Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
Week ending 16th February 2020
Cheshire News & Appeals

Latest Cheshire News

Criminal Behaviour Order handed to prolific Widnes shoplifter with a history of threatening staff

A prolific shoplifter who has plagued businesses in Widnes with his abusive and threatening behaviour has been handed a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Peter Lunt, of Eversley, Widnes, was often drunk when he committed his offences. Many of the offences committed in Widnes and Runcorn left staff members he targeted alarmed and distressed. The 50-year-old's latest shoplifting offence took place at the Quality Save store on Widnes Road on Saturday 23 November. He was convicted of the offence on Monday 13 January. Less than a month later, on Monday 10 February, Warrington Magistrates' Court imposed a two-year CBO on Lunt.

The banning order bans him from:

- Entering any retail premises in Widnes whilst under the influence of alcohol
- Going to the St John's Unit health centre in Alforde Street, Widnes, whilst under the influence of alcohol
- Placing any items for sale in a retail premises in anything other than a shopping bag, basket or trolley provided by the store
- Conceal any items for sale in a retail premises prior to paying for them
- Entering any of the following stores in Widnes: Asda, Widnes Road; Savers, Albert Square; Wilko, Widnes Shopping Park; TJ Hughes, Green Oaks Way; Marks and Spencer, Widnes Shopping Park; Holland & Barrett, Albert Road; Boots, Widnes Shopping Park; Iceland, Albert Square Centre; Lloyds Pharmacy, Hough Green Road; Morrisons, Green Oaks Way; Quality Save, Widnes Road; and B&M, Earle Road
- Entering any of the following stores in Widnes: Argos, The Shopping City; and Well Runcorn, Grangeway.

Sergeant Steve Owen, of Cheshire Constabulary's Problem Solving Team, who applied for the CBO, said: "These preventative orders are designed to stop persistent offenders committing further offences. They are only ever applied for and imposed as a last resort. In Peter Lunt's case, not only has he committed a spate of shoplifting offences in recent years but he has often been abusive and threatening to staff when challenged about his stealing .Lunt has usually been under the influence of alcohol when committing these offences, which have plagued the retail community in Widnes in particular. No-one should feel threatened or intimidated by the actions of others and we will use whatever powers we have at our disposal to tackle such offending. I hope the CBO has the desired effect and prevents retail premises in Widnes and Runcorn from being targeted by this persistent shoplifter who has persistently shown no consideration at all for the effects his unacceptable behaviour has had on shop workers. I also hope that Lunt changes his ways, for the good of himself as well as for the good of those who own or work at retail premises in Halton."

Anyone who encounters Lunt breaching any of the above restrictions is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 to report it.

Police appeal for dash cam footage after Knutsford suspicious incident

Police are appealing for dash cam footage following a suspicious incident in Knutsford.

Betweem 11pm and midnight on 11 February a woman was driving along the A537 Chelford Road, Knutsford. When she got near its junction with Manor Lane and the Dun Cow pub she stopped to assist a driver whose car appeared to have broken down at the side of the road. The victim agreed to use her phone to call for a recovery service for the man when he tried to open her door, which was locked. The man then showed what looked like the handle of a knife in the waistband of his trousers. The victim drove off unharmed but alarmed by the incident.

The offender was in a silver Ford Fiesta with the hazard warning lights on at the time and is described as white, 24 to 25-years-old and of slim build. He had brown hair which was short on the back and sides. He was wearing a plain white t-shirt and light grey jogging bottoms. He spoke with an English accent.

DC Jo Jarvis said: *"We can't be sure what his intentions were and we are keen to trace the suspect or hear from anyone who had a similar encounter but has not reported it to police. If you were in the area that evening and saw a silver hatchback with its hazards on at the side of the road or have dash cam footage of the car - please also get in touch. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind people that if it is late at night and you do see a broken down vehicle and you are on your own, for you own safety it is always advisable that you don't stop to help. If you are genuinely concerned for the welfare of the person in the car, you could phone police on 101."*

Anyone with information should contact Macclesfield Police on 101 or via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/ quoting IML 635092. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Call for vigilance after elderly woman gives rogue traders large quantity of cash

Police are urging people to be vigilant after an elderly Runcorn resident was talked into giving rogue traders a large quantity of cash.

