Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association Week ending 12th October 2025 Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Cannabis farm discovered in Middlewich

A cannabis farm has been discovered at a disused building in Middlewich with a significant number of plants being seized.

At 12.40pm on Wednesday 8 October, police executed a warrant at a disused building in Lewin Street, Middlewich, involving response officers, Congleton Beat Team and the Eastern Problem Solving



Team. Upon entry, approximately 500 cannabis plants were found. Enquiries are currently ongoing in relation to the discovery, and no arrests have yet been made.

Inspector Jim Adams said: "This is a significant cannabis farm which someone has gone to a lot of trouble to try and conceal. However, their efforts have been stopped and a large quantity of cannabis plants which could have been headed for the streets of Cheshire have been seized. We are actively investigating this incident, and enquiries are currently ongoing to trace those responsible. If anyone has any information to support our investigation, please contact Cheshire Police through our website or by calling 101, quoting IML-2190860."

Man charged following firearms deployment in Crewe

A man has been charged after firearms officers were deployed to an incident in Crewe.

At around 4pm on Monday 6 October, police were called to reports of a man, possibly in possession of a weapon, at an address on Nantwich Road. Officers attended and two men were arrested at the address. Following questioning, Thomas Duffy, of Stalbridge Road, Crewe, has since been charged with affray and possession of an offensive weapon. The 56-year-old has since been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 5 November. A 44-year-old man from Crewe was also arrested and has since been released on bail, pending enquiries.

Operation Lawmaker rolls into Warrington and sees further arrests and illegal bikes seized Officers working under Operation Lawmaker continue to keep their hands on the throttle in their pursuit of removing dangerously ridden illegal bikes and apprehending offenders from Cheshire's roads as twelve are seized and several are arrested and reported with following the latest deployment in Warrington.

On Tuesday 7 October, officers working under Operation Lawmaker were deployed across Warrington as part of their on-going commitment to targeting the illegal and dangerous use of off-

road motor vehicles and non-road legal vehicles. Throughout the afternoon, officers from Warrington Beat Management Team, Motorcycle Operations, Northern Problem-Solving Team were deployed to numerous areas including the town centre, Orford, Poplars and Hulme, Fearnhead and Padgate. Thanks to their work, and with the support of colleagues from the National Police Air Service who joined the teams for a portion of the operation, twelve vehicles were seized during the deployments.



Officers also arrested two men on a moped who failed to stop for police in Orford. The pair were arrested on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle, with the driver also being arrested for failing to stop, driving without insurance and driving over the specified limit of a controlled drug. As well as this, a further two off-road motorbikes were seized due to having no insurance in Orford Park, along with a



driver who was spotted operating a large tipper-style vehicle being reported for driving whilst disqualified.

Other results included:

- x6 TORs being issued
- x4 drivers being summonsed to court
- A PG9 dangerous vehicle condition report being issued

Officers were also approached by many members of the public whilst vehicles were being seized to comment positively on the action taken in their local areas.

Police Sergeant Matthew Salmon, of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, said: "These are great results that will, undoubtedly, have a positive impact on the members of local communities whose lives are continually disrupted by the dangerous and anti-social riding of off-road and non-legal road vehicles. Combating ASB is a key pillar of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee with Operation Lawmaker showing our continued commitment in Cheshire to tackling this issue.

"The driving exhibited by these individuals causes not only a nuisance and disruption to local residents, but it also poses a considerable risk to other road users, pedestrians and riders themselves and any passengers riding with them. In Orford Park where we seized two bikes, these could easily have caused damage to football pitches and other public facilities that people have a right to use.

"Our officers continually carry out high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas at key times of the day across our towns, targeting that intent on causing a nuisance and generally disregarding road safety. Anyone with information regarding the riding of non-legal or off-road bikes or quad bikes in pedestrian areas or on our roads should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or give the details via the website."

Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via the Crimestoppers website.

Man charged in relation to Macclesfield motorcycle theft series

Officers in Macclesfield have charged a 19-year-old man in connection to a series of scooter and motorcycle thefts across the town.

Leo Ward was arrested at 6.30am on Sunday 5 October by officers from Macclesfield South Beat Management. The 19-year-old of Coronation Street, Macclesfield, has since been charged with four counts of theft of a motor vehicle. Ward has since been bailed to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 19 November.

