

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 26 January 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

A man has been jailed after sexually assaulting a five-year-old girl in Handforth.

Adrian White, of Heatley Way, Handforth, was sentenced to 11 years, plus one year on extended licence, after appearing at Chester Crown Court on Friday 24 January.



The 60-year-old had previously been found guilty of one count of sexual assault by penetration, plus sexual assault on at least two other occasions, following a seven-day trial in October 2024.

On 1 June 2023, Cheshire Police were contacted following concerns about a girl, who was five years old at the time. She made disclosures which suggested she had been sexually assaulted. Despite her young age, the girl was able to tell officers the name of the man who had assaulted her. White was subsequently arrested on 2 June 2023 and following enquiries was charged with the offences. On top of his custodial sentence, White will be subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order, must sign the Sex Offender Register and comply with the regulations of a restraining order.

DC Alison Shields said: *"I am grateful for the sentence handed to White, who will now spend a considerable amount of time behind bars reflecting on the severity of what he has done. White committed some horrific crimes against an incredibly young, innocent child, who did not deserve to be put through that ordeal. I would like to commend her for her bravery. Despite being so young, she was able to summon the courage to tell officers what had happened to her in a video interview, and she showed levels of bravery beyond her years. It was thanks to her disclosures that we were able to gather evidence against White and secure charges. Even after he tried to deny the offences, thanks to the evidence against him, the jury found him guilty, and he is now in prison where he cannot subject anyone else to these abhorrent crimes."*

Stalker who tried to get their victim arrested sentenced

A 37-year-old man who stalked a woman and assaulted a police officer, before making a false report to police trying to get his victim arrested has been sentenced.

Mark Kavanagh of Church View, Wrexham appeared at Chester Crown Court on 23 January 2025 where he was sentenced to 18 months suspended for 18 months for stalking, assaulting an emergency worker and perverting the course of justice. He was also issued with a Restraining Order prohibiting him from contacting the victim.

The court was told how in September 2023, the victim moved into a house share in Chester where Kavanagh rented a room. By April 2024 Kavanagh developed a belief that he had been in a

relationship with the victim, and became obsessed with her, where she was, who she was with, and making threats to assault any men she brought to the address. Kavanagh's behaviour escalated as time went on. The court heard how on one occasion a note with blood smeared on it was posted under the victim's door. Upon seeing this the victim went to check on Kavanagh's welfare and found him holding a knife, having caused injuries to himself. The court heard how he later stated to the victim, "I did it to test you". The court also heard how on other occasions Kavanagh would bombard the victim with messages stating he intended to harm himself as he believed the victim had returned home with a man.

Kavanagh was arrested by officers from the Chester Local Policing Unit on 8 May 2024. Upon being informed of the reason for his arrest, Kavanagh grabbed a knife prompting officers to restrain and disarm him, during which time he tried to bite an officer. Kavanagh was interviewed by specialist Stalking investigators from Cheshire's Harm Reduction Unit and subsequently charged with Stalking involving Serious Alarm / Distress and Assaulting an Emergency Worker. He was remanded into custody. At court he was bailed with strict conditions not to contact the victim or enter Chester.

On Sunday 23 June 2024, Kavanagh contacted Cheshire Police reporting that the victim had uploaded intimate images of him onto a pornographic website using an account featuring her name. Officers' suspicions were instantly raised when data seen in screenshots Kavanagh provided did not align with the account in his statement. Detectives quickly established that the suspect account had in fact been created by Kavanagh six hours before he contacted police, and all the images had been uploaded from where Kavanagh was staying before being deleted 40 minutes later.

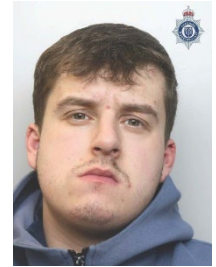
Kavanagh was further arrested and charged with Perverting the Course of Justice. He was remanded into custody and refused bail by the courts. After initially denying the offences, Kavanagh pleaded guilty to Stalking, Perverting the Course of Justice, and Assaulting an Emergency Worker due to the overwhelming evidence against him.

