



HISTORY OF SANDBACH

PART 4 = P to R

Compiled by Stewart Green © From 2013 to date.
 (Including information from publications by the Sandbach History Society)

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Update 9 Feb 2021

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SANDBACH HISTORY PART 4 = P to R

#HP.

SANDBACH POLICE INDEX

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#HP.

#PC01.

POLICE STATION – SANDBACH POLICE HISTORY

SANDBACH POLICE A BRIEF HISTORY.

There has always been a body of people who have kept law and order from the Chief of the local area through the Roman Empire and via the Magistrates and Mayors of an area but the true Police Force didn't appear until the 1800's and the introduction in 1829 when the Home Secretary Robert Peel introduced the "Metropolitan Police Act" which led to the formation of the Metropolitan Police on the 29 September 1829. Constables were quickly nicknamed "Bobbies" after Robert "Bobbie" Peel or "Peelers".

As to when a building in Sandbach became a Police Station is not clear but in 1800 an Act of Parliament encouraged local town authorities to be more involved in Policing. It is possible at this time that Sandbach started its own force based at Market Square where C.Godfrey Williams and Son's now stands, it was built in 1760 and the row of buildings next to the station were used as housing for the Sergeant and his constables.

The 1856 "County and Borough Police Act" opened the door for a Cheshire Police Force to be formed and on the 3 February 1857 the first full Cheshire Police Committee met at the Crewe Arms Hotel in Crewe to discuss the setting up of the new force.

In 1857 the Post Office Directory said that a new police station was erected with lock-ups, constable's room and residence for the principal officer, Superintendent of Police William Faram (Scotch Common) who was also the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. According to Kelly's Directory (1896) this venue for a new Sandbach Police Station was in Bold Street where the Barclays Bank was (New Building). The "New County Police Station" had been erected in 1857 at a cost of £800 with an edifice of Brick and Stone. It had offices, cells and a residence for the chief officer. The building has since been demolished but the Cells within the original Police Station are still there and are now used by the Barclays Bank as a storage area.

In June 1965, Sandbach Police did a "Moonlight Flit" from their offices in Bold Street to rooms behind the Courtrooms in Middlewich Road (The Magistrates Court were opposite what is now Cheshire East's Headquarters, Westfields) a building that was formally the Congleton Rural District Council Offices and were built by John Stringer.

The first enquiry at the new offices was at 3 O Clock when a man asked them where the Police Station was!

After 20 years Sandbach was ready for a change and moved into a portacabin opposite the Magistrates court in the 1980's. It was also decided to build a new station for the officers and staff and so the Sandbach Police moved back on a temporary basis to their old station and a portacabin behind the Courthouse until a new building had been erected.

In April 1990 the new purpose built Police Station on Middlewich Road next to Westfields the home of Congleton Borough Council was ready for duty and the officers. The building was officially opened by the Chairman of the County Council's Police Committee Cheshire in May 1990.

However the new police station soon became a closed building to the public as only a direct phone link to Winsford headquarters was made available for the public to contact the constabulary with the police using it as a stopping off point and administration building.

(A full history of Sandbach Police see below)

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#PC02.

SANDBACH POLICE A COMPLETE HISTORY.

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The origin of a Police Force in Sandbach has been lost in time but we do know that nationally law and order has always been a part of civilised life.

When the Anglo Saxons invaded Britain, they brought with them the concept of laws and customs, believing that breaking the law was a crime and that is was a crime against the whole community breaking what was known as the "King's Peace" and it was the responsibility of all the adult males to catch any criminals or offenders. Small community groups were formed as an early form of Neighbourhood watch to keep an eye on their group of about 10 families and anyone who committed a crime within that community was brought to the court or "Moot" by the other members of the group or they themselves were fined for failing to uphold the law.

In the early days of Cheshire, the Sheriff of the County was responsible for the enforcement of law and presided over courts of justice or the "Shire Court" where they would dispense judgements including the hanging of serious criminals. These would be convened if the crime was thought to be more serious than a local tribunal as in the case of murder, rape and crimes against the King.

In the **MIDDLE AGES** a local Lord of the Manor was given the responsibility of looking over the "Manor Court" and would appoint the "Manor Officers" (Early Police), The Constable, ale-taster (to make sure the ale was not watered down), swine ringer (Tax was paid on pigs and so they were ringed to let the Lord know who owned the swine.) and bread weigher (Early customs and excise as bread was regulated by weight when sold). It was the constable's job to arrest criminals, report crime to the Lord of the Manor and to call out the "Hue and Cry" (Public Uproar usually in pursuit of a Criminal).

The job of the Lord of the Manor was also taken on by the Mayor of a town or county and they were the "Custodian of Peace" with the name Mayor coming from an early version of the word for Magistrates who would preside over Borough, Civil and Criminal Courts.

In 1285 the "Statute of Winchester" stated that every town should "keep an eye on the city gates and arrest all suspicious night walkers" with the constable taking charge of the "watch" and taking offenders to court.

In 1761 under King Edward III, "Justices of the Peace" were established to try less serious crimes and could issue a warrant of arrest for the constable to carry out.

