

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 27th October 2019

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Former Widnes priest jailed for child sex offence

A Catholic priest has been jailed after attempting to meet a two-year-old boy to abuse him.

Matthew Jolley, of Rhona Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, was sentenced to 40 months in prison at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 25 October. The 32-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to arranging the commission of a child sex offence.

The case against Jolley, who has served as Catholic priest in Widnes, began on 4 September 2019. On this date he used a number of social media platforms to engage in sexualised communications with a man he believed to be a fellow paedophile. Within the conversations Jolley spoke about his sexual interest in young children. Following a number of chats, Jolley arranged to meet with his counterpart in order to abuse the man's two-year-old son. However, unbeknown to Jolley, the man he had been communicating with was actually an undercover law enforcement officer. On Thursday 26 September Jolley drove to Hale and met an officer who pretended to be the fellow paedophile. During the meeting Jolley again discussed how he planned to abuse the child. He was subsequently arrested on suspicion of child sex offences.



Following sentencing, Detective Constable Louise Murphy, of Cheshire's On-line Child Abuse Investigation Team, said: "Jolley committed this terrible offence whilst holding a position of trust. Through his online communications it was clear to see that he was sexually attracted to young children and would do whatever he could in order to fulfil his own sexual gratification. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the undercover law enforcement officers who have been instrumental in building the case against Jolley. This case shows how well agencies can work together in order to protect the most vulnerable people in society. It also sends a clear message that anyone who commits such offences are not above the law and they will be brought to justice, regardless of who they are and what they do."

On top of the custodial sentence Jolley was ordered to sign the sex offenders' register for life.

Manchester drug criminals will serve 118 years in prison for flooding Macclesfield with crack cocaine and heroin

An operation focusing on drug dealers who flooded Macclesfield with crack cocaine and heroin was triggered by serious and volatile disputes between rival gangs.

On a daily basis and in full view of the local community the gangs, mostly from Manchester and Liverpool, would be seen brandishing weapons to threaten other drug dealers/users and to protect themselves.

Information coming in from the public included a firearm being discharged and the weapon being used to issue threats. There were also reports of gangs attacking each other with machetes and one gang member allegedly having their finger amputated. Police also pursued a gang of youths in a car following reports of intimidation linked to drug dealing and recovered a large sword inside the vehicle. On two occasions innocent members of the public were assaulted and their mobile phones deliberately damaged after they captured drugs being dealt openly in local parks.

Detective Inspector Adam Alexander, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: "These gangs were not only causing serious harm to each other but also to the local community and that was of great concern to us. For local residents, Macclesfield is their home, yet it was reaching the point where they were too scared to walk down their own street or visit the shop for fear of what violence or drug dealing they would encounter. It was clear this activity was only going to get worse unless we found a long-term solution to disrupt the gangs who were brazenly violent."

That solution was a year-long operation by Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit to get to the root of the gangs in order to stop the violence and disrupt the drug dealing that was destroying the lives of those who lived in the community.

Today (Friday 18 October), almost 18 months since that operation began, the remaining drug dealers were locked up - seven gangs involving 22 men and three women are now behind bars for a total of 118 years and 10 months. The court heard that the most violent act by the gangs involved a young teenage boy who suffered horrific injuries to his face after he was slashed by a large knife in the Macclesfield area believed to have been fuelled by drugs supply. The investigation later discovered the boy was found to have been a victim of criminal exploitation by one of the gangs. There were also reports of young teenagers being used by the gangs as street dealers in Macclesfield. As the investigation progressed it became clear that the leaders of the four gangs were all operating under a county lines drugs conspiracy by supplying class A drugs from the city of Manchester. They would use a phone line - known as a graft - to receive drug orders then recruit local street dealers to sell the heroin and crack cocaine to users in the small towns of Macclesfield and Congleton.

Codenamed Operation Vulcanise, close observation and the gangs' use of mobile phones uncovered the extent of their activity. This included exploiting vulnerable adults who may have needed to pay off a drugs debt or were addicts themselves. One gang was found to have exploited a vulnerable 30-year-old woman and coerced her into dealing drugs on their behalf. The gangs would either befriend, manipulate or force their way into their homes with the intention of using it to store and sell drugs – a term known as cuckooing. People were seen making frequent visits to the properties, drivers and couriers would come and go and calls were made outside the address. Street dealers would use alleyways, a cemetery and parks to supply users with heroin and crack cocaine - many of the deals took place during the day while children played and members of the public walked nearby.

