

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 10 August 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals

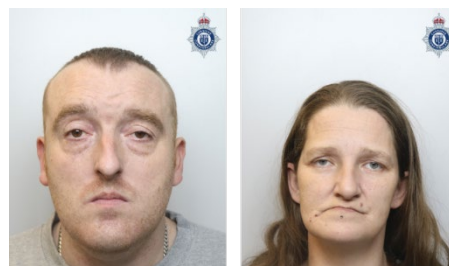


### Latest Cheshire News

#### Pair who blamed child for causing flat fire jailed

Two people who blamed a child for causing a major fire and subsequent evacuation of a block of flats have been jailed.

Daniel and Charlotte Wollaston, of Goddard Court, Crewe, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 8 August for sentencing. Daniel was imprisoned for three years and will serve another three years on licence, while Charlotte was imprisoned for two years and will serve a further two on licence. Both were also sentenced to ten months imprisonment for perverting the course of justice, which will run concurrently. The sentencing comes after the pair, 32 and 37, were found guilty of arson with reckless endangerment to life and perverting the course of justice following a nine-day trial.



The case began on Saturday 14 December 2024, when Cheshire Police were notified about a fire in a block of flats in Nantwich by colleagues at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, with it being claimed that a child had started the blaze with a lighter. Attending the scene on Laurel Place, Henhull, officers found that 12 flats in the block had been evacuated a number of residents displaced. Amongst the residents, who were now gathered outside the building whilst the blaze was being tackled, were Daniel and Charlotte Wollaston and a child, who had been in the address with them at the time of the incident.

Speaking to the pair officers were told that the child, that was known to Daniel and Charlotte, had used a long lighter to set fire to a pair of curtains. This fire had started in one of the bedrooms and quickly spread through the flat, causing substantial damage. However, a witness reported to police that they had overheard an exchange between the pair in which Charlotte told Daniel that they would tell police it was the child who started the fire. Daniel, Charlotte and the child were subsequently taken to Leighton Hospital for assessment and, whilst here, officers spoke to the child.

Initially the child told officers that she was responsible for the starting the fire but, upon being told she would not get in trouble if she told the truth, she disclosed it was actually started by Daniel. She went on to say that she had been in another room with Charlotte when Daniel came in and asked what she had done, stating the room she had been in earlier was "on fire". The child reaffirmed to officers that she was not involved in starting the blaze, stating Daniel had used long reach lighter to set a pair of curtains alight.

Based on the information officers had collated, Daniel and Charlotte were arrested. The pair were subsequently interviewed by Detectives, with Charlotte answering "no comment" to all questions posed to her and Daniel continuing to blame the child for the fire. He told officers that he and

Charlotte were asleep when the child came into his room and told him the curtains were on fire, claiming that he must have mistakenly left the light in a place where the child could find it. Further enquiries into the pairs mobile devices revealed that Charlotte had recently searched for house swap pages on social media. Investigating detectives subsequently charged the pair shortly after, with them continuing to deny any involvement in the fire and entering a not guilty plea in court - triggering a trial for Friday 11 June.

Following the sentencing DC Joseph Scott, who was the lead officer in the case, said: *“Through their actions, Daniel and Charlotte have significantly damaged property and disrupted the lives of their neighbours. Their actions have endangered the lives of those in their community through the use of an uncontrollable fire and they have expressed no concern or remorse for what they have done. Furthermore, they have immediately attempted to portray the child involved in this case as their scapegoat, attempting to pin the fault on them and maintaining this lie throughout the following investigation and trial. Their actions were deplorable. I am pleased with the combined effort that has resulted in their convictions.”*

DS Mitch Allford added: *“Daniel and Charlotte Wollaston’s selfish decision of choosing to start a fire in their home not only left them without a place to live and their possessions damaged or destroyed, but it resulted in the displacement of their neighbours and the diversion of countless police, fire and ambulance resources that had to respond to this completely avoidable incident. But what is perhaps most shocking however is that the pair decided to point the blame in the direction of an innocent child who was not involved in the fire’s ignition whatsoever. No child should be made a scapegoat for an adult’s irresponsible actions, and I am glad that the jury in this case were able to see through their lies and find them guilty for their crimes. This case should serve as a strong reminder of how serious these crimes are regarded and robust action will be taken against anyone who chooses to behave in such manner.”*

### **Joint policing effort sees pair arrested for Northwich bike theft**

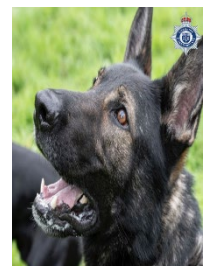
Several Eastern policing teams worked together in the early hours to locate a pair who had decamped from a stolen bike following a pursuit through Middlewich.

