

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 14 September 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals

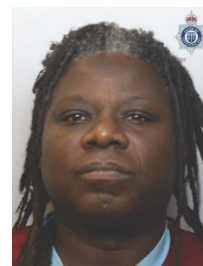


Latest Cheshire News

Man who raped woman in Congleton jailed for 8 years

A man has been jailed for eight years for rape.

William Kyaruhanga was handed the sentence at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 11 September. The 58-year-old, of Belgrave Road, Macclesfield, had been found guilty of one count of rape.



On Saturday 30 December 2023, the adult female victim had been with friends at an address in Congleton. They had been drinking alcohol so she asked if anyone could give her a lift home. Her friend contacted Kyaruhanga, who she knew, to ask if he could take the victim back home. Kyaruhanga arrived and stayed at the address for a while, and the victim fell asleep next to him on the sofa while her friends went upstairs to sleep. The victim woke up to Kyaruhanga raping her. She pushed him away before going upstairs to tell her friend what had happened. Kyaruhanga was confronted and left the address. The victim then called police the following day to report the incident and Kyaruhanga was subsequently arrested. Following an investigation, he was charged and was found guilty after a trial.

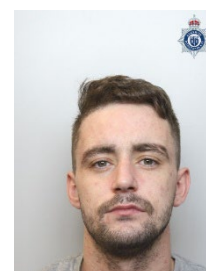
DC Doug Whitfield said: *"I welcome the substantial custodial sentence handed to Kyaruhanga, who tried to deny the offences, but the jury ultimately found him guilty of this despicable crime. Kyaruhanga chose to take advantage of a woman who was unable to consent while she was asleep. He clearly had no regard for her welfare or the impact this would have on her going forwards – I hope the conclusion of this case will provide her with some sense of closure."*

"I also hope this serves as an example of how seriously we take offences of this nature. We will investigate all reports of sexual offences, with the needs and wishes of the victim as our main priority. You can report any sexual offence to us by calling 101 or you can report it online through our website. In an emergency, always dial 999."

A man has been jailed after he was found guilty of raping a child in Wilmslow.

Daniel Carter appeared at Chester Crown Court today, Friday 12 September, where he was sentenced to 13 years in prison, plus one year on licence.

The 28-year-old of no fixed abode in the Macclesfield area, was previously found guilty by unanimous verdict of 10 counts of child sexual offences, including rape of a child under 13, exposure, and sexual assault, following a 4-day trial at Chester Crown Court that concluded on Thursday 10 July.



Cheshire Police launched the investigation in November 2022 following a disclosure made by the victim. The jury heard how Carter began sexually abusing the victim in 2019, when she was just 9 years old, and continued over the course of 3 years. Carter was immediately arrested and subsequently charged with the offences. On top of his custodial sentence, Carter was handed a 20-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order, a 20-year restraining order against three witnesses and will be added to the sex offenders register and will remain on it indefinitely.

Following the sentencing, DC Steph Darbyshire who led the investigation said: *"Carter's conviction is testament to the courage and bravery shown by the victim and their family throughout this investigation. Carter is a depraved and gutless individual, who subjected his victim to a prolonged period of sexual abuse. Even when faced with all the evidence against him, he refused to admit his guilt. Instead, he chose to make the victim, and her family sit through a trial and listen to the horrific offences that he committed. Thankfully, as a result of the statements provided by the victim, and the evidence we gathered, the jury have seen through his lies and he is now being held accountable for his actions."*

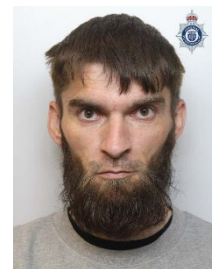
DC Darbyshire added: *"No-one should have to experience what this victim has been through and if anything can be achieved from this case, I hope that it encourages other victims to come forward. Cheshire Constabulary takes any allegation of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority."*

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences/%20>. Information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for raping and sexually abusing a child in Northwich.

A man has been jailed after he admitted raping and sexually abusing a child in Northwich.

Steven Hargreaves appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 12 September where he was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison. The 36-year-old from Northwich, had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of rape and two counts of causing a child to engage in sexual activity.