Detective Chief Inspector Mike Evans, of Cheshire's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: "In cases where there are pockets of gangs operating a busy drugs market in a small town, serious violence will take place predominantly behind the scenes – and most of it going unreported to police. These drug dealers had no connection to Macclesfield and would travel into the town on a daily basis purely to prey on local users. What came to light during the operation was the harm the gangs inflicted on vulnerable people and residents within this community, while also going to great lengths to exploit youngsters for their profit margins. The team worked incredibly hard for a long period of time to eradicate these drug gangs and their

violence to make the local community a safer place and to protect vulnerable people who feel trapped in this world. I hope this reassures residents that we do take action and I would encourage those who think drug activity is happening in their area to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.”

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Keane, added: “County lines drugs activity can have a devastating effect on our communities. Local residents should feel safe in their home town and not feel bullied or threatened by violent offenders inflicting havoc on their community. The hard work and determination of the detectives who worked on this case has made Macclesfield a safer place and has ensured that dangerous gangs have been taken off Cheshire’s streets. These prosecutions should send a clear message to offenders that serious and organised crime will not be tolerated by police in Cheshire.”

David Rutley MP said: “Having recently been out on the beat with officers who are focussed on disrupting drug dealing and supplying in our area, I have seen for myself the clear commitment and focus of Cheshire Police in tackling the scourge of county lines drug crimes. This sentencing, like those before it, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our local police men and women, whose actions are helping to keep drugs out of our towns and our communities safer. They have my full support in this vital work.”

The AJ Team

This gang, all based in Manchester, was headed up by Nico Edgar assisted closely by Kayson Thomas and Joshua Beardmore as the local dealer. In March last year, Edgar was caught driving into Macclesfield with wraps of heroin and crack cocaine in his car ready to be sold to users. On numerous occasions he sold drugs to an officer acting as a user and, along with Thomas, was spotted making numerous drug runs to an address in Macclesfield. On a daily basis the gang’s graft phone would send flare messages to between 50-60 phone numbers advertising deals to local users, one read ‘AJ back on this number every day from 9am to 8pm best in town’. They are believed to have supplied 3.44kg of class A drugs.

The Jay Team

This county lines team would send around 60 flare messages to drug users on a daily basis.

Fabion Wilks would hire cars to travel into Macclesfield from Manchester where he would supply crack cocaine and heroin to users. Both Wilkes and Chyna Jasper – who had significant roles – were caught directly supplying undercover officers with drugs. On 28 September 2018 Wilks drove off in his BMW when police attempted to stop him. A pursuit took place and he drove through a red light and onto a pavement next to a bus stop. He eventually came to a stop after a HGV blocked his route and was boxed in by two police cars. Shortly before being stopped and arrested outside Macclesfield Football Club he attempted to discard a bag containing between 50 and 80 deals of class A by throwing them out of the car window. He was found with £319 in his possession and a phone which had sent out 78 flare messages that day.

The Junior Team

The junior team’s county lines activity operated from Manchester with graft phones used to facilitate and co-ordinate the supply of heroin and crack cocaine into Macclesfield. Undercover officers were deployed into the local community to snare the junior team with Liam Parsons, Thomas Cole, Mark Lovenbury, Clare Regan and Michael Wickham caught supplying heroin directly to them. Kane Birch controlled the graft phone which, on one occasion, was used to send out 221 flare messages in one hour advertising the sale of crack cocaine and heroin. Following Birch’s arrest, Wade Wilson took over the running of the graft phone. He was caught buying a £15 top-up from a corner shop on Moss Lane to be used to send flare messages on the graft phone 25 minutes later. On CCTV, Wilson was caught buying a £15 top-up from a corner shop on Moss Lane

to be used to send flare messages on a graft phone 25 minutes later. Parsons, who operated as a street dealer, travelled from Manchester to Macclesfield by train with the sole purpose of co-ordinating the supply of crack cocaine and heroin. He would base himself in different addresses belonging to local users and use their homes as a den in return for giving them drugs. Kane Birch was arrested at the Village Hotel in Warrington where he was found in the leisure facilities alongside Macauley Peacock.

The Yardies Team

Throughout the operation this team changed their graft phone number up to 13 times in an attempt to avoid being detected. The leader of the gang Rico Robinson would supply drugs to users and oversee the dealing. He was spotted consistently travelling into Macclesfield by train from Manchester on a daily basis. He attempted to conceal his identity by wearing his hood up as he dealt class A drugs to users at the gates of a cemetery. When he was arrested at the train station he had £430 in his possession and had tried to swallow his sim card, which had been used that morning to send 67 flare messages. Tayte Taylor-Bell taught a 16-year-old boy how to deal drugs while he himself would regularly travel from Manchester to supply crack cocaine and heroin. Michael Hayes was arrested at an address on Buckfast Close in Macclesfield where he admitted supplying drugs for Robinson and, in return for cash and drugs, he allowed his home to be used as a drugs den.