Following the sentence, investigating officer DC Ashcroft from Cheshire's Harm Reduction Unit said: *"Mark Kavanagh subjected the victim to what can only be described as abject cruelty, all because she ended a relationship that only ever existed in his mind. Kavanagh's intention was clearly to exact revenge however he could. When bail conditions got in his way, he attempted to circumvent them by going to the police with venal lies, attempting to get her arrested like he had been. He evidently hoped that police would either not check his account or wouldn't know how to, but he was wrong on both counts. His offending has understandably left his victim incredibly shaken. The distress they must have felt upon being informed of Kavanagh's attempt to abuse our criminal justice system to harm her, after everything they'd already been through, must have been horrific. Her bravery and strength shown throughout this investigation is truly commendable."*

DCI Danielle Knox said: *"This conviction demonstrates the commitment that Cheshire Police and the Harm Reduction Unit Investigations team have in bringing offenders to justice who commit stalking offences leaving no stone unturned in their work. The strength shown by the victim in this case is rightly recognised and I hope this shows that we will take all reports of stalking seriously and encourage victims to report their concerns to us even if they may not be sure it is stalking."*

Crewe county lines controller jailed for three years

A Wistaston man who managed a Crewe-based county lines drugs gang has been jailed for over three years after officers tracked the phone he was using to advertise the sale of heroin and crack cocaine.



Harvey Etchells appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 17 January after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (Heroin), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (other) and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. As a result, the 27-year-old, of Windermere Road, Wistaston, was sentenced for three years and seven months behind bars. During his hearing, the court heard that officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) had identified two mobile phone numbers used by Etchells functioning as county lines to facilitate the sale of crack cocaine and heroin in the Crewe area. The numbers used by Etchells were known as the "H" line, who advertised the sale of illegal drugs via his phone.

In this instance, officers' enquiries revealed that one of the two numbers had been offering drugs for sale to a long list of contacts on a daily basis. Further enquiries revealed that these messages were being sent within the vicinity of an address in Wistaston. Investigating officers suspected that Etchells was behind these messages and that he was the controller for the H line. Further evidence cemented this suspicion, and officers executed a warrant at Etchells' home address on Windermere Road on Thursday 28 November 2024. When officers entered the property, Etchells fled upstairs into his bathroom. He was detained and a phone was found on his person which was swiftly seized, but officers had reason to believe Etchells had attempted to flush further evidence down the toilet.

<https://youtu.be/HR8MV4HjStA>

Officers then accessed a manhole in the property's garden, and upon flushing the toilet in the bathroom a mobile phone exited the downpipe into manhole. Officers rang one of the numbers believed to be associated with drug supply and the phone that Etchells had attempted to dispose of rang. Meanwhile, back inside the house, officers located a number of items believed to be used in connection to the sale of class A drugs across the property, including:

- Several sets of scales
- Cling film/wrap
- A quantity of Cannabis
- A large bag of white power suspected to be used to further the yield of drugs

Scraps of paper with names and phone numbers on were also recovered from an outside bin at the front of address, which upon inspection, revealed that 14 of the 25 numbers on the document were known to Cheshire Police systems as people linked to possession of Class A drugs. A large zombie-style knife, approximately 17.5 inches in length, was also found in Etchells' bedroom. Later, when interviewed by officers, he claimed that he used it for gardening and that he was not aware they were illegal to possess. Etchells was later charged with being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (Heroin), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (other) and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place.

DI Rob Balfour from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"Controllers of county lines groups play integral roles in the distribution of illegal substances across large areas advertising drugs for sale to perspective buyers. The presentation of the evidence by the team has more than shown Etchells' control of the line, how involved he was and for how long. Unlike Etchells' flushed mobile phone that was recovered by us, the work of SOCU officers has resulted in his plans to continue the selling illegal drugs going fully down the toilet."*

"I really welcome such a sentence being given to Etchells. It is well documented the damage these types of drugs do and Etchells was trying to profit from his criminality. People who involve themselves at this level of control deserve such a sentence. We work very hard to prosecute those controlling County Lines and want to protect and safeguard any individuals at risk of exploitation from these types of criminals. Officers are continuously acting on intelligence and carrying out regular enforcement activity on both a local and county-wide level to go after organised groups. I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter."

Man jailed following Crewe cannabis farm closure

A man has been jailed for 18 months after officers seized over 300 cannabis plants from a farm in Crewe.

Thang Nguyen, of no fixed abode, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 22 January where he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. The 54-year-old was previously found guilty of production of class B drugs (cannabis).

The court heard that on Saturday 27 July 2024, officers from Crewe Local Policing Unit conducted a warrant at an address on High Street, Crewe. The property had been converted into a cannabis farm containing a total of 369 cannabis plants. Drug analysis experts estimated the plants could yield between £30,000 and £217,500 worth of drugs. Officers swiftly arrested Nguyen, who was inside the property at the time. He was later charged.



