



Congleton
Crewe
Knutsford

Macclesfield
Nantwich
Wilmslow

ON THE GRAPEVINE

Your Concerns are Ours Building confidence and trust in local policing and working on the things that matter to our communities will be the focus of neighbourhood policing in East Cheshire.

That is the clear message from the new Commander of Cheshire Police Eastern Area, Chief Superintendent Mick Garrihy. He says, "We understand and recognize that the issues which affect people's daily lives are local and up their street. They are the priorities in our communities."

Chief Superintendent Garrihy has been appointed Area Commander after six weeks as Acting Commander following the retirement of Chief Superintendent Paul McHugh. He has been a senior officer in East Cheshire for three years and has 26 years police service.

He said, "We have made substantial progress in reducing burglary and vehicle crime and have had a huge impact on dealing with the individuals who cause the most harm to people. This is an important part of ensuring people are safe and feel safe, but not the whole answer."

"Our Neighbourhood Policing teams are now well established. We have local officers who know their community and know the people who live, visit and work there. The priority for us is to build on this knowledge to better understand what really matters to people, and work with them and other agencies to deal with it. This will be the key to and the measure of our future success."

Cannabis Farms Closed Down Landlords are being warned to take great care about who leases their property. This follows the discovery and closure of a series of cannabis farms in Cheshire Police Eastern Area; some of them in very large houses in rural and semi-rural locations. More than three thousand cannabis plants have been seized and destroyed.

Superintendent Geraint Jones said, "Properties in country areas are attractive to the organized international gangs who are often behind this form of criminal activity. The houses are secluded so there are less people to notice suspicious coming and going. We are grateful to people who report their concerns."

In September cannabis farms closed down included.

- A large house at Nether Alderley: More than a thousand plants destroyed. A woman arrested
- A large house in Mereside Road, Mere, near Knutsford. More than thousand plants destroyed. Two men arrested at the scene. Another man and a woman arrested later and released while further investigations are carried out.
- A large house in Salters Lane, Siddington. More than 700 plants destroyed.
- A terraced house in Queen Street, Crewe. 370 plants destroyed and a man arrested.

In addition, about forty plants were destroyed after being found in a cottage at Eaton, near Congleton. A man was cautioned.

And two men were arrested after cannabis was found growing in the garden of a house in Disley. They were released pending further investigations.

Cocaine Charge –Further Remand Three men charged in connection with the seizure of a large quantity of cocaine near Knutsford appeared at Chester Crown Court and were remanded in custody to appear again on October 13th. The three face charges of possessing Class A drugs with intent to supply. One of them also faces a charge of possessing £50,000 which was criminal property.

Murder Charge A man appeared at Chester Crown Court charged with the murder of Neil McDonald in Macclesfield. Mr McDonald was found unconscious in Waters Green on August 16th and died in hospital later. The accused man, aged 30, will appear in court again in November.

Thanks to Witnesses Police Officers have thanked witnesses whose evidence helped to secure the conviction of a 62 years old man from Rode Heath for a series of sex offences against a woman and two girls. The man was sentenced to an indefinite period in prison and it will be seven years before he can apply for parole. Experts will then have to be convinced that he no longer represents a danger to the public before he can be released. Detective Constable Melanie Taylor, who led a lengthy and detailed investigation said, “We know that providing evidence in a case such as this is not easy. We thank the witnesses for helping us to bring this case to a conclusion and ensure that justice was done.”

“Deterrent” Sentences for Armed Raiders Five men who carried out a raid on a house in Crewe, armed with a replica gun have all been sentenced to a minimum of six years in prison. The householder was held on the floor at gunpoint, but his wife managed to call the Police. Officers responded immediately and arrested the men on the M6 as they made their getaway. D.C. Claire Jesson described the raid as a “premeditated attack”. She said the substantial sentences would serve as a deterrent to other criminals who might consider committing this type of offence.