Four men sentenced to 34 years for large scale cocaine supply in Warrington

Four men involved in the large scale supply of cocaine in Warrington have been sentenced to a total of almost 34 years in prison.

Wesley Williamson, Robert Musson, John Large and Utku Tig were all sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 25 October after earlier pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine. Their drug conspiracy was uncovered following a four month covert operation by Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime unit (SOCU).



Between June and October 2018 the men are believed to have supplied up to 20kg of cocaine on a regular basis. Williamson used his own home as a safe house and the gang also used an address on Biggin Court to store and package the drugs. Detectives recovered large amounts of cocaine, cutting equipment and encrypted mobile phones used as part of their criminal business. All of the men had significant roles within the organised crime group where they would source, store and supply the cocaine to other criminal networks. Tig was seen as a trusted courier who on a number of occasions travelled to Liverpool to collect cocaine and then deliver it to the safe houses in Warrington.

Detective Chief Inspector Mike Evans, of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: "These men were well-known in Warrington predominantly for their involvement in the wholesale supply of cocaine. They each played a pivotal role in controlling the drug market and reaped the rewards by gaining substantial profits. The cocaine business can appear lucrative, however the downfall is far greater. We are determined to relentlessly pursue and disrupt those who think there is a place for organised crime in Cheshire."

Large, aged 32, of Fairbrother Crescent in Warrington was told he will serve eight years and nine months, 32-year-old Williamson of Grasmere Avenue was sentenced to nine years, Tig, aged 32, of Lilac Crescent in Runcorn, will serve six years and nine months and 34-year-old Musson, of Bernard Avenue in Appleton, was

jailed for nine years. Paul Jones, aged 39, of Biggin Court in Warrington pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine and was sentenced to four years at Liverpool Crown Court at an earlier hearing.

Week of action helps protect rural communities from crime

Cheshire Police held a week of action to protect our communities from rural and wildlife crime.

The week, driven nationally by the National Police Chief's Councils (NPCC) and ran from 6 - 13 October, saw Cheshire's new dedicated rural crime team taking part in a number of initiatives which tackled key issues that prove a real blight to the rural community. As national lead for rural and wildlife crime, Chief Constable Darren Martland is striving to keep rural and wildlife crime top of the agenda for the force. This week of action is the latest in the many initiatives to protect our rural communities from crime.



Monday night saw the team launch 'Operation Crossbow' with members of the Knutsford and Northwich rural and farming communities joining officers on the ground as extra eyes and ears. Each member of the public involved was issued with a radio that linked them directly to the patrols, and they were able to contact officers about anything suspicious. The operation was well received within the rural community with many remarking on how much they enjoyed the opportunity to support officers in making Cheshire safer.

Tuesday saw the team deployed with the Enforcement Officers from Cheshire East to target fly tipping and those operating without a waste carriers licence. Operation East, as it was code named, was centred around the rural areas of Nantwich stretching down to the border with West Mercia. Fly tipping costs land owners and councils millions of pounds per year and can pollute the waterways and fields that our food comes from. Many vans were stopped and legitimate carriers were pleased that officers were setting out to catch those that jeopardise their businesses and cause a blight in the countryside.

Wednesday evening saw more than 20 police vehicles and many more staff come together from Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire. The joint operation, Operation Sentry, saw the three police services soften their shared borders in order to tackle rural and wildlife crime. The officers worked off a shared channel on their radios meaning that the officers from the three counties were able to support each other at stop checks.

On Friday, team members joined North Wales' Rural Crime Team, on a joint operation on the border, again, ensuring that the sharing of intelligence and the targeting of criminals was done collaboratively. Officers visited farms along the border and offered advice on security. The operation provided the opportunity for the two teams to show a united stance against those who may try to target our rural communities.

On Saturday, the Rural Crime Team headed into the White Peak area of the Peak District National park to tackle those involved in anti-social use of off road vehicles on the green lanes and trails through the area. They were joined by two officers on off-road police motorbikes, the team were out talking to riders, encouraging them to use trails lawfully and responsibly.

To round the week of action off, the team headed out on the River Dee, working with the council's River Patrol, the Environment Agency and the Volunteer Bailiff Service of The Angling Trust to look at crime in and around the river - stretching from our border with Wales into the heart of Chester. The rivers can be host to a number of criminal and anti-social activities and by policing the hotspots we can provide reassurance to those using the rivers, making them feel safe.