During the hearing, the court was told that the case began in June 2025 when the victims' mother discovered a number of concerning messages from Hargreaves on the victims' mobile phone. After speaking to the victim, she revealed that Hargreaves had been sexually abusing and repeatedly raping her over a number of years. The allegations were reported to detectives from the Public Protection Unit at Northwich and an investigation was launched.

Hargreaves was quickly arrested in relation to the incidents and during questioning he denied sexually abusing or raping the victim. Despite his denial, he was later charged in relation to the offences, and as a result of the strength of the evidence against him, he pleaded guilty to the charges. In addition to his prison sentence, Hargreaves was also handed a 20-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order, a restraining order and ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life.

Following the sentencing, DC Felicity Gregory, who led the investigation said: *"Firstly, I want to praise the victim for the bravery and courage that she has shown throughout this investigation. Nobody should have to experience what she has been through, and I hope that the sentence handed to Hargreaves today will provide her with some closure. I also hope that the sentence encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us.*

"We treat all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation we receive will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority. Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity."

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/ras/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences/%20>. In an emergency always call 999. Information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed following burglaries at Winsford bar.

A man who broke into a bar in Winsford twice in three days has been jailed.

At around 8pm on Wednesday 10 September police were called to reports of two burglaries at the Hive in Winsford. The caller reported that an unknown man had broken into the address on two separate occasions. The first incident occurred on Sunday 7 September, when the man forced entry into the building via the fire escape. Once inside he stole approximately £100 and several bottles of alcohol. Then, on Tuesday 9 September, the same man returned to the premises and again forced entry via the fire escape. This time he used a crowbar to steal around £500 from the fruit machine and again stole several bottles of alcohol.



Following the report, an investigation was launched, and David McElligott was quickly identified as the prime suspect. The 48-year-old was arrested at his home on Granville Square, Winsford, on Wednesday 10 September, and during questioning he made no comment. Despite his silence, he was charged with two counts of burglary other than a dwelling. McElligott appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Thursday 11 September. He pleaded guilty to both of the offences and was immediately sentenced to nine months in prison.

Following the sentencing, DS John Lyons, of Northwich Proactive CID said: *"This is a great result, within less than 24-hours of these incidents being reported, McElligott was arrested, charged and jailed. I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him, and I hope that it provides reassurance to the local business community and to residents across Winsford."*

Man pleads guilty to burglaries in Crewe

A man from Birmingham has pleaded guilty to burgling two homes in Crewe.

Shafiollah Amiree appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 10 September where he pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary, three counts of theft of a motor vehicle and two counts of driving while disqualified. The 24-year-old of Birchdale Road, Birmingham, has been remanded in custody and is set to be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 6 October.

The court heard how Amiree's crime spree began in the early hours of Sunday 1 June 2025, when he broke into a house on Parklands Drive, Weston. Once inside the address he searched through the cupboards and stole the keys to a grey Audi which was parked outside the address. He then fled the scene in the vehicle, which was later recovered in the Birmingham area. Then, on Sunday 22 June he returned to the area, this time breaking into an address on Park Drive, Wistaston, from where he stole a BMW and a Ford Focus. The Ford Focus was later located in Tunstall, Staffordshire.

Investigations into the incidents were launched and during their enquiries officers recovered ANPR analysis which showed the stolen Audi and stolen BMW were both in the Birmingham area shortly after the incident. Further analysis showed that both of the stolen cars had been travelling in convoy with a white BMW which was registered to an address on Birchdale Road, Birmingham

Officers attended the address in Birmingham at 8am on Monday 24 June and the white BMW was parked on the driveway. Amiree was located inside the address, and was arrested after matching the appearance of the driver from the ANPR footage recovered by officers. His phone was also located at the address and subsequent analysis placed him in the area at the time of both burglaries. After recovering a catalogue of evidence, Amiree was charged in relation to both of the incidents. He was also charged with two counts of driving while disqualified, due to the fact that he had been banned from driving for three years on Wednesday 9 April 2025.

Following the guilty plea, DC Jamie Roberts, said: *"As this case demonstrates, if you commit crime in Cheshire, you will be caught and you will be brought to justice. No matter where you are from, there are no borders, and our officers are committed to travelling the length and breadth of the country to ensure that those who cause harm in our communities are held accountable for their actions."*

"I hope that the guilty plea entered today will provide some reassurance for the victims in this case and allow them to move forward with their lives. I also hope that this case acts as a warning to anyone else who is thinking of coming to Cheshire to commit crime."

