenue, Crewe
- Farmfoods Limited, Oak Street, Crewe
- Morrisons, Dunwoody Way, Crewe
- Home Bargains, Forge Street, Crewe



Inspector Dan Welch said: *“This Criminal Behaviour Order has some stringent conditions which should go a long way in putting a stop to Woodward’s offending and making sure if he does breach*

*any of his conditions, he can be quickly dealt with. This week is Operation Watchmaker – a force-wide operation focusing on shoplifting and retail-related crime, linking in with local businesses and retail partners, and highlighting our commitment to keeping our shops and businesses safe from crime. This result further emphasises that we use all the tools available to us to stop offenders like Woodward. If anyone witnesses him breaching his CBO, please contact Cheshire Police on 101 or through our website to report it.”*



### **Man charged following Bollington burglary**

Detectives investigating a burglary at the home of a pensioner in Bollington have charged a man in relation to the incident.

On Saturday 14 March, Police were called to reports of a break in at an address on Cedarway. The victim reported that an unknown person had burgled her home and stolen her purse and bank cards. The caller also reported that a number of cash withdrawals had been made. Following enquiries, detectives from Macclesfield Proactive CID arrested a 48-year-old man from Macclesfield in relation to the incident.

Jonathan Martin, of Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield, since been charged with one count of burglary, two counts of fraud by false representation, one count of attempt to commit fraud by false representation and one count of driving without insurance. Martin has been remanded in custody and will appear at Chester Magistrates Court later today, Friday 20 March.

### **Two arrested following Warrington burglary**

A man and a woman have been arrested after the home of a vulnerable person was burgled.

At around 10.25pm on Wednesday 18 March, officers in Warrington received reports of a burglary at the home of an elderly man in the St Katherine's Way area of the town. It was reported that two people, a man and a woman, had forcibly entered the address and stolen a photo frame and an antique pistol from inside. CCTV enquiries conducted quickly led officers to uncover the identities of the two people who had accessed the property and were seen searching through the address. The 48-year-old woman and 38-year-old man, from the Latchford and Orford areas of Warrington, were arrested just over 12 hours on suspicion of burglary. They remain in custody at this time.

Detective Sergeant Alexander Reeves of Warrington CID said: *“This pair were fuelled by their own selfishness, taking advantage of a vulnerable man and proceeding to violate the security of his home. Burglary is a deeply personal crime that can leave victims living in fear in their own homes, but there are a number of steps that can be taken to provide further protection. What played an instrumental part in our officers identifying the two suspects involved was the installation of CCTV cameras in and around the victim's home. Last year, the Constabulary ranked seventh in the country for securing positive outcomes for burglary compared to other UK forces; we will continue to do all that we can to safeguard the vulnerable in our communities and secure justice for those affected.”*

## **Two jailed for dealing Class A and B drugs in Congleton**

A man and woman have been jailed after admitting selling cocaine, heroin and cannabis in Congleton.



Robert Machin, 49, from Albany Mill, Canal Street, Congleton and Sophie Brown, 22, from The Parklands, Congleton had pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Cocaine on 2/12/25, possession with intent to supply Heroin on 2/12/25, possession with intent to supply Cannabis on 2/12/25, possession with intent to supply Cocaine on 11/12/25, and possession with intent to supply Heroin on 11/12/25. They appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 18 March to be sentenced, with Brown being jailed for four years and Machin being jailed for five years and 219 days.

Officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Op Apollo team conducted a warrant on 2 December 2025 at an address on Bradwell Grove in Congleton. Machin and Brown were found at the address but Machin fled over a fence using a pair of ladders to make his escape. Meanwhile police seized phones and laptops, sim cards and a USB stick, drugs and drug paraphernalia, and £1006 of cash. The drugs seized were valued at £11,415.