Chief Inspector Simon Meegan, the force's rural crime lead, said: "The week of action was a really positive way to demonstrate the kind of work that the Rural Crime Team can achieve by being dedicated to tackling rural and wildlife crime. We want our rural communities to have the confidence that we are working hard to protect them. We're not just here for our towns and cities, protecting people from rural and wildlife crime is also extremely important to us and the week of action allowed the team to showcase the work they can do. Working with our partners and neighbouring forces in joint operations and sharing of intelligence is a fantastic way of ensuring that criminals don't take advantage of our rural areas by travelling through counties to commit crime. Rural crime can have an impact on people's livelihoods and the dedicated rural crime team will take action on those who think they can exploit our rural communities. The team will continue to work with our rural communities to protect them from crime."

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, said: "Tackling crime and building confidence in the police in rural areas is one of my top priorities. I know from meeting many residents in our rural communities that the type of crimes committed in rural areas not only impacts them personally but can also have significant effects on their livelihoods. Residents in rural areas also often feel isolated from the police, especially in areas where police resources may be some distance away. I am pleased to see that Cheshire Constabulary has set-up a dedicated rural crime team to serve in our rural communities and it's fantastic to see the positive impact the new team is already having on making our isolated areas safer."

Cheshire has a team of officers, PCSOs and volunteers dedicated to tackling rural and wildlife crime. The team is made up of a Sergeant, a Detective Constable, six police officers, three PCSOs and volunteers. It is also being supported by members of the Special Constabulary. They provide the force a specialist capability in investigating rural and wildlife crime, with a particular focus on offences that relate to farms and agriculture, wildlife, the environment, heritage sites and public protection issues within rural communities. The team also focus on identifying domestic abuse and hidden harm offences, such as modern slavery in the rural community.

To follow updates from the Rural Crime Team follow them on social media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/CheshPolRural/>
- <https://twitter.com/CheshPolRural>

Reminder to test your security and smoke alarms this weekend

Cheshire emergency service staff will be joining forces this weekend, as the clocks go back (October 27), to help keep people safe in their homes.

Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service have two very different, but important, messages to give to help protect and keep residents and their property safe as the darker nights draw in.

DCI Simon Draco at Cheshire Police said: “We want people to protect their homes and not give thieves a chance at this time of year. Being extra vigilant and checking home security this weekend will help keep both your home and possessions safe from criminals. Simple steps such as thinking about minimising your social media footprint before posting your whereabouts and activity if on holiday or set running and cycling GPS systems to start a distance away from the home all help to outwit thieves.”

The following advice will help to keep your home secure:

- Keep your house and car keys safe and away from doors and windows
- Fit a burglar alarm, but make sure it is installed properly and works
- Keep your garage and garden shed locked with proper security locks, and keep any tools secure and out of sight
- Trim back any plants or hedges that a burglar could hide behind
- Make sure you have up-to-date home insurance.



Steve McCormick, Prevention Manager at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service said: “Keeping everyone safe from fire inside their home is vital so we would like to remind people to check that smoke alarms are in good working order. This simple task, in conjunction with a simple, effective escape plan, can ensure everyone has the time needed to escape in an emergency. “We would promote that, where able to, you also test the smoke alarm of those who may not be able to do so themselves. This could be family, friends or neighbours.”



Top tips for smoke alarm maintenance are:

- test it once a week, by pressing the test button until the alarm sounds
- change the battery once a year (unless it's a ten-year alarm)
- replace the whole unit every ten years
- regularly vacuum around the smoke alarm to remove any dust

Manchester drug dealer and Warrington man jailed after burgling a house and stealing car

Two men have been jailed for burgling a house in Warrington, stealing the car parked outside and fraudulently using a bank card that they had taken from the address.

Drug dealer Cole Kennedy, 20, and Derek Warburton, 28, both pleaded guilty to the offences. Kennedy also admitted additional charges of possessing more than £1,000 worth of class A drugs crack cocaine and heroin with intent to supply them and possessing a bladed article (a lock knife) in a public place. The pair were sentenced for the offences at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 17 October. Kennedy, of Brewster Street, Manchester, was ordered to serve five years and four months in a young offenders' institute. Warburton, of Scott Street, Warrington, was jailed for two years and 10 months. The pair carried out the burglary in Gaskell Street, Stockton Heath, Warrington, in the early hours of Sunday 14 October 2018. The occupier was asleep upstairs at the time. Kennedy and Warburton stole his bank card and car as well as a small quantity of cash. Later that morning they used his bank card to spend a total of around £70 in Manchester, at Shell garages on Oldham Road and Greengate and at a McDonald's restaurant in Hurpurhey. The car they stole was found burnt out in the Crumpsall area of Manchester the following Sunday. CCTV footage showing Kennedy and Warburton in the stolen car buying food from the drive-through of the McDonald's restaurant led to the pair

being identified by the investigating officers. Mobile phone analysis also linked the pair to the burglary and the subsequent fraudulent transactions.