At 2.08am this morning (Friday 8 August), officers on patrol in the Jack Lane area of Moulton spotted two men on a bike. As the pair were not wearing helmets, or any other proper safety equipment, officers indicated for them to pull over.

Despite this warning, the bike refused to comply and drove off at speed, being witnessed travelling at over 50 miles an hour in a 30 mph zone.

The patrol pursued the bike towards Middlewich, witnessing it crossing over the solid white road line on several occasions, travelling on the incorrect side of the carriageway and riding contraflow around a roundabout. Thanks to the pursuing officers keeping their fellow units updated on the riders’ location, the bike was eventually slowed by a stinger that was deployed on Booth Lane, Middlewich. However, the riders continued and were seen driving down the nearby canal towpath - with the bike being deserted next to the Trent and Mersey canal.

Following the riders’ disappearance along the towpath, colleagues from NPAS and the Dog Unit were swiftly deployed to the scene to assist in locating them. During the search, colleagues in the Force Control Centre also received a call from an eagle-eyed member of the public who had spotted two men matching the description of the rider and passenger acting suspiciously along the canals



edge. Arriving on the scene PD Lex and his handler traced the pair and were found in nearby shrubbery, attempting to hide from the pursuing officers.

The men, both 18 and from Middleswich, were arrested for a number of offences. The driver, who tested positive for both cannabis and cocaine, was arrested on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle, dangerous driving and failing to stop for police. He remains in custody at this time. The passenger was arrested on suspicion of taking without consent and has since been released under investigation.

Insp Sam Lovatt, of the Constabulary's Dog Unit, said: *"When officers came across a suspected stolen motorbike in Middleswich last night, the two males on board thought it would be a good idea to make a run for it. They underestimated, however, the tenacity of our pursuing officers, colleagues in the sky from NPAS and our very own PD Lex. You can never outrun the long paw of the law, and, unfortunately for these two, PD Lex's four legs were much quicker than theirs and he tracked them down as they headed towards a nearby wooded area. The two were swiftly detained and then brought into custody."*

### **Man jailed for burglary and thefts in Congleton and Macclesfield**

A man has been jailed for burglary and theft in Congleton and Macclesfield.

Michael Smart, 47, from Great King Street, Macclesfield appeared at Chester Crown Court on 6 August to be sentenced after being found guilty of theft by finding, burglary, and theft of a motor vehicle at an earlier hearing. He was sentenced to three years in prison. He also had to pay a surcharge of £228.



The court heard that on 12 November 2023 Smart stole a collection bottle containing around £250 from St Albans Church in Chester Road, Macclesfield. He was identified on CCTV by a local officer as the person responsible. On 13 November Smart stole a Hyundai Tucson from Highbank Road, Congleton on 13 November 2023. The car was fitted with a tracker which recorded five separate trips and finally its location in Longacre Street in Macclesfield.

Police and the victim attended and the car, which had been damaged, was taken to be forensically tested. A positive DNA match came back to Smart. There was no good reason for his DNA to be on the car as he was not known to the victim. He was circulated as wanted.

On 19 December 2023 he entered a house in Bath Vale Cottages, Bath Vale, Congleton at around 4.45am. The victim remembered milk was due to be delivered but it wasn't on the doorstep so checked the doorbell camera. It showed Smart entering the property and then leaving with the bottle of milk which was on the doorstep. They then discovered the credit card had been stolen when the company contacted them to flag unusual activity on the card. Two transactions at a vape shop and five PayPoint transactions as well as two transactions at a jewellers. The officer attended reviewed the doorbell footage and identified Smart.