Brown was arrested at the scene and Machin was circulated as wanted. The team's investigation into the items seized led them to deduce they had been dealing illegal drugs between 8 November 2025 and 12 December 2025. Officers continued to make enquiries into Machin's whereabouts and on Thursday 11 December they conducted a warrant at an address on Canal Street. Machin was present and swiftly arrested. Both were subsequently charged and remanded to appear at Chester Magistrates.

DC Rachel Williams said: *"We will continue to target those who deal illegal drugs in our towns so that we can improve our communities by disrupting the illegal drug supplies and putting criminals behind bars."*

## **Members of OCG ordered to pay back around £280k**

Two members of an organised crime group (OCG) have been ordered to pay back around £280k under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

On Wednesday 26 February 2025, Paul Ibell, Sean Mooney, and Edward Kaye, all appeared at Chester Crown Court where they were sentenced for their roles in the supply of illegal drugs as part of Operation Leonardo. This was an investigation conducted by Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) into the large-scale supply of cocaine and cannabis in Chester and North Wales.

Ibell was sentenced to 16 years in prison, Mooney was sentenced to five years, and Kaye was sentenced to three years and four months. At a hearing on Monday 16 March 2026, a judge ruled that Ibell and Mooney benefited to the total value of approximately £1,499,589.00 due to their criminal activities. Following an assessment of the assets seized at the time of their arrest, Ibell must now pay £135,063.16, while Mooney must pay £150,456.01. These payments must be made in full within three months.

Detective Chief Inspector Nick Henderson, of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit said: *“Ibell and Mooney were intent on committing crime and profiting off those most vulnerable within Cheshire. Thanks to the work carried out by our dedicated team of officers, not only are they now being held accountable behind bars, but they have also been ordered to pay back a significant amount of their ill-gotten gains.*



*“The Proceeds of Crime Act is just one of the ways we can disrupt criminality and I hope this case demonstrates the lengths we will go to in order to target those who have profited from crime and ensure that when they are released from prison, they can no longer benefit from wealth earned through criminal means.”*

### **Man charged with breaching criminal behaviour order**

A man from Northwich has been charged with breaching a criminal behaviour order.

Luke Weedall was arrested earlier today, Wednesday 18 March, following reports that he had breached his three-year order criminal behaviour order. The order was originally granted at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 12 September 2025, and as part of the strict condition the 37-year-old is banned from entering seven retail stores in Northwich. The breach relates to an incident on Tuesday 17 March where Weedall is alleged to have entered a store on Leicester Street, Northwich.

Following questioning, Weedall of Heber Walk, has been charged with one count of breaching a criminal behaviour order. He has been remanded in custody and will appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Wednesday 18 March.

### **Neston man jailed for selling Class A drugs**

A Neston man has been jailed for dealing Class A drugs.

Wayne Knight from Churchill Way in Neston appeared at Chester Crown Court on 12 March to be sentenced after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine, four counts of possession of a Class C controlled drug (Diazepam, Zopiclone, Pregablin and Zapain, possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A (cocaine). The 42-year-old was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison.



Officers attended an address in Hooton on an unrelated matter and Knight was present. He was searched and a bag of white powder was found which was subsequently found to be cocaine valued at £140 to £200. They also found three mobile phones in the house and £560 in cash in his sock. Knight's property was then searched and officers seized Zapain, Pregablin, Zopiclone and Diazepam, all prescription drugs.

DS Tom Philpotts said: *“This was a fantastic find by our team and a reminder to those involved in dealing drugs that we could be knocking on your door next.”*

## **Over 1000 stop checks completed and nearly 30 arrested following immigration and night-time economy operation**

Over 220 officers from across the Constabulary have taken part in a month-long organised immigration crime and night-time economy safety operation.

Between Friday 13 February and Sunday 15 March, officers from Cheshire Police's Foreign National Offender Team, with assistance from Home Office Immigration, carried out 24 proactive deployments across the county. The purpose of the operation, conducted in town centres and night-time economy settings, was to complete immigration checks on delivery drivers, ensuring they were legally allowed to work in the UK and were not being exploited under modern slavery offences.