As officers were investigating those crimes, Kennedy, who had been released on police bail, was seen in a parked car in Whitworth Close in Warrington at around 2.30pm on Thursday 1 August. Believing the black BMW to have been involved in drug dealing in Warrington, officers searched the car. They found and seized 98 wraps of crack cocaine, 16 wraps of heroin, a lock knife, £526 in cash and mobile phones. The drugs seized are estimated to have a street value of £1,140. Analysis of the mobile phones seized revealed drug related messages from known drug users.

Detective Sergeant Tom Hall, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: "I would like to thank fellow detective Alison McLoughlin and all the officers involved in these cases for their hard work in securing the convictions. Kennedy and Warburton are both persistent offenders and I am delighted that they have now been sentenced for their crimes in Warrington. With the strength of the evidence we had against them, they had no choice but to plead guilty to the offences they have been sentenced for. The pair burgled a house whilst the occupier was home sleeping, and after stealing his car they fraudulently used his bank card on three occasions. Thankfully we were able to identify them from CCTV footage and we were also able to catch Kennedy in possession of a large quantity of class A drugs as he was in the process of selling them in Warrington as part of a county lines drug dealing gang. These gangs and their illegal drugs blight our towns and cities and cause untold damage to the lives of both people who get addicted to the drugs and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. Removing drug dealers and burglars from our streets is a constant goal and I hope the custodial sentences that Kennedy and Warburton have received deters others from committing such crimes. I also hope that the pair spend their time behind bars reflecting on the lives they have been leading and change their ways. They are both still young men, particularly Kennedy at only 20."

On top of their custodial sentences, Kennedy and Warburton were each ordered to pay a £170 victim surcharge.

Teenager sentenced following Knutsford of sexual assaults

A man from Knutsford was convicted of sexual assault after inappropriately touching a teenage girl has been sentenced.

Jamie Griffiths appeared at Manchester and Salford Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 23 October where he was ordered to carry out 200 hours community service, handed an £80 fine and told to pay £250 compensation and an £85 victims' surcharge. He was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register for five years and ordered to pay £650 costs. The 19-year-old, of Blackhill Lane, Knutsford, had earlier been found guilty of two counts of sexual assault following a one-day trial. The charges related to incidents which occurred in October and November 2018. On both occasions a 17-year-old girl was inappropriately touched by Griffiths.

In October 2018 he touched the victim on her arm using the palm of his hand after she walked past him on Blackhill Lane. Just weeks later Griffiths touched the victim on her hip and smirked at her after coming face-to-face with her.

Griffiths was arrested in connection with the incidents on Tuesday 13 November 2018. A subsequent

examination of his mobile phone revealed a number of deleted text messages that he had sent to a family member. Within the messages, which were sent on the morning of Thursday 8 November 2018 – just hours after investigating officers had made house-to-house enquiries in the street where he lived – Jamie talked about the incidents. He wrote: “It wasn’t just one incident but I’m done now. Please I have uni to think about. I was just so lonely.” A message sent to Griffiths from the family member read: “So you grabbed her butt and then ran immediately?”

Upon the completion of the trial, Police Constable Lawrence Price said: “Incidents of this nature are rare in the Knutsford area and Griffiths’ actions understandably caused a large amount of concern in the local community. He also caused the victim unnecessary stress and trauma. She was left feeling extremely anxious as a result of what he did to her and she was unable to leave her home alone, at a time when she was due to sit her mock exams. I hope that 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.”

During the trial Griffiths was also found guilty of causing criminal damage in relation to an incident at Knutsford High School.

Convicted drug dealers ordered to repay more than £200,000

Two members of an organised crime gang from Merseyside have been ordered to repay more than £200,000 that they earned from their criminal activities.

The investigation into Terence Bell and John Grace began on 26 September 2017 when Bell was stopped by Crime Car officers from Cheshire Police while driving a Ford Focus on Cronton Road, Widnes. During a search of his vehicle officers discovered four blocks of cocaine, each weighing approximately 1kg, which had an estimated value of £144,000.