A man who attempted to rob Greggs Bakery in Handforth has been jailed

A man who attempted to rob Greggs Bakery in Handforth has been jailed for seven years.

Vincent Foley, 43, from Bailey Lane Manchester appeared at Chester Crown Court on 11 September to be sentenced after pleading guilty to burglary and theft, attempted robbery, and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place at an earlier hearing.

He pleaded not guilty to section 18 wounding with intent and fraud by false representation, these charges will lie on file. The charges relate to an attempted robbery at the bakery in Wilmslow Road in Handforth on 4 July and a burglary at an address in Meriton Road, Handforth on the same day. The fraud relates to using stolen cheques on 7 July.



Foley entered the office area of the bakery on Wilmslow Road and assaulted a member of staff with a hammer. The staff member ran to his colleagues in the front and they ran out of the shop to safety. Foley then tried to open the safe but failed and left empty-handed. The whole event was captured on CCTV, including Foley taking his face covering off to reveal his face to the cameras.

The same day he broke into a house in Meriton Road in Handforth and stole a number of watches and bracelets, a deactivated antique shotgun and a cheque book. Foley tried to write himself a cheque for £2,000 and £4,000, which was refused by the bank who alerted the victim. The cheque book was found in Foley's car when he was stopped and arrested by Greater Manchester Police after being spotted driving erratically in Rochdale on 14 July.

DC Ash said: *"Now that Foley has been jailed for a substantial time, I hope this reassures shopworkers and residents alike that we do take crime seriously, and that by working with you and gathering evidence such as CCTV, we can put these criminals before the court. CCTV is a valuable tool as we have seen here. I hope that its prevalence in our communities and our commitment to catching criminals deters others from targeting businesses and homes."*

https://youtu.be/E-KlinwL_84

Two men from Nottingham charged with shoplifting offences in Crewe

Officers from Crewe local policing unit have charged two men from Nottingham in relation to shoplifting offences in the town.

At 3.12pm on Wednesday 10 September, police were called to reports of shoplifting at the Boots store on Grand Junction Retail Park in Crewe. The caller reported that approximately £250 worth of items had been stolen from the store. Officers attended and a silver Audi was stopped on Earle Street in relation to the incident. The occupants of the car, two men, were both arrested.

Alis Ciungu, 20, and Nicoli Fruntasu, 26, both of Merchant Street, Nottingham, have since been charged with shoplifting. The pair have been bailed and are set to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court on Thursday 23 October.

Two people sentenced after staging armed robbery in Congleton

Two people have been sentenced after staging an armed robbery at a retail store in Congleton.

Patricia Marlborough and Kristian Bramah were both sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 10 September. Marlborough, was sentenced to two years in prison suspended for two years, after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal, committing a series of acts with intent to pervert the court of justice and fraud by false representation. The 28-year-old, of Hough Lane, Hyde, was also ordered to complete 250 hours unpaid work and 25 days rehabilitation order. Bramah, was sentenced to 16 months in prison, suspended for two years after he admitted conspiracy to steal and possession of a knife in a public place. The 29-year-old, of Plane Court, Churchill Way, Salford, has also been ordered to complete a 25 days rehabilitation order.

The court heard how on Monday 16 August 2021, officers from Cheshire Police were called to reports of a knife point robbery at the Holland and Barratt store on High Street, Congleton. Marlborough reported that she had been working alone in the shop, when an unknown man entered the store and threatened her with a knife. She said that the offender had forced her to open the safe and then tied her hands with cable ties, before fleeing the store with £7879.69 in cash. An investigation was launched into the incident, and while enquiries were ongoing Marlborough submitted a claim for compensation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

However, in July 2022 police received information that Bramah was responsible for the robbery and that he and Marlborough had been in a relationship at the time of the robbery. Following the reports, DNA analysis was undertaken on the cable ties and came back with a partial match for Bramah, ANPR and mobile phone analysis also placed him at in the area around the time of the incident. Detectives also discovered that Marlborough and Bramah had been in contact with each other before and after the incident. After recovering a catalogue of evidence, the pair were arrested in relation to the incident. During questioning they both denied that they had staged the incident. However, upon appearing in court they pleaded guilty to a number of offences.

