

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 30 August 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals

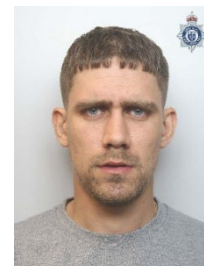


Latest Cheshire News

Man jailed after admitting causing the death of his girlfriend

A 35-year-old man has been jailed after admitting causing the death of his girlfriend in Congleton.

Matthew DuPlessis from Richard Darrock Way in Crewe appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 28 August to be sentenced after pleading guilty to causing death by careless driving whilst unfit through drugs and to perverting the course of justice at an earlier hearing. He was jailed for nine years and three months.



On 23 September 2023 DuPlessis and his girlfriend Charlotte Dodd (35) had been to Blackpool during the day but on their return, neighbours heard them arguing later that night. At 1:30am they left Charlotte's address together and drove around the Congleton area in DuPlessis' van as they continued to argue. It was then, on Padgbury Lane that Charlotte left the van as it was still moving. Charlotte struck the carriageway and was fatally injured. A man driving along Padgbury Lane stopped his car when he saw Charlotte lying in the road with DuPlessis sat on the grass verge behind her. DuPlessis told him it was a hit and run. The witness immediately called 999 and commenced CPR.

DCI Dave Hutcheon, of the Major Investigation Team, said: *"DuPlessis told multiple witnesses at the scene including his own parents, members of the public, paramedics and police at the scene that he and Charlotte were walking along Padgbury Lane having been out drinking and that Charlotte was dancing in the carriageway. He told that that when his back was turned to wee in a bush a dark coloured vehicle struck Charlotte and fled the scene. We launched a fail to stop investigation at the scene, and the defendant was treated as a witness and later allowed to leave with his parents."*

However, an officer from the Roads and Crime Serious Collision Unit attended the scene to investigate and recognised the defendants name and that he drove a small white van like the one parked at the scene. Enquiries led the officer to confirm the van was registered to DuPlessis and officers attended his address to arrest him on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. The defendant was further arrested for failing the roadside drug screening test. DuPlessis pleaded guilty in 2024 to driving with excess cocaine in his body in relation to the incident and was handed a three-year driving disqualification and associated costs.

Meanwhile the investigation into Charlotte's death continued to try to get to the truth. In police interview, he had admitted that near to Congleton High School, Charlotte threatened to jump out of his vehicle, so he stopped the vehicle, but she didn't jump out, so he drove on. She threatened to jump out a further four to five times. Duplessis refused to say how she came to leave the van that night, but a detailed forensic investigation pieced together events despite this.

Calculations of his speed from Congleton High School and along Padgbury Lane gave an average speed of 32 mph. Along Padgbury Lane CCTV captured the vehicle passing. The first cameras showed the vehicle interior was in darkness. However, on passing the third camera, the interior is illuminated by a downward light (as opposed to a mobile phone's upward light), indicating that the interior light was in operation. CCTV showed that the driver side door was not open, but the interior light indicated that the passenger side door was open. In interview the defendant admitted that Charlotte had opened the passenger side as she wanted to get out. The van continued a further 195 metres at an average speed of 19 mph. Forensic analysis showed that the van was over the centre line of the carriage way when the defendant went to turn left into Arnside Avenue. It was at the junction of Padgbury lane and Arnside Avenue that Charlotte left the vehicle.

DCI Dave Hutcheon added: *"It hasn't been determined how Charlotte came to leave the van. The defendant overshot the junction causing him to perform an emergency stop. He then reversed and parked his van on Arnside Avenue and went to Charlotte. He then concocted his story to cover up that he was responsible for her death. His lies were caught out by the roads policing officer and the detailed forensic analysis of his movements led to him having no option but to plead guilty. His actions tragically led to Charlotte's death and changed her family's life forever. Our hearts go out to them as they navigate the rest of their lives trying to cope with the devastating loss of someone they loved very much."*

Following sentencing Charlotte's family said: *"Today marks the end of a three-year journey through a police investigation and legal process that has changed our family lives forever. Throughout this period, we have quietly lived through the turmoil, the uncertainty and the heartbreak surrounding the circumstances of Charlotte's death. We have each carried an indescribable pain of losing our daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece and friend, whilst also watching her two young girls try to come to terms with losing their mummy. We would like to thank everyone who has worked on and contributed to the police investigation. We admire the determination and the tireless efforts made to consider every possibility and to get to the truth, in a very difficult case."*

"We would also like to thank our family and friends for the comfort and support they have provided. You need to know it made a difference. It has taken so long to reach a Crown Court sentence hearing. Due to the lies and deception by one person from the very beginning, thereby perverting the course of justice, we still do not know the full truth of what really happened to Charlotte. There are no witnesses. There are some questions that remain unanswered, and we will have to live with those questions for the rest of our lives. Justice has now been served, yet we do not believe this reflects the enormity of what has been lost and the devastation that Charlotte's death has caused."