Bell, (37), of Bulford Road, Liverpool was subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs. He was later sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to the offence – claiming that he was merely a drugs courier paying off a drug debt. However, unconvinced by his claims, a confiscation investigation was launched by Accredited Financial Investigator Stuart Oliver from the Cheshire Police Financial Investigation Unit. During his enquiries Stuart discovered that Bell was far from in debt, he actually owned five separate properties and had approximately £100,000 in his bank account. During the two years that followed it was established that Bell had led a criminal lifestyle, and had accrued more than £205,000 which he couldn’t account for.

Officers also found that the drugs seized from Bell on Cronton Road were part of a larger proactive investigation into conspiracy to supply class A drugs which had been run by North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU) and involved John Grace. As a result, it was agreed that 59-year-old Grace, of Waresley Crescent, Liverpool, had jointly benefitted from the drugs recovered by Cheshire Police and a confiscation investigation was also launched against him by an officer from Regional Asset Recovery Team at NWROCU. Following the investigations the case returned to Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 17 November where the judge granted a confiscation order totalling £205,162.32. Both defendants were both ordered to pay £74,278.04 each which represented a 50 per cent share of the value of the drugs recovered by Cheshire Police. Bell was also ordered to pay an additional £56,610.26 to cover his personal benefit from his criminal lifestyle. If they do not repay the money within three months they face further time behind bars.

Following the proceeds of crime hearing, David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added:

"Confiscation orders such as this send out strong message to our communities that crime doesn't pay and act as a warning that Cheshire Police will not rest until we have taken back every single penny of their ill-gotten gains. The money seized in this case will be used to support vital community projects which aim to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and to prevent young people getting involved in crime in the first place, which inevitably makes our communities safer places to live."

Detective Sergeant Helen Rowland, of the Economic Crime Unit added: "From the start of this investigation it was clear that Bell thought he could get away lightly with his criminal activities by playing the victim. He attempted to avoid blame by claiming that he was simply a courier and was moving the drugs in order to pay off a debt. However, as our investigation has proven, that was not the case. In fact Bell, and his associate Grace, were leading members of an organised crime gang from Merseyside who had earned thousands of pounds through their criminal activities. Thankfully, as a result of the hard work of thorough investigation led by AFI Oliver and officers at the NWROCU, both Bell and Grace have now been ordered to repay their ill-gotten gains. I also hope that this acts as a warning to other potential offenders and shows them that crime doesn't pay and any penalties invoked by the Proceeds of Crime Act will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

Be a good egg and stay out of trouble this Hallowe'en

The spookiest time of the year is fast approaching and Hallowe'en will soon be upon us.

With magic in the air and streets that glow, Cheshire Police is encouraging the public to enjoy their scary celebrations, but to do so safely and within the law. With black cats prowling and communities getting into the eerie spirit, officers are reminding residents that not everyone appreciates the spooky dangers that lurk around the corner.

Superintendent Jo Marshall-Bell said: "With Hallowe'en creeping up on us we want to take the opportunity to remind our communities that not everyone likes this ghostly time of year, and it can actually leave people feeling quite vulnerable and scared. Hallowe'en by nature is a fun time of year, and we don't want to stop people having a good time. But it is important that everyone behaves in a responsible manner, and remembers that not everyone wants to participate. What may seem like a bit of harmless fun can actually have a significant impact on people and local communities. Hallowe'en is a time when you can dress up and become anything that you want to be – choose to be kind and respect your neighbours. I'd also like to reassure residents who may be feeling worried about the Hallowe'en and bonfire period that we will have an increased officer presence out on the streets making sure crime and anti-social behaviour is kept to a minimum."

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Keane, said: "It's great to see our communities across Cheshire having great fun during the Halloween period, but a small minority use it as an opportunity for engaging in anti-social behaviour, which can spoil things and be a real worry to the vulnerable. I'm very grateful to police officers who give up their precious time to work extra hours helping keep our communities safe during this period and am confident that the work we are doing to raise awareness of impacts of anti-social behaviour will prevent some of the problems associated with Halloween and ensure that everyone has a great time."



Officers have spent time educating young people on the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour by visiting schools and talking to youngsters while out and about in the community. Anti-social behaviour is not acceptable in Cheshire and if you fall victim of this type of crime we do not want you to suffer alone - report it to us on 101.

Posters

Double sided posters with “yes or no” to trick or treaters are also available to download and print - [Halloween yes or no poster](#) Residents can put them in the windows of their home to let trick or treaters know if they are ok to knock, or if they prefer to be left in peace.