DC Sarah Sayer, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *“Marlborough and Bramah carefully planned the robbery with the intent of making as much money as possible. Not only did they steal almost £8,000 from the store, but Marlborough even had the audacity to claim compensation following the incident. Thankfully, we were able to uncover their web of lies before she was unable to gain any further cash. However, their selfish actions resulted in the loss of a significant amount of valuable police time and resources, which could have been better spent looking after real victims.”*

Five men arrested following incident in Warrington

Five men have been arrested following reports of men selling stolen goods in Warrington.

At 4.40pm on Tuesday 9 September, officers in Warrington received reports from local authority CCTV operators of a group of men selling goods from a vehicle in the town centre, which were suspected to be stolen items. Police stopped the vehicle in Egypt Street to make enquiries and while the driver was detained, the other three occupants of the vehicle fled the scene. Thanks to CCTV monitoring, officers were able to keep track of the suspects, and another man was swiftly arrested. The last two occupants of the vehicle were traced through the town centre before a second vehicle picked them up and attempted to leave the vicinity. However, it was intercepted by officers on Slutchers Lane and the occupants and the driver were subsequently arrested. A quantity of electronics, perfumes and vouchers were seized from the original vehicle as well as a quantity of cash. Four men from Runcorn, aged 22, 24, 24 and 26, were arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods. One man from Warrington, aged 43, was arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender.

Sgt Andy Potter said: *“This was a great collaborative response between officers from different teams within the force, the control room, and local authority CCTV operators. Thanks to rapid coordination and real-time CCTV monitoring, officers were able to arrest the suspects quickly and efficiently and have seized a number of items which are believed to be stolen goods. This incident is*

a strong example of seamless teamwork across departments and shows a fantastic response to tackle those who try to commit crime in Cheshire.”

Man charged in relation to criminal damage in Crewe

Officers investigating an incident of racially aggravated criminal damage in Crewe have charged a man.

Craig Bebbington was arrested on Monday 8 September, following an incident at a shop on West Street, Crewe. The 42-year-old of West Street has since been charged with one count of criminal damage, and one count of racially aggravated criminal damage. He’s been bailed to appear at Crewe Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 8 October.

Cheshire Constabulary leading the way in national policing report

Cheshire Constabulary is leading the way after being highlighted as an example of best practice across a number of areas in the latest State of Policing Report.

This comes following the publication of the HMICFRS (His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services) annual assessment of policing in England and Wales 2024-2025. The report, published today, Wednesday 10 September, uses Cheshire Constabulary as a positive example in a number of areas, including its commitment to protecting vulnerable people, its innovative use of media campaigns, and the training offered to all levels of leadership across the force. The Constabulary was also praised for the advice offered to victims of crime from dedicated teams within the control room and the support given to officers and staff members to allow them to carry out their roles efficiently.



Chief Constable Mark Roberts has welcomed the publication of the positive report, reaffirming the force’s position as a leading police force committed to protecting residents and communities across the county.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *“I am incredibly proud that Cheshire Constabulary has been used as an example of best practice in the latest State of Policing Report. I must commend our officers and staff for their continued dedication to the people of Cheshire. This praise comes off the back of our recent PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) Inspection Report by HMICFRS earlier this year, in which we were graded ‘outstanding’ for the work we do to protect vulnerable people.*

“The latest report commends our internal and external media campaigns for contributing to this, including our recent Consent Campaign, aiming to provide an innovative way to speak to young people about consent.

“We also have a dedicated team within our control room that provides post-incident support and advice to victims of crime. The State of Policing Report highlights how this plays a ‘crucial role in

making sure victims receive timely and appropriate assistance', as well as working with partner agencies to reduce risks to vulnerable people.

"I am pleased that our training given to all levels of leadership was mentioned within the assessment report, including the support given to new recruits and how we promote the Constabulary's culture of wellbeing and inclusion across the force.

"This is a testament to the fact that we remain one of the best performing police forces in the country and we will continue to work to ensure Cheshire remains a safe place for those who live, work and visit here, while being hostile to criminals."