By the **TUDOR TIMES** the Mayor acted as Chief Magistrate and had the power to arrest those disturbing the peace, to search premises suspected of unlawful gaming and they had the power to compel people into service.

Many Constables during the Tudor period paid deputies to do their job despite the constable not being paid themselves. This led to widespread corruption and inefficiency with many law enforcers turning a blind eye to criminal activity.

In the **1600's** the Mayor's role changed to that of the Chairman of the Council, Chief Magistrate, Borough Coroner, Clerk of the Market, Keeper of the Jail and was allowed to appoint a Town Clerk. The Mayor was also able to create "Freemen" of the area.

In 1663 the City of London started to pay their Watchmen who guarded the City Streets at night and they became known as "Charlie's" possibly after Charles II who was on the throne at the time. The pay was not good and so only the old and those unable to find employment elsewhere took the jobs. They did start to have equipment provided for their work. This included a bell (To summon assistance), a Rattle to ward off criminals and a lantern to see their way around the streets. They also carried a long staff which was used to stop fights and catch criminals and was also a symbol of authority. However, the main sport at the time for young men on the streets of cities was "Baiting Charlie's" the art of taunting a Watchman and as gangs of kids surrounded the watchmen the stick was ineffectual.

By the **1700's** policing was organised by local communities such as town authorities and a constable could be attested by two or more "Justices of the Peace" a procedure that could go back to an act of the English Parliament in 1673.

In the 1730's the "Local Improvement Act" made by town authorities often included the provision for a paid "Watchman" or "Constable" outside London who were employed to patrol the towns at night making it a safe environment as it meant that burglars and disturbers of the peace could be dealt with, without the townsfolk being disturbed in their sleep.

In 1737 an act of Parliament was passed so that the City of London could have "Better Regulating the Night Watch" specifying the number of paid constables that should be on duty each night.

Henry Fielding established the "Bow Street Runners" in 1749 (1748 he was appointed Chief Magistrate of Westminster) and between 1754 and 1780 Sir John Fielding reorganised the "Bow Street Runners" with the inclusion of a central building from which they were deployed. The runners were issued with guns and were paid sufficiently not to be open for bribes.

This was the start of the Police Station idea which soon spread to all parts of the country.

In 1762 Chester employed its first paid watchman and by 1806 the city had 18 men in the job (1 over 69 and 11 old soldiers) with a wage of 12 Shillings a Week.

By 1819 the number of paid watchmen was increased to 28 but the wage was decreased to 10 shillings a week.

SANDBACH

There have always been crimes in the area of Sandbach from Roman times to the present day and there has been some sort of law in the area to deal with the criminal element.

In 1602 at the end of the Elizabethan era a gang lead by Robert Sponne terrorised the area of Sandbach, Warrington and Middlewich. A notorious thief he stole from neighbours their timber, corn and let their cattle out at night to graze on other people's grass. To get out of being hung he would accuse innocent neighbours of the crimes instead and they would be hung instead. He also used to accuse other people from Cheshire and terrorised the folk of the area so much they feared he would burn down their houses and kill their cattle.

One of the original police houses in Sandbach was on the Market Square is where C. Godfrey Williams and Son's now stands, it was built in 1760 and when it was used as Police Station we do not know but the officers entered the building from the rear (Now the St Mary's Hall Side) and had the top floor of the building (Now a Hairdressers) as their rooms, with the station in the basement. It is possible that the cells were situated there or were accessed via a tunnel to the Original Town Hall which had cells under the Magistrate's court in the building.

A building at the back of the row of shops and numbered 7a Market Street, Sandbach has for many years been described as the Old Police House and indeed rumour has it that it housed the Sergeant of Police.

As to when the building in Sandbach became a Police Station is not clear but in 1800 an Act of Parliament encouraged local town authorities to be more involved in Policing. One major force that

was established was the “City of Glasgow Police” which has been described as the first professional police force in Britain.

More towns followed the example of Glasgow including Rochdale in 1825 and Oldham in 1827. In 1819, Riots in Peterloo in Manchester occurred at St Peter’s Field when 11 people were killed and 400 were wounded when the Military ordered the arrest of the speaker Henry Hunt who was addressing 60,000 people in what became known as the Peterloo Massacre. Although no immediate action was taken to improve the law it did see a change in attitude and reforms soon followed.

In the 1820’s Cheshire was under the Jurisdiction of Justices with six chartered Boroughs. These were Chester, CONGLETON, Macclesfield, Stockport, Northwich and Wirral with each appointing a High Constable and 500 parishes that elected one or more constables annually.

On the 24 December 1828, Robert Mosley a farmer of Roughwood Farm, Betchton had been to Sandbach and visited various hostelrys in the town, The George Inn, Thatched Tavern and finally the Crown. Just before 10pm he noticed three men having a few pints they were James Harrop (Aged 29), John Proudlove (Aged 25) and James Statham. On his way home to Betchton Robert saw the three men and called out a greeting which unfortunately for him was met with a blow on the head and he was pinned down by Harrop and Proudlove while Statham rifled through his pockets for cash totalling 10 sovereigns from a canvas purse they had seen in the Crown. With no Police Force in the town the farmer went home got out his gun and called for his servant and dog to assist in a search for the attackers. A local elected constable was also called for. A few days after Christmas Harrop was spotted in the street by another farmer with Proudlove being found at a pigeon shoot in the Red Lion where they were arrested by the local constable. The two were taken with Statham to court in Sandbach and after witnesses produced unreliable alibis for Statham and Harrop, Proudlove confessed to the crime by making no defence but said that he alone had been at the scene. The Judge decided to sentence Proudlove to hang while Statham and Harrop would be transported for life.