Class A drugs dealer from Winsford jailed

A drug dealer from Winsford has been jailed after officers found more than £250 worth of crack cocaine and heroin in one of his socks.

Raymond Cartwright admitted having some drugs in the sock on his left foot when the officers executed a search warrant at his home in Ford Court shortly before 11am on Thursday 16 May. There was more than twice as much class A drugs in the sock than the 52-year-old said there was when officers found him in a bedroom and explained that a drugs dog would be searching the property. Officers found 21 wraps of crack cocaine and five wraps of heroin in the sock. The combined street value of the drugs seized is estimated to be £260. Officers also found £1,829.95 in cash in a tub in the bedroom. Cartwright claimed the drugs were for personal use and the money had been saved up to buy back items from a pawnbroker. But he was convicted of two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin) and possession of criminal property (the money seized) at Chester Crown Court on Friday 18 October following a two-day trial. Cartwright was sentenced on the same day. He was jailed for five-and-a-half years.

Following sentencing, Police Constable Jamie Roberts, who led the investigation on behalf of Cheshire Constabulary, said: “Illegal drugs have blighted communities across the United Kingdom and cause untold damage to the lives of both people who get addicted to them and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. Cheshire Constabulary will not stand by and let this happen. Removing those involved in drug dealing from our communities is of paramount importance and I am delighted that Raymond Cartwright is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. He has previous convictions regarding drug dealing. The sentence handed to Cartwright recognises the severity of his offending and I hope that this case sends out a clear message to other potential criminals that the use and supply of illegal drugs will not be tolerated in Winsford or elsewhere in Cheshire.”

On top of his custodial sentence, Cartwright was ordered to pay a £170 victim surcharge. A forfeiture order was secured for the £1,829.95 seized from his home. It will be used to help fight crime in Cheshire.

PC Roberts added: “While this investigation has now concluded our fight against illegal drugs and those who supply them continues and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter. You can report suspected drug dealing to us directly by calling 101. Alternatively, information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.”

Motorcycle Operation Team celebrating summer of success

The Motorcycle Operation Team at Cheshire Constabulary is celebrating a summer of success.

Part of the Roads and Crime Unit, the team has been helping the eight Local Policing Units across Cheshire to combat crimes and anti-social behaviour involving unregistered off-road motorcycles. Deployed at the request of the LPUs, the team has made numerous arrests and seized off-road bikes in Widnes, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham and Goyt Valley.



Riding Cheshire Constabulary's off-road bikes, officers are able to pursue offenders in areas that are unreachable with conventional police vehicles. They are able to seize unregistered off-road bikes in these areas and are also utilised by the force in searches for high risk missing people and reports of drug dealing in secluded areas.

The success stories over the summer in which the team played a key part include:

- A 40-year-old man from Garston, Liverpool, was arrested after a KTM 350SX bike that was stolen in a 2015 burglary in Gloucestershire was recovered from land next to Ditton Road in Widnes
- Another KTM 350SX was recovered in Stanney Mill Lane, Ellesmere Port, after being ridden in an anti-social manner in the Ellesmere Port area
- A 36-year-old man from Little Sutton in Ellesmere Port was arrested in the town and was subsequently charged with drug driving
- An unlicensed and uninsured rider from Stockport, a 23-year-old man, has been summoned to appear at court having been stopped and had his bike seized near Derbyshire Bridge in the Goyt Valley
- Another unlicensed and uninsured 19-year-old local rider was stopped and had his bike seized in the Parklands valley area of Ellesmere Port
- A Yamaha Tenere bike that was stolen in a burglary in Bromborough was recovered from waste ground next to Stanney Mill Lane in Ellesmere Port
- A pit bike was seized from an unlicensed and uninsured 13-year-old boy, who was riding in an anti-social manor in Victoria Park, Widnes
- A moped was seized after being found unattended having failed to stop for police in Ellesmere Port
- A 19-year-old man was arrested and a motocross bike was seized after it had been ridden at a police officer in Ellesmere Port
- A 17-year-old boy from Widnes was arrested on suspicion of burglary after a bike stolen in a burglary in Widnes in July 2019 was recovered in the town following a police pursuit
- A 63-year-old man from Leominster, Herefordshire, agreed to go on a RIDE (Rider Intervention Development Experience) course having being seen riding without due care and attention on the A54 in Macclesfield.

In addition, two people from Speke, a 17-year-old boy and a 33-year-old man, were arrested after officers followed two motocross bikes from Main Street in Frodsham to Frodsham Marsh. After a chase on foot, one bike was dropped and the riders fled. The dropped bike was stolen during a burglary in Lincolnshire in 2018. It was seized, as was a second bike that was recovered from a car that officers searched in Main Street, Frodsham.