UPDATE: Three arrests made following reports of burglary in Alsager

Three men have now been charged in relation to a burglary in Alsager.

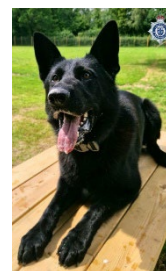
Bartlomiej Albinowski, Kamil Szultka and Sebastian Wasag have all been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Wednesday 10 September.

- Albinowski, 30, of Dewes Street, Crewe, has been charged with going equipped for burglary and handling stolen goods.
 - Szultka, 35, of Edleston Road, Crewe, has been charged with burglary and obstructing a constable.
 - Wasag, 27, of Hughes Drive, Crewe, has been charged with burglary.
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Three men have been arrested in relation to burglary offences in Alsager.

At 8:01pm on Monday 8 September, police were called to reports that three men had broken into a disused business premises in Crewe Road, Alsager.

Officers attended the scene and contained the building while waiting for a dog patrol to arrive. One of the men exited the building and was detained by officers while another was located by Police Dog (PD) Vandal. Despite it being a large premises, PD Vandal was able to sniff out a further suspect who was hiding in a cupboard area hidden under fibreglass. PD Vandal also indicated on two rucksacks which contained copper piping and tools.



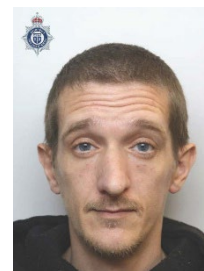
Both men were subsequently arrested. A further man was arrested after he arrived at the scene in a vehicle. When it was searched, officers located further tools and copper piping. In total, a 30-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of going equipped for burglary, and a 35-year-old man and a 27-year-old man were arrested on suspicion of burglary. All three men, from Crewe, remain in custody at this time.

Insp Sam Lovatt said: *"PD Vandal has again been vital in securing these arrests. After indicating on the cupboard where one of the suspects was hiding, the handler still could not see anything due to the man being so well-hidden. But PD Vandal was adamant he had found something, leading to the burglary arrest. This shows how valuable our police dogs are, and the amazing police work they carry out to apprehend suspects and keep Cheshire safe. This brings the total number of arrests at jobs involving PD Vandal to six across just two days – a very good boy indeed!"*

Man jailed for attempt rape of a child in Crewe

A man has been jailed for attempted rape of a child in Crewe.

Stephen McPhee appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 4 September where he was sentenced to seven years in prison. He was also placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life and subjected to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order. The 34-year-old of Rigby Avenue was previously convicted of one count of attempt rape of a girl under 13 following a 6-day trial at Chester Crown Court. He was also found not guilty of two counts of rape.



Cheshire Police launched an investigation into the abuse in 2021, following a disclosure made by the victim. The jury heard how McPhee had attempted to rape the victim on a number of occasions, when she was between the age of 9 and 11 years old. McPhee was investigated and subsequently charged.

DC Lindsay Wooffitt said: *"Firstly, I would like to commend the victim for the strength and courage she has shown throughout this case, and I hope the sentence handed to McPhee will provide her closure and a chance to move on with her life. McPhee is a dangerous individual, who sexually abused a little girl. He showed no remorse throughout the entire investigation, and even made his victim relive the experiences in court. Thankfully, as a result of the evidence gathered and the bravery of the victim, the jury were able to see through his lies, and he is now being held accountable for his actions."*

DC Wooffitt added: *"As this case shows, Cheshire Constabulary takes any allegation of sexual offences extremely seriously, no matter how long ago they relate to. Any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority. Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity for life."*

Man charged with dangerous driving and violent offences

A 26-year-old man has been charged with a number of offences after being located by police after failing to stop his car for them.

Jason Lamb from Cheshire Avenue, Lostock Gralam was arrested on 6 September after being located by officers from Northwich LPU and the Roads and Crime Unit after leaving his car after failing to stop for police. He was arrested on Crook Lane, Winsford. He was charged with dangerous driving, driving without a licence, driving without insurance, driving while disqualified, assault, two counts of intentional strangulation, and intimidating a witness. The offences relate to incidents on 5 and 6 September. He appeared at Warrington Combined Court on 8 September and was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on 6 October.