Two people charged following commercial burglary in Northwich

Detectives investigating a commercial burglary at a retail store in Northwich have charged two people in relation to the incident.

At around 12.30am on Monday 16 June 2025 police were called to reports of a burglary at the Tesco Express store in Weaverham. During the incident, three unknown offenders deliberately rammed the store on Northwich Road and stole a large quantity of cash. Following enquiries, officers from Northwich Proactive CID conducted a warrant at an address in Kirby on Wednesday 8 October 2025, leading to the arrest of two people in relation to the incident.

Sonya Styles, 39, of Mosslawn Road, Southdene, Kirkby, and Robin Vaughan, 35, of Lyon Close, St Helens, have both since been charged with conspiracy to commit burglary other than dwelling with intent to steal. The pair have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 9 October.

Widnes man who raped a woman following night out jailed

A man from Widnes, who took a woman back to his home following a night out and raped her, has been jailed.

Dennis Kiwia appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 29 September, where he was jailed for four years. The custodial sentence comes after Kiwia was found guilty of the rape of a woman over 16 at the conclusion of a five-day trial on Friday 15 August 2025.



The court heard that on Saturday 23 December 2023, the victim, a 19-year-old woman, was on a Christmas night out with friends in Widnes. The group had been drinking at a pub in the town centre, with the victims' friends later going home for the night, leaving her sitting alone as the venue began to close. However, Kiwia was also in the premises with her.

CCTV footage taken from the night of the incident showed the 39-year-old calling the victim over and to sit with him and, after doing so, the pair struck up a conversation and Kiwia taking 'selfie' photographs with her on his phone before leaving the venue. Further footage would show the victim appearing unsteady on her feet as she got up to leave the venue, with Kiwia seen walking arm-in-arm with her as they walked across the outside car park to his car.

The victim would later tell police that she awoke on Christmas Eve morning in Kiwia's address, in the Albert Road area of Widnes, without any clothes on, unsure as to how she got there. Quickly leaving Kiwia's is address, she returned home to speak to a parent regarding how she believed she was raped, as she could not have been able to consent to any sexual intercourse. The incident was then reported to Cheshire Police and Kiwia was promptly arrested by CID officers and brought into custody.

During interview, he told investigating officers that he had been drinking at the same venue as the victim and had spoken to her on the night in question. He went on to say that he helped her into his car following the closing of the venue and offered her a lift to her home, but claimed that she told him to take her to his home. He then told officers that the pair engaged in consensual sex before falling asleep in the early hours, with the victim then waking up later that day and deciding to go home alone – despite him offering a number of times to take her there himself. Despite his claims, Kiwia was subsequently charged. Throughout the entire investigation, we would maintain he was innocent.

DC Gemma Nicolson, of CID Reactive North, said: "Dennis Kiwia's inability to accept any accountability for his actions not only prolonged justice being served, but it forced also the victim to relive the entire ordeal all over again during his five-day subsequent trial. Kiwia maintained he was the innocent party in this case, where, in fact, he took advantage of a vulnerable young woman nearly 20 years his junior who had simply been out enjoying the Christmas festivities with her friends for his own pleasure. We treat all reports of rape and sexual assault with the utmost seriousness and place the needs of the victim at the very heart of our investigations, ensuring they are supported throughout every step of enquiries and any following court proceedings."

Woman jailed following Macclesfield stabbing

A woman who stabbed her partner at a house in Macclesfield has been jailed.

Leanne Melling appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 6 October where she was sentenced to five years in prison. The 34-year-old of Ripon Close, Whitefield, had previously pleaded guilty to a section 18 assault.



The court heard how Melling and the victim were in a relationship at the time of the incident, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday 19 January. The couple had been arguing throughout the day and in a bid to deescalate the situation, the victim decided to go to sleep in a separate room. Undeterred, Melling followed the victim, intent on continuing their dispute. However, when the victim didn't comply, Melling took a knife and stabbed the victim to his abdomen. In an attempt to disarm her, the victim also sustained a serious stab wound to the hand.