Tackling Cross- Border Crime Officers from Nantwich Neighbourhood Policing Unit continue to be involved in patrols with West Mercia Police, North Wales Police and officers from Cheshire Police Western Rural Unit to disrupt and detect cross- border crime. In the past few months several people have been arrested and charged with offences including theft, possession of drugs and driving offences. The operations also gather a large amount of information on the movement of active criminals.

More Moves to Beat the Burglar Officers in Wilmslow say a police operation targeting areas where burglaries had been reported will be repeated during the winter months. The operation resulted in a number of significant arrests, with charges of burglary, theft and vehicle crime. The impact on the number of burglaries was dramatic with just one break-in reported while the operation was in progress and one the following week.

Burglary Charges A thirty years old man was sent to Chester Crown Court charged with two burglaries in Crewe. He also faces charges of theft from a vehicle and stealing cash.

Sentenced for Town Centre Brawl Sergeant Penny Jones, from Middlewich Neighbourhood Policing Team, says she hopes sentences on three people involved in a drunken brawl will be a deterrent to anyone who might be intent on causing trouble in Middlewich town centre. A nineteen years old man and a sixteen years old boy were sentenced to six months and four months in a Young Offenders Institution. An 18 years old man was given a community service order. Penny Jones said the actions of the three had caused fear among other people who were enjoying a peaceful night out.

First Under the Wing Congleton has become the first town in Britain to be officially listed as “ArcAngel Protected”. Twenty one pubs have already signed up to a code of conduct designed to prevent anti social behaviour and Police and other partners are working to crack down on alcohol related disorder and crime. Sergeant Richard Line, from the Congleton Neighbourhood Policing Team, said “Congleton does not have a huge problem but we now have a list of premises where people know they can be safe and comfortable”.

Keeping in Touch Special weekend “Rural Patrols” have been introduced by Nantwich Neighbourhood Policing Unit. P.C. Sarah Mawson and P.C.S.O Sharon Jones tour villages in a rural contact bus, stopping at pre-arranged times to give local people a chance to call in and talk about any issues they have. Sharon Jones said, “We are getting a really good response. It’s important that people outside the main towns know what we are doing and that we are keeping an eye on their home area. Meeting people face- to- face is the best way to keep in touch”.

One Thousand Bans The Stamp Crime Out of Town partnership has introduced its one thousandth ban since it was set up in Crewe and Nantwich six years ago. Shop lifters, purse dippers and people responsible for anti social behaviour can be barred from all 148 businesses who are SCOOT members for periods ranging from three months to two years.

First Ban A “Licensed Premises and Pub Watch” has introduced its first ban since being set up in Alderley Edge. The ban was imposed on a man who started a disturbance in a pub and then threatened the licensee. Mark Mason, chairman of the new organization, said the watch group was an investment in the future. “We have not got together because there is a problem but to make sure there is no problem in the years ahead.” Inspector Luke McDonnell, from Wilmslow Neighbourhood Policing Unit, said Pub Watch groups play a key role in the ArcAngel approach to tackling drink-related disorder.

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Tea Break People in Sandbach will be invited to a “Cuppa with a Copper”. The regular police surgery is moving from the town’s Community Centre to the “Thursday Teas” café in St. Mary’s Church Hall. PCSO Spike Elliott said, “We thought it made sense to have the surgery where there is already a steady stream of people. It doesn’t matter if people drop in specially to see us or if they would be there anyway. We will be ready to talk over any issues they have.” The surgeries are from 11am to 12 noon, beginning on October 15th.

Policing Number Ten The police surgery at Bollington has really got moving – on a number ten bus. PCSO Lindsey Whitehead has chosen the bus running between Macclesfield town centre and Bollington as the place for her face-to-face with local people. She often uses the bus to go on duty, but on her “surgery days” she stays on board, travelling backwards and forwards for two hours or more. A poster provided by Arriva North West carries her name and picture and invites people to talk to her. She says “People come up to wherever I’m sitting and talk freely. I have been given information about drugs, anti-social behaviour and a lot of other issues.”

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