John Proudlove was the brother of William Proudlove who had been hanged in 1809 for shooting at an excise officer at Lawton Salt Works. He and his partner George Glover from Sandbach became well known as ‘The Man they Hanged Twice’ after a new ‘drop’ (Hangman’s noose and trap) failed and the rope broke while hanging Mr Glover so after repairs he was hung for the second time an hour later. Proudlove’s mother travelled round the area selling items with a horse and cart having been a shoe maker and John left behind a pregnant wife and two children.

John Proudlove was hung alongside John Leir (Aged 21), a fellow member of the ‘Middlewich Gang’ who had been found guilty of brutally attacking an old man, retired clergyman the Revd Matthew Bloor on the 14 March 1829 in his home at Stablach (or Sandbach) 2 miles from Middlewich.

On the 1 June 1829, a Parliamentary Act came into force allowing Cheshire to appoint and pay “Special” High Constables and “Assistant” Petty Constables a pilot format used to set up more forces around the country.

In 1829, the Home Secretary Robert Peel introduced the “Metropolitan Police Act” which led to the formation of the Metropolitan Police on the 29 September 1829. Constables were quickly nicknamed “Bobbies” after Robert “Bobbie” Peel.

In 1832, the “London City Police” were formed and in 1839 they were renamed the “City of London Police” establishing the idea of a modern “Police Force”.

In 1835 the “Municipal Corporations Act” was passed which required 178 Royal Borough’s to set up “paid” Police Forces followed in 1839 by the Rural Constabulary Act which allowed county areas to set up their own Police Force with Wiltshire being the first to do so. Eight County Police Forces were formed in 1839 and twelve in 1840 (“County Police Act 1840”), four in 1841 and four in 1851 by which time there were 13,000 policemen in England and Wales. Cheshire was not one of the counties that set up their own force, they still relied on local authorities setting up night watchmen and constables.

On a Friday night in January 1841 the solicitors “Skerret and Remer” were holding a large amount of bank notes from the Bank of England in £100, £50, £20 and £5 denominations adding up to about £1,100 in a large metal safe in their High Street Offices. At this time there were many local banks who issued their own notes and these were among those held at Skerret and Remer and on the Saturday a clerk discovered that the doors to the building had been forced and the safe had been broken into with the money taken by persons unknown. However, on that morning James and Thomas Hampton were found to be spending Imperial Bank Notes and Lane End Notes in various shops in Tunstall and Longton along with some bank notes that were no longer valid as the local banks had closed and so had no value.

A Sandbach Policeman had taken an impression of a footprint from the scene of the crime and a Congleton police officer suspicious of the two compared the impression from the crime with shoes found in the suspects house after they had been charged with another crime in Tunstall. The two brothers were transported for a total of fourteen years.

In 1842 the Metropolitan Police set up a "Detective Department" to investigate crimes and solve murders (After the Turf Fraud Scandal in 1877 the department was reorganised and renamed the "Criminal Investigation Department" or CID in 1878).

In 1847 the "Town Police Clauses Act" and the "Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act" came into force, suggesting the idea of a national police force.

On the 3 May 1855 Mr James Sproston a visitor to the village of Wheelock with his wife was staying with his widowed sister Mrs Gill. A cabinet maker from Southport James killed his wife with a sword in the kitchen where she was found surrounded by blood and with the sword by her side by her sister in law Mrs Gill when she returned home at 9.30am. Mrs Sproston was still alive but died half an hour later from her wounds. James Sproston was discovered in a chair in the parlour having blown his brains out with a pistol which was found next to him. Local Police concluded that he had committed suicide after killing his wife but reports do not say why he killed her. (*Murder happened on the 27 April 1855 according to the Staffordshire Advertiser 5 May 1855 Pg 8*)

The Cheshire Observer of Saturday the 22 December 1855 reported on the Sandbach Police Court (Town Hall) when James Pool of Sandbach was charged by Mr Farr the relieving officer with "Neglecting to maintain his wife" on the Monday and on Tuesday a William Leckett (alias Taffey) an unemployed 16 year old from Shropshire who was brought up in custody of police officer Walker who charged him with sleeping in the salt works at Malkins Bank. This was not an unusual crime as many tramps were in the habit of sleeping at the works and in the morning would steal the workers meat, clothes and tools etc. leading to many complaints from the men at Malkins Bank who insisted it be stopped. On the Tuesday morning at about 6am constables Walker and William Faram found the prisoner in one of the drying rooms at the works. Mr Leckett was committed for 14 days.

In 1856 the "County and Borough Police Act" was brought in, requiring Policing throughout England and Wales to be paid for by the "Central Government Treasury Department" and distributed to local Governments. It also set up a "Central Inspectorate of Constabulary" that assessed the effectiveness of each Constabulary and would report to the Home Secretary (1857 Parliament passed a similar act for Scotland). It made it compulsory in England and Wales for Counties to have a Police Force and this act led to the setting up of forces in the remaining counties of England and Wales including Cheshire and by 1860 there were 200 separate forces in England and Wales.