The card was used by another man, Jordan Forster, 27, of no fixed address who was identified through CCTV at the jewellers and the vape shop making the transactions with the stolen card. He earlier pleaded guilty to receiving stolen goods and fraud by false representation at Crewe Magistrates Court. He appeared on 25 February and was handed a four week prison sentence suspended for 12 months along with a £150 surcharge.

PC Charlotte Owen said: *"This case really does highlight the benefit of CCTV and doorbell footage. Our enquiries and the local knowledge of our officers led us to identify who was responsible for these crimes and put them before the courts. We hope that this goes as a warning to would-be thieves."*

### **Man jailed for rural Cheshire crime spree**

A 59-year-old man has been jailed after going on a burglary spree in rural Cheshire.

Andrew Winter from St Marys Street, Whitchurch appeared at Chester Crown Court on 4 August to be sentenced after pleading guilty to attempted burglary with intent to steal, ten counts of burglary other than a dwelling, burglary, and theft from the person of another at an earlier hearing. Winter was sentenced to two years four months and 26 days. The charges relate to offences occurring in the rural areas of Chester between 6 December 2024 and 1 July 2025. Winter targeted sheds and outbuildings across Malpas, Allstretton, Chester, Tilstone Fernall, Tiverton, Whitchurch and Wrenbury. He stole a range of items from bicycles and garden equipment and tools to watering cans and trophies.

Sgt Roy Wellings from the Chester Local Policing Proactive Team, said: *"Winter was prolific and appeared to be indiscriminate in what he stole. It appears that if it wasn't nailed down he took it. He's now paying the price for his actions."*



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

A man has been banned from entering Crewe after officers secured a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Damian Wisedale, 43, was handed the order after it was granted at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 25 July. This comes following shoplifting and theft offences committed by Wisedale. Under the terms of the CBO, Wisedale must not enter the exclusion zone showed in the attached map, namely the Crewe Parish Boundary (including Crewe East, Crewe North, Crewe St Barnabas, Crewe West, Crewe South and Crewe Central). He must also not enter any Co-op store in Cheshire. The CBO remains in place until 24 July 2027 and if Wisedale breaches any of the conditions, he will be committing a criminal offence.

Insp Dan Welch said: *"Orders such as CBOs are one of many tools that allow officers to deter thieves and prevent crime in our communities. I welcome the order handed to Wisedale as we tackle this offending head-on. Anyone who encounters him breaching any of the above restrictions is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the website or call 101, to report it."*



### **Man sentenced following six-minute vehicle theft response**

A 23-year-old man has been sentenced after officers arrested him for stealing from a car only six minutes after he committed the offence.

Ellis Rigby, of Broadbent Avenue, Latchford, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 4 August, where he was handed a community order. The case began on Saturday 2 August, when

officers in Latchford responded to reports that an unknown man had forcibly accessed a vehicle in the Gainsborough Road area and had stolen several items from inside.

Attending the scene, officers found a black Range Rover had been forcibly accessed and a number of items from inside had been stolen. Whilst in the area, officers spotted a man matching a description given to them from the witnesses. Just six minutes after receiving their initial call, officers arrested Ellis Rigby on suspicion of theft from a motor vehicle. He would be charged the following day and remanded in custody.

Northern Inspector Karl Dickin said: *"Our B-block response officers displayed an outstanding response following a report of a man breaking into a vehicle and stealing its owners' personal belongings. Within just six minutes of the initial call to police the suspect, who has a history of interfering with vehicles, was successfully located and detained. The arrest resulted in the stolen goods, which included a designer watch that was being worn by the suspect upon his arrest, being recovered and reassurance provided to the victim. This prompt and decisive action reflects the dedication of our policing team. Their ability to respond with such speed and precision is a credit to the force and a clear demonstration of their commitment to protecting our communities."*

### **Warrington Shopwatch scheme brings retailers together to tackle business crime**

Officers in Warrington West have been bringing businesses at the Gemini Retail Park together through a new app that allows them to quickly communicate with each other, helping to prevent and tackle shoplifting and similar retail-based crimes.