Charlotte has not been able to live her best life because one person has senselessly taken that life way, stolen her future. For us, no custodial sentence or punishment will ever be enough. Charlotte was deeply loved, is deeply loved and she always will be. She was the light of our lives. She was independent, smart, and creative. She always chose to see the best in people and would encourage everyone to be the best version of themselves every day. Her life was so much more than the circumstances of her death, and she will never be forgotten. We now ask for privacy as our family begins to process the end of this chapter and we try to find a way to rebuild our lives without Charlotte."



Winsford couple plead guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice

A couple from Winsford have pleaded guilty to wasting thousands of pounds worth of taxpayer's money following a collision in the town.

Jay Price, 35, and Kelly Brown, 32, both appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 28 August where they pleaded guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice. Price also admitted driving without a licence, failing to report a collision, and driving without due care and attention. The pair, of Cavendish Close, Winsford, have been bailed to appear at Chester Crown Court for sentence on Friday 9 October.

Shortly after 8am on Thursday 22 January a concerned member of the public contacted police to report a collision on Bradford Road, Winsford, after seeing an overturned car in the middle of a large pond at the Salt Mine. Due to concerns in relation to potential casualties, multiple patrols were dispatched to the scene, including several police cars, five fire engines, a fire boat, several ambulances and an air ambulance. However, after searching the vehicle and the pond, it became apparent that the occupants had fled the scene following the crash.

The car was subsequently recovered from the pond and during a search, officers discovered several bottles of Budweiser, a mobile phone, a bank card belonging to Brown and a Montirex Jacket which contained a bank card belonging to Price. The keys to the car were also found in the ignition, on a keyring which also contained a house key and a photo of Price and Brown. DVLA checks also showed that the car was registered to Price. Police also recovered CCTV footage from a nearby business which showed the car spinning on the road uncontrollably at 9.09pm on Wednesday 21 January, before crashing through a fence and into the pond.

Officers attended the couple's house on Cavendish Close, but on arrival only Brown was present. When spoken to by officers she claimed that she had been home at the time of the collision. A search was undertaken at the address, where officers discovered a damp Montirex jacket, which was drying in the kitchen and appeared to be covered in salt, consistent to the salt water in the pond where the car was found. The jacket was not seized at the time, and shortly after leaving the address it was washed by Brown. Police subsequently attended Price's workplace to ensure he was safe and well.

Price was later arrested in relation to the collision and during questioning he claimed that he had sold the car for £1,400 to a man called 'Fletchy' on the night of the collision while at a local pub but had no proof of the sale. He also claimed that he was watching a football match at a local pub at the time of the crash, however, checks revealed that the match was not shown at the premises he claimed he was at. Price was released on bail while further enquiries were undertaken, which included the recovery of additional CCTV footage which showed a man and a woman walking along Bradford Road shortly after the incident.

Officers also recovered CCTV footage of Price and Brown together at a local supermarket just 20 minutes before the collision, which showed the pair purchasing a crate of Budweiser. The couple were both wearing clothing which matched the CCTV footage from Bradfield Road. Price was also carrying the bank card recovered in the car, while Price appeared to be carrying keys which matched those recovered in the car. The footage also showed the couple driving away from the store towards the location of the collision. After gathering a catalogue of evidence against the couple they were both subsequently charged in relation to the collision.

Police Constable Jack Pilkington of Northwich Local Policing Unit said: *“I welcome the fact that Price and Brown have now finally admitted their guilt. Their elaborate scam cost taxpayers thousands of pounds and also resulted in disruption to local residents and businesses. Rather than just report the incident at the time of the collision, they purposely chose to attempt to pervert the course of justice and repeatedly lied to officers about what happened on that night. However, their plans were clearly doomed from the outset, and as a result of the evidence we gathered they were left with no option but to plead guilty to the charges against them.”*

Man found guilty of sexual assault in Northwich

A man has been found guilty of sexually assaulting a girl in Northwich.

Following a four-day trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Thursday 27 August, Furqan Khalil was found guilty of engaging in non-penetrative sexual activity with a child. The 28-year-old of Rishton Lane, Bolton, has been bailed and will appear in the same court on Friday 9 October to be sentenced. The court heard that in February 2024, the victim entered Khalil’s mobile phone and e-cigarette shop in Northwich to buy a phone charger. While in the shop, she asked whether she could purchase a vape. As Khalil showed her a selection, he touched her inappropriately. After she chose a vape, Khalil told her to wait outside, claiming he could not give it to her inside because of the CCTV cameras. Once outside, Khalil again touched the victim inappropriately. When she asked for the vape, he instead asked what “favours” she would do for him in return. The victim then punched Khalil, causing him to run off.

Detective Sergeant Helen Harrison said: *“I welcome today’s outcome and hope this conviction will provide reassurance to the victim, and local residents, and also acts as a warning to other people who feel that it is acceptable to act in this manner. We treat all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority. Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity.”*

To report any sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit

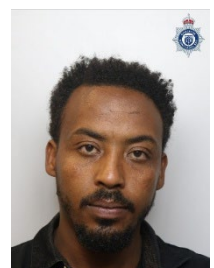
<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences>

Information can also be passed anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111. Help and information can also be found online at www.cheshire.police.uk

Man jailed for sexual offences in Crewe

A man who strangled and raped a woman in Crewe has been jailed.