In line with the Constabulary's ongoing priorities, officers also focused on tackling violence against women and girls. Officers were further supported by local authority CCTV operators, who monitored areas in real time, enabling the prevention of crime and rapid response to any emerging incidents. The efforts of the team resulted in 600 people and 483 vehicles being stopped by officers. These stops led to 27 arrests, 11 of which were directly linked to immigration offences and illegal working. Other outcomes from the operation included:

- 150 immigration status checks completed with the National Command and Control Unit
- 80 traffic reports issued
- 38 stop searches conducted
- 28 vehicles seized (including cars and e-bikes)

During the deployment on 21 February, a 16-year-old boy was found drinking at a commercial premises in Crewe and was subsequently taken home by officers. Trading Standards have since been contacted regarding a review of the premises' licensing. On the same evening, a 62-year-old man from Shrewsbury was arrested by Operation Ascertain officers, who were first on the scene at Chester Railway Station responding to reports of a sexual assault by touching. He was also arrested on suspicion of aggravated public order and Section 39 assault. British Transport Police are progressing the investigation.

On 29 February, officers in Halton stopped a registered sex offender who was found to be driving without insurance and a licence. He has since been summonsed to court. On 15 March, officers arrested a 29-year-old man from the Ashton-in-Makerfield area of Wigan on suspicion of possession of cannabis. He has since been issued with a community resolution.

Operational lead Detective Sergeant Lauren Henthorn said: *"Conducting over 1,000 individual stops is no small feat, and these results were only possible due to the combined efforts of the officers deployed across the county and the support of our partner organisations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for helping us achieve such outcomes. The work carried out under Operation Ascertain forms just one part of our wider ongoing efforts to keep residents across Cheshire safe and ensure that those working within our towns are doing so legally and safely, without being exploited for free labour."*

*"We often find that those involved in the exploitation of vulnerable people are also linked to other forms of criminality, including wide-scale drug and human trafficking offences. This is why we remain committed to doing all we can to identify those responsible. I also hope these results provide reassurance to residents county-wide that officers are out in their communities and night-time*

*economy settings, working proactively to ensure everyone can enjoy themselves without fear of having their night disrupted or ruined by those who do not know how to behave.”*

Detective Chief Inspector Danielle Knox, of the Force Intelligence Bureau, added: *“Operation Ascertain shines a spotlight on the work our officers do every single day of the year to protect and safeguard vulnerable people in Cheshire. In line with Cheshire Constabulary’s core principles, a key focus of this operation was ensuring that women, girls, and everyone enjoying our night-time economy venues across the county can do so without risk of harm. While this operation represents just a snapshot of a month of deployments, this is very much business as usual for us, and we will always do everything we can to keep our residents safe.”*

Anyone with information relating to child abuse or exploitation, or who has concerns about someone’s safety, should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or report online via the force website. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Warrington residents reminded to remain vigilant following reports of bike thefts**

Officers in Warrington are reminding residents to take the proper precautions when securing their bikes following several reports of thefts across the town.

In recent days, officers have received multiple reports of stolen bikes, with a significant number occurring in the Orford area. Enquiries into the incidents remain ongoing, but officers are urging residents to take additional steps to protect their property and reduce the likelihood of falling victim to theft. How to keep your bike safe:

- Always secure your bike with an appropriate lock when it is not in use.
- When storing your bike at home, keep it in a secure location.
- Consider installing a video doorbell or security camera, and stay alert to any unusual markings or signs around your property.
- Use a tracking device and display labels on your bike or scooter indicating that a tracker is fitted.
- Get your bike security marked.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Anna Bell, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *“There are a number of simple precautions you can take to prevent your bike from falling into the hands of opportunistic thieves. Taking an extra 30 seconds to ensure you’ve properly secured your bike with a reliable lock can make a real difference. Keeping your bike out of sight at home may seem obvious, but storing it safely in a shed, garage, or inside your home provides an extra layer of protection.*

