



## **MACCLESFIELD, WILMSLOW, KNUTSFORD ON THE GRAPEVINE**

**New Police Chief Appointed** David Whatton, the Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police has been appointed as the new Chief Constable of Cheshire Police. David Whatton began his police career with West Midlands Police in 1983. His later service included work on regional and national crime squads, and as a Divisional Commander. He moved to Greater Manchester in 2002 as an Assistant Chief Constable and led a number of high profile criminal and terrorist-related investigations. He says, "I want the people of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington to feel proud of their police and I will work with my officers and staff to deliver a police service that people have confidence in." David Whatton will take up his new role on December 1<sup>st</sup>. He replaces Peter Fahy, who is now Chief Constable of Greater Manchester.

**Harmony On Halloween** Police Officers say a successful operation to keep the peace on Halloween should have strengthened people's confidence in the emergency services. The operation, carried out jointly with Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service under the Strikeout and Arcangel Initiatives, maintained the reduction in anti-social behaviour on October 31<sup>st</sup> which has been a feature of the past few years. Just 32 anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow, compared with 40 in 2007. Chief Inspector Peter Crowcroft said, "Halloween can be a worrying time for some people, especially the elderly, and we want them to know we are looking out for their safety."

**Campaign Tackles Farm Machinery Thefts** Five men were arrested by Police Officers investigating the theft of tractors and other farm machinery in rural parts of Cheshire. The five were given bail with strict curfew conditions, while further inquiries are carried out. A special team of officers from Eastern and Western Areas of Cheshire Police have been brought together to tackle this type of crime and police are working with farmers and other members of the public to strengthen watch schemes in rural areas. The watch scheme in the Knutsford district already has more than 160 members. Further details are available from Constables Mike Dawber and Mike Nash, who can be contacted on 0845 458 6380 or by email on [knutsford.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:knutsford.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk).

**Officers' Courage Honoured** Two Police Officers who confronted a gang of criminals who were raiding a cash and carry warehouse in Macclesfield have received Chief Constable's Commendations. Constables Chris Rooney and James Robinson followed one of the gang's cars as it sped away. They then chased two of the men on foot into a wooded area and eventually arrested one of them after a violent struggle. The man was later sent to prison for four years. The citation said the officers had acted in a professional manner without a thought for their own safety.

**"Tremendous Achievements" Recognized** Other incidents of courage, bravery and outstanding professionalism in police work were recognized at another awards ceremony. More than thirty Police Officers and Police Staff members from Cheshire Police Eastern Area received Chief Superintendent's Commendations. Officers based at Macclesfield and Wilmslow were commended for the arrest of an armed robber and an attempt to rescue a man who fell from the top of a bridge. Other awards went to people who achieved an outstanding level of customer service and to Police Staff providing vital back-up services to 'sharp-end' policing. Chief Superintendent Paul McHugh, the Commander of Cheshire Police Eastern Area said, "We are recognizing tremendous achievements in respect of the service we offer. We are proud of what we do and the people who do it."

**Striking Out Drugs** A woman was arrested after a Police **Strikeout** Operation at a house and a pub in Knutsford. The arrest was made at the house, where officers seized substances believed to be Class A drugs and a large quantity of cash. At the pub they questioned customers but made no arrests. Sergeant Jim Boulton said, "Everything appeared to be in order. We understand the licensee had identified a problem himself and taken robust action to deal with it. We would commend that pro-active approach. The customers all appreciated what we were doing." The **Strikeout** campaign targets people involved in crime and disorder which affects the quality of life for people in Cheshire.

**Dealers Warned** A nineteen year old man arrested by plain clothes officers while he was carrying crack cocaine and heroin in a street in Macclesfield was sent to a Young Offenders Institution for 12 months. Detective Constable Deby Spavin said, "People dealing drugs in Macclesfield should realize they are likely to be watched and caught. They can never feel secure."