Following the sentencing, DC Jamie Roberts who led the investigation said: *"This is a great result which has enabled us to remove a significant quantity of cannabis from the streets of Crewe. This address had been converted into a sophisticated cannabis farm, with specialist lighting and ventilation systems to maximise the amount of class B drugs being cultivated inside. In total, the building contained well over 300 cannabis plants at various stages of growth, which have since been destroyed. We would urge anyone who has any concerns regarding the production or supply of illegal substances to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#)."*

There are a number signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

- A strong and sickly sweet smell
- Equipment to grow cannabis being taken into a property, such as lighting and ventilation equipment
- Constantly covered or blocked-off windows – cannabis farms often have constantly closed curtains, black-out blinds or foil coverings

- People coming and going at all hours or neighbours you never see
- Strong and constant lighting day and night
- High levels of heat and condensation – cannabis farms often give off heat and the windows stay misted up
- A constant buzz of ventilation – listen out for a whirring sound as the growers try to create an ideal climate for cannabis plants to grow
- Lots of power cables – offenders often dig underground to lay cables that hook up to things like lamp posts so they do not have to pay for the enormous amounts of electricity they use.

Crewe man given three-year Criminal Behaviour Order

A man from Crewe has been banned from the town's shopping areas and some shops countywide after neighbourhood officers secured a three-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).



Gordon-Glyn Roberts, of no fixed address, appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on 22 January where he was handed the three-year order, due to his prolific shoplifting and anti-social behaviour. Under the terms of the CBO, which was successfully applied for by officers from the Crewe Beat Team, the 48-year-old has been banned from the following:

- Any B&M store in Cheshire.
- Any Tesco store in Cheshire.
- The Dorothy Flude Retail Park.
- The grand Junction Retail Park.
- Davenport Avenue, Crewe.
- Crewe Town Centre (except to attend a pharmacy in Victoria Street to collect a prescription).

Roberts must also not use language or behaviour that would cause people to feel threatened or intimidated. If Roberts 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 from Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"This latest of five CBOs we have obtained in the last couple of months is part of our push to stamp out shoplifting in Crewe. We will continue in our efforts to clamp down on those who steal from businesses and are working with the shops in our town to reduce the harm to our business community. The effect of theft not only impacts on the shop but also the staff who when faced with a shoplifter can be subjected to threatening and sometimes violent behaviour. No one should have to experience such shocking behaviour for simply just going to work and doing their job. We want shop staff to feel safe in the knowledge that we take this type of crime seriously and will work to protect them and their employers with tools such as the Criminal Behaviour Order."*

Anyone who encounters Roberts breaching any of the above restrictions is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the [website](#) or call 101, to report it.

Officers urge Cheshire residents to stay vigilant against courier fraud

Officers are warning residents to stay vigilant following an increase in the number of scam phone calls targeting people in Cheshire.

Recently, officers in Cheshire have seen an increase in the amount of courier frauds. Victims are being called on their phones by fraudsters who pretend they are police officers or bank officials. One tactic they use to scam the victims is by telling them they are assisting with a covert police investigation. The fraudsters persuade the victim to withdraw cash from their bank, to purchase EUROs or provide bank cards and PIN numbers for collection by a courier.

DS Christopher Jacques, of the Economic Crime Unit, said: *"The fraudsters are extremely convincing and persistent, and often target elderly or vulnerable people, resulting in the loss of thousands of pounds. It's important to remember that police officers and bank officials will never ask you to withdraw money, purchase goods or hand over private banking details. Please help us to raise awareness by sharing this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly."*

If you believe that you are a victim of courier fraud, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, using a different phone to the one used to communicate with the fraudsters. You can also report information to us via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us You can also report to Action Fraud via actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. If a fraud is in progress or in an emergency, call 999 immediately.

Please see some crime prevention advice:

- Be sceptical of unexpected calls or texts, even from those who claim to be officials.
- Don't be afraid to put the phone down with a brief 'no, thank you'.
- Never give personal information, such as your date of birth or bank details, to unexpected callers.
- Remember, criminals will use urgency or threats to cause panic and fear. When you are under stress you are less likely to think clearly about your actions.
- The police or your bank would never unexpectedly call you and ask you to withdraw cash or move your money to another account, as a result of fraud or any other reason.
- If callers suggest you call your local police or bank to check who they are, use another phone or hang up and ensure the line has been fully disconnected by phoning a friend or relative first, or by waiting at least five minutes. Otherwise, you may think you've phoned a number, but you're simply talking to the fraudsters again. This is a common tactic used by fraudsters.
- If a caller asks you to type your bank PIN number into your telephone handset - do not do this, as fraudsters can use technology to identify the numbers.
- You can opt out of many cold calls by registering for free with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

Man jailed for Ellesmere Port assault and dangerous driving

A 19-year-old man has been jailed after admitting assault and dangerous driving in Ellesmere Port.

