

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals

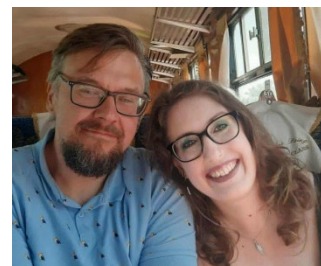


Latest Cheshire News

Families pay tribute to couple who died following Lisbon funicular crash

The families of a 44-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman, who died in a fatal funicular crash in Lisbon, Portugal, have paid tribute to them.

Kayleigh's family said: *"Kayleigh was loved by family and friends for her wit and humour, her kind and caring nature came to the fore in her work as a funeral operative. She was also a talented theatre director and had just completed a Master's Degree. They both leave family and friends heartbroken."*



Will's younger brother said: *"Words cannot begin to describe how our family and friends are feeling right now but here is the best attempt. This week, due to a tragic accident in Lisbon, Portugal, we lost Will Nelson, who was not just my big brother but everyone's. He was always kind, selfless, and protective and the world does not feel right or normal without him. He was and has always been my hero, and we will miss you always. Love you, rest in peace you legend."*

The families continue to ask that their privacy be respected during this tragic time.

Residents urged to remain vigilant following courier fraud incidents

Officers are urging Cheshire residents to remain vigilant following a number of reports of courier fraud across the eastern area of the county.

Over the past few weeks, officers in the east of the county have received reports of courier fraud whereby victims have been contacted by fraudsters posing as businesses, banks and even Cheshire Police officers, whether that be over the phone or in person. The victims are then told to withdraw or hand over cash or valuable items, to purchase EUROs or provide bank cards or pin numbers. These can then be collected from their home address or at another meeting place by a courier. Officers in Cheshire have seen an increase in this type of fraud offence and are reminding people that police officers would never ask anyone for money or to hand over valuable items.

DS Jordan Trentini said: *"It is important to note that the fraudsters can be extremely convincing. They are persistent and often target elderly or vulnerable people. Many people may think they would never be a victim to this kind of crime, however this really can happen to anyone. We react very differently when under stress and these criminals are very sophisticated and use a whole host of tactics to persuade people to follow their instructions. If you are contacted by anyone claiming to*

be police officer, anyone asks you to hand over money, bank details or purchase anything to pass across to them, please contact us immediately. The quicker we are told, the more likely officers can identify those responsible."

If you believe that you have been 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 cheshire.police.uk/tell-us. You can report to Action Fraud via www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. Call 999 immediately in an emergency or if you suspect a fraud is currently in progress.

Please see some crime prevention advice:

- Be sceptical of unexpected calls, texts or visits, even from those who claim to be officials.
- Don't be afraid to stop the conversation 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 ask you to withdraw cash, hand over valuables, 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.

Dispersal order issued across Warrington town centre

Officers from Cheshire police have issued a dispersal order following reports of anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

Officers from Cheshire police have issued a dispersal order following reports of anti-social behaviour in the town centre. To prevent any further incidents, under Section 35 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a dispersal order has been authorised. This dispersal order will be in place from 4pm today and will remain in place until 2pm on Sunday 7 September, this applies to the entire area within the red boundary displayed in on the map, covering the majority of Warrington Town Centre. This power gives officers and PCSOs in uniform the power to remove individuals aged ten or over engaging, or likely to engage in anti-social behaviour or crime and disorder, from this area for a period of up to 48 hours. Should they return within that period, they will face further police action.



Police officers and PCSOs will be providing extra attention and patrols within this area over this time period.

Insp Chris Webster, of Warrington LPU Neighbourhood Team, said: *"Following recent reports of anti-social behaviour and similar public order offences in Warrington town centre, typically involving young people, I would like to urge all parents across the Widnes, Runcorn and Warrington areas to be aware of where of their children's whereabouts and activities over this coming weekend. Increased numbers of officers will be out in key areas and I would urge residents and businesses to continue to report any issues with anti-social behaviour so that we can address these issues."*

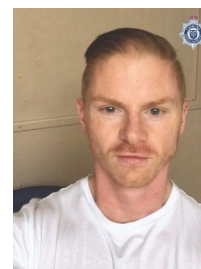
If you have any concerns or information on any criminal activity taking place, please contact us on 101 or dial 999 if it is an emergency.