Warrington's Gemini Retail Park is located next to junction 8 of the M62 and is home to several popular retailers, including Marks & Spencer and IKEA. Unfortunately, as the retail park is located just off the motorway, which in itself is one of the main routes through Cheshire that many motorists use to travel to areas such as Manchester and Liverpool every day, its positioning has led to several businesses becoming targets for prolific shoplifters. Enquiries from local officers identified that many offenders had been targeting multiple businesses across the retail park, and, despite being targeted by the same criminals, the stores were not communicating with each other, leading to opportunities to detect, prevent or share information being missed that resulted in extra demand being put on the police.

As part of efforts to tackle the growing issue of retail crime, one of the key pillars of the recently announced Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, PCSO Stephen Heaps and PC Angela Barlow from the Warrington West Neighbourhood Team have been out and engaging with the retailers, providing them with the opportunity to join a community-like crime prevention scheme through the use of the Schemelink app. Available on both mobile and desktop, the app has a WhatsApp-style chat group feature where images and information can be shared, an offender watchlist that allows profiles and CCTV images to be shared for other stores to monitor.

There is also a built in alert system feature that allows users to instantly draw the attention of other members in the apps "community" via a high pitched audible alarm and a short message, informing them of an ongoing serious incident or to share very important information that must be circulated to protect their business, staff and customers. The app also utilises WiFi and cellular data to provide a business-grade two-way radio and walkie-talkie experience on mobile devices with its DigiTalk feature.



PCSO Stephen Heaps, who has been leading the rollout of Schemelink project across the Gemini Retail Park, said: *"Initially, it was a challenge to get funding for the project, with many of the stores wary of funding it themselves especially if they did not know how the other stores were going to react or even take part, which lead me to looking at local funding and approaching Cheshire CrimeBeat – who kindly agreed to supply the money to fund the rollout of Schemelink. Stores such as Marks and Spencer, Ikea, Boots and Next, which have many high-value products on sale, have already started to share images and information surrounding offenders, of which some have been identified by other store staff, also warning each other about suspicious people as well. The app is always changing to provide users more flexibility and more tools to assist in their role; police have a full overview of everything that goes on within the app, and this can be used to help us gather information, offer updates and provide relevant resources to those affected where necessary."*



Warrington Neighbourhood Inspector Christopher Webster added: *"Tackling shoplifting and retail crime forms as part of Cheshire Police's commitment to the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, and we know it has a major impact on our local business community. Collaboration between police and the business community is key in fostering a partnership approach when dealing with all aspects of business crime. Police alone cannot effectively address all the issues related to crime and safety, but working together provides a broader problem-solving approach. The rollout of Schemelink has already yielded positive results, with several businesses at Gemini now regularly engaging with and working in step with one another in creating a united front against those intent of causing disruption and to their stores and staff – many of whom have already expressed their satisfaction with the app and how it has increased their confidence identifying offenders and bringing them to justice."*

### **Cheshire police using SelectaDNA to help call full time on disorder at football matches**

Cheshire Constabulary is set to become the first police force in the UK to equip officers with DNA Tagging Spray at all League two matches.

Following an initial trial at the Crewe Alexandra versus Port Vale match in March, the force has now decided to rollout the tool to all League Two games. DNA Tagging Spray, supplied by SelectaDNA, is a spray which can be used by officers to deter and prevent criminal behaviour, such as football disorder. This spray marks equipment, clothing or skin with a uniquely-coded but invisible DNA solution that will provide forensic evidence to link individuals to a specific crime or event. The spray shows up under UV light and clings to skin and clothing for months. It is hoped that the tool will act as a deterrent to those participating in any anti-social behaviour or disorder before, during and after the game, as well as letting those involved know that they will be sprayed with a solution that will link them back to the scene of the crime.



The rollout will begin this weekend at the Crewe Alexandra versus Accrington Stanley game on Saturday 9 August at the Mornflake Stadium. The scheme forms part of Operation Shield, a forcewide initiative which will see SelectaDNA Intruder Spray kits installed at a number of business premises and shops across the county with the aim of deterring burglars and thieves. In addition, as part of the initiative, DNA Tagging Spray will also be used by officers targeting offenders using electric scooters, eBikes and off-road bikes.