Superintendent Jo Marshall-Bell, Head of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: "The impressive list of success stories over the summer involving our Motorcycle Operation Team highlights the fact that it has established itself as a key part of our armoury in tackling crimes and anti-social behaviour across the county. I cannot praise the team enough for the work it does, not only in seizing and recovering vehicles and bringing offenders to justice but also in helping to find high risk missing people and drug dealers in secluded areas. Through enforcement and education, the team also works to ensure that the trial system in the Peak District is used appropriately by members of the public. This work has coincided with a reduction in the number of reported incidents of off-road motorbikes being ridden in an anti-social manor in the area."

Widnes man jailed for multiple offences

A man from Widnes has been jailed following the theft of commercial batteries from industrial premises.

Scott Naughton, of Leigh Avenue, was arrested in Christleton Court, Runcorn, at around 7pm on Sunday 10 October. The batteries were stolen from premises in Christleton Court on the same night. Naughton was subsequently charged with theft, being found in enclosed premises, going equipped for theft, driving whilst disqualified and driving without insurance. The 31-year-old was also charged with indecent behaviour at a police station. He pleaded guilty to all six offences at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 22 October and was handed a 10-week prison sentence. Naughton was also banned from driving for three months and ordered to pay the company he stole the commercial batteries from £1,000 compensation.

Two men charged in connection with nine mobile phone shop burglaries across the region

Detectives from Northwich CID have charged two men from Wirral in connection with a number mobile phone shop burglaries.

Dragos Stan and Alim Batista were both arrested on Friday 18 October as part of an investigation into a series of burglaries across the north of England, including two in Northwich and one in Macclesfield. 23-year-old Batista and 19-year-old Stan were subsequently charged with nine counts of burglary other than a dwelling. The pair, both of Borough Road, Oxton, appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on Friday 18 October where they were remanded in custody. They are next due to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 15 November.

Bolton man charged after arrest in Warrington

A 19-year-old man from Bolton has been charged with fraud, two robberies and burglary after officers arrested a man in Warrington Town Centre in the early hours of 20 October.

The charges related to a burglary on 15 March at a business in Evans House, Warrington where a Range Rover was stolen, a robbery on Orford Lane on 19 September, and another robbery on 29 September on Lovely Lane where a bank card was stolen and used at an ATM. Thomas Ward, from Hall Lane, Farnworth in Bolton is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates on 21 October to face the charges.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information after shots fired at a house in Widnes

Detectives are urging the public to come forward with information after shots were fired at a house in Widnes.

At 9.53pm on Saturday 26 October officers were called to Bechers after a report of a firearm causing damage to a property. A number of people were inside the address at the time the weapon was discharged and a 25 year-old woman sustained minor injuries. An investigation has begun to establish the exact circumstances. Officers are conducting house to house, forensic and CCTV enquiries and police community support officers will be in the area to speak to local residents and provide reassurance.

Detective Inspector Ian Whiley, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: "We are in the early stages of the investigation and I urge anyone who saw or heard anything to please come forward. Did you see anyone acting suspiciously in this area at around 9.50pm? Any information, dashcam or CCTV footage you have could really help with our investigation. If you do not want to speak directly to the police you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously. Thankfully nobody inside the property has been seriously injured and at this stage I believe this to be an isolated incident with no wider threat to the public. However I understand an incident like this can cause great concern to the local community and I want to reassure you that there will be an increased police presence in the area. If you have any concerns please do speak to an officer."

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 549310, or Crimestoppers anonymously either through their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/ or by calling 0800 555 111. Dashcam footage can be submitted here <https://cheshireconstabulary.egressforms.com>

Ellesmere Port detectives investigating robbery and assault appeal for witnesses

Police are appealing for witnesses following two incidents in Ellesmere Port.

Sometime between 1.15am and 1.30am on 6 October at the Madison Bar and Cafe in Princess Road, two men assaulted another man and stole his belongings before making off. In the second incident three men had an altercation at Club XES in Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port sometime between 1.45am and 2am the same morning. The incident occurred in the bar area of the club. Two men aged 27 were arrested on suspicion of robbery for the first incident and have since been released under investigation. A 37-year-old man voluntarily attended to be interviewed under caution in relation to the second incident.

Anyone with information should contact DC Chris O'Connor on 101 or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries/> . Quote IML 531628 for the first incident and 19100578773 for the second incident. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>