CHESHIRE POLICE FORCE

The 1856 "County and Borough Police Act" opened the door for a Cheshire Police Force to be formed and on the 3 February 1857 the first full Cheshire Police Committee met at the Crewe Arms Hotel in Crewe to discuss the setting up of the new force.

On the 20 April 1857 Cheshire Police came into operation on this day with stations being occupied all over the county by new officers. The first headquarters were at 4 Steller Street, Chester.

According to Kelly's Directory (1896) the venue for the Sandbach Police Station was in Bold Street where the Barclays Bank stood (New Building). The "New County Police Station" had been erected in 1857 at a cost of £800 with an edifice of Brick and Stone. It had offices, cells and a residence for the chief officer. The building has since been demolished with nothing remaining of the original Police Station.

The first policeman in charge at Bold Street under the Cheshire Police Force name was Superintendent William Faram who was also the Superintendent of the local Fire Brigade in Church Street.

Another little known fact today joins the Police and Fire Brigade together at the Bold Street Station as a Fire Siren was put on the top of the building to summon the part time firemen to the station house on Scotch Common and possibly Church Street. This could be activated by the Police who had a continual presence in the building with possibly some being part of the fire brigade in the 1800's. (It stayed there until 1961 when the new Fire Station opened)

It was at this time that the Literary Institute came into operation (1857) and along with the usual cattle sales and meetings the building was also used as a court house. The Petty Sessions and Special Police Courts were held in the building situated next to the new police station.

In 1858 a document from the Chief Constables Office in Chester dated the 9 March 1858 shows "The Full Rent will be charged to each constable occupying a County Police Station and the following will be the several sum allowed to be charged per week for cleaning and same including brushes, soap and

materials". Sandbach had 2 Cells at 2/6 per week (Police rate and County rate) with Crewe having 4 Cells at 2/- per week (Police rate and County rate), Nantwich had 4 Cells at 1/- per week (Police rate) and 2/- per week (County rate), Congleton had 6 Cells at 1/6 per week (Police rate and County rate) and Middlewich had 6 Cells at 2/- per week (Police rate and County rate).

In 1860 there were 9 Divisions of Cheshire Police with the Chester Headquarters at 4 Seller Street.

CHIEF CONSTABLE	Captain John Smith, Hoole Lodge, Chester.
(1857 to 1883 - First Chief Constable – Captain Thomas Johnnes Smith)	
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE	Joseph Little (also in charge of Hyde division)
SUPERINTENDENT	G.E. Oldmeadow (Chief Clerk)
HEAD CONSTABLE	John Hill at Chester.

DIVISIONS in 1860

Broxton, Bucklow, Eddisbury, Hyde, Macclesfield, Nantwich (Included Crewe and Stoke), Northwich (see below), Stockport and Wirral

NORTHWICH DIVISION Superintendent William Blake at Middlewich.

Included

- Alsager
- Brereton
- Buglawton
- Castle Northwich
- Cranage
- Davenham
- Hartford
- Holmes Chapel
- Lostock Gralam
- Minshul Vernon
- Newbold Astbury
- Odd Rode
- SANDBACH**
- Wharton
- WHEELOCK**
- Winsford
- Witton

On the 27 August 1861, Martin Doyle was executed at Chester for the attempted murder of Jame Brogiue at a place near Sandbach. The execution was reported in the Liverpool Mail on Saturday the 31 August 1861. Martin Doyle was 26 years old at the time of his execution.

The courts were told of the events that occurred on the Thursday before the 8 June 1861 when members of Cheshire Constabulary were called to New Road, Church Lawton, near Sandbach after reports that a murder had been committed. When PC Dale (County Force) arrived at the scene he found a large quantity of blood and Jame Brogiue (Not Jane) who was supposed to have been killed, covered in blood and covered in cuts and bruises at a local public house a short distance from the crime scene. The man named Martin Doyle was taken into custody and charged with committing the offence. He was brought before G W Latham Esq magistrate who went to see Mrs Brogine at the "Talk O' th' Hill" in Staffordshire where the supposed dying woman, was staying. Her statement read "My name is Jame Brogine; I am the wife of John Brogine; he left me at Ormskirk about nine months since; he took my children with him, a boy and a girl; I have not seen him or them since. I became acquainted the prisoner, Martin Doyle, about a month after my husband left me at Ormskirk. He stayed with me three or four days there; we then went to Wigan and lived together about 11 weeks, at the house of a man named Daugherty; he there left me to go in search of work. I then went to Burnley and stayed about two hours at the house of my brother, Robert Livingstone: I then went to Bradford Infirmary and remained there about five weeks with a bad leg. I then went to the house of Maria Curtis and remained there about three weeks from there I went to Oldham and lived at the Star Hotel as maid of all work; I remained there until Friday the 24th May. I then went to Ormskirk by train and remained there one night at the house of Thomas Marrenals. The prisoner there came after me; he followed me next day on my way to St Helens; he had another young man with him; he carried my bundle and came with me to Prescott; we slept together at a lodging house and left there about 11 O Clock the following morning, and came the next day to Warrington, and slept there one night; we left about a quarter to 12 the next day and went to Holmes Chapel, and slept there at a lodging house near the railway bridge; we left there about 10 O'clock this morning and came on our way to Newcastle, as the prisoner said he had a brother there and could get work. We came through the Linley Tollgate between one and two O'clock.