Fikadu Yemane was sentenced to eight years imprisonment at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 27 August following a ten-day trial, in which he was found guilty of one count of rape and intentional strangulation. Yemane, who is of Castleton Walk, Manchester, but originally from Eritrea, was also ordered to sign on to the Sex Offender’s Register indefinitely.



The case began on 16 July 2025 when the 29-year-old met the victim, a 19-year-old woman, in Manchester after arranging to meet via social media. The pair were known to each other and had agreed to travel to an address in Crewe alongside another man on the day of the offence. At the address in Crewe, Yemane waited until it was just him and the victim alone in the property before forcing her into a bedroom, removing her clothing and going on to rape her. During the assault, he put his hand over the victim's mouth and strangled her to the point that she nearly passed out, with visible marks being left on her neck as a result. The second man later returned and pulled the 29-year-old off the victim, allowing her to escape and to call for help.

Yemane fled the scene on foot before officers arrived who quickly located and safeguarded the victim – he remained on the run for six days before being located and arrested in Manchester. During this period, Yemane made active attempts to cover his tracks and evade police by changing the SD card in his phone. In interview, Yemane told officers that, despite not engaging in sex, everything that had occurred between him and the victim had been consensual. Enquiries at the address where the offence occurred had resulted in a condom with traces of both Yemane's and the victim's DNA being recovered in a wheelie bin. The victims' underwear was also located in the same bin.

Detective Constable Jaymie Johnson said: *"Fikadu Yemane's behaviour was downright predatory. He took advantage of a vulnerable victim, who thought she was with someone she could trust, before going on to rape her and cause her serious injury when she bravely fought back against him. Even when he was faced with evidence that directly linked him to the crime, that he had made active attempts to dispose of, Yemane caused further suffering to victim by forcing her to relive the ordeal all over again during his subsequent ten-day trial."*

"With that in mind, I am glad that the jury have reached a guilty verdict on both counts and Yemane has been handed a significant custodial sentence. I do hope that now this case has reached its conclusion, the victim can be provided with a much-needed sense of closure and can begin to move forward with her life, knowing justice has been secured and her attacker has been held to account. I commend her for her bravery throughout the entire investigation. Even upon Yemane's eventual release from custody, he will remain the subject of the Sex Offender's Register, meaning he will be monitored by specialist officers for the remainder of his life, ensuring that he never causes harm to another person."

Over 140 vehicles dealt with during Alderley Edge deployments

Officers have stopped over 140 motorists seen driving dangerously following several deployments along the A34 between Alderley Edge and Wilmslow.

Between Saturday 25 July and Sunday 23 August, officers from Cheshire's Special Constabulary were deployed on three occasions along the A34 between Alderley Edge and Wilmslow as part of Operation Joyrider. With the support from the Motorcycle and Roads and Crime units, these deployments were a direct response to a number of concerns raised by residents in the nearby areas. Alongside concerns of speeding and anti-social and dangerous driving, officers have regularly been deployed to the area in relation to a number of illegal car meetings and drag-style racing.

Over the course of the three deployments, officers stopped over 140 vehicles and seized a total of 11 vehicles. Other results from the deployments included:

- x39 section 59 orders being issued
- x32 Traffic Offence Reports being issued
- x1 driver arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol

Special Constable Adam Moore, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"We know that dangerous driving and large-scale illegal car meets along the A34 corridor are a real issue for residents in Alderley Edge and Wilmslow, which is why we regularly conduct operation such as this to provide some reassurance and act as a warning to those planning to come to Cheshire to engage in reckless activities. As these results demonstrate, we have a zero-tolerance approach to this kind of behaviour, and we will take action against those who break the law. We will continue to analyse video footage of dangerous driving taken the area, and anyone caught committing driving offences can look forward to a visit from officers - it will take a lot more than blurring out number plates on online videos to stop our officers from identifying the vehicles involved in criminality.*

"We conduct enforcement operations such as this to prevent serious collisions on our roads. With this in mind, we would like to warn those intending to gather with the intention to drive recklessly that we are constantly monitoring the area and will respond to any illegal activity accordingly. 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."

Former Scout Leader from Warrington jailed for child sex offences

A former Scout Leader from Warrington has been jailed after he was found guilty of a string of child sex charges.

Aaron Ashbrook was found guilty of eight offences - which include indecent assault on a boy under 14 and making indecent images of children - following a 4-day trial at Liverpool Crown Court which concluded on Friday 31 July. The 59-year-old, who used to run a Scouts group in Warrington, returned to the court for sentencing today, Thursday 27 August, where he was jailed for 12 years.