CSupt Gareth Wrigley, who is leading Operation Shield, said: *"Here at Cheshire Constabulary, we're committed to doing all that we can to make the county a safer place for everyone, including football fans, and we'll use all the resources available to us to help achieve our goal. When it comes to football, we already have a number of measures in place to keep fans safe and the DNA Tagging kits are just another tool in our belt. Starting from this weekend we'll be equipping our football officers with the spray whenever they are policing any League Two matches in the county. While we'd much prefer not to have to use the spray, if required the officers will be able to use it to tag any offenders, with a uniquely-coded but invisible DNA that will provide forensic evidence to link them to any offences. I'm hoping this tool also provides the local communities across Cheshire with the reassurance they need that our officers are doing all they can to keep fans and residents safe regardless of the result at the final whistle."*

Chief Constable Mark Roberts added: *"As the NPCC Lead for Football Policing I'm delighted to see that Cheshire Constabulary is leading the way with the roll out of this new tool. We know that the vast majority of football fans are law abiding, but unfortunately on occasions there are some who are intent on causing disorder, which is why a strong policing operation is essential. I'm confident that this new tool will make a real difference, by helping to identify and deter the criminals who attend football matches here in Cheshire."*

### **Drug dealer jailed following M6 stop-check**

A man from Widnes has been jailed and 20kgs of cocaine has been seized following a successful stop check on the M6 in Cheshire.

Peter Jensen appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 31 July where he was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison. The 37-year-old of Parbold Court, Widnes, had earlier pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine). The case against Jensen began on Friday 6 June, when officers patrolling the M6 spotted Jensen committing a minor traffic offence between junctions 16 and 17. Police stopped the car at Sandbach Services, and questioned Jensen, who became visibly nervous. Due to his behaviour, officers searched the car, where they discovered a cardboard box containing 20 individually wrapped packages of cocaine, with an estimated value of between £340,000-£600,000. Jensen was subsequently arrested at the scene.



Following the sentencing PC Jemma Bingham said: *"Thanks to a simple stop check for a minor traffic offence, we've recovered up to £600,000 worth of Class A drugs and another drug dealer is now behind bars. The impact that illegal drugs have on our communities cannot be underestimated which is why we will not stop with our efforts to make Cheshire a hostile environment for criminals. We take this kind of criminality very seriously here in Cheshire, so let this result be a warning to anyone who thinks they can get away with drug dealing in our county without any repercussions."*

Anyone with information about illegal drug activity in their area can report it to Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **Man charged with multiple offences in Warrington**

A man has been charged with multiple offences following a stop and search in Warrington.

Shane McGarr, of Toll Barr Road, Warrington, was arrested on Monday 4 August. The 44-year-old has since been charged with assaulting an emergency worker, possession of a bladed article, possession of cannabis, possession of cocaine and possession of an imitation firearm. He has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 6 August. The charges relate to a stop and search conducted on a man at 8.20pm on Monday 4 August in Crown Street, Warrington.

### **Teenager arrested following Runcorn motorbike thefts**

Officers investigating reports of vehicle theft in Runcorn has arrested a teenager in connection to the incident.

In the early hours of Monday 4 August, officers in Widnes were alerted to several incidents across the town relating to the theft of motorcycles. One caller reported that she had seen two unknown people on her driveway in the Main Street area of Runcorn and stolen two bikes that had been parked there. Another report came in around 10.30am later that morning, with the caller reporting that two unknown individuals were riding dangerously and anti-socially in the Beaconsfield Road area, causing significant disruption with local residents.

Swiftly attending the scene and conducting a search of the area, officers located a 17-year-old boy riding one of the stolen bikes and arrested him of suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle. He has since been released on conditional bail. Following the arrest, further enquiries led to officers uncovering the further two stolen bikes being recovered in parkland areas nearby.

Beat Sergeant Lawrence Winstanley said: *"Our local Beat officers displayed an outstanding response following a number of reports of vehicle thefts across Runcorn and their work has led to the recovery of three stolen motorbikes that will now be returned to their respective owners. This prompt and decisive action reflects the dedication of our policing team. Their ability to respond with such speed and precision is a credit to the force and a clear demonstration of their commitment to protecting the residents they serve."*

### **Four people arrested in relation to drug supply in Ellesmere Port**

Officers investigating the supply of illegal drugs in Ellesmere Port have arrested four people following a warrant in the town.