UKFPU statement following UEFA World Cup Qualification match in Serbia

England fans have been praised for their exemplary behaviour following the latest UEFA World Cup Qualification match in Serbia.

Thousands of England fans made their way to the Rajko Mitić Stadium, in Belgrade where they watched the team beat Serbia 5-0. While there were a small number of incidents during the match involving Serbian fans, there were no reports of any incidents involving England fans.

Supt Gareth Parkin, who was leading the UKFPU delegation in Serbia, said: *"Once again I would like to thank all the England fans for their behaviour while out in Belgrade. We had a number of officers from UKFPU out in the city and atmosphere throughout the day was fantastic. Despite a small number of incidents involving Serbian fans, the behaviour of the England fans was exemplary, not just during the match, but throughout their time in the city, and this is reflected in the fact that there were no reports of any issues. As always, I would also like to thank our colleagues at the Football Association and the Football Supporters Association for working with us, helping to ensure that everyone was able to have a safe and enjoyable time."*

Man charged in relation to fraud offences

Officers investigating numerous incidents of fraud across the country have charged a man in connection with the incidents.

Mason Crozier, of Oak Bank Avenue, Manchester, was arrested on Monday 1 September. The 24-year-old has since been charged with 22 offences. This includes seven counts of fraud by false representation, seven counts of theft of a motor vehicle, seven counts of impersonating a police officer and one count of possession of an article for use in fraud. The charges relate to reports of fraud in Chester and Bollington in Cheshire, as well as Lancashire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, between 11 May and 24 August 2025. Crozier has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 6 October.

Crewe woman charged in relation to shoplifting offences

Officers from Crewe Local Policing Unit have charged a woman in relation to multiple shoplifting offences across the town.

Casey Lee, of West Street, Crewe, has been charged with eight counts of shoplifting. The charges relate to incidents which occurred between Saturday 23 August and Thursday 4 September, at Asda Express and Asda stores in Crewe. The total value of the stolen items is more than £1,000. Lee appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 8 September, where she was released on conditional bail. The 34-year-old is set to return to Chester Magistrates Court on Tuesday 7 October.

Two people charged following drugs warrant in Macclesfield.

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

Jamie Alcock and Nicola Alcock were both arrested on Tuesday 9 September following a warrant at an address on Princes Way, Macclesfield. The pair have since been charged with two counts of being concerned in the of class A drugs (crack cocaine & cocaine), being concerned in the supply of class B drugs (cannabis) and acquire/use/possess criminal property. Jamie, 36, and Nicola, 39, both of Princes Way, Macclesfield, have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Wednesday 10 September.

Ellesmere Port woman sentenced after assaulting two officers

A woman from Ellesmere Port who assaulted two officers following a collision near Tarporley has been sentenced.

Sian Hughes, of Thomas Kelly Grove, Great Sutton, appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 5 September where she was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for 12 months. She was also ordered to complete 60 hours unpaid work and pay £437 in fines and court costs. The 37-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to failing to provide a specimen, assault and assaulting an officer.

The court heard how on Thursday 12 December Hughes was driving a Nissan Juke on High Street in Clotton, when she collided with a tree. Police attended and on arrival Hughes refused to engage with officers and refused to provide a breath test. Following her refusal, officers attempted to arrest her, but she became violent towards them, repeatedly pushing one of the officers away and biting a second officer as he was putting handcuffs on her. After biting the officer, Hughes then falsely told them that she was HIV positive. Despite her resistance, she was later arrested and charged in relation to the incident.

Following the sentencing, CI Paul Fegan, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"No-one goes to work expecting to be physically assaulted and while the nature of policing means officers will have to deal with challenging situations, that does not mean they should expect to be subjected to violence, especially being bitten and kicked. Thankfully, the officers brought Hughes under control and only suffered minor injuries, but it is clear from Hughes' behaviour that she intended to cause a lot more harm. I hope this sends a strong message that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated in Cheshire and anyone who commits these offences will be brought before the courts and held accountable."*

PD Vandal helps secure three arrests

A busy early morning for Police Dog (PD) Vandal has led to the arrests of three men for a variety of offences.