*“Our officers regularly host free community bike-marking events. Having your bike clearly marked and identifiable can significantly deter thieves and helps us return it to you if it is recovered. We also encourage anyone with a bike to make use of security measures such as the Bike Register — the UK’s national bike-marking and registration scheme, which aims to reduce cycle theft, identify stolen bikes, and return recovered ones to their rightful owners.*

*“If your bike or scooter is stolen, please report the crime as soon as you notice it is missing. Provide the police with the frame number, registration database details, photographs, and any other key*

*information, and update the status on whichever cycle database you've registered with. The sooner officers know, the sooner we can act."*

### **Congleton man sentenced for theft after repeatedly stealing from the same store**

A Congleton man has been sentenced following a number of thefts from a shop in the town.

Tobias Bennet, 25, appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on 10 March to be sentenced after pleading guilty to theft from a shop. He was given a community order, electronically tagged and required to undertake drug rehabilitation. He was also ordered to pay compensation for the stolen goods. Bennett stole washing products from Home Bargains to the value of £100 on 4 January, £50 worth of washing products on 7 February, £47 worth of cleaning products from Home Bargains on 22 February and £77.92 worth of cleaning products from Home Bargains on 21 February.

Sgt Vicky Welch said: *"Some people wrongly think that stealing from shops is a low-level crime, but the reality is that the impact that theft has on businesses and their staff is so much more than this. Businesses lose stock and money, and staff worry about having to confront a potential shoplifter, never quite knowing whether the next person who comes through the door is going to try to take stock and potentially assault them in the process. No one should have to worry about their safety when they are just doing their job. That's why we continue to work with businesses to help prevent crime and do everything we can to put thieves before the courts for their crimes."*

### **Tribute issued following fatal collision in Cheshire.**

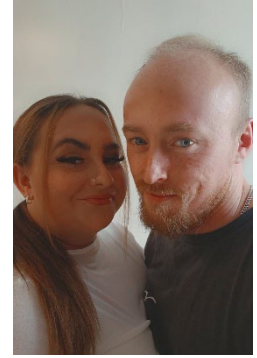
The family of a man who died following a collision on the M6 in Cheshire have paid tribute to him.

Daniel Hill died on Tuesday 3 March, following a collision involving a white Renault van and a crane truck on the M6 between junction 16 and junction 17. The 34-year-old from Oldham was a passenger in the van and was sadly pronounced dead at the scene.

Following his death, Daniels family said: *"Danny was a hardworking family man whose partner and six children were the centre of his world, and everything he did was for them. An avid rugby and football supporter, he proudly played rugby for his town team and had a great love of music. Danny was known for his sense of humour and his ability to make people laugh, often entertaining friends and family with his impressions of comedians like Lee Evans. He was a well-liked and memorable character — a devoted partner and father, and a beloved son and brother. His loss has left his family heartbroken, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him."*



Enquiries in relation to the collision remain ongoing and 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 2281889.



### **Man charged following attempted burglary in Winsford.**

A man who was arrested following reports of an attempted burglary in Winsford has now been charged.

At around 12.10am on Tuesday 17 March, officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit were called to reports of an attempted burglary at an address on Saxon Crossway. Officers swiftly attended the address, and a man was arrested outside the property. Stephen Poole, of Stephenson Walk, Winsford, has since been charged with one count of attempted burglary and one count of theft. The 34-year-old has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court later today, Wednesday 18 March.

### **Warrington woman charged with multiple offences**

A woman from Warrington has been charged with stalking, burglary and bail breaching offences. Donna Catterall was arrested on 15 March and has since been charged with stalking involving serious alarm and distress, burglary and the breaking of bail conditions. Catterall, of Hardy Street, Warrington, appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Monday 16 March, where she was released on conditional bail. The 49-year-old is next set to appear at the same court on Thursday 16 April.