Family of a man killed in Macclesfield pay tribute

The family of a man who was killed in Macclesfield have paid tribute to him.

Steven Rothwell, 41, was discovered at his home in Cross Street on the evening of Tuesday 19 August. Aurin Makepeace (42) from Victoria Road, Prestatyn was charged with his murder.

Steven's twin brother Jamie and his sister Marian Culshaw said: *"Ste was a twin, a brother and a very good friend to a lot of people. He gave the best parts of himself to those around him, and it shows in all the beautiful words people have expressed about him since his passing. We're all going to miss his silly, dry, dark sense of humour and how he never cared about how the joke would reflect onto himself as long as it made someone else smile. Ste had been through so much, but despite all he had to deal with, he never once complained. He was so resilient, mischievous and had the gentlest of hearts and we're going to miss that strength he brought. He found a lot of comfort in literature and spent many moments behind a book, either sat in a coffee shop or at the library. He also enjoyed the outdoors and everything it brought, whether it was the view, the animals or just the feeling of belonging in nature, often having treks through Mac Forest with friends and would share pictures of his times there. He will be forever thought about and missed."*



Sixth person charged in relation to high value burglary series

A man who was arrested in connection to a series of high value burglary across the UK has now been charged.

Sidorjan Lleshi was arrested on Wednesday 3 September after more than 30 officers from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Staffordshire executed two warrants at addresses in Sheffield and Stourbridge. Lleshi, 26, of Durlstone Drive, Sheffield, has since been charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to possess criminal property. He appeared at Chester Magistrates on Thursday 4 September where he was remanded in custody, he is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 12 September.

A second man who was arrested during the warrants on Wednesday 3 September has been released on conditional bail until Friday 28 November. Lleshi is the sixth person to be charged as part of operation Ambler, an investigation into a series of high value burglaries led by detectives from Macclesfield Proactive CID. Four men and a woman were charged earlier this year as part of the same investigation and are due to stand trial at Chester Crown Court on Monday 5 January 2026. The charges relate to at least 20 burglaries in Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Cleveland.

Man jailed after robbing convenience stores in Crewe

A man who robbed two convenience stores in Crewe has been jailed for seven years.

Karl Manley, of no fixed abode, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 29 August where he was sentenced. The 46-year-old had been found guilty of two counts of robbery.



Shortly before 9.30pm on Sunday 18 February, police received a panic alarm activation from Morrisons Daily on Gainsborough Road, Crewe. Staff stated that two men entered the store, one armed with an axe, and demanded money from the till, along with cigarettes and tobacco, before leaving the premises. They made off with between £200 and £300 in cash. The offender who was holding the axe touched a number of cigarette trays while trying to empty them. A glove mark was located on these and forensics were able to extract a DNA profile, which later linked to Manley.

Just one week later, while the forensics results were still pending, two men targeted the Morrisons Daily store in West Street, Crewe. One man entered the store wearing a balaclava and was holding a wooden bat while another remained at the door. A staff member pressed a panic button when one of the men entered the till area and took approximately £225. Forensics were recovered from the scene, and a mixed profile was obtained which contained Manley's DNA.

Enquiries revealed a man wearing the same clothing as one of the robbers had stolen items from the same store a few hours earlier and was recognised on CCTV images as Manley, providing a further link between him and the incident. He was subsequently arrested and charged.

DC Ben Harrington said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Manley who tried to deny his part in both robberies but was ultimately found guilty thanks to the evidence against him. I also hope the lengthy sentence will reassure the businesses in the area of how seriously we take incidents of this nature. Anyone with any information in relation to the second suspect believed to be involved in these incidents should contact us through 101 or our website."*

Second man arrested in relation to online racial abuse

Officers investigating abusive social media messages which were sent to a professional footballer have now arrested a second man.

During the UEFA Women's Euros, in July 2025, police received reports that racist and abusive messages had been sent to the England defender Jess Carter. Following the reports an investigation was launched by the UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU), working in partnership with social media companies to identify the people responsible. As a result of the investigation, officers from Derbyshire Constabulary arrested a man from Ripley on Tuesday 2 September, in relation to some of the messages which were sent to Jess. The 30-year-old was arrested on suspicion of Malicious Communications and has since been released on bail. The arrest follows that of a 59-year-old man from Great Harwood who was arrested on Thursday 28 August as part of the same investigation.