Thankfully, the victim managed to gain possession of the knife, throwing it across the room before fleeing. He held the door closed from the outside, locking Melling in and preventing any further attacks. He then called 999. Officers quickly attended the address and Melling was arrested at the scene and later charged in connection with the incident. The victim was treated by paramedics before being taken to hospital where he received treatment for his injuries.

https://youtu.be/7QmNzzMHeFY

Following the sentencing, DS Steven Kaminski, who led the investigation said: "This was an extremely violent attack which left an innocent man seriously injured and fearing for his life. Melling's actions during this incident are completely unacceptable, and the sentence handed to her is reflective of the horror she inflicted on the victim that day. While the victim will never be able to forget what happened, I do hope that the swift conclusion of the case, and the sentence handed to Melling, will provide him with some closure and the opportunity to move on with his life."

DC Oliver Neilson-Bird said: "No one should be treated this way in any relationship, and I would like to commend the victim for his bravery in coming forward and engaging with our investigation. I hope he can now rebuild his life and move on from this truly traumatic experience. This case highlights domestic violence can affect anybody, and I would encourage anyone who has been a victim to please get in touch. You will be listened to and we will provide you with the support you need."

To report any incidents of domestic abuse contact Cheshire police on 101, or report online <u>via the</u> <u>website</u>, in an emergency call 999.

Man charged with weapons offences following incident in Widnes

A man from Widnes has been charged with weapons offences following an incident in the town.

Thomas Whitley, 29, was arrested at around 12.35pm on Sunday 5 October in the Heath Road area of Widnes. Whitley, of Smithy Lane, Merseyside, has since been charged with possession of a knife in a public place and making threats to a person with an offensive weapon. He appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 7 October, where he was remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 4 November. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in the Lincoln Square area of Widnes on Saturday 4 October.

Over 30,000 vapes, cigarettes and tobacco products seized during joint HMRC, trading standards and immigration operation

Officers from the Constabulary's Foreign National Offender (FNO) Unit and Protecting Vulnerable People Exploitation Teams (PVPE) joined immigration, HMRC and Trading Standards colleagues in targeting stores across Warrington linked to immigration crime and the sale of illegal tobacco, vapes and cigarettes.



On Thursday 2 October, officers from the FNO unit working alongside their colleagues from the PVPE team, were deployed across Warrington under Operation Machinize - an ongoing coordinated operation launched by the National Crime Agency tackling money laundering, the criminal use of cash-intensives in high street businesses and immigration crime. Officers and their



partner colleagues visited two shops in the Marsh House Lane area and uncovered sizable amounts of illicit and illegal products in the form of loose tobacco, illegal cigarettes and vapes.

Additionally, these illicit products had been hidden in sophisticated concealments out of sight within the shops. However, thanks to the assistance of a specialist tobacco detection dog from Wagtail UK, the products were quickly identified and seized by officers. A self-storage shipping container located near the Pink Eye



roundabout in Warrington town centre was also revealed as another hiding place for illegal products, with nearly 4500 illegal vapes being found inside and subsequently removed.

In total, officers seized:

- 28,840 illicit cigarettes
- 22.65kg of illicit tobacco
- 4499 illegal vapes

The combined total of items seized from across the two shops equated to an estimated street value of £38,000. An illegal worker was also arrested by Immigration teams, and, later, a second person working within a shop on Orford Lane was arrested by officers on suspicion of public order offences.

DI Upile Mtitimila, of the force's Protective Vulnerable People Unit, said: "We work hard to tackle criminals operating in our communities and, while many businesses across Warrington are operating within the law, we have seen that there are a brazen few who, wrongly, think they can get away with distributing products that remain illegal for a reason. However, as this operation has shown, there really is nowhere to hide when we work in step with our partner organisations with a common goal in mind: keeping Cheshire a hostile environment for crime.

"These excellent results are a testament to the tireless work of our officers and wider community partners who day in and day out work to tackle organised criminals, as well as those who exploit the most vulnerable people in our society. With that in mind, we cannot take action like this without your support. Intelligence submitted to us from members of the public is vital to our investigations, so I would encourage anyone with any information or concerns about illegal activity in their area to get in touch and let us do the rest."

Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for licensing, Cllr John Kerr-Brown, added: "The criminals involved in the trade of illicit tobacco and illegal vapes are often highly sophisticated and well-organised. This isn't a matter of a few rogue shopkeepers - many operations are part of wider criminal networks that use advanced methods to evade detection and maximise profit. We urge members of the public to avoid purchasing from establishments known to sell illegal tobacco or non-compliant vaping products. Supporting these businesses fuels criminal activity and endangers public health. We're grateful to partners for their support to tackle this criminality."