The victim, who lives in the Heath area, received a leaflet through her door advertising services such as tree and hedge cutting and landscaping work. She called the company advertised and subsequently received a quote for landscaping work in her back garden. After handing over a large cash deposit for the work to a man claiming to be a company employee, he cut back a bush in her garden and cleared some rubbish. He then left the address and agreed to return with colleagues three days later to continue the work. However, on Saturday 8 February the victim received a phone call saying that the work would cost considerably more money. She agreed to pay the company a further large sum, doing so via a bank transfer. The victim has not heard anything from the company since.

Inspector Fez Khan, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"Unfortunately incidents such as this are becoming increasingly 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 Runcorn are ongoing,*

in a bid to identify who took the victim's money and have it returned to her, and I want to take this opportunity to urge people living in Runcorn 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 https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report , and also give the details to the trading standards department at your local council. I ask people to look out for any elderly or vulnerable neighbours by checking on their welfare and reporting any suspicious activity to the police. I also encourage people to follow our advice on how to avoid falling victim to a rogue trader."

Cheshire Constabulary's advice is:

- 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 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.

Widnes man charged with nine child sex offences

A man from Widnes has been charged with nine child sex offences.

Matthew Lawton, of Milton Road, was arrested shortly after 11am on Thursday 13 February. The 29-year-old has since been charged with three counts of raping a child and two counts of penetrative sexual activity with a child. He has also been charged with inciting sexual activity with a child, meeting a child following grooming, engaging in sexual communication with a child and making an indecent video of a child. The charges relate to two teenage girls from Widnes.

The alleged offences occurred between May 2019 and November 2019. Lawton has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 14 February. Lawton appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 14 February. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 13 March.

Widnes man given Criminal Behaviour Order after threatening pub staff

A persistent offender from Widnes has been given a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) to curb his criminality.



The three-year banning order was imposed on Joseph Duffy, of Harebell Close, at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 12 February. This follows a number of alcohol related incidents involving Duffy over recent years which culminated in two convictions in less than three months for threatening behaviour towards pub staff. The 25-year-old committed the latest public order offence at The Observatory pub in Queensbury Way, Widnes, on Thursday 14 November. That was three days after he was convicted for his previous public order offence, which he committed at The Tavern pub in Upton Lane, Widnes, on Tuesday 23 July.

Duffy's CBO bans him from:

- Entering any licensed premises in Widnes other than to buy alcohol in a shop or supermarket
- Going to Albert Road, Widnes, between the hours of 7pm and 7am.

In addition, Duffy must move away from outside the entrance doors to any pub in Widnes when asked to do so by security or staff.

Sergeant Steve Owen, of Cheshire Constabulary's Problem Solving Team, applied for the CBO. He said: *"In the aftermath of the killing of pub landlord Christian Thornton last year, we won't tolerate threatening or violent behaviour towards those who work at pubs and we will look at all options available to us when dealing with repeat offenders. Joseph Duffy's unacceptable behaviour towards pub staff escalated to him being convicted of two public order offences in less than three months. With repeat offenders like Duffy, there has to be a point where the police and courts say that enough is enough, which is why he has been given a Criminal Behaviour Order. These are preventative orders designed to stop individuals committing further offences and to protect members of the public. No-one should feel intimidated by the actions of other people and we will use whatever powers we have at our disposal to make Widnes an even more pleasant place to live, work and visit. I hope the CBO gives Duffy the boundaries he needs to significantly improve his behaviour. I also hope it sends a strong message that we will not tolerate this kind of behaviour in Widnes and that, working closely with our partners, we will take the necessary action against those who persistently commit public order offences in the town."*

Anyone who sees Duffy breaching the conditions of his CBO is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 to report it.