We then came to a hollow place on the side of the road; it was raining fast; we sat down under a tree about five or six yards from the turnpike road; we remained about one hour and then I went to sleep, and he pulled my head on to his knee. I awoke and found his elbow a great weight upon my head; I should think I was sleeping about three quarters of an hour. He then got up and said he would go and see it had done raining; he came back with a great stone in his hand, and stood at the back of a tree; he threw it at my head, and it knocked me down and made me feel quite silly. I then shouted, and put up my hands, and said "Don't. What is that?" he then came and placed his knee upon my breast, and seized me round my throat and forced my tongue out. He then saw he could not finish me with that, and got a sharp stone and said he was determined to have my life as he came there for it. I had expressed a wish that morning, if he did not get work at Newcastle, to return back. He then began to knock me about the head and face with a stone. I asked him to spare my life, he said "No, your life I intend to have". He kept hammering at me until I was covered in blood; he said "Now, you b----r, aren't you done." I then drew my breath and gave a great sigh, he then gave me four or five more knocks; I could neither speak nor see, and fainted as he went away from me. As he went away he said, "Now, Devil, you are done." I remained there a short time and was getting a little better, when I heard the noise of a cart coming up the road, and crept towards it as well as I could, but I could not see my way, and the man stopped the cart; he said, "Oh, Woman, who has been committing murder?" I said "It is the man who has gone down the road in a white jacket, that has done this."

In 1862 the Cheshire Police Headquarters moved to 1 Edgerton Street, Chester and in 1870 it was moved to 113 Foregate Street, Chester.

On the 4th October 1869, it was reported in the Staffordshire Sentinel and Commercial and General Advertiser (9 Oct 1869 edition) of an assault on PC James Green by Middlewich Shoemaker, George Edgerton and Sandbach Bricklayer, William Yates who were brought up before the Sandbach Police Court in front of Mr G Latham and J.H. Deakin esq. who put them both on remand. George Edgerton was fined 4s and 15s costs with Yates being remanded until the Monday to allow both of them to find witnesses.

MURDER OF PC GREEN

On the 24 February 1873, PC James Green (.b. 1836 .D. 24-25 Feb 1873) was murdered while on duty and his body was dumped in the Trent and Mersey Canal near Elworth.

He was the first Cheshire officer to be killed on duty and is now buried at St Peter's Church along with his wife Ann. A bridge in Moston is known as "StabbersBridge" after the event.

Born in Handbridge, Chester in 1836, James Green had been a member of the Cheshire Force for six years and was stationed at Bradwall near Sandbach under the Command of Superintendent Rowbottom of Middlewich and Inspector Hulme of Sandbach. It was while he was on plain clothes duty observing a James Buckley, a farm worker, known larcenist and petty pilferer of Moss Green near Elworth that PC Green was attacked and dumped in the canal at Moss Bridge (Oakwood Lane / Moss Lane). Inspector Hulme had offered to provide a companion for Green but he declined. James Buckley was arrested by Superintendent Rowbottom for the murder and had found him at the time working on his farm with a bruised forehead, face, a lacerated nose and two black eyes which the criminal put down to a branch falling on him while he was pruning the tree.

At his trial on the 17 March 1873 at Sandbach Town Hall, James Buckley was brought before Joseph John H Yates Esq. (Mr B. D. Richardson, Barrister for the Defence) Evidence of tools including a garden fork were presented with blood stains on them which specialists were unable to say had human blood on them and Buckley said they were in fact pig's blood. After a 10-minute deliberation, the jury acquitted Buckley of the murder a clear case of injustice when a guilty man is set free due to a lack of evidence.

An enquiry was held into the death of the policeman and on the 24 March 1873, Mr Dunston the Coroner concluded his investigation into the death with Mr Cooper watching the case on behalf of James Buckley who was lying in Chester Castle on a charge of murder.

EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE TRIAL

In the November sessions of the year 1872, James Buckley was found guilty of stealing straw from the farm of Kester Kettell of Moston (Grandfather of Crewe Mayor of 1916 – 1918 J A S H Kettell ESQ) and had been observed by PC Green who was the principal witness in the case and who, had hidden himself in an outhouse where he had seen the accused carrying the sheaf from the direction of Mr Kettell's farm. Mr Buckley denied that he had stolen the straw and stated that the farmer had given him the sheaf. James Buckley was found guilty of the crime and sentenced to one month's hard labour.

The Crewe Guardian at the time stated that PC Green was the type of Policeman who struck terror into the hearts of the lower classes.