**Burglar Caught at Cash Point** A burglar who broke into homes in Wilmslow, Knutsford and Pickmere was caught after Police Officers set up a covert camera operation at a cash point where he used a stolen credit card. A picture from the CCTV was published in a newspaper and the man was identified. At Chester Crown Court he was sent to prison for three years and four months. Detective Constable Gary Turner from the Cheshire Police Eastern Area Burglary Unit said, "It was a good example of how thorough detective work, co-operation from a newspaper and help from the public can beat crime."

**Back Inside** An escaped prisoner who broke into a house in Knutsford is back behind bars. The 51 years old man was sentenced to three years and four months in prison for the burglary and for absconding from prison. The sentence will begin after he has served the remainder of his previous four-year sentence.

**Wilmslow Burglar Jailed** A burglar who broke into nine homes in Wilmslow was also sent to prison for three years and four months. Detective Constable Dave Edon said, "A prolific burglar will be off the streets for some time, which means fewer people will be victims of crime."

**Joint Effort Reduces Crime** A dramatic reduction in local crime was highlighted at a Community Action Meeting in Poynton. The number of burglaries and thefts from vehicles are now about half the figures of two years ago. Inspector Gareth Woods, officer in charge of Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Unit, told the meeting that the big improvement resulted from work by local police, the efforts of Poynton Parish Council which has funded Police Community Support Officers, and a number of special projects, especially activities for young people.

**Project of Year** A campaign to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries among young drivers was named "Project of the Year" at the Silk FM local heroes awards. Police Officers select drivers aged between 17 and 25 who have committed traffic offences and offer them a talk on driver behaviour and driving tuition as an alternative to the usual penalties. Sergeant Ian Holley, who chairs the Macclesfield Road Safety Partnership said, "We started this initiative after eight young people in this Area died in collisions in ten months. It is a long term project and it is getting results." The partnership steers the initiative. Cheshire County Road Safety Unit carries out the talks and tuition. Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership provides funding.

**Lesson from the Pupils** Pupils from a Wilmslow school gave adults a lesson in a "School Speedwatch" project. The children interviewed drivers who had been stopped for speeding near the Ashdene primary School. Constable Nicki Mercer said, "When a child asks a driver 'How would you feel if you had knocked me down?' it is really effective. It makes the adults think about the way they drive. With the support of the schools and the Macclesfield Road safety Partnership we will be doing more of these checks."

**Safety Training** Drivers using mobile phones or not wearing seat belts were targeted in a joint operation by Police Officers and Fire Fighters in Handforth. Motorists who were stopped were given the option of watching a DVD and discussing driver attitudes, instead of the usual penalties.

**Mini Motos Seized** Police seized seven mini motos in a month at Weston in Macclesfield, following complaints from local people that they were being ridden in an anti-social way and without tax and insurance. Other young riders were served with notices warning them that they will face seizure of their vehicles if they cause a nuisance or danger. Police Community Support Officer Andy Cooper said, "This is an issue which causes a lot of concern and we are making it clear that we won't tolerate these bikes being used illegally." At the same time officers are making inquiries to see if there is an off-road site available where the bikes can be used safely and legally.

**Banging the Drum** Cheshire Police band is looking for volunteers to go 'on the beat'. The band wants to expand its corps of drums. Musical Director Inspector Dave Woollam said, "The Corps is a real focal point for our parades and we also want to include them in our concert programmes. We are looking for side drummers who may have experience in the military or cadet forces. Band members come from all walks of life and you don't have to be employed by Cheshire Police to join."

**Fifty Year First** Geoff Allen, a licensing officer at Macclesfield Police Station, has entered the history books. Geoff is believed to be the first person since the Force was formed 151 years ago to have completed fifty years service. He joined as a cadet in 1958 and served as an officer at Runcorn, Hale, Partington, Kelsall, Wilmslow and Macclesfield, rising to the rank of Inspector. He retired in 1996 but, after a holiday, started his present job. He is continuing working and says, "I wanted to be playing rugby when I was fifty. I did that in the early nineties. It was also my desire to still be playing cricket as a State Pensioner with my village team and to serve fifty years with the Force. I've managed all those. Now I've just got to play cricket until I'm seventy....."