Martin Ward of no fixed address appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 22 January to be sentenced to 12 months in prison. He was also disqualified from driving for 18 months.

His accomplice Martin Ward, 38, was sentenced to 15 months in prison for his part in October last year.

On 7 April 2024 the victim left an address in Woodchurch Lane to get in his car when he saw another car approach. The car was driven at him hitting him on his elbow causing minor injury. The two men got out of the car and the victim was chased and assaulted with a baseball bat. A substance was thrown over him which smelled of bleach. The bottle was recovered by police and the substance tested. It was found to have low levels of ammonia.

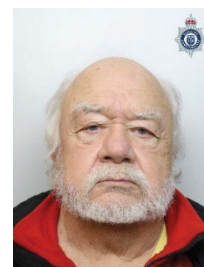
DC Nick Smith said: *"Thankfully the victim had minor injuries but was left shocked by his ordeal. The victim was targeted by the men who travelled to his house with the sole purpose of assaulting him and putting him in fear. The 19-year-old went on the run following the incident, but we continued to make enquiries into his whereabouts and tracked him down so that he too could face the consequences for his violence."*



Man jailed for sexual abuse in Ellesmere Port

A man has been jailed for sexually abusing children in Ellesmere Port.

Steven Reginald Huxley appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 22 January, where he was sentenced to 23 years in prison and ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life. The 72-year-old of Joseph Groome Towers, Ellesmere Port, was earlier found guilty of 17 counts of sexual offences against children, including rape of a girl under 13 and assault by penetration, following a 7-day-trial at Liverpool Crown Court which concluded on Wednesday 9 October 2024. Huxley had also previously pleaded guilty to three counts of making indecent images of children, three counts of taking indecent images of children, one count of possession of indecent images of children, possessing prohibited images of children, and possession of extreme pornography.



During the trial, the court heard how the abuse involved two victims and occurred between 2005 and 2008 and 2006 and 2011. He was in a position of trust but when the victims came to visit him, instead of looking after them, he repeatedly sexually abused the children individually over several years. When the abuse was reported to Cheshire Police, a warrant was conducted at Huxley's address and his devices were seized. Upon digital forensic analysis, officers discovered over 130,000 uncategorised images depicting child sexual abuse. Of these images, 30 were found to be category A images, 27 were category B, 1,239 were category C, 257 were extreme pornography, and 250 were prohibited images. 56 images found were first generation images that Huxley had taken himself of his child victims.

DC Yvonne Graham said: *“What Huxley did was every parent’s worst nightmare. He was trusted to look after the victims, but instead of caring for them he preyed on their vulnerability. He sexually abused them on many occasions, causing untold harm and distress. It is a testament to the strength, bravery and determination of the victims in this case that we have been able bring Huxley to justice, despite it being 20 years since some of the offences occurred. I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide them with some closure and help them with their recovery.*

“Sexual assault of children causes terrible distress to all involved, not least the victim themselves, and I urge anyone who has been the victim of a sexual assault – no matter how long ago the incident took place – to come forward and report it. “We treat all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority, and any allegations will be thoroughly investigated.”

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please call us on 101 or [visit the website for information on how to report](#). Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man arrested following warrant in Northwich

A man has been arrested following a warrant in Northwich as part of an investigation into the theft of a trailer.

At around 6pm on Monday 20 January, police received a report that an articulated trailer had been stolen from an address in Leicester. The caller reported that the vehicle was fitted with a tracker which showed the trailer’s last known location to be in the Northwich area. The following day, on Tuesday 21 January, officers conducted a section 18 search at an address on Manchester Road, Northwich, where they recovered the stolen trailer, along with several other vehicles which have since been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). A 42-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of theft. He has since been bailed while the investigation continues.

PC Kev Anderson said: *“This was a great example of teamwork to swiftly arrest a suspect and locate a stolen trailer, which has since been returned to its owner. The effect this type of crime has on the victims and the local community should not be underestimated so we will continue to make every effort to find those responsible and hold them to account.”*

Man charged following Neston criminal damage series

Officers investigating reports of criminal damage on a number of vehicles in Neston have charged a man in relation to the incidents.

Dylan Marshall was arrested at around 1.40pm on Tuesday 21 January. The 22-year-old, of High Street, Neston, has since been charged with four counts of criminal damage. Marshall has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court later today (Wednesday 22 January).

Man found guilty of manslaughter following stabbing in Ellesmere Port

A 20-year-old man has been found guilty of manslaughter after fatally stabbing a man in Ellesmere Port.