PD Vandal's first job of the morning occurred at around 1.50am on Monday 8 September when officers who were on patrol in Bollington sighted a blue Mercedes Benz which appeared to be driving erratically. Officers followed the car as it travelled through Macclesfield town centre, before the driver eventually abandoned the car on Robin Hood Avenue. The man then made off from the scene on foot. Officers, supported by Police Dog Vandal, conducted a search of the area and a 31-year-old man from Manchester was quickly located hiding in a nearby garden. Upon searching the car, officers also located several items, including a crowbar, a hammer and pliers. The man was

subsequently arrested on suspicion of going equipped to steal, driving without a licence and driving without insurance. He was also wanted for affray in relation to a previous incident.

Later, at around 3.26am on Monday 8 September, officers spotted a black Vauxhall Corsa in Northwich Road, Knutsford, which was seen doing in excess of 80mph; the speed limit in the area was just 30mph. The vehicle failed to stop for police and drove onto Heath Drive where it hit a bollard, and two men fled the vehicle. The dog unit was again called to assist in locating the men and Police Dog (PD) Vandal put his nose to good use. He searched the nearby area and led officers to where the two men were hiding at the back of a driveway crouched behind two bins. The two men, from Crewe, were subsequently arrested. A 28-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of failing to stop, failing to provide and dangerous driving. Meanwhile, a 26-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of failing to stop and drink driving.



Following the arrests, Insp Sam Lovatt, of the Constabulary's Dog Unit, said: *"This is a fantastic result and a special thanks must go to PD Vandal who was quick to sniff out the suspects after arriving at the two scenes. Despite the suspects' best efforts, they were no match for PD Vandal, who took just minutes to locate the men, and they will now be dealt with."*

Six men sentenced following high value burglary in rural Chester

Six men have been sentenced after carrying out a high value burglary in Cheshire thanks to information from a good Samaritan.

Mitchell Edge, Marley Beales, Mark Higgins, Simon Upton, Christopher Cope and Jobe Cope appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 2 September where they were sentenced to more than 11 years in prison. All six men had earlier pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit a burglary and conspiracy to steal a motor vehicle.

Below are the sentences handed to all the defendants:

- Mitchell Edge, 23, of Green Acre, Edwalton - 27 months in prison
- Mark Higgins, 23, of Cherhill Close, Nottingham - 27 months in prison
- Simon Upton, 38, of Eltham Drive, Nottingham - 27 months in prison
- Christopher Cope, 24, of Rectory Close, Sutton Bonnington - 27 months in prison
- Jobe Cope, 29, of Great Hoggett Drive, Chilwell - 27 months in prison
- Marley Beales, 24, of Cherhill Close, Nottingham - 24 months suspended



During the hearing, the court was told that shortly after 2am on Friday 16 August 2024 police were called by a concerned member of the public who reported a suspicious man in a White Citroen Relay van on Devis Road, Knutsford. Officers swiftly attended and as they arrived at the scene, a man was witnessed fleeing the area on foot. Police attempted to locate the man but were unable

to find him. However, after reviewing dashcam footage from the police car he was identified as Higgins.

The Citroen van was located nearby and when searching the vehicle officers located £250,000 worth of counterfeit cigarettes which had been stolen during a burglary at a premises on the outskirts of Chester. A gang of men had entered the address by forcing their way in with crowbars and wearing balaclavas to hide their identity. One of the gang was carrying a crowbar and threats were made to the occupants inside who were instructed not to inform the police.



Images of the stolen counterfeit cigarettes located in the stolen van in Knutsford.

Following the discovery, an investigation was launched by detectives from Chester Proactive CID and officers recovered hours' worth of CCTV and used ANPR data from the road network. During their enquiries, officers recovered evidence which showed that Upton had been conducting surveillance on the stolen vehicle the day before the burglary took place. Evidence showed that he had updated the gang of the vehicle's whereabouts, demonstrating that the incident was targeted and involved a high level of planning. After conducting the surveillance, Upton returned to Nottingham, while the rest of the gang travelled up to Cheshire on Thursday 15 August to execute the burglary.