Man jailed for harassing woman in Northwich

A 23-year-old man has been jailed for two years after pleading guilty to harassing a woman in Northwich.

Brandon Banner from Beech View Road, Kingsley appeared at Chester Crown Court on 2 October to be sentenced after pleading guilty to harassment – breaching a restraining order, and sending false communication with intent to cause harm. Banner was subject to a restraining order preventing him from contacting his victim, but in the early hours of 27 August 2025, the rear windows of two cars parked on a drive at an address in Northwich were smashed.



A call was also made to North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) in the early hours saying that a 23-year-old man had been assaulted at the same address and that they were unconscious and not breathing. Paramedics attended but couldn't find anyone. Banner was spotted nearby holding a bottle of whiskey and talking on the phone. They asked if he was the person who rang the incident in. He denied this and appeared intoxicated.

Officers attended the address and discovered the call to NWAS was false and nothing to do with the occupants. The number used to ring the ambulance service was linked to Banner. Ambulance control located where in Northwich the mobile phone call was made, which turned out to be the same location as Banner. Police found Banner sitting on a grass verge with a bottle of whiskey and arrested him for the offences.

PC Isabel O'Brien said: "Banner knew he had a restraining order against him yet spent the night waging a campaign of harassment against the victim without thinking of the consequences. Hopefully, he now understands the consequences are time spent in prison."

Man jailed following Crewe burglary series

A man from Birmingham has been jailed following two burglaries at homes in Crewe.

Shafiollah Amiree appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 6 October where he was sentenced to four years and six months in prison. He was also given an extended driving ban of five years and three months. The 24-year-old of Birchdale Road, Birmingham, had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary, three counts of theft of a motor vehicle and two counts of driving while disqualified.



During the sentencing the court was told 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 sentence handed to Amiree 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."

'Kardashian of Cheshire' jailed for fraud and indecent images

A man who described himself as Cheshire's very own Kardashian has been jailed for fraud, theft, and possession of indecent images.

Jack Watkin, 26, formerly of Wilmslow Road, Alderley Edge funded his fantasy Instagram influencer lifestyle by defrauding businesses and individuals to a total value of more than £200,000. Watkin appeared at Chester Crown Court on 6



October to be sentenced after pleading guilty to eight counts of fraud by false representation and one count of theft. He was also found guilty of one count of possession of indecent photographs, three counts of making indecent images, one count of possession of extreme pornographic images, one count of possession of a prohibited image of a child, possession of an indecent photograph of a child, and another two more counts of making an indecent image of a child. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

The court heard how Watkin's used the lure of designer handbag brand Hermes as a ruse to trick people into giving him the money he needed to afford his extravagant lifestyle. The sought-after handbags can't be purchased over the counter. You must be invited to buy a Hermes handbag which makes it a lucrative investment as the resale value can be much higher than the original price. The victims were told by Watkin's that he had the contacts that could give them access to the handbags and that they could split the profits made on resale. They handed over their money in good faith, but when no bag or sign of any money from the investment opportunity arose, they would begin to ask for their money back, but he always had excuses. He duped one woman into handing over thousands thinking she was investing in the much sought after luxury handbag when she was in fact paying his bills at the Dorchester Hotel in London. She, like the others never received the handbags or their share in the profits of their resale.

The investigation was launched after the woman who inadvertently paid for his luxury hotel bill contacted the Metropolitan Police back in 2022 when she became suspicious of Watkin's continued

excuses. The case was subsequently referred to Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit, who launched a full investigation.

https://youtu.be/IOLFBqFhnVs

Their enquiries unearthed a string of victims and a breath-taking amount of luxury goods, and hotel bills that Watkin's afforded by swindling his six victims. During the investigation detectives also found indecent images on his mobile phone for which he was found guilty at a previous hearing for possession of indecent images, extreme pornography and prohibited images.