Ben Ruddock, of Kendal Drive, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port, was found not guilty of murder, but guilty of manslaughter on Tuesday 21 January 2025 following a 15-day trial at Chester Crown Court. The court found Ruddock had killed 34-year-old Lloyd Velasquez by stabbing him on Wednesday 1 May 2024.

At approximately 7.15pm that evening, Lloyd and a female friend of his attended Ruddock's home address to collect an e-bike which they believed had been stolen from an associate. There was a minor altercation between Lloyd and Ruddock. The e-bike was recovered, and Lloyd and his friend left the address. Ruddock proceeded to send multiple threatening voice notes to the woman's phone, directed towards Lloyd. Ruddock armed himself with a knife from a barbecue set and told Lloyd to meet him at a park. At approximately 8.10pm, Lloyd and his friend were driving along Hollybush Way, Ellesmere Port, when they sighted Ruddock, who was with two other men. Lloyd exited the vehicle and a confrontation occurred. Ruddock produced the knife from his waistband and brandished it towards Lloyd, who got back into the car and left.

Lloyd's friend received further voice notes in which Ruddock made more threats to harm Lloyd. Minutes later, Lloyd and his female friend were driving along Summertrees Road when they again saw Ruddock and the two men. Lloyd exited the vehicle and an altercation ensued. During the incident, Ruddock produced the knife and stabbed Lloyd. He then ran from the scene. Paramedics and officers attended and Lloyd was taken to hospital where he was sadly pronounced dead.

Chester Crown Court heard Ruddock then attended his address and left the knife in the garden, before changing his blood-stained clothes at a nearby address. He then arranged to be driven to Hapsford Services before booking a taxi and travelling to an address in Merseyside. Officers attended Ruddock's address in Ellesmere Port that evening and seized the weapon. Following enquiries, Ruddock was subsequently arrested during the early hours of Thursday 2 May at the address in Merseyside.

On Friday 3 May, a post-mortem revealed Lloyd died from a stab wound to the chest. Ruddock was charged with murder the same day. The two men who were with Ruddock on the evening of the incident were arrested at the time but later released with no further action against them. Ruddock was instead found guilty of manslaughter and will be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 24 March.

Following the guilty verdict for manslaughter, DI Andrea Price said: *"While no conviction is going to bring Lloyd back to his family and friends, I hope the conclusion of this trial will help to bring them some closure, knowing that the person responsible for his death has been held accountable for his actions. What happened on the evening of 1 May 2024 was entirely avoidable. Ruddock chose to arm himself with a knife and made continued threats towards Lloyd. The incident itself was over in a matter of seconds – and this should serve as a warning of the dangers of knife crime. Instead of owning up to what he had done, he chose to flee Cheshire. Thankfully he was later arrested in Merseyside and now, as a result of our investigation and the evidence against him, he has been*

found guilty of the manslaughter of Lloyd. Our thoughts remain with Lloyd's family and friends at this time."

A statement from Lloyd's mother reads: *"There are no words to describe the amount of hurt and heartache Lloyd's death has left, not only for his immediate family, relatives and close friends, but for his baby son, born just nine weeks after Lloyd was tragically killed on that fateful day on 1 May 2024. Everyone who mourns Lloyd knew him and loved him. Yet, his son will never have the opportunity to meet and get to know his dad, something no child should have to endure. And from Lloyd's baby's point of view, justice will never be served. Lloyd is not able to speak for himself, and sadly two lives have been ruined as the result of Ben Ruddock's horrific actions."*



A statement from Lloyd's father reads: *"The family would like to thank everyone involved regarding the investigation into the death of Lloyd Velasquez. From the police and legal team for their swift capture of the offender and work on the case, to the bystanders and ambulance service who assisted at the scene. We are so grateful for all their hard work and support throughout this awful ordeal. Our Lloyd was a much-loved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, uncle, and dad to the lovely son who he sadly never got the chance to meet. The loss of Lloyd has left a massive hole in all of our lives. We can now only cherish our memories of him."*

Merseyside man charged with kidnap, robbery and drugs offences.

A man from Merseyside has been charged with in relation to the kidnap and robbery of a man in Runcorn.

Joseph Waters was arrested at Manchester Airport on Tuesday 21 January by officers from Cheshire Police. The 28-year-old has since been charged with kidnap, robbery, possession with intent to supply Class A and B drugs (cocaine and Ketamine) and being concerned in the supply Class A and B drugs (cocaine and Ketamine). The robbery and kidnap charges relate to an incident which started in Runcorn on Thursday 29 September 2022. The drugs charges relate to the search of an address in Liverpool on Saturday 1 October 2022.