Six men jailed following £45,000 burglary spree across the UK

Six men from Wirral who burgled houses and dozens of businesses across the UK have been jailed for a total of more than 30 years.

Gary Platt, 43; Kieran Platt, 25; Joseph Salla, 19; Joshua Wilkinson, 22; Lee Hodgin, 33; and Peter Mighall, 45; all pleaded guilty on Friday 6 December to conspiracy to commit burglary. Wilkinson also admitted a charge of dangerous driving whilst Gary and Kieran Platt asked for a number of other burglary offences to be taken into consideration.

The men were members of an organised crime gang who carried out two house burglaries, 30 commercial burglaries and five theft from motor vehicle offences between Sunday 4 August 2019 and Monday 4 November 2019. The gang specifically targeted business premises with the intent of stealing cash from their safes. They raided pubs, restaurants, bus depots, convenience stores, social clubs and even dry cleaners during their crime spree. The group used a high powered Audi S4 car to travel to and from businesses they targeted. They stole the vehicle whilst burgling a house in Barnston, Wirral. In an attempt to evade capture, the gang stole number plates and used them on stolen vehicles when committing offences.

The areas they targeted included Chester, Ellesmere Port, Macclesfield, Willaston, Wirral, Kendal, Morecambe, Northop, Wrexham, Oswestry and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Detectives from Ellesmere Port CID linked the six men to the burglaries through mobile phone, ANPR and CCTV evidence, and their crime spree was brought to an end on Thursday 7 November 2019 when officers from Cheshire, Merseyside and the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit executed simultaneous search warrants at their homes in Wirral. Stolen property, clothing, tools and mobile phones that linked the men to various burglaries were seized during the raids.



Gary Platt, of Anthorn Close, Noctorum, Birkenhead; Kieran Platt, of Sandalwood Drive, Noctorum, Birkenhead; Salla, of Oakleaf Mews, Noctorum, Birkenhead; Wilkinson, of Dalesway, Heswall; Hodgin, of Lansdowne Road, Birkenhead; and Mighall, of no fixed address; were subsequently arrested. They were sentenced for their offences at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 14 February. The group were jailed for a total of 31-and-a-half years.

The individual prison sentences they received were:

- Gary Platt: Six years
- Kieran Platt: Six years
- Salla: Four-and-a-half years
- Wilkinson: Four-and-a-half years
- Hodgin: Six years and nine months
- Mighall: Three years and nine months

Following sentencing, Detective Sergeant Graeme Carvell, who led the investigation, said: *"I am delighted that these men are now behind bars facing the consequences of their actions in the form of significant prison sentences. Their convictions and sentencing marks the conclusion of what has been a lengthy and complex investigation into a series of burglaries which spanned across numerous police forces in England and Wales. Over a three-month period the gang went to great lengths to plan and co-ordinate more than 30 burglaries at houses, pubs, restaurants, convenience stores and other businesses across the UK. They stole a car worth £13,000 during a house burglary. The group also stole more than £45,000 and caused in excess of £35,000 worth of damage to business premises. All of the businesses targeted provide essential services to local communities, and the burglaries have had a profound effect on the owners and their staff. The gang had the audacity to burgle the same premises on a number of occasions and used a variety of techniques in a failed attempt to try to cover up their crimes, including concealing their identities and using cloned vehicles."*

Detective Chief Inspector Simon Draco added: *"As a result of the excellent work conducted by the dedicated team of detectives here at Cheshire Constabulary, this crime spree has now been brought to an end. This case demonstrates our commitment to relentlessly pursuing and bringing to justice organised crime groups who cause so much harm to our communities."*

Emergency services and partners descend on west end of Crewe in day of action

Crewe Local Policing Unit has joined forces with other agencies to disrupt and pursue those intent on committing crime in the town.