The phone that was seized on his first arrest in March 2024 had 637 indecent images, and a further 274 category A indecent images of children. Officers also found he made 307 category B indecent images of children, 158 category C indecent images of children, possessed six extreme pornographic images of animals, and five prohibited images of children. On his second arrest, when he was met at Macclesfield train station by officers in October 2024, his new phone was forensically downloaded and this had five category B and two category C indecent images of children as well as five category B indecent images of children. They also found he had made two category C indecent images of children.

https://youtu.be/G8fjx8Ea7Pw

DC Gareth Yates, of Cheshire Constabulary Economic Crime Unit said:

"Not only did Watkin's deceive his victims by befriending them and taking thousands from them, but he was also hiding a depraved secret habit, sickening his victims further after his hideous secret was uncovered when his mobile phones were downloaded by specialist officers. Watkin's deluded himself that he was a successful rich kid influencer, but in reality, he was stealing money from wealthy individuals under the guise of 'business opportunities' to fund his expensive habit of fast cars, luxury goods, including Versace crockery, and designer footwear and clothing.

"It was never going to end well, and his downfall was inevitable. Eventually his lies caught up with him and he is now facing the consequences of his deceit, and his perversions. Whether his other victims come forward with their losses, only time will tell."

Images recovered from Watkin's social media accounts









Man charged following suspicious incidents in Macclesfield and Handforth.

Detectives investigating reports of suspicious activity at retail stores in Macclesfield and Handforth have charged a man in relation to the incidents.

William Kidd was arrested on Friday 3 October after he attended Macclesfield Police station. The 26-year-old has since been charged with four counts of sexual assault on a female, one count of use of threatening and abusive language with intent to cause alarm and distress, and one count of recording an image under clothing without consent. The charges relate to incidents which occurred between 8 May 2025 and 8 August 2025 in Macclesfield, Handforth, Denton, Stockport and Stanley Green. He was also charged with possession of an offensive weapon and possession of a class B drug (Cannabis).

Kidd, of Stanbank Street, South Reddish, Stockport, has been remanded in police custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 6 October.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following Northwich burglary

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following a car and key burglary in Northwich.

At around 3.15am Sunday 5 October two unknown offenders broke into an address on Austin Drive in Winnington Village. Once inside the address the offenders stole the keys to a grey Volkswagen Golf before fleeing the scene in the vehicle. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation detectives have released a CCTV image of two men they are keen to identify. They are also keen to hear from anyone in the local area with any information or video footage which may aid the investigation.

DC Chris Forrest, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: "Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we're committed to doing all we can to trace the people responsible. From our initial enquiries we believe that the offenders were walking around the Winnington Village estate for several hours prior to the burglary.

"Therefore, I would ask residents in the area to check their CCTV and doorbell footage to see if they have any video footage which may aid our investigation. We're also keen to hear from anyone who was in the area on the night and believes they may have witnessed anything suspicious. In addition, I would also ask anyone who believes that they recognise the two men in the CCTV footage to get in touch."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 2188988. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following Widnes robbery

Officers are appealing for information following a robbery in Widnes.

At around 3.45pm on Wednesday 27 August, two 13-year-old boys riding mountain bikes attended Victoria Park, Widnes, with three of their friends who were on foot. It was reported that at some point, the group had been sat in the green hut next to the skate park in the south part of the park. The two mountain bikes had been on the floor when two male suspects approached and made threats before stealing the bikes. The suspects left the park onto Fairfield Road and then Greenway Road.

A spokesperson for Cheshire Police said: "Enquiries have been ongoing since this incident was reported, and we are doing all we can to trace those responsible. We would like to ask anyone with any information to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who witnessed what happened or has any relevant footage which could aid our investigation. You can report information to us via our website or by calling 101, quoting 25000713875."

Appeal for information following serious collision in Minshull Vernon.

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Minshull Vernon.

The collision on Brookhouse Lane occurred at around 4.45pm on Tuesday 30 September and involved a white Yamaha motorcycle. The rider of the bike, a 58-year-old local man, sustained serious injuries and was taken to Leighton Hospital.

Sgt Iain Condliffe, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit at Cheshire Constabulary, said: "Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and we're doing all we can to establish what took place. As part of our ongoing enquiries we're keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any video footage which may aid our investigation. We're particularly keen to hear from two workman who stopped to assist the victim following the collision."

Anyone who witnessed the collision, or anyone with any information in relation to the incident, is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2187917. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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