On Tuesday 29 July, officers conducted a warrant at an address on Croft Court, Ellesmere Port, resulting in the arrest of four people on suspicion of drug supply offences. The arrests include two men, aged 18 and 43, along with two teenage boys. During the raids, officers recovered a large quantity of cannabis, cash, wraps of white powder, cannabis cultivation equipment, two converted E-bikes, two Sur-Ron E-bikes, and multiple offensive weapons. The raids are part of an ongoing investigation in relation to the supply of class A and B drugs in the town. All four suspects have since been bailed pending further enquiries.

Sgt Darren Cabaniuk said: *"This is another fantastic result which has led to the recovery of a quantity of illegal drugs, along with the arrest of four people on suspicion of drugs offences. The impact of drugs is well known, and I hope that these arrests provide reassurance to the community that we are doing all we can to stop those believed to be involved in this behaviour. Intelligence supplied by members of the public is crucial to this fight and I urge anyone with any information*



*about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. We will continue to tackle drug dealing in Ellesmere Port and elsewhere in Cheshire head on, utilising all the resources at our disposal."*

### **Manchester man arrested in relation to £250,000 fraud**

Detectives from the Economic Crime Unit at Cheshire Police have arrested a man on suspicion of fraud offences following a warrant in Salford.

At around 6:30am on Tuesday 5 August, officers executed a warrant at an address on New Devonshire Square, Salford. A 45-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of Fraud by false representation. He has since been released on bail until Wednesday 5 November. The warrant follows an investigation into the 'sim jacking' of the victim's mobile phone, which resulted in the theft of approximately £250,000 from the accounts of a 71-year-old businessman from Cheshire.

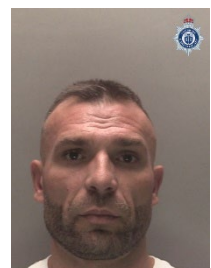
DC Hannah Clement, who is leading this investigation, said: *"Today marks a significant step forward in what has been a complex investigation into the theft of a substantial amount of money through 'Sim-jacking'. This cyber enabled fraud is becoming increasingly common; it involves hijacking a person's mobile phone number and transferring it to a new sim without their consent. Once transferred, fraudsters can then receive texts and calls to that number, including security checks like two-factor authentication, allowing them to take control of the victims bank accounts, allowing them to defraud the victims."*

The suspect is currently being held in police custody where he is assisting officers with their enquiries.

### **Man jailed following Warrington casino attack**

A 37-year-old man from Widnes has been sentenced after seriously assaulting a staff worker and damaging several slot machines at a commercial premises in Warrington.

Constantin Lupo, of Fredrick Street, Widnes, was jailed for eight months on Friday 1 August after being found guilty of criminal damage, inflicting grievous bodily harm and the possession of a bladed article in public following a four-day trial at Liverpool Crown Court.



The court heard on 11 June 2023 Lupo, 37, caused £8,734 worth of damage by using a bar stool to smash five slot machines at a commercial property in the Cockhedge Shopping Centre, Warrington. After Lupo had damaged the slot machines, a member of the public attempted to intervene and stop Lupo from committing any further damage and fleeing the scene. However, during the confrontation, Lupo assaulted him with a lock knife that was in his possession, resulting in the man sustaining multiple injuries, including cuts to the back of the head, arms and legs. Despite this, the knife was removed from Lupo by the staff member, with his colleagues and members of the public intervening and restraining Lupo until Cheshire Police officers arrived and arrested him.

In his interview with police, Lupo denied his charges of criminal damage, but did say he had gotten angry at the slot machines, which had been "lying" to him. Lupo also stated that a member of the public had tried to stop him from leaving the premises, and therefore, he pushed the person to the ground. He denied causing the injuries with the lock knife.

Despite maintaining his innocence, Lupo would be charged and would appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 2 July for a five-day trial, leading to him being found guilty of criminal damage, inflicting grievous bodily harm and the possession of a bladed article in public by a jury.