Two years ago local officers and other agencies came together to form the Cheshire East Serious and Organised Crime Group. Since then, Crewe LPU's Detective Inspector, Claire Jesson, has been working hard with Cheshire East Council, The Safer Cheshire East partnership, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, social care, social landlords and probation, to name but a few, to find long-term solutions to improve the quality of life of those who may be living in fear of crime. There have been a number of successes, from securing convictions against County Lines drug dealers to safeguarding a number of vulnerable people being exploited by those involved in serious criminality.

The next stage was to speak face-to-face with the residents in the west end of Crewe about what the group has been doing and to follow this up with advice and support. On Wednesday 12 February members of the Cheshire East Serious and Organised Crime Group visited residents at home. They offered advice ranging from how to spot County Lines exploitation of the vulnerable and the young as well as advising on how to prevent incidents of arson. Cheshire East Council and landlords also provided advice about getting help and support for any potential victims of County Lines or anti-social behaviour linked to it. Concerned residents were also able to pay a visit to a drop-in centre.

DI Claire Jesson said: *"We came together today (12 February) to show residents that we are making real progress in disrupting and pursuing those intent on committing crime and causing misery in the town. We wanted to explain to local people that they too can play a part by arming themselves with the knowledge in how to spot the signs of County Lines criminal activity and what they can do about it - for instance by looking out for vulnerable neighbours who may have their homes taken over by drug dealers to use it as their base, leaving the resident living in fear. If we can work together to make Crewe a no-go area for County Lines drug dealing and anti-social behaviour connected to it, we can improve the quality of life of those who have been suffering at the hands of these criminals. We wanted to reassure residents that if you tell us there is a problem we will take action. We do care and can help you, so please don't suffer in silence. We also need your help. You can play an important part in making where you live feel safer and make it clear to criminals that they aren't welcome here by being our eyes and ears and reporting crime."*

Mark Palethorpe, Cheshire East Council executive director of people said: *"The aim of the Cheshire East safer partnership is to bring agencies together to tackle crime and disorder, protect our communities and provide reassurance to our residents that Cheshire East is a safe place to live. We recognise that no one agency can*

address these issues alone and today is about supporting the community in Crewe, increasing awareness, empowering and enabling residents to challenge and report the issues that affect them."

Service Delivery Manager for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Matt Barlow said: *"The joint venture was really good to see. There was a broad range of advice on hand from our firefighters and our Prevention Team. They were there on the day carrying out health and safety assessments to those under 65, and safe and well visits to those over 65. There was a particular focus on Kitchen Safety Advice and around arson prevention, especially Wheelie Bins being left outside properties. We hope that residents felt reassured by our presence and will feel confident in approaching us again should they need advice in the future."*

For further information and advice on https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/campaigns/campaigns/2019/impact/

Crewe Local Policing Unit supported nationwide week of action

Crewe Local Policing Unit's Exploitation Team visited local hauliers as part of a nationwide week of action on modern slavery and human trafficking.

Traffickers sometimes target unsuspecting lorry drivers to transport victims of modern slavery into the country hidden in lorries, making the haulier community particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, especially those who travel across the continent. The week of action led by the National Crime Agency's Modern Slavery Trafficking Unit aimed to provide UK hauliers with help and support about this type of exploitation, and guidance on how hauliers can securely store their cargo to reduce the risk of victims being transported.

DC Richard Garrett from Crewe's Exploitation Team said: *"It's vital that we help our hauliers understand the risks so they can be vigilant and help us protect vulnerable victims who are being trafficked at the hands of unscrupulous crime gangs, often in dangerous and life threatening situations. Operation Impacted was Cheshire's response spearheaded by the Crewe Exploitation Team and assisted by officers and PCSOs from Crewe and Sandbach beat teams as well as the Constabulary's Commercial Vehicle Unit. As well as visiting more than 25 local hauliers in Crewe, Middlewich, Sandbach and Alsager to offer support and talk about the risks they faced and how to protect themselves, we visited the service stations in Sandbach speaking to over 40 lorry drivers. We also took the opportunity to provide Crime Prevention advice utilising information provided by National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NAVCIS). We were supported by our Commercial Vehicle Unit who stopped a total of 31 vehicles to ensure hauliers were staying safe on the county's road network with only two hauliers subject to outstanding fines from UK Border Force."*

Anyone with any information or concerns about modern slavery should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/ or you can contact the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

New Community Speed Watch group launching in Christleton

A new community Speed Watch group is launching in Christleton this weekend with the aim of making local roads safer for everyone.