On Monday the 24 February 1875, James Green informed his superior, Inspector Hulme that he was certain that Mr Buckley was up to his old tricks and would like to watch his premises at night to catch him red handed. At 7pm his wife Mary, sat down with PC Green to finish their meal before he set off to watch Mr Buckley a meal that turned out to be the last time she saw him alive. It was not until Wednesday the 26th February that Mary reported her husband missing and it was not until the Thursday that Inspector Hulme instructed PC Thomas Jones of the Wheelock Police station to search the ditches and fields around Mr Buckley's house at Elton Moss. With no success on the Thursday the following Friday PC Williamson and PC Booth were joined by Superintendent Rowbottom to drag the Trent and Mersey canal with borrowed equipment from the locals to see if the policeman had fallen into the water.

Acting on "Receipt of Private Information" Inspector Hulme went to James Buckley's house to question the gentleman about the disappearance of PC Green and while there received the news that a body had been found in the canal. Mr Buckley had extensive bruising and scratches on his face which he explained were from an incident when he fell out of a neighbour's apple tree (Mr Hill) that he was pruning while blood stained clothing that his wife, Martha Buckley, had recently washed were down to slaughtering.

After viewing the body of the policeman according to the Crewe Chronicle, Inspector Hulme then arrested Mr Buckley on suspicion of killing PC Green. When the police returned to the cottage on the Saturday, they interviewed his wife Martha Buckey who was living there with her two sons from a previous marriage and James Buckley's 16-month-old son. She was also arrested as an accomplice to the murder of PC Green after she had admitted to washing the blood-stained clothes.

Mr Buckley was brought before J St John Yates the local Magistrate at Sandbach on Saturday the 1 March 1873. Mr Charles Latham the local doctor had conducted the post mortem examination that morning and described the injuries to the packed court. Twenty-three cuts on the head and face, none of which could have caused the policeman's death which he said was mainly due to the rupturing of the bladder caused by a heavy kick, along with the shock from the cuts being a contributory factor. Dr Latham put the time of death at about 8 hours after his last meal which would put it at about 3am the following day the 25 February 1873. A local residents son gave a rambling statement to the court before Mr Buckley was sent to the local lock up followed soon after by his wife but not in the same cell.

When James and Martha Buckley were brought in front of the local coroner Mr W R Dunstan they were represented by Mr Richardson a barrister from Hanley who questioned his client as to his injuries from sliding and bumping from the tree in Mr Hill's garden (Falling while pruning) and stated that the police had not found any signs of a struggle at the Buckley residence.

Mrs Buckley was refused a discharge requested by Mr Richardson despite a glowing character reference from a Mr Dixon of Northwich.

A further inquest later in the week challenged the Buckley's statements and a Mr Campbell Brown from the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine was asked to examine the items given to him by the police including the blood-stained clothing which he concluded could be either animal or human. Mr Richardson the defendants lawyer also established that the police had failed to investigate the claims by his client that he had indeed killed a pig and that it was that carcass that had stained his clothing.

The case against Martha Buckley was dropped (9-10 March 1873) due to a lack of evidence after nine days inside but the case against Mr Buckley was considered enough to take it to the assizes.

Below is the report of the original inquest into PC Green's death.

THE MURDER OF A POLICEMAN (Cheshire Observer – Saturday 29 March 1873)

The adjourned inquest on the body of Police Constable James Green was held on Monday, at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Sandbach, before Mr W.S.R. Dunstan the district coroner. Mr Cooper, solicitor, represented the prisoner James Buckley; and Captain Arrowsmith the police.

Thomas Davies, who for more than 40 years had been in the employment of the Trent and Mersey Canal Company, and the depth of the canal in the vicinity of the point where the body of the deceased was found was 4ft 10in: and the depth did not vary much for the considerable distance. Boats passing along the canal and carrying 22 tons weight would draw 2ft 10½in of water. The largest boats on the canal would carry 27 or 28 tons. A boat passing down the canal would not touch a body lying at the bottom of the bed. All the boats he had seen on the canal had flat bottoms and no keel. – In Cross-

examination the witness said the constant opening of the locks would cause the water to draw a little, and so perhaps remove a body. In his opinion a passing boat could not cause the injuries on the head and face of the deceased, considering where the body lay. The bottom of the helm in the boats is sharp, but he had never seen it projected lower than the bottom of the boats.

Police Superintendent Rowbottom was recalled at his own request, and, as an addition to his previous evidence, said he had searched a heap of sand opposite the prisoner's house, and found that there had been an excavation beneath it of about eight feet in length and two feet wide. – In cross-examination witness said this night he accounted for the removal of a fence.

Joseph Wakefield, platelayer, said he saw the deceased about eight o'clock coming from the direction of a public-house; and Police Constable Williamson produced a hatchet and several butcher's knives which he had found in the prisoner's house.

This concluded the evidence brought by the police, and Mr Cooper proceeded to call witness on behalf of the prisoner.

John Hill, Ettiley Hill, said he had been sixty-two years in the employ of the Canal Company as a lock carpenter. He had assisted in taking many bodies from the canal; some of them had no bruises whatever, whilst others were cut and crushed almost to pieces. Among the boats which plied on the canal were some which were flat bottomed and others which had a keel. The bottoms of all the boats were sheathed with iron, and when the sheeting got loose it turned down and dragged along the bed of the canal, cutting with the sharpness of a knife anything it came across.