DC Stephan Wolstenholme said: *"Even in light of Constantin Lupo maintaining his innocence throughout the entire investigation and forcing the victim to relive the incident in court all over again, I do hope that today's result offers some reassurance to the victim involved in this unjustified and violent ordeal. This could have been a potentially life-threatening situation for the member of staff who had, rightfully, challenged Lupo, who could not handle the result of his afternoon of gambling and caused a substantial amount of damage to several machines he had been using. The victim was simply doing all they could to stop Lupo's rampage and did not deserve to be violently attacked. Cheshire Police treats every report of assault with the utmost seriousness, and our officers will do everything they can to get victims the justice they deserve."*

### **Man jailed for violence against a woman**

A man has been jailed for 28 months for controlling or coercive behaviour and violence against a woman in Macclesfield.

Craig Vernon, 51, from Marlborough Court, Macclesfield, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 1 August to be sentenced after pleading guilty to two counts of engaging in controlling or coercive behaviour, assault, intentional strangulation, and sexual assault.



The victim described how Vernon was regularly violent and verbally abusive towards her, and on one occasion he even dragged her around the garden, causing her to bang her head and become unconscious. She also told officers that he strangled her on multiple occasions.

Insp Matt Chapman from the Eastern Area Investigation Team, said: *"I'd like to pay tribute to the victim who took a stand, bravely coming forward and reporting Vernon to police. She may not think it at the moment, but she has shown immense strength and should be proud of herself for that. "It shouldn't have to happen to anyone but when it sadly does, I hope people realise that if they call police or report abuse online via our website, they will get the help and support they need. I really hope the fact he is now behind bars gives her the confidence to rebuild her life."*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal to trace Elton man wanted on recall to prison**

Police are appealing to the public for help to locate a man from Elton who is wanted on recall to prison.

Lewis Loveridge is currently residing in the Elton area, but he also has links to Runcorn, Waverton and Ellesmere Port. The 24-year-old is described as 5ft 5ins tall and of proportionate build with blonde hair and green eyes. He is also known to use the names Lewis Buckley, Jack Connors and Sam Loveridge.



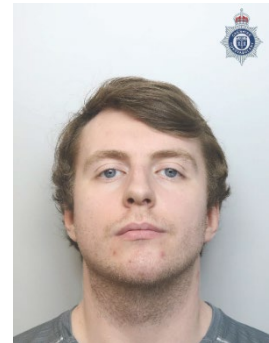
Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting 25000017728. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

### **Police appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes**

Police are continuing to appeal for help in locating a wanted man from Widnes.

Callum Taylor, 26, is wanted for failing to appear in court. He is described as white, around 6'2" tall, with brown hair. Taylor is from Widnes and has links to Merseyside and the West Midlands.

Anyone with any information on his whereabouts can call 101 or 999, quoting 25000148749. You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously.



### **Officers release CCTV image following Chester car theft**

Police investigating the theft of a car in Chester have released CCTV images of a man they would like to speak to.

Police were called at around 2.20pm on Monday 12 May after an unknown man broke into a secure building at Chester University and stole car keys from the victim's handbag. The man then used the keys to access the victim's blue Ford Fiesta that was parked in the University car park and drove away. The car was recovered by officers three days later (Thursday 15 May) in Mollington Grange. Enquiries in relation to the theft are ongoing and as part of the investigation, officers are keen to speak to the man pictured in the CCTV image.



PC James Wright, of Chester Proactive Policing Team, said: *"As part of our investigation, we are keen to speak to anyone who was in the car park at the time of the offence and believes they may have seen anything suspicious. We have also issued a CCTV image of a man that we believe may be able to assist us with our investigation. I would urge anyone who recognises the man, or the man himself, to contact us."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101 or [visit the website](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting 25000391612.