The initiative involves residents giving up some of their spare time to help tackle speeding on problem roads.

People living in Christleton, near Chester, are invited to attend the launch event on Sunday 15 February to find out more about the initiative. Held at Christleton Village Centre from 10am to 12pm, the event also offers the chance for residents to check out a 60s-style Hillman Imp police car and speak to their local PCSO about any concerns they have.



Chester Villages PCSO Linda Bailey said: *"Speeding is always one of the mains concerns raised by local residents, and the community Speed Watch scheme is a great way of helping to address the issue. Such schemes work as a deterrent and help to get the message across that speeding drivers will not be tolerated in the community. They also remind motorists that speed limits are there for a reason and must be adhered to."*

The Christleton Speed Watch group is made up of local volunteers and is being supported by Christleton Parish Council and John Lloyd, who co-ordinates the nearby Frodsham Speed Watch group. Any motorists who are caught driving at an excessive speed by the group will be sent a warning letter and told that if they are clocked speeding again they could be fined £60 and have three points put on their licence.

PCSO Bailey added: *"While we already have a number of willing volunteers, we are keen to attract as many people as possible to the new Christleton Speed Watch group. All volunteers, who must be over 18, will receive specialist training on how to use a speed gun to monitor the speed of traffic. If you are interested in getting involved, or would like more information about how the scheme works, please come along to the launch event or email me at Linda.Bailey@cheshire.pnn.police.uk."*

Man charged following robbery in Sandbach

An 18-year-old man from Sandbach has been charged following a robbery in the town.

Alfie Bould, of Fairfield Avenue, was arrested on Congleton Road in Sandbach shortly after 11.30pm on Thursday 6 February. He has since been charged with robbery and possession of a bladed article in a public place. The charge relates to an incident that occurred near to Sandbach Fire Station at The Commons. A 28-year-old from Sandbach had his mobile phone stolen during the incident, which occurred shortly before 11pm on Thursday 6 February. Bould appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Saturday 8 February. He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 9 March.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Witness appeal following attempted robbery in Macclesfield

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward following an attempted robbery in Macclesfield.

Sometime between 1.15pm and 1.40pm on Monday 10 February a man was pushing his bicycle along Chester Road, near the junction of Ivy Road, when an unknown male approached him. The male pushed the victim before demanding money. A passer-by intervened and the suspect fled the scene. The male offender is white, of slim build and wearing a black hooded top, black joggers and had a black rucksack with coloured markings. Officers are now appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward.

Detective Constable Andy Cole, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"We are keen to track down this offender and bring him to justice. The outcome of this incident could have been a lot worse. I am keen to hear from anyone who may have been driving around the Chester Road, Ivy Road area of Macclesfield on Monday and may have caught dashcam footage of the suspect. I also want anyone who witnessed the incident or may know who the offender is to come forward."*

Anyone with information or dashcam footage is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 633793 or report via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/ Alternatively, report any information to independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or via https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously

Appeal after man sustains facial injury during Widnes robbery

Detectives are urging witnesses to come forward after a 49-year-old man sustained a facial injury during a robbery in Widnes.