The court heard how Ashbrook began abusing the victim in 1994 - when the victim was just 8 years old - and continued over a two-year period. The victim bravely reported the abuse to Cheshire Police in May 2023, and an investigation was launched. Officers arrested Ashbrook at his home on Windermere Avenue, Warrington. Several electronic devices were seized at the address. Forensic examination of these devices revealed six indecent images and videos of children being sexually exploited, five of which were of category A (the most serious type). Ashbrook was subsequently charged with the offences.

Sergeant Dani Byng said: *"What Ashbrook did was every parent's worst nightmare. He was trusted to look after the victim, but instead of caring for him, he preyed on the victim's vulnerability for his own perverse sexual gratification. The harm and distress Ashbrook's actions have caused the victim is immeasurable, and it is a testament to the victim's strength, bravery, and determination that we have been able bring Ashbrook to justice, 30 years since the offences occurred. I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide him with some closure and allow him to move forward.*

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

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

Update following industrial incident in Aston by Budworth

At around 12.20pm on Wednesday 26 August, police were called to an industrial incident at a farm on Cann Lane in Aston by Budworth.

Police, fire and ambulance attended the scene and on arrival they found that two men had fallen into an industrial slurry tank. The men, aged 72 and 42, were rescued from the tank by emergency services, but sadly despite the best efforts of all those involved, they were pronounced dead at the scene.

Next of kin have been informed and an investigation is underway to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident. The family have requested for their privacy to be respected at this difficult time.

Man charged following series of car interferences in Macclesfield

Macclesfield North Neighbourhood Policing Team have charged a man in relation to multiple reports of car interference.

Lewis Anderton, of Goathland Way, Macclesfield, appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Tuesday 25 August charged with nine counts of motor vehicle interference. The 38-year-old will next appear at Crewe Magistrates’ Court on 6 July 2027. The charges relate to reports of vehicle break-ins in Macclesfield between May and August 2026 in the following areas:

- Hardwick Drive
- Park Lane
- Sherwood Road
- Byrons Lane
- Treacle Avenue
- Livesley Road (x4)

Calls for vigilance following rogue trader incident in Chester

Cheshire Constabulary is urging people to be vigilant following a cold calling incident in Chester.

An elderly resident was contacted by a company by phone and talked into getting work done on her house. What followed was a series of suggestions that further work needed to be carried out and more money was taken for work that wasn’t completed. When she refused further work, they

visited her home and wouldn't leave until she signed a contract for more work on the house. Thankfully a neighbour stepped in and alerted Trading Standards and the police.

Enquiries in relation to the incident is ongoing with Trading Standards, and the force is urging anyone who is coerced into having work done on their home by people calling speculatively by phone or at your home to shut the conversation down. Don't allow them to pressure you into agreeing to work being carried out.

Lyndsey Whitehurst from Cheshire Constabulary's Force Intelligence Bureau, said: *"Unfortunately incidents such as this are common, with rogue traders targeting vulnerable people and trying to get as much money from them as possible. Rogue traders often appear to be highly professional. They can have printed leaflets and vehicles branded with their company name, making people think they are legitimate. They often use highly pressurised selling techniques to convince victims to use their services and charge exorbitant prices for work of a poor standard, or work that is never carried out. Enquiries in relation to the case in Chester are ongoing. At this stage we believe the men are from the Manchester area and are likely to have called or visited other residents and I would like anyone who thinks they may have been approached by these men to get in touch with officers."*

"I also want to take this opportunity to urge people living in Chester or anywhere else in Cheshire to be vigilant and to contact the police if they believe that a rogue trader is taking advantage of them or someone they know. Call us on 101 or give the details via our [website](#) and also give the details to the Trading Standards department at your local council."

"I want to encourage people to look out for any elderly or vulnerable neighbours by checking on their welfare and reporting any suspicious activity to the police."

You can also follow our advice on how to avoid falling victim to a rogue trader:

- Professional looking leaflets or advertisements are not indications of traders being reputable with all the relevant documentation – check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme or the [Government's TrustMark scheme](#)
- If you feel that improvement or maintenance work needs carrying out at your property, discuss this with a relative or a friend who can help you find a reputable trader
- Get quotes from a number of traders before agreeing to have work done, to ensure that you are not overcharged
- Ask for quotes in writing
- It is wise to get quotes from around four different traders to check that the prices quoted are fair
- Do not let anyone pressure you into having work done
- Never agree to have work done unless you have seen examples of the trader's work
- Do not pay cash up front and never go to the bank or to a cashpoint with a trader
- Make sure that you get contact details and the address of any business you are considering for work at your property – if possible, visit the premises to check that it exists
- Do not be fooled by someone who says that they are just working up the street or that they have done work for your neighbour – ask for specific examples and then follow up to check if what they have said is true
- If someone calls at your home trying to sell you something, do not let them in and ask for ID

- Always check the identity of doorstep callers by telephoning the company they are claiming to be from – use the number listed in your local phonebook or on the company’s website, never use a number the doorstep caller gives you.

Warning issued following reports of a potential car meet in Alderley Edge

Drivers planning to take part in an illegal car meet this Bank Holiday weekend are being warned that anyone found flouting the rules of the road will face the consequences of their actions.