George Lewis, farmer, Moston; Joseph Turner, Elton Moss, retired tradesman: and Thomas Dodd, labourer, Moston, gave evidence, the effect of which has already been published.

The Coroner having summed up the evidence, the Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner Buckley.

We have the satisfaction of stating that the inhabitants of Sandbach, where poor Green resided previous to his death have originated a subscription for his widow and three children, aged respectively five years, three and one. The widow, we regret to add, is in a very delicate state of health, so much so that she is unable to attend even to the requirements of her children. The deceased officer having lost his life whilst in the execution of his duty, his wife and family have a claim upon the County for their support; and we are glad to know that the highest official in Cheshire intends to bring the matter before the Court of Quarter Sessions next month. The Magistrates comprising the Police Committee have only power to award the widow twelve months pay; and knowing this, the members of the Cheshire Constabulary have already commenced a subscription among themselves for her benefit, to which effort the Constabulary of Lancashire have generously given their assistance.

(Reports also appeared in the Liverpool Mercury – Tuesday 25 March 1873, Huddersfield Chronicle – Wednesday 26 March 1873, Cheshire Observer – Saturday 29 March 1873)

Mr Buckley was put on trial in early April 1873 before Mr Justice Lush who heard testaments that Mr Buckley had threatened PC Green after he had testified against him for stealing the straw and that the house of the suspect was near the canal making it an ideal place to dump the body. Another piece of evidence came to light during the trial that a knife belonging to the victim, PC Green had been found during a search of the accused cottage.

Dr Charles Latham repeated his results of the post mortem and Inspector Joseph Hulme spoke in moving terms about the constable saying that he had more confidence in the policeman than others and he had more latitude than others to the extent that PC Green was "given the freedom to pursue investigations on his own account, even to the point of carrying a privately-owned pistol when he went out that Monday night".

Mr Justice Lush also heard testament that George Lewis a Farmer from Moston had seen PC Green at Charles Tattnell's public house the Railway Hotel on the 24th February dressed in a corded jacket and an old hat. He then said that the policeman went on to the Burgesses, Fox Inn which was confirmed by plate layer Joseph Wakefield who had seen him outside the Tattnell's that evening when he had left at 8pm (Claimed by another witness) having had a glass of ale. Another witness claimed to have seen him at Moston Bridge on the Monday Evening (24 Feb 1873). The coroner looked at these movements as suspicious and also wondered why the policeman had refused help from a colleague saying that by 9pm he would be in hiding by Mr Buckley's cottage and so couldn't be found by a relief constable.

Neighbours of the prisoner stated that he had been home at 9pm and had heard no sounds of a struggle or seen any sight of one in the morning when they rose to a light snow covering over the yard.

Mrs Phillips also confirmed that the prisoner Mr Buckley had killed a pig about three weeks before the murder.

The question of more blood being found at the cottage on a waistcoat and some cobbles was explained by Mr Buckley as being from his son who had cut himself with a knife while his mother was at work in Crewe. Dr Charles Latham examined the child's cut and said that they would have bled profusely. The investigating team had failed to examine the child's pinafore when asked. The Police suggested that scratches found on the flagstones at the cottage had been caused by PC Green's boots but this was dismissed by the Judge who said it could be caused by anyone visiting the building.

Expert witness Thomas Alcock a watchmaker from 38 High Street, Sandbach was asked to examine the policeman's watch recovered from the body in the canal and found it to have stopped at 3.19am along with the glass being broken and the fingers damaged. In his opinion it had been damaged by an object which had been in contact with cinder, or similar material of the type used to make paths.

Joseph Turner a resident of Elton Moss who lived about 160 yards from Moss Bridge said he heard unpleasant voices from the canal during the night in question and had put it down to people in the boats which were tied up nearby. As to the question that PC Green's wounds could be caused by a boat were dismissed by Dr Charles Latham as false as in his opinion they were caused before his death.

Mr Bowen summed up the case for the defence for 80 minutes and the judge summed up the case before sending the jury out to consider their decision. After a brief 10 minutes they came back and pronounced James Buckley not guilty of the murder of PC Green and he was released to face the crowds of people outside the court who wanted to see the accused man before he caught a train from Chester to Crewe where he was again greeted by crowds who wanted to see who had been released from imprisonment.

James Buckley returned to his work as a gardener and farm labourer but by 1881 in the census he was a widow living with his son, Arthur. In September 1896, he died suddenly and an inquest was held by the coroner who decided that Buckley had died at the age of 69 from natural causes.

FUNERAL OF A POLICEMAN

The Funeral of PC Green took place at St Peter's Church in Elworth and was packed when the Revd G Littlewood conducted the service. There were about 2,000 onlookers for a procession to the church led by four constables bearing the coffin on their shoulders, his wife Mary aged 26 at the time and their elder 5-year-old son (Younger son not present according to the papers) along with relatives and members of the Police Force including Superintendent Rowbottom, Inspector Hulme and twenty constables in dress uniforms.

Mary Green however never recovered from the loss of her husband and 14 weeks after his funeral she died leaving her sons in the care of trustees of the estate.

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The Saturday 8 December 1877 edition of the Cheshire Observer reported on the Sandbach Petty Session on Monday (3 Dec 1877) at which Samuel Eaton of Moulton (Aged 46) was committed to Knutsford goal for three months for stealing a watch from a boat at Wheelock by magistrates G.W. Latham and F.H.R. Wilbraham esquires.