Cheshire Constabulary Chief Constable Mark Roberts, the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) lead for football policing, said: *"As I predicted, we have now made another arrest in relation to the appalling abuse that was directed towards Jess Carter during the Women's Euros. Nobody should be subjected to such disgusting abuse, and we want to make it clear that racist abuse of this nature will not be tolerated. Everyone is responsible for what they do and say, and we want to ensure offenders cannot hide behind a social media profile to post vile comments."*

Sgt Gemma Thursfield from Derbyshire Constabulary said: *"Abuse online is no different to being in person and people need to be clear that the posts they make, or messages they send, on social media are just the same as making them in person. The impact on Jess, and other victims of this crime, are clear to see and we will work with our partners in law enforcement to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice."*

Brighton man sentenced following burglary in Cheshire

A man who travelled almost 250 miles to break into a house in Cheshire has been sentenced.

Rees Davies appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 3 September where he was sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for two years. The 27-year-old, of Bursted Close in Brighton, had previously pleaded guilty to one count of burglary.

The court heard how at around 8pm on Saturday 1 February, Davies broke into an address on Chester Road in Mere. He accessed the property via a rear gate from a nearby golf course, and once inside he used a telescopic ladder to gain entry via a first-floor balcony. Once inside, Davies was witnessed on CCTV throwing approximately £30,000 worth of stolen bespoke unique custom-made trainers, jewellery and other sentimental items from a first-floor window. He then fled the scene through the rear gate and back onto the golf course.

The incident was later reported to Cheshire Police and detectives from Macclesfield Proactive CID launched an investigation. During their enquiries officers recovered a piece of a latex glove which was found at the address, which was later found to contain traces of Davies' DNA. Traces of his DNA were also found on crowbar left at the property.

Following the discovery a warrant was issued for Davies, and he was subsequently arrested at his home in Brighton by officers from Sussex Police. During his arrest officers recovered a distinctive custom-made sign which he had stolen from the house in Mere. He was then transferred to

Cheshire where, during questioning, he refused to answer any of the questions put to him by officers.

Following the sentencing DS Laura Fox, of Macclesfield CID said: *“Davies travelled halfway across the country to target this address and thought that because he was unknown in the Cheshire area he’d be able to get away with his crime. However, he seriously underestimated the dedication and determination of the team here at Macclesfield Proactive CID. Through our detailed investigation we were able to gather a catalogue of evidence that placed Davies at the scene of the crime, leaving him with no option but to admit his guilt.*

“While Davies has now been sentenced, this investigation remains ongoing, and we are committed to doing all we can to identify other involved offenders to ensure they are brought to justice. I hope that this case acts as a warning to those intent on travelling into Cheshire to commit crime – we will find you and you will be held responsible.”

Two more people arrested in relation to high value burglary series

Detectives from Cheshire Police have arrested another two people in relation to a series of high value burglaries across the UK.

Earlier today, Wednesday 3 September, more than 30 officers from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire executed two warrants at addresses in Sheffield and Stourbridge resulting in the arrest of two men. The two men, aged 26 and 28, have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary and are being held in police custody at this time.

The arrests are part of Operation Ambler and follow a series of raids earlier this year which led to the arrest of five people as part of the same investigation. The four men and one woman have since been charged with conspiracy to possess criminal property and conspiracy to commit burglary and in relation to incidents in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire and Cleveland.

Following today’s arrests, DS Laura Fox, of Macclesfield CID, who has led the operation said:

“Burglary is a horrific offence, and we understand the devastating impact that it has on victims, which is why we’re committed to doing all we can to tackle the issue. Today’s raids demonstrate the dedication and commitment of the officers and staff within Cheshire and across neighbouring forces in a continued joint approach to disrupt this criminal activity and keep our communities safe. I hope that today’s arrests provide some reassurance to the victims in the case and also act as a warning to other offenders who are thinking of targeting Cheshire. The message is clear. No matter where you live, or how much you try to hide, if you commit crime in Cheshire our officers will come for you, and you will be arrested.”