The incident occurred outside Upton Community Centre on Hough Green Road shortly after 11pm on Saturday 8 February. The victim was sat in the driver's seat of his van when a man wearing a motorbike helmet opened his door and demanded cash. Not realising that the offender was holding a machete, the victim got out of the van to confront him. An altercation ensued, and after injuring the victim the offender stole a black sports bag from him. He then jumped on the back of a moped being ridden by another man. The pair subsequently rode off in the direction of Netherley Road. As they did so, the victim, who is from the Merseyside area, drove himself to hospital. He has subsequently been discharged after receiving treatment.

Detective Constable Tracey Short, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"This was a terrifying incident that left the victim with a facial injury and extremely shaken up. I would like to reassure residents that this is believed to have been an isolated incident and we are doing everything we can to establish the identities of both the man who carried out the robbery and the getaway rider. The man who robbed and assaulted the victim was white and around 5' 10" tall with a proportionate built. He is estimated to be aged in his late teens or early 20s, had dark eyebrows and was wearing all black clothing, including the motorbike helmet. He had a snood on and his hood was up underneath the helmet. As part of our ongoing enquiries, we are appealing for anyone who believes they may know the identity of the man to get in touch with us at Widnes Police Station. We also want to speak to anyone who was in the area and witnessed, or has CCTV or dashcam footage of, anything that may help our investigation."*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 632425, give the details via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal following two robbery incidents in Widnes

Police are appealing for anyone with information or footage regarding two robbery incidents in Widnes to come forward.

At around 9.10pm on Saturday 8 February two males wearing face coverings entered the M&S Late Shop on Derby Road. When a member of staff asked them to remove their face coverings, they refused. They demanded cigarettes and showed her an axe before stealing a quantity of sweets and fleeing in the direction of Peel House Lane. A few minutes later two males wearing face coverings ordered food from a member of staff at Peel House Fish Bar. They claimed to have no money and demanded that she hand over the till. When another member of staff appeared and ordered them to leave the takeaway in Peel House Lane, they produced a knife and threatened him before fleeing on foot empty handed. It is believed that the same offenders were responsible for both incidents. The offenders were both white, slim and looked to be between 16 and 19 years old. Neither of them had facial hair. One of the offenders was of average height and had dark brown hair with a centre parting. The other was shorter and had mid-length dark hair.

Enquiries in relation to the incidents are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area and believes they saw the offenders, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them, to get in touch. They also want to speak to anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are.

Detective Inspector Ian Whiley, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"All that the offenders stole were a quantity of sweets, but these were frightening incidents for the people working at the businesses they targeted. The offenders were armed and we are determined to establish their identities and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we are appealing for anyone who was in the area and believes they saw the offenders, or recognises their descriptions and thinks they may know who they are, to contact us at Widnes Police Station. We also want to hear from anyone who believes they may have CCTV or dashcam footage of the offenders."*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 632336, give the details via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Witness and footage appeal following incident in Widnes

Detectives are appealing for information and footage from members of the public following an incident in Widnes.

At around 5.20am on Sunday 9 February three males knocked on the front door of a house in Cameron Road and shouted 'it's Cheshire Police'. When the front door was opened they attempted to barge their way inside the property. Seeing they were not police offices, and that they were armed with a knife and a metal bar, the occupants managed to push the males back and close the front door. The males then fled on foot. Two of them were wearing high-visibility clothing and the other was wearing dark clothing. At least two of them had balaclavas on.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are appealing for anyone who believes they saw the males, either before they knocked on the front door or as they were fleeing the scene, to come forward. They also want to speak to anyone who thinks they may know who the males are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.

Detective Sergeant Roberts, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"I would like to reassure residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish the identities of the males and what they were doing at the address. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything suspicious to get in touch with us here at Widnes Police Station. We also want to speak to anyone who believes they may know who the males are, or have footage of them."*

Anyone with information or CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 632558, give the details via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

CCTV appeal following theft of bike in Alsager



Officers have released CCTV images of two males they want to speak to following a theft of a bicycle in Alsager.

Sometime between 10am and 11.15am on Monday 3 February officers received a report that a green and black Carrera bike had been stolen from outside Alsager Leisure Centre. Officers investigating the theft on Hassall Road now want to speak to two males who may be able to help with their enquiries.