Waters, of Abbeyvale Drive, Liverpool, appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Tuesday 21 January where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Warrington Crown Court on Tuesday 18 February 2025.

Merseyside man who subjected his partner to seven months of abuse jailed

A 36-year-old man has been jailed for over two years after abusing and harassing his partner and destroying her property.

John McCabe, 36, of Clock Face, Merseyside, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 16 January where he was sentenced to two years and three months behind bars after pleading guilty to one count of engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour, two counts of assault and one count of criminal damage on the day he was due to go to trial.



During his hearing, the court heard that McCabe had entered into a relationship with the victim, who was 17 at the time, in November 2023, before it concluded in the following July, some seven months later. The court heard that during this short period, his victim had been subjected to a torrent of abuse, including violence resulting in varying levels of injury, threats, controlling behaviour and verbal abuse.

During one instance, McCabe had threatened suicide if the victim left him, going so far as to choke himself with a phone charger, before climbed on top of her and putting his hand over her face. He had a lit cigarette in his hand at the time, resulting in her receiving a burn. Another violent attack involved the victim sustaining a black eye after McCabe had seen a text message from an ex-partner's family member on her phone and he violently lashed out. For weeks following the assault, the victim had to try and cover up the injury with make-up every time she left the house, with McCabe frequently pressuring her to make sure enough was applied to cover the injury, fearing questions would be asked regarding how she sustained it.

Incidents of coercive and controlling behaviour also occurred during their relationship, with McCabe making derogatory comments about her weight and appearance, despite the 36-year-old being well aware she struggled with these issues. Even after their relationship concluded, McCabe bombarded her with text and video messages, begging to take her back and claiming she was causing him mental anguish by not answering his calls.

It was then heard that on Friday 21 June, the couple had been involved in a heated argument at home, which resulted in McCabe throwing a lighter at the victim, which struck her in the chest causing bruising. Fearing more violence, the victim then left the address with her dog, whom McCabe had already threatened to "boot" earlier that morning. Whilst out on the dog walk, the victim received a call from her neighbour, informing her that McCabe had begun destroying a number of items in her flat, including her television and a mirror in a violent rage.

Everything came to a head in July 2024 when, after a short break in their relationship, the pair were in bed following an argument, when McCabe climbed on top of her and put both hands around her neck, began to strangle her - shouting "I am going to kill you". The attack lasted around 20 seconds, with the victim saying she remembered thinking she was "going to die" and being unable to call for help due to the pressure on her neck. This attack left the victim with swollen glands, with her still feeling pain days after the assault. It was at this point the victim had had enough, telling McCabe she wanted a further breaking in their relationship, with him leaving the house.

On 18 July 2024, the victim found the courage to call Cheshire Police officers after McCabe had repeatedly tried to contact her over the phone to no avail and then turned up outside her home. Over the course of a night, he repeatedly banged on her windows and calling her derogatory names such as a "rat" and a "keyboard warrior", in relation to her going to the police in relation to previous cocaine usage. Whilst officers were in attendance, the victim felt brave enough to disclose the extent of the horrendous abuse she had suffered at the hands of John McCabe over the course of their seven-month relationship. It was thanks to her bravery that led to McCabe's eventual arrest and subsequent charge, which in turn led to him pleading guilty at the last moment.

John McCabe was jailed for two years and three months (27 months) at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 16 January 2025 after he plead guilty on the day he was to go to trial, due to the overwhelming amount of evidence against him.

Following sentencing PC Leanne Rigby said: *"No one should be living in fear when going about their day-to-day lives, especially when that someone who is causing that fear is someone who is meant to be someone you trust to care for you - I can only imagine the torment she faced at the cruel hands of John McCabe. McCabe is a violent perpetrator, whose manipulative behaviour left his victim feeling worthless and that there was no way out. Whilst no sentence will ever be able to make the victim forget what happened to her, hopefully with McCabe serving in excess of two years behind bars and with ongoing management upon his release, she can begin to move on with her life. I would like to commend her bravery throughout this entire investigation, without her courage we would have not been able to secure this conviction. Let today's sentencing be a reminder that Cheshire Constabulary takes all offences of this nature and domestic abuse extremely seriously. Any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the needs of the victim always being our main priority."*

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of domestic abuse please report it by calling 101 or visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us. In an emergency always call 999.

Man jailed for causing a serious collision in Runcorn

A 35-year-old man has been jailed for causing serious injury by dangerous driving in Runcorn.

Daniel Halliwell, from Hatters Close, Daresbury appeared at Chester Crown Court on 21 January to be sentenced after pleading guilty at a previous hearing. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison, and disqualified from driving for five years, with an extension period of 18 months. He will have to undergo an extended test. He was also ordered to pay a £228 surcharge.