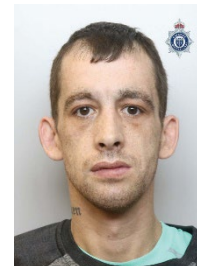
DI David Jarvid, of Macclesfield CID, added: *“This morning’s arrests are a hugely positive step not only to the investigation, but to the people who have been affected by these terrible crimes. We understand how devastating this has been for victims and the long-lasting emotional damage it has caused, and I hope that today’s arrests provide them with some reassurance. This has been a*

carefully planned operation, and I would like to thank our colleagues at Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire for all the support that they have provided."

Crewe drug dealer jailed

A man from Crewe who was caught dealing drugs on social media has been jailed.

Connor Harrison appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 26 August where he was sentenced to eight months in prison and ordered to pay a £228 surcharge. The 33-year-old, of James Gibbons Road, Crewe, had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs and one count of being concerned in the supply of class B drugs.



The case began in May 2025, when officers became of a social media account which was clearly involved in the supply of cocaine and cannabis in the Crewe area. Following enquiries officers identified Harrison as the owner of the account and a warrant was conducted at his home on Friday 20 June, where he was arrested at the scene.

During a search of the address officers located a number of items, including digital scales, small snap bags, a pot containing blue tablets, £210 cash, a small amount of cannabis plus documentation relating to drug dealing. A mobile phone was also seized from Harrison's bedside cabinet. The device was later examined by officers and clearly showed that Harrison had been dealing drugs on his social media account.

DC Jemma Bingham , of Crewe Proactive CID, said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Harrison and I hope it acts as a warning to others in the local area. The dangers of drugs are well-known and our fight against these illegal substances is never over. We will continue to crack down on those who bring drugs into our communities and hold those responsible to account."*

Man caught by facial recognition after burgling pub is jailed

A man has been jailed after admitting burglary following an investigation into the theft of cash from a pub in Chester.

Darren O'Reilly, 40, from Strada Way, Liverpool appeared at Chester Magistrates on Monday 1 September. He pleaded guilty to the offence and was sentenced to six months in prison.

The court heard that O'Reilly entered the private quarters of the Peacock pub on Christleton Road, Chester on the afternoon of 28 August. He went into the office which contained a safe and took cash which he stuffed into his backpack. A staff member spotted him coming down the stairs into the main bar area and spoke with him. He apologised and said he was looking for a friend and was in the wrong pub. He then left. It came to light that the safe had been tampered with when the key couldn't be found by staff. Police were alerted and an investigation was launched.



The pub's CCTV showed O'Reilly taking money from the safe and then leaving. The CCTV image of the suspect was retained by detectives and run through facial recognition software. They got a match and O'Reilly's name was flagged as a suspect. O'Reilly was detained by Merseyside Police on 29 August for another matter and air support spotted he'd discarded a rucksack. The bag which contained cash was located and seized by Merseyside officers. More cash was discovered following a search of O'Reilly.

PC Dan Malone said: *"O'Reilly was caught in the act with the help of CCTV, facial recognition, our dedicated detectives, and our colleagues in Merseyside. He pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and is now behind bars. This goes to show that the risk of getting caught after committing a crime has increased remarkably thanks to technology and our determined officers here and over the border. I hope this acts as a deterrent to other would-be thieves."*

Man to face murder trial following investigation into Macclesfield death

A 49-year-old man is set to go to trial for murder following an investigation into the death of a woman in Macclesfield.

Simon Carter, of no fixed address, will appear at Chester Crown Court on 12 January 2026 for a one-week trial. The trial relates to an investigation into the death of Gwyneth Carter (72) at her home on Pearson Street in Macclesfield on 16 July. Carter remains detained under the Mental Health Act.

Police are continuing to search for a backpack, red t-shirt, blue t-shirt, and trainers (pictured) and are asking people to check gardens and outbuildings in case they have been discarded there.

Anyone with information contact Cheshire Police via <https://mipp.police.uk/operation/07CH25D70-PO1> or by calling 101 and quoting IML-2136075.



Record number of attendees meet local officers following return of Warrington VPX

Over 6000 local children from Warrington got the opportunity to meet their local officers as part of Cheshire Constabulary's and Warrington Youth Zone's VPX on tour summer sessions.

The Victoria Part Experience (VPX) has been a mainstay in Warrington since 2008 and this past few weeks marked the return of the festivities for the first time since 2019, with the team from both Warrington Youth Zone and colleagues from Warrington LPU taking the fun, games, inputs and demonstrations across the town for the first time ever and engaging with a record number of members of the local community.