PC Kerrie Cummings, Beat Manager for Crewe LPU, said: "If you recognise the two males in the CCTV images please get in touch as we believe they will have crucial information which will help us in our investigation. We are also keen to hear from anyone who may have seen the bike since the incident to get in touch. If you think you can identify the males or have any other information that may help us with our investigation please call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 627787."

Crewe LPU are also issuing advice on how to keep bicycles secure:

- Get your bike security marked and registered via bikeregister.com/register
- Record details of your bike such as the frame number, the BikeRegister number plus any other distinguishing features and take a photograph
- Use two good quality locks, at least one being a D-lock
- Lock the frame and both wheels to a cycle parking stand and secure your bike as close as possible to the stand to give little or no room to manoeuvre
- Take parts that are easy to remove with you or use locking skewers or nuts which can increase security
- Lock your bike at a recognised secure cycle parking site, it should be well lit and covered by CCTV
- Take care to also lock your bike as securely at home as you would on the street

- If your bike has been stolen, contact Cheshire Constabulary as soon as possible by calling 101 or report it via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/. Please provide us with your frame number, BikeRegister number, a photo and any other details you have.

Appeal after boys have their bicycles stolen in Widnes robbery

Detectives in Widnes investigating a robbery in which two 13-year-old boys had their bicycles stolen are appealing for information and footage from members of the public.

The incident occurred at a park in Upton Rocks, near to the entrance to Colvend Way, at around 2.20pm on Saturday 8 February. Two males approached the victims, who are both from Widnes, and demanded their bikes. One of the offenders was carrying a small knife. The victims handed their bikes over, as well as a small quantity of cash. The offenders then rode off along Queensbury Way towards Hough Green.

They are described as white and approximately 19 years old. They both had slim builds, stubble on their faces and spoke with Liverpudlian accents. One of the offenders was wearing a green Parajumpers jacket with the hood up. The other had a black bubble jacket on and was wearing a grey North Face balaclava. The bicycles they stole are GT mountain bikes. One is dark navy blue and the other is matt black.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are appealing for anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may be relevant to their investigation to get in touch. They also want to speak to anyone who believes they may know who the offenders are, or have CCTV/dashcam footage of them.

Detective Inspector Ian Whiley, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"The victims, both 13-year-old boys, were subjected to a terrifying ordeal that has understandably left them extremely shaken up. We are determined to establish the identities of the offenders, bring them to justice and have the stolen mountain bikes returned to their rightful owners. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything that may aid our investigation to come forward. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them. We also want to speak to anyone who believes they may have seen the stolen mountain bikes since the robbery took place."*

Anyone with information or footage that may help the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 631991, give the details via https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

School children urged to be vigilant as police investigate bikes stolen across Warrington

Detectives investigating a number of bikes stolen across Warrington are urging parents and school children to be vigilant.

They have occurred near to schools when the children are travelling home. A dedicated investigation into these incidents is continuing and a number of lines of enquiry are being followed. Both plain clothed and uniformed officers will be patrolling key areas after school both as a deterrent and for reassurance.

In the meantime, police are strongly advising children to try and avoid travelling home alone and to stay with a group of friends. Children are also being encouraged to consider taking a route home that would make them less vulnerable. This includes not taking short cuts, cycling down back alleys or through parks and stay in well-lit and visible areas. Parents are advised to record their child's bike serial number and to photograph the bike.

Detective Inspector Chris Maddocks, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"We know there appears to be an increase lately in bikes being stolen from school children across Warrington. I want to reassure children and their parents that we are working hard to find those responsible. I do not want people to feel unsafe and that they can't go about their daily lives but as a pre-caution it is important to consider alternative routes. If a child is approached and they are threatened or their bike is stolen, please call 101 or 999 in an emergency."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting Operation Sovereigns. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/ Information can also be provided online https://www.cheshire.police.uk/

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/