In 1883 the Cheshire Police Headquarters moved to a new building down the road to 142 Foregate Street, Chester.

SMALLWOOD DOUBLE MURDER.

1883 was the year of the "Smallwood Double Murder", when Thomas Earlam (Listed in some reference books as Samuel Carlam (British Executions Website) / Thomas Eastham) aged 64 (Born in 1820 in Smallwood near Congleton, Cheshire) and his common-law wife Mary Moarne (Mary Moran or Mary Mohan = British Executions Website) aged 62 who was virtually blind from soon after her birth in Ireland, were killed at their lodging house in 127 Turnpike Road (Also described as High Road), Smallwood just outside Sandbach.

On the 9 February 1883, their bodies were discovered by John Stack and Edward Sampey (or Samped), two lodgers at the house, with Thomas already lying dead from him having been brutally battered and Mary was barely alive from the attack. The house had also been robbed and a hammer was found next to the bodies. A tramp called Patrick Carey had disappeared soon after the bodies had been found was the only suspect of the murder.

Thomas Earlam and Mary Moarne (Mary Moran) were known locally as "Old Tommy" and "Old Mary" with Tommy having been a farmer before retiring and opening a Lodging House.

Patrick Carey alias John White was a married man whose wife and two children were living in Glossop and hadn't seen him for a number of years, thinking that Patrick was seeing another woman. He had

actually been staying in the Workhouse in Arclid for a while and then in the Earlam Lodging House in Smallwood for about eighteen months.

On the 2 February 1883, the 35 year old man walked down the road and knocked on the door of the Lodging House. The door was opened by Mary who by this time had difficulty seeing but still recognised her previous lodger and let Patrick into the house. He was then introduced to Thomas who shook his hand and agreed to let the Tramp stay as long as he wanted for a nominal fee. He was housed in the same room as Issac Jones and Edward Sempey.

The lodgers in the house at the time were Carey / White along with Issac Jones (Umbrella Mender), Edward Sempey (Farm Labourer), Mrs Lavinia Sharman (Sewing Woman) and John Stack (Rag and Bone Man).

On the 8 February 1883, Edward Sempey went to Sandbach Market in his best clothes which he had laid out on his bed the night before.

On the 9 February 1883, Edward Sempey went downstairs to find Thomas Earlam and Mary making breakfast with John Stack outside cleaning his rag and bone cart. By 9am Edward and John had left the lodging house, leaving Thomas and Mary in the kitchen with Patrick Carey still asleep upstairs.

At 12.15pm a Eugene Gorton passed by the lodging house and heard a faint groan from the cottage. By 12.40pm, Patrick Carey alias John White was seen by Mr James Austin leaving the building with a Paisley handkerchief with his belongings inside. A few minutes later a P.C. William Booth from Congleton Police saw the suspect not realising there had been a murder.

At 3pm Edward Sempey returned from his job as a Farm Labourer to discover the bodies of Thomas and Mary between the washroom and living-room. With Mary still breathing he then rushed to the nearby Bulls Head Public House for help. Mrs Platt administered to the wounds of Mary Moarne while a Mr Gorton rushed to Sandbach to call a Doctor and to summon the Police to the scene of the crime while a Mr Austin sort out the local Smallwood Constable. An hour later Sergeant Oldham of Sandbach Police with a number of Constables turned up at the cottage to start investigating the attack. In the next few days Superintendent Hindley of Middlewich Police arrived to take over the investigation along with the newly appointed Chief Constable of the Cheshire Force, Captain (Later Lt Colonel) John H. Hammersley who brought various Magistrates to the scene of the crime. An initial inquest into the death of Thomas Earlam was held at the Salamanca Inn at Smallwood with the health of Mary still in the balance as she was at the time in a coma.

With the only suspect being Patrick Carey, an appeal was put out into the local press and the Police Gazette. The report said that he had been staying at the lodgings for the last week and had been seen soon after the attack with a bundle of clothes. "Patrick Carey alias John White who had also tramped under the names of Jack or John, and will in all probability assume another name." He was described in the Police Gazette, or Hew-and-Cry, which was published for Ireland on every Tuesday and Friday in Dublin on Tuesday 27 February and the 6 March 1883 as being "about 35-36 years old, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches tall, stout build, tanned complexion with no whiskers or moustache, slightly pock pitted wearing a hard brown felt hat, long blue pilot cloth overcoat, corduroy trousers patched on the right knee with light cord, also at the bottom. Various items were stolen from the house including a suit of men's clothes, of blue-black worsted cloth, slightly ribbed and nearly new."

A Post Office Savings book belonging to the lodger Edward Sempey which had been wrapped in a Paisley handkerchief had been stolen. A reward of £100 was to be paid by Her Majesty's Government to any person other than a person belonging to a Police Force in the United Kingdom "who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderer or murderers, and the Secretary of State for the Home Department will advise the grant of Her Majesty's gracious pardon to any accomplice, not being the person who actually committed the murder, who shall give such evidence as shall lead to a likely result. Information to be given at the Chief Constable's Office, County Police