Over recent days Cheshire Police has been made aware of an unauthorised car meet which is rumoured to be taking place between along the A34 corridor between Wilmslow and Alderley Edge across the Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday 29 August to Monday 31 August). Despite what attendees may have seen on social media, the meet has not been authorised by the local council or by Cheshire Police, and previous incidents have caused huge disruption in the local area. The meets are known to attract hundreds of people, many in high powered motor vehicles driving dangerously causing excessive noise and anti-social behaviour, all of which have caused alarm and distress to residents. During a recent deployment along the A34 corridor, officers seized a number of vehicles, stopped 50 motorists in relation to dangerous and anti-social driving offences, issued 25 Section 59 warnings and served a number of dispersal notices and penalty notices.

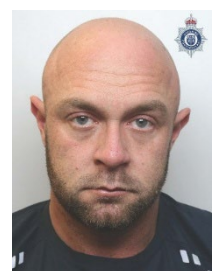
Chief Inspector Zoe Bowden, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"With the spell of nice weather we have had recently, many people have taken the opportunity to get out for a drive across our county, with the vast majority of drivers using our roads safely and with respect for other motorists and pedestrians. However, as we have recently seen nationally, there is a mentality among some who feel it is acceptable to disregard the rules of the roads and use them as their personal racetracks – disregarding not only their own safety but the safety of other road users, pedestrians and any responding police officers.*

"We do not conduct enforcement operations on our roads to spoil the fun; we do this to prevent serious collisions that can have serious consequences. With this in mind, we would like to warn those planning on attending the location that we are aware it is taking place and that we will be responding to it accordingly. Both uniformed and plain clothed officers will be present in the area throughout the day, and they will be actively targeting antisocial behaviour, dangerous driving and conducting numerous enquiries to identify those who feel they can break the law without consequence."

Man jailed after engaging in sexual activity with child in Crewe

A man has been jailed for more than seven years after sexually assaulting and engaging in sexual activity with a child.

Jamie Meakin, of Crewe, was handed a sentence of seven years and nine months on Monday 24 August 2026 at Chester Crown Court. The 36-year-old had pleaded guilty to assaulting a girl by penetration and five counts of engaging in penetrative sexual activity with a girl.



In January 2025, officers received reports that Meakin had been engaging in sexual activity with a child in the Crewe area. The offences had occurred over many years, starting when the girl was 12 years old. Meakin was subsequently arrested in relation to the offences and following a thorough investigation was charged and remanded in custody. On top of his custodial sentence, Meakin is required to sign the Sex Offender Register indefinitely and is also subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order. Meakin also pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine after a quantity of cocaine worth approximately £760 was seized during a search of an address where he was staying.

DC Sallis said: *"Meakin was well aware of how old this child was, and he still chose to act on his perverse sexual desires by taking advantage of a young, vulnerable individual. He had no choice but to plead guilty to the offences, and the substantial custodial sentence handed to him reflects the severity of these crimes. We hope the conclusion of this case will now allow the victim to find some closure."*

"If anyone has been subjected to these kinds of offences, please report them to us by calling 101 or by visiting cheshire.police.uk/tell-us."

Man arrested following firearms discharge in Whitegate

Officers have arrested a man following reports of a firearms discharge in Whitegate.

At around 5.45pm on Monday 24 August, police were called to reports that shots had been fired in the Beauty Bank area of Whitegate. Specialist firearms officers were deployed to the scene and a 35-year-old man from Cuddington was arrested nearby on suspicion of possession of a firearm in a public place. A number of searches were also undertaken which resulted in the recovery of an air weapon.

Detective Inspector Ross Hamilton, of Northwich CID, said: *"Firearms offences are rare in Cheshire, and we treat all reports we receive extremely seriously. While on this occasion there were no reports of any injuries, the use of firearms in a public place can be extremely dangerous and there are also a number of legal consequences, including significant custodial sentences. Enquiries in relation to this incident remain ongoing and I would urge anyone with any information or footage which may aid our enquiries to call us on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 2402957."*

Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. For further information in relation to firearms safety visit [Firearms licensing | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Police urge vigilance following reports of online blackmail

Cheshire Police is urging members of the public to be aware of the growing threat of online blackmail.

Officers from Cheshire Police's Economic Crime Unit are urging young people, parents, carers, teachers and guardians to be aware of online blackmail, which can otherwise be known as sextortion, and be able to recognise it and report it. This comes following recent reports of people targeting victims through social media, messaging apps and online gaming profiles. Online

blackmail commonly involves a criminal threatening to disclose private images, videos or personal information after building a rapport with the victim, unless the victim complies with their demands. These demands could include further intimate images being sent, money to be paid, cryptocurrency payments, gift cards, or other requests.