### **Winsford man jailed for drug dealing**

A man from Winsford has been jailed after he admitted being involved in the sale of illegal drugs.

Jamie Green appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 12 March where he was sentenced to two years in prison. The 33-year-old of Dee Way had previously pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class B drugs (cannabis) and possession of Class B drugs (cannabis).



The case against him began in late 2025 when officers became aware of a mobile phone number which was being used to sell cannabis in Winsford. Officers quickly identified Green as the owner of the number. Further enquiries also revealed that he had purchased a top-up for the phone in December 2025. A warrant was subsequently conducted at

Green's home in Wharton on Wednesday 11 February, where officers located a mobile phone hidden under the kitchen sink which contained evidence of drugs supply. A small amount of cannabis was also located at the address. Green was arrested following the warrant but answered no comment to all the questions put to him by officers. He was later charged with drugs offences.

Following the sentencing Detective Constable Chris Forrest, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Green and I hope that it acts as a warning to others. Drug dealing has a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, and we're committed to doing all we can to ensure that those responsible are held accountable."*

*"If you have any information about illegal drug activity or any other criminal activity taking place, please report it to us on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, and we will take care of the rest."*

### **Wanted man arrested following collaborative response**

A wanted man who fled from officers into a canal has been arrested following a coordinated response between the Constabulary's Drone Unit and on-the-ground Beat teams.

<https://youtu.be/sP-pWE0YleA>

On Sunday 15 March, officers in Runcorn were conducting enquiries to locate a 21-year-old man. Drone teams, who had been deployed earlier to the area, identified the man after he was picked up in a van and liaised with patrols on the ground who were carrying out address checks in order to intercept the vehicle. When officers stopped the van, the man fled on foot before jumping into a nearby canal.

The Drone Unit continued to track his movements, with drone pilots relaying his location to officers on the ground who were swiftly in pursuit. The man was eventually located at an industrial site on the opposite side of the canal, where he attempted to deceive officers by climbing a water silo and hiding on the roof. However, he remained clearly visible to drone pilots and was subsequently arrested on suspicion of breaching court bail and escaping lawful custody. He has since been released on conditional bail.

Northern Response Inspector Nick Bamber said: *"This is an excellent example of Cheshire Police doing what we do best: working together to bring in those who think they are above the law. The coordinated use of local patrols, specialist units and drone technology resulted in the safe arrest of a suspect who was determined to avoid capture. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their swift and professional response. Today's result goes to show that we remain committed in our pursuit of wanted and outstanding offenders and, regardless of whether they try to escape us on dry land or in water, we will leave no stone unturned to bring them into custody."*

### **Man jailed for over two years for drug supply offences**

A man has been jailed for drug-related offences in Congleton.

Ben Schofield, of High Bent Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, was sentenced to 28 months at Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court on Thursday 12 March. The 37-year-old had previously admitted being concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs and possession of a weapon. On 3 September 2024, Schofield was arrested in relation to an unrelated matter, and his phone was seized by officers as part of an investigation. Analysis of the phone later revealed messages indicating that he was involved in the supply of class A and B drugs in the Congleton area.



On 26 January 2025 officers attended Schofield's address to arrest him, and a snap bag of white powder residue and a pink tablet was found in his pocket. His rucksack was then searched which contained more than 100 ecstasy tablets, snap bags of cannabis, drugs paraphernalia and an electrical device, later identified as an electronic stun device. The ecstasy tablets were valued at between £1,025 and £2,050 and the cannabis at between £210 and £335.



The electrical stun device



Drugs and paraphernalia

PC Boase said: *“Not only did Schofield have a substantial quantity of illegal drugs in his possession, but he also had a dangerous weapon which could have caused serious harm to someone. I welcome the custodial sentence handed to Schofield but let this be a warning, our fight against illegal drugs is never over and we continue to tackle this issue head-on. If you have any information about drug-related activity in your community, please contact us on 101 or through our website.”*

### **Constabulary continues to tackle retail crime with facial recognition technology**

Cheshire Constabulary is continuing to tackle retail crime by increasing the use of retrospective facial recognition technology to identify and prosecute shoplifters across the county.