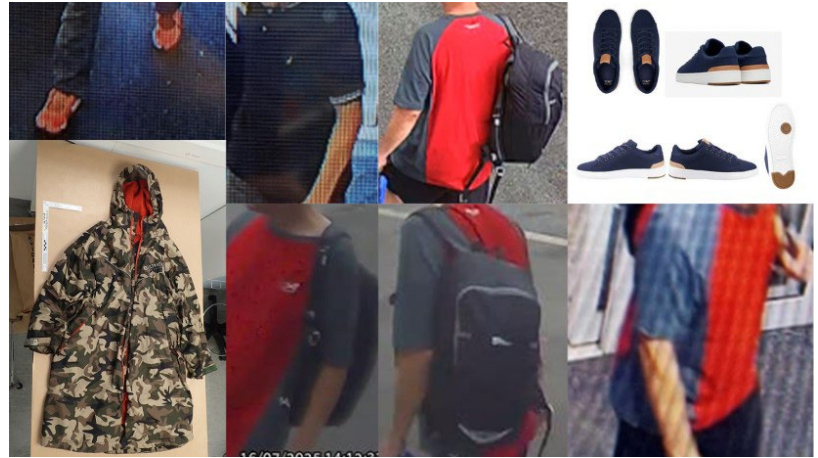


### **Police release images of clothing as part of Macclesfield murder investigation**

Detectives investigating a murder in Macclesfield are releasing images of clothing they are looking for as part of their investigation.

Police were called to Gwyneth Carter's home in Pearson Street, Macclesfield at around 6.48pm on Friday 18 July, due to concerns for her welfare. Officers and paramedics attended, and Gwyneth, 72, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene.

A 49-year-old man, known to the victim, was arrested on suspicion of murder. He has since been detained under the Mental Health Act and the investigation is ongoing. The suspect is believed to have arrived in the Macclesfield area on or around 12 July and remained in the area until his arrest on 20 July. He may have been sleeping rough somewhere in the Macclesfield area during this time.



DI Eli Atkinson said: *"We know from our CCTV enquiries that he wore different items of clothing, including a Camouflaged 'Saltrock' dry robe, which he had acquired during his stay in Macclesfield. We are releasing images of the clothing in question to help our investigation. I'd urge anyone who thinks they may have seen a man in Macclesfield between 12 and 20 July wearing the pictured clothing, or anyone who has seen any of the clothing discarded in the area to contact police. The same goes anyone who has any information on how the suspect may have obtained the clothing. "We are also appealing to anyone who may be aware of an area being used for rough sleeping during these time frames to get in touch."*

Anyone with information including video doorbell, CCTV, or dashcam footage can submit them via the following link: <https://mipp.police.uk/operation/07CH25D70-PO1> Alternatively, contact us on 101 quoting incident number IML-2136075. You can also report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### **Appeal for witnesses and dashcam footage following fatal collision near Audlem**

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision near Audlem.

At 8.17am on Wednesday 6 August, police were called to reports of a collision on A525 Whitchurch Road, Audlem, close to the junction with Rookery Lane. The collision involved a white Vauxhall van and a black Moto Morini Corsaro motorcycle. Despite the best efforts of paramedics, the motorcyclist, a 42-year-old man, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the van, a 40-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. He has since been released on bail.

Sgt Andy Dennison said: *"This is a tragic incident and we'd like to appeal for anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to police to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who was travelling in the area at the time who may have captured any relevant dashcam footage. You can contact Cheshire Police via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](https://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML-2148749. Our thoughts remain with the motorcyclist's family and friends at this sad time."*



## Appeal for witnesses and footage following serious collision in Runcorn

Officers investigating a serious collision in Runcorn are appealing for any witnesses or those with footage to get in touch with them.

At 7.14pm on Monday 4 August, police were called to reports of a collision in West Lane, Runcorn, which involved a bus and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 13-year-old boy, was taken to hospital with serious injuries where he remains at this time. As part of enquiries into the incident, police would like to speak to anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to officers.

Insp Steve Griffiths said: *"We would like to speak to anyone who witnessed this incident as we investigate what happened. We'd urge people to get in touch with us via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](mailto:cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or by calling 101. Please quote IML-2147879. The same goes for anyone who may have any CCTV or dashcam footage which could aid our enquiries."*

## Investigation launched following suspected arson in Ellesmere Port

Officers have launched an investigation following a fire at a disused building in Ellesmere Port.

At around 6.51pm on Friday 1 August, emergency services were called to reports of a fire at a disused building on Chester Road, Ellesmere Port. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) remain in attendance at the scene. Thankfully, there were no reports of any injuries. The cause of the fire is believed to be deliberate, and police are now appealing for information and video footage from members of the public.

DC Sean Harris said: *"The fire is being treated as arson and our investigation is ongoing to identify who was responsible. Enquiries are in the early stages and as part of the investigation I would ask anyone who was in the area and believes they may have seen anything suspicious to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dash cam footage that may aid the investigation."*

Anyone who has information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting IML 2145847. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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