PC Jim Day, Financial Abuse Safeguarding and Prevention Officer with the Cheshire Police Economic Crime Unit, said: *"Criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated in the way they target victims online and as we all now spend a lot of time online, it's important to understand the ways in which criminals do this, so these offences can be reported. "They often create fake profiles, pretending to be someone they are not, and build trust very quickly before manipulating victims into sharing images or personal information.*

"Once they have these images or information, criminals will then blackmail the victim into complying with their demands by threatening to share the images and information with others. The most important thing to understand if this happens to you, is that it is not your fault. This can happen to anyone, and criminals use these tactics to purposefully take advantage of someone. Remember, online blackmail is a crime. These offenders also rely on fear, embarrassment and panic. Victims should never feel ashamed to seek help and support.

"You can report incidents of this nature to Cheshire Police by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency, or you can report online via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us. We would also encourage parents, carers and guardians to speak to children and young people about the importance of online safety, privacy settings on social media, and the dangers of accepting friend or message requests from someone they do not know."

Some of the warning signs to watch out for in relation to online blackmail include:

- Online profiles that appear fake or contain very little information.
- Someone attempting to establish a relationship extremely quickly.
- Requests for intimate images or videos.
- Offers of quick money, modelling opportunities or online jobs.
- Threats claiming private images, videos or personal information will be shared.
- Pressure to continue conversations or do something that feels uncomfortable.

If you are being threatened online, remember:

- Do not send any money, gift cards, cryptocurrency or additional images.
- Stop communicating with the offender.
- Block the account.
- Report the account to the platform being used.
- Save evidence, including screenshots of messages and usernames.
- Tell a trusted adult, friend, family member or professional.
- Report the matter to the police by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency where there is an immediate risk of harm.
- You can report through [Report Fraud](#) if it involves demands for money, gift cards or any other financial gain.

Cheshire Police is also encouraging young people, parents, carers, teachers and safeguarding professionals to be aware of Report Remove. This is a free service designed to help young people remove images of themselves from the internet. Created by Childline and the Internet Watch

Foundation (IWF), Report Remove allows young people under the age of 18 to report intimate images or videos that have been shared online. It can't remove images that have been shared privately through messaging apps or ones which are stored on someone's personal device. Young people who use Report Remove will not get into trouble for reporting an image of themselves. Visit www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/ for more information about this service.

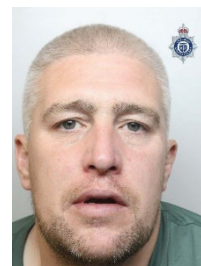
Runcorn man charged with drugs offences

Officers from Runcorn Proactive CID have charged a local man with being involved in the supply of illegal drugs.

John Batty was arrested on Saturday 22 August on suspicion of multiple offences in the Widnes area. The 36-year-old, of Lockfield, Runcorn, was subsequently charged with being concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs, and failing to provide a sample for a Class A drug test. The charges relate to the supply of cocaine and cannabis in the Widnes area between 18 May 2026 and 22 August 2026. Batty appeared at Liverpool Magistrates' Court on Monday 24 August, where he was bailed. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown on Monday 21 September 2026.

Man jailed following drugs warrant in Chester

A man from Chester who used a family member's flat as a base to deal illegal drugs has been jailed.



Sean Randles, now of Victoria Road, Ellesmere Port, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 20 August where he was sentenced to six years and four months in prison. The 37-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and cocaine) and possession of criminal property.

On Thursday 18 June, officers from Chester Proactive CID executed a warrant at an address in St Anne's Flats, Chester, after receiving information that the address was being used for drug dealing. Upon entering the address, the homeowner was found in the living room watching television. Randles was in the bedroom, where officers also located a large quantity of heroin, a quantity of cocaine, a set of digital scales, which were turned on, along with a number of bags ready to pack the drugs into. A full search of the address was undertaken, leading to the recovery of four mobile phones and £5,840.13 in cash.

Both men were arrested at the property and taken to police custody. In total, the drugs recovered from the property had a potential street value of up to £15,000. Randles remained silent throughout questioning, however though their enquiries, officers were able to establish that the drugs and cash all belonged to him, and he was simply using his family member's flat as a base to store the illegal drugs. Despite his silence, Randles was later charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and cocaine) and possession of criminal property.

Following the sentencing, Detective Inspector Rupert Morrey, said: *"Randles is well known to the team here at Chester, having only been released from prison in January 2026 for previous drugs*

offences. It appears that following his release from prison, he thought he could outsmart police by using a flat belonging to a family member as his base. However, as he has now discovered, he was clearly wrong. During our investigation it was clear that he was involved in the sale and distribution of class A drugs on a commercial scale and I welcome the latest sentence handed to him.

“The impact that illegal drugs have on our communities cannot be underestimated and I hope that the sentence handed to Randles will act as a warning to others. If you have information or intelligence about drug dealing in your area, please don’t hesitate to contact us on 101 or via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us – and we will do the rest. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.”

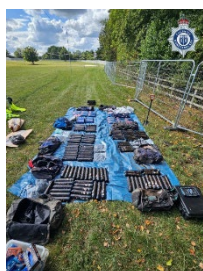
Creamfields: Officers recover large quantities of drugs in first pre-festival search

Ahead of Creamfields this Bank Holiday Weekend, officers have recovered a large quantity of drugs buried in the festival’s grounds.