Hosted by Warrington Youth Zone and Cheshire Police, along with support from Warrington Business Improvement District (BID), the road trip made stops in Bank Park, Market Gate and Town Square, Warrington Youth Zone and returned to Victoria Park for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.



Held on Wednesdays across August, and in the height of the summer weather and school holidays, children and adults alike were able to enjoy a variety of free activities, including sports, art activities, face-painting live music, workshops, games and more.

Under the watchful eye of long-time organiser Tony Spruce, the officers and police staff, who had volunteered their own time to support the event, engaged with thousands of young people from across the town, with demonstrations and inputs also being given by colleagues including the officers from Roads and Crime Unit and Firearms. And, of course, PC Panda was also on paw to help out across the four events.



PCSO Tony Spruce said: *"In total we have had almost 6,000 young people register with us for the event, which has gone from strength to strength since its initial inception. None of this could have been done without the hard work from our volunteers from across the Constabulary and our own cadets – all of whom worked their socks off across all four events. All in all four fantastic days have been had, that have hopefully helped our community profile across several areas of Warrington and, most importantly, will give a lot of local kids new hobbies that will help keep them off the streets for years to come."*

CI Rob McLoughlin added: *"The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from this event and it's hard to capture in words the profound impact this has had on the community, especially amongst the young people. Providing diversionary tactics that keep our young people from getting involved in crime and engaging in anti-social behaviour is a key principle of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and what the team have helped deliver is more than just an event. It is a space that provides young people with somewhere to meet likeminded others and get involved in wider community projects and, most importantly, have fun safely."*

Man charged following serious assault near Macclesfield

Detectives investigating a serious assault at a public house near Macclesfield have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At around 1pm on Sunday 24 August, police were called to report that a 26-year-old man had been seriously assaulted at a public house in Langley. Richard Bradbury was later arrested in relation to the incident. The 32-year-old of Brocklehurst Avenue, Macclesfield, has been charged with section 18 assault. Bradbury appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Saturday 30 August where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 29 September.

Man charged with Chester pub burglary

A man has been charged with burglary following an investigation into the theft of cash from a pub in Chester.

The charge relates to a burglary at the Peacock pub in Christleton Road on 28 August where a man entered the private area of the building, gained access to a safe and took cash. Darren O'Reilly, 40, from Strada Way, Liverpool will appear at Chester Magistrates on Monday 1 September.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for witnesses following collision in Nantwich

Officers are appealing for witnesses to come forward following a collision in Nantwich.

At 5.48pm on Thursday 4 September, police were called to reports of a collision in Waterlode, Nantwich. The collision involved a black Sur-Ron e-bike and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 59-year-old man, suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital where he remains at this time. The rider of the e-bike, a 20-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He remains in custody at this time.

Sgt Andrew Dennison said: *"We are now appealing for any witnesses to get in touch with us. The same goes for those who may have any dashcam footage of what happened. You can contact Cheshire Police via 101 or www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2169670."*

Police appeal for witnesses following serious collision in Willaston

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious collision in Willaston.

At 6.37pm on Wednesday 3 September Police were called to a collision involving a motorbike and a car on Crewe Road in Willaston. The rider of the motorbike, a 22-year-old man, was taken to hospital with serious injuries but sadly died enroute. His family are being supported by specialist officers.

Sgt Amy Hollis said: *"I'd urge anyone who witnessed the collision or has dashcam of the incident to contact us to help us with our investigation into the circumstances."*

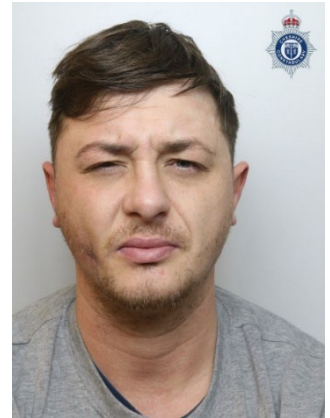
Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML 2169052.

Appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington

Police in Warrington are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man.

Ryan Lake is wanted for failing to attend Liverpool Crown Court. The 33-year-old is described as white, around 5'9" tall, with short brown hair and blue eyes. Lake is from the Birchwood area of Warrington, but has links to the Liverpool area.

Anyone with information surround the whereabouts of Ryan Lake is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting 25000692686.



Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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