The gang were initially successful and managed to steal the van, but their plan began to fall apart after the report from the good Samaritan in Knutsford. Evidence recovered by detectives also showed that after fleeing officers in Knutsford, Upton was contacted and returned to Cheshire to collect Higgins and the pair returned to Nottingham. While on route, they stopped at a service station in Staffordshire, from where officers recovered CCTV footage of Higgins, which showed him wearing footwear that matched a footwear mark recovered from the stolen vehicle. Further forensic evidence also showed Higgins had driven the vehicle from the scene of the burglary.

<https://youtu.be/oufoy0eRT9o>

From the review of key CCTV and extensive enquiries in Cheshire and Nottinghamshire, officers were also able to identify that Edge, Beale, Upton, Christopher Cope and Jobe Cope were also involved in the burglary. Cell-site data and mobile phone analysis also linked all six offenders to the incident. After gathering a catalogue of evidence, officers from Cheshire Police travelled to Nottingham on Wednesday 25 September 2025 where they conducted a series of warrants at the suspects' homes. Higgins, Beale, Upton, Christopher Cope and Jobe Cope were all arrested that day and transported to Cheshire where they were later charged in connection to the incident. Edge was not present at the time of the raid, but he was later arrested on Sunday 13 October after being found at an address in Nottingham.

Following the sentencing, DC Richard Connolley said: *"I welcome the sentences handed out by the court today and I hope that this case acts as a warning to others who are looking to come to*

Cheshire to commit crime. During our investigation it was clear that this was a carefully planned incident; the gang travelled to Cheshire that night to target the address on the outskirts of Chester.

“However, their audacious plan began to fall apart thanks to a good Samaritan in Knutsford. Thanks to the information they provided, along with the work of the dedicated team of officers here at Chester, we were able to build a catalogue of evidence against the gang which proved their guilt. I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide some closure for the victims, and I would like to take this as an opportunity to thank the good Samaritan for their assistance.”

Latest Cheshire Appeals

CCTV images released to help trace suspicious man in Macclesfield & Handforth

Officers have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to speak to following reports of suspicious incidents in Macclesfield and Handforth.

On Monday 4 August, police received reports of a man acting suspiciously at two retail stores in Macclesfield town centre. Then, on Friday 8 August, police received reports of a man matching the same description acting suspiciously at two retail stores in the Handforth area. Officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to the incidents.

Insp Richard Haque, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *“Enquiries in relation to these incidents are currently ongoing and as part of our investigation, we would like to speak to the man pictured in the CCTV image. If anyone recognises him, please contact us via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML 2150470. I would also like to appeal directly to the man pictured to come forward.”*



Appeal for information following Chester collision

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

At around 6.30pm on Monday 8 September, police were called to reports of a collision on Appleyards Lane, Handbridge. On arrival at the scene officers found there had been a collision between a green mini and an 11-year-old boy, at the junction of Prenton Place and Allington Place. The driver of the Mini initially stopped at the scene, but no details were exchanged due to the urgency of gaining medical treatment. Officers are urging the driver to come forward, and would also like to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any dashcam footage. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 2172376. Information can also be reported online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us.

Appeal for information following attempted robbery in Ellesmere Port

Officers in Ellesmere Port investigating a report of an attempted robbery are appealing for information and witnesses.

At approximately 1pm on Tuesday 9 September, a 22-year-old man was riding his bike in the Rivacre Valley nature reserve in Ellesmere Port, when he was approached by two unknown men on an electric bike. One of the men then climbed off the bike and began chasing the victim on foot with a large knife, swinging it at the victim. During the incident, the victim sustained several scratches to his arm and back but was able to defend himself. The suspect was then believed to have attempted to steal the victim's bike, which had been discarded during the incident, but then ran back to the bike he had arrived on after being spooked by a passing dogwalker. The suspects were described as wearing black tracksuits with balaclavas and were riding a black Sur-Ron style e-bike.

DS Thomas Philpotts, Ellesmere Port CID, said: *"This distressing incident, that has left the victim considerably shaken, that would have occurred in broad daylight so we are confident that someone in the area would have seen or heard something that could aid us in our investigation. If you think you saw or heard anything that may help us, regardless of how small that may seem, I would ask that you please get in touch with our officers. The same goes for any drivers, or anyone with CCTV or ring doorbells, that may have captured the incident or the individuals we believe to be involved."*

Anyone with any information or video footage is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting IML-2172843.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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