Creamfields 2026 is taking place in Daresbury over the August Bank Holiday Weekend, and Cheshire Constabulary is once again working alongside organisers to ensure that everyone attending stays safe. Up to 80,000 music fans are expected at the annual event, which returns to the area from Thursday 27 to Monday 31 August.

During the festival, officers will be supporting Creamfields event and security staff and providing a visible presence to prevent incidents of crime and disorder from occurring. As part of the pre-event disruption work, a number of searches of the site area are carried out by specialist officers. These searches will continue in the run up to the event, as part of the police’s commitment to making it as safe as possible for visitors.

The first week of pre-event searches of the grounds concluded with officers uncovering a sizeable quantity of class A, B and C drugs that had been hidden and buried at the festival site. This find included approximately 204 cannisters of nitrous oxide, as well as large bags containing ecstasy, MDMA and ketamine tablets being recovered.



Superintendent Andy Blizzard, who is overseeing the Creamfields policing operation, said: *“Every year we remind those attending Creamfields that there is a zero-tolerance policy regarding drugs and, every year, we counter a number of brazen individuals who think they can outsmart us by concealing drugs from view or burying them at the site months in advance. Our specialist search teams have spent a considerable amount of time combing the grounds of the Creamfields site ahead of festival’s opening later this week.*

“We fully expect to find further quantities as our searches continues, leaving many of those who chose to bury these items very much disappointed to find them no longer where left them when they arrive at the festival do dig them back up

“Anyone who has buried a rucksack or hold-all bag at the site and would like it back is asked to get in contact with us - officers have already begun conducting enquiries to identify their owners and look forward to speaking to them soon.”

Drink driver banned from the roads following Crime Prevention Order breach

A man from Warrington, who breached a Serious Crime Prevention Order, has been sentenced.

Jamie Oldroyd appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Monday 10 August where he was handed a year-long Community Order. As part of his sentencing, the 36-year-old was also banned from driving for 36 months, required to complete 10 days of unpaid work and ordered to complete a 90-day alcohol abstinence programme. Oldroyd, of Albury Close, Warrington, had plead guilty to driving whilst disqualified, using a motor vehicle without third-party insurance, failing to provide a specimen for analysis and the breach of a Serious Crime Prevention Order.

The case against Oldroyd began in the early hours of Saturday 1 August 2026, with the court being told that a Cheshire Police officer had responded to reports of a drink driver in the Bridge Street area of Warrington. The officer found Oldroyd behind the wheel of a silver Land Rover Defender, with the officer noting that he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. A roadside test concluded that Oldroyd was over the limit and he was subsequently arrested. It was also uncovered at this point that he had also been disqualified from driving and was not in possession of any insurance. In custody, the 36-year-old was asked to provide a sample, to which he refused.

As enquiries continued, officers found that Oldroyd was under the terms of a Serious Crime Prevention Order, that required him to notify police of any vehicles he owned – he had not done this and was further arrested ahead of interview. In interview, Oldroyd openly admitted he had been drinking and had gotten behind the wheel of the Land Rover before going on to drive it. He added that prior to being arrested, he had not been using his vehicle and had been spending a considerable amount of money on using taxis. Oldroyd went on to say he recognised what he had done was wrong and that the breach of the Serious Crime Prevention Order would seriously impact him moving forward. He would plead guilty to the offences at the first opportunity.

PC Sam Emmitt, of the Northern Area Investigation Team, said: *“Serious Crime Prevention Orders are put in place to deter individuals from reoffending – this is clearly something Mr Oldroyd did not understand when he purchased his Land Rover and failed to notify us of its existence. It was this decision, paired with then choosing to have a drink and getting behind the wheel to do laps of the town centre, that has landed him unable to drive for a further three years.”*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following burglary at fire station in Tarporley

Officers are appealing for information following a burglary at Tarporley Fire Station.

On Thursday 27 August, Cheshire Police were made aware of a burglary at the fire station on Birch Heath Road. At around 12.19am on Thursday 27 August, three suspects wearing dark clothing gained entry onto the station and stole cutting equipment, damaging a fire engine in the process.

Following the burglary, the offenders fled the scene on foot, travelling towards the Ardens Meadow. Officers are now appealing for anyone who witnessed what happened or has any other information to get in touch with them.