At 5.05pm on Friday 21 July 2023 a dark grey Ford Fiesta and a dark grey Ferrari collided on the A558 Daresbury Expressway at its junction with Daresbury Manor Park Avenue. The Ferrari was traveling from the Mersey Gateway direction and the Fiesta was joining the carriageway from Manor Park Avenue.



<https://youtu.be/tpPMz7K6Fug>

At the time, Halliwell and a 3-week-old baby from the Fiesta were taken to hospital in a serious condition. While Halliwell has made a recovery the baby was left with life changing injuries. As part of the investigation into the crash, forensic collision investigators established from the tyre marks alone that the Ferrari was travelling at speeds of 102mph to 111mph and an expert witness viewing dash cam footage estimated the speed at some point to be even faster, between 129mph to 136mph. The speed limit on that carriageway is 60mph.

Sgt Andy Dennison said: "This was shocking driving behaviour which could only have ended in tragedy. Witnesses described Halliwell's manner of driving as fast, intimidating and frightening. At

some point he lost control of the car and he then collided with a mother and her three-week-old baby. The baby ended up in hospital in a critical condition and is still suffering the consequences of Halliwell's reckless behaviour that day. I genuinely don't know how anyone could think driving at such speeds and so recklessly among busy traffic could not have been so dangerous to others, himself and his passenger."

Man pleads guilty to running Widnes Cannabis farm

A man has pleaded guilty to running a cannabis farm in Widnes.

Pajtim Oruci appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 21 January where he admitted production of Class B drugs (Cannabis). The 32-year-old of Hale Road, Widnes, has been remanded in custody and is set to be sentenced on Tuesday 11 March at Liverpool Crown Court.

The court heard how on Monday 23 December 2024, officers from Widnes Local Policing Unit executed a warrant at an address on Hale Road following reports of suspicious activity in the area.



Upon entering the building officers found that the premises had been converted into a professional cannabis farm, with plants growing in the living room, two bedrooms and the loft. While searching the address officers also located Oruci, who was found watering some of the plants in one of the rooms. He was subsequently arrested in relation to the discovery. In total officers recovered 103 plants from the address, with a potential street value of up to £104,740.

Following the hearing, CI Daniel Haddock said: *"I welcome the guilty plea by Oruci and I hope that it provides reassurance to the local community. The negative impact that illegal drugs have on our communities are well known and were committed to doing all that we can to ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions and our ongoing battle against those who are involved in the production and supply of illegal drugs continues. I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter."*

There are a number signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

- A strong and sickly sweet smell
- Equipment to grow cannabis being taken into a property, such as lighting and ventilation equipment
- Constantly covered or blocked-off windows – cannabis farms often have constantly closed curtains, black-out blinds or foil coverings
- People coming and going at all hours or neighbours you never see
- Strong and constant lighting day and night

- High levels of heat and condensation – cannabis farms often give off heat and the windows stay misted up
- A constant buzz of ventilation – listen out for a whirring sound as the growers try to create an ideal climate for cannabis plants to grow.
- Lots of power cables – offenders often dig underground to lay cables that hook up to things like lamp posts so they do not have to pay for the enormous amounts of electricity they use.

To report a suspected cannabis farm or any other type of drug-related offence, call us 101, give the details via our website or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for Macclesfield cannabis farm

A man who was operating a cannabis farm in Macclesfield has been jailed.

Tung Nguyen appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 20 January where he was sentenced to 12 months in prison. He was also ordered to pay a £187 victim surcharge and there was a destruction order for the drugs. The 35-year-old of no fixed abode had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to cannabis cultivation and abstracting electricity.



Officers conducted a warrant at an address on Mayfield Avenue, Macclesfield, on Thursday 19 December 2024, following intelligence that drug activity had been taking place at the property. A large cannabis farm was found inside the address, consisting of over 300 cannabis plants. Nguyen was arrested during a search of the property and subsequently charged with the offences. The cannabis plants inside the house were seized, as was equipment used to cultivate them.

Following his sentencing, PC Callum Burness said: *“These types of grows are often linked with organised crime groups and usually involve the exploitation of vulnerable people who run the grows on behalf of career criminals. Local officers are continuously acting on intelligence and carrying out regular enforcement activity across Macclesfield, to go after these organised groups and to stop those at risk of being exploitation and forced into criminality. This court result is welcomed as part of our continued effort to tackle organised crime in Cheshire, and although this case has now concluded, our battle against those who are involved in the production and supply of illegal drugs continues. I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter.”*

There are a number of signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

- A strong and sickly-sweet smell
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To report a suspected cannabis farm or any other type of drug-related offence, call us 101, give the details [via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police urge residents to be vigilant following burglaries in the Macclesfield LPU area

Police in Macclesfield Local Policing Unit are advising residents to be vigilant following recent burglaries in the area.