The news coincides with the Constabulary supporting the national awareness week for Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, commencing on Monday 16 March. During the week, officers will be out across the force tackling a range of retail crime, while engaging with local businesses and members of the public under Operation Watchmaker. As part of this, officers will be encouraging retailers, security staff and business partners to join its 'Report and Support' campaign.

This involves retailers not only reporting incidents of shoplifting and other crime, but then also supporting the police investigation by ensuring images and videos of suspects or other visual evidence - captured on CCTV or security staff's body worn cameras - are submitted to police. Images or videos which show suspects' faces enable officers to use retrospective facial recognition technology to help identify those involved, increasing the chances of those responsible being prosecuted.

Chief Inspector Dan Reynolds said: *“The impact of retail crime cannot be underestimated and this national week of action from the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships is a testament*

*to our collective ongoing efforts to tackle this issue head-on. Business Crime Reduction Partnerships unite the local business community with police and local authorities to help prevent anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, and other retail-related crime. By asking retailers and partners to 'Report and Support' we can better utilise facial recognition technology which is a powerful investigative tool which helps us quickly identify suspects and stop repeat offending.*

*"Facial recognition is already used frequently across the force to identify suspects involved in a range of offences. The 'Report and Support' campaign aims to directly appeal to the business community to ensure visual evidence is submitted in a timely manner so we can make the most of what this technology has to offer. Police will be out across the week as part of Operation Watchmaker to raise awareness of the impact of retail crime, and I would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to an officer."*

Chief Inspector Darren Griffiths added: *"Facial recognition technology is the latest capability provided to officers to improve our response in achieving justice more efficiently and making the county a hostile place for criminals to operate. This technology allows us to tackle business crime head on, help those in need in our community, and it is just one of the many ways in which we are arming ourselves to target known offenders who are intent on committing crime in Cheshire."*

You can report retail crime to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency, or by reporting it via the Cheshire Police website.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal to trace missing teenager from Crewe**

Officers in Crewe are appealing for help in tracing a missing teenager from the town.

Luke Herron, who is also known as Luke Lawton, was last seen at around 2.30am on Wednesday 18 March in the Brogden Drive area of Willaston. He has since been seen in the West Street area of Crewe a short time later and was believed to have been riding a green pushbike. The 15-year-old is described as white, around six feet tall and with short ginger hair. He also wears glasses.



Inspector James Bell said: *"Our officers have been conducting a number of enquiries to locate Luke, and we are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare. As part of our enquiries, we are urging anyone who has seen Luke, or has any information relating to his whereabouts, to please contact us. I would also like to appeal to Luke directly to please get in contact with us to let us know you are safe and well."*

Anyone with any information regarding Luke's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or on 101, quoting incident reference number IML-2291068.

## Appeal for information following collision in Ellesmere Port

Officers in Ellesmere Port are appealing for information and witnesses following a collision in the town.

On Tuesday 17 March officers in Ellesmere Port received reports of a road traffic collision in the Poole Hall Road area of the town, near to the Gorilla Hut gym. The collision occurred at around 7.10am and had involved a pedal cycle and a white Hyundai i40. The rider of the bike, a 21-year-old man, sustained injuries to his hand that are not thought to be life-threatening or changing. The driver of the Hyundai was not injured.

PC Helena Baker, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *“We are conducting a number of enquiries to fully establish the circumstances of what has occurred here and, as part of our investigation, we are now appealing to anyone with any useful information to contact us. I would also like to ask any motorists who may have been passing through the area at around the time of the incident to review any dash camera footage they may have. Anyone with any footage or information in relation to the incident is asked to contact officers via the Cheshire Police website, or via 101, and quoting incident reference number IML-2290568.”*

## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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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)