Detective Constable Lara Hill, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"This is a serious offence, and we are urging anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area to please get in touch with us. We would also ask people to check video doorbell, CCTV or dashcam footage to see if they have captured anything relevant to our investigation. We're particularly keen to hear from any residents in the area with any footage of a blue car which was seen in the area shortly before the burglary. Please also be wary if you see any large cutting equipment like this for sale which does not appear to be advertised via a legitimate source, as it may have been stolen."*

Matt Barlow, Head of Service Delivery at Cheshire Fire and Rescue said: *"This was a reckless and unacceptable act that targeted a fire station and removed vital, life-saving equipment used at road traffic incidents. Those responsible have not only damaged our premises but have also put public safety at risk, by interfering with kit our firefighters rely on in emergencies. We urge anyone with information to report it to Cheshire Police so those responsible can be identified and dealt with appropriately."*

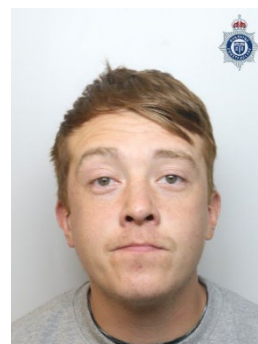
You can report information to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or visiting cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 2404783.

Appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington

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

Wayne Booth is wanted for the breach of a court order. Booth is described as white, around 5'7" tall, with ginger hair and brown eyes. The 31-year-old has links to both Warrington and Widnes.

Anyone with any information as to the whereabouts of Booth is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting incident reference number 26000700370.



Appeal for information following suspected arson in Handbridge

Officers investigating reports of arson at a historic site in Handbridge are appealing for information and witnesses.

At around 2.20pm on Thursday 20 August, officers from the Rural Crime Team were notified to reports of a deliberate fire at the Minerva Shrine, a Scheduled monument and Grade I listed building near Edgar Place, Chester. It is believed the fire occurred between Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 August. Luckily the shrine has not sustained any significant damage. As part of enquiries into the incident, officers are now appealing to anyone with any information to contact police.

PC Jono Lightfoot, of the Rural Crime Team, said: *"The Minerva Shrine is a very important piece of our history, and it is sad that someone has chosen to light a fire which could have potentially destroyed it. Heritage crime is treated very seriously here in Cheshire and we would like the public to help us in*

identifying who is responsible for this. Anyone with information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting incident reference number 26000682633."

Information can also be submitted anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information after cyclist found with serious injuries following collision near Hale

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage after a cyclist was found with serious injuries following a collision on the outskirts of Hale, near Altrincham.

At around 8am on Sunday 16 August, the cyclist was found at the side of Ashley Road, near to Ashley Mill Lane, having come off his bike. The 34-year-old man from Manchester, was taken to hospital where he remains at this time having sustained a number of serious injuries, including several broken ribs and a fractured skull. Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information or footage which may aid the investigation.

Police Sergeant Jon Dixon, of the Roads and Crime Unit at Cheshire Police said: *"The victim in this case has sustained a number of serious injuries and we're committed to doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. At this time, the cyclist has very little recollection of what occurred and we're keen to hear from anyone with any information which may assist our enquires. We're particularly keen to hear from anyone with any dashcam footage, or anyone who believes they may have witnessed the incident."*

Anyone with any information or video footage is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2401530.

Appeal for information following serious collision in Weston

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Weston, near Crewe.

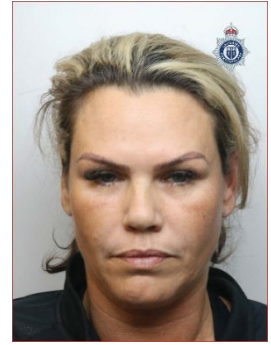
At 2.32pm on Thursday 27 August, police were called to a collision on Main Road, Weston. Officers attended and found the collision involved two cars, a black Ford KA and a grey Citroen Berlingo, near to the junction of Snape Lane. The five occupants of the two vehicles sustained potentially life changing injuries as a result of the of the collision and they were all taken to hospital, where they remain at this time.

Detective Sergeant Russ Sime, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"As we establish the full circumstances of this incident, we would like to urge anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to police to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have been in the area at the time and has any dashcam footage. You can report information by [contacting us through our website](#) or by calling 101, quoting IML 2404963."*

Police are appealing for help in tracing a wanted woman

Police are appealing for information from the public to help trace a wanted woman from Manchester.

Julieann Heenan, also known as Julieann McDonagh, is wanted on warrant after failing to appear at Magistrates Court for shoplifting offences in Widnes. She 40-year-old is described as white, around 5' 7" tall, of proportionate build with green eyes and blonde hair. She was last known to reside in the Failsworth area of Greater Manchester.



Anyone who sees Julieann is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting 24000907711. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Two men arrested following investigation into theft of cooking oil

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of theft of cooking oil following a stop check in Poynton.

At around 4.15am on Tuesday 25 August, officers on patrol in Poynton spotted two men who were acting suspiciously on Dickens Lane. The pair were spoken to by officers and due to the strong smell of cooking oil, officers decided to conduct a search of the local area, leading to the discovery of a white Peugeot van which contained 15 drums of cooking oil. The two men, a 35-year-old from Doncaster and an 18-year-old from Sheffield, were both arrested on suspicion of theft and remain in custody at this time.

Police Constable Barlow, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and as part of our investigation, we're keen to hear from any local businesses who believe they may be missing any cooking oil. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2403379."*

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Facebook page: facebook.com/cheshirenwa



In partnership with



Cheshire
Constabulary



Scan to visit website



To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: www.cheshirenw.org