Over the past 3 months officers have been called to reports of several burglaries in the area which have featured two specific methods or MO's – Car and Key Burglaries and 'Climbers'. The burglaries have generally taken place across Alderley Edge, Wilmslow, Prestbury and Poynton.

In relation to the 'Climbers' these have mostly occurred between 5pm and 7pm. On each occasion the suspects have climbed onto balconies or flat roofs and gained access to the property by smashing windows or glass doors that give access to the master bedroom.

In relation to the Car & Key Burglaries these have generally occurred overnight where high powered vehicles have been targeted, the properties are being entered for the car keys to then be stolen. The general make of car being targeted has been BMW, Audi, VW and Mercedes.

DI Si Mills said: *"Enquiries in relation to these incidents are ongoing and officers patrolling the area have already recovered tools and a telescopic ladder in fields off Macclesfield Road in Alderley Edge, which we suspect were left there in order to use in burglaries in the area. We are continuing to patrol in these areas as a result and we are making a number of enquiries, including with our neighbouring forces, to find those responsible. Meanwhile, residents can also help by reviewing their security and being vigilant for suspicious activity. If you see something out of place or that doesn't quite seem right, please report it to us on 101 or [via the website](#). By working together, we can deter thieves and help prevent burglaries in your area."*

Here are some handy tips to help you secure your home:

- Consider CCTV and a doorbell camera. If you have it, make sure it is working and recording.
- Ensure outside security lighting is in working order if you have it. And if you don't consider getting some - burglars are shy and don't like being in the spotlight.
- Smart plugs will help make it look like someone is in when you're not at home by enabling you to switch on lighting or even radios to make it look and sound like someone is in.
- If you haven't already considered it, get an alarm. If you have one check it's in good working order. In light of these thieves using first floor windows and doors to gain access, it's advisable to put your sensors on the first-floor windows and doors, rather just the ground floor.

For more tips go to our [crime prevention page](#) on the website.

Appeals

Police appeal to help locate wanted man from Warrington

Officers are appealing for help from the public in locating a wanted man from Warrington.

Ryan Lake is wanted in relation to an incident of assault and theft. The 32-year-old is described as around 5' 11" tall, of a medium build, with short brown hair and blue eyes. He is believed to have links to the Parr area of St Helens and the Chapelford area of Warrington.



Anyone with any information as to Lake's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting 24001047827.

Police appeal to help in tracing missing teenager from Crewe

Officers are appealing for help from the public in locating a missing teenager from Crewe.

Salan Kamel Saeid was reported missing after he was last seen at around 9am on Sunday 19 January in the Hungerford Road area of Crewe. The 17-year-old is described as 5' 7", with short brown hair, of a medium build, and was wearing a dark coloured tracksuit, trainers, a black coat, and was riding a white and blue bike. He may have potential links to London however it is believed Salan has travelled to Glasgow, potentially the Maryhill area.



Insp Claire Miles said: *"It has now been a few days since Salan was last seen and we are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare. We would urge anyone who has seen Salan since he went missing to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any information on his whereabouts or anyone with any relevant CCTV, dashcam or video doorbell footage which could help us to trace him."*

To report information to Cheshire Police, you can visit cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML-2009123.

Appeal to help trace wanted man from Warrington

Officers are appealing for help from the public in locating a wanted man from Warrington.

Bradley Butler is wanted in relation to an incident of assault. The 30-year-old is described as around 6' tall, of a stocky build, with brown hair and blue eyes. He has links to the Tamworth area, but it is believed he could be in the Hodge Hill area of Birmingham.



Anyone with any information as to Butler's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting 24001080743.

Appeal for information following Northwich burglary

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary in Northwich.

Shortly after 6pm on Friday 17 January, police were called to report of an incident at an address on Stubbs Lane, Lostock Gralam. The caller reported that a group of three unknown men had forced entry into the address and stole a number of items. The men then fled the address and got into a car which was waiting nearby, they then drove in the direction of Northwich. All three men were dressed in black clothing and were wearing black balaclavas.

PC Dean Butterworth, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"To know that somebody has targeted your home – a place you should feel safe in, is sickening, and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the people responsible. Enquiries in relation the incident are ongoing, and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information or video footage which may aid our investigation."*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the ongoing investigation should visit the website or call 101, quoting IML 2007605. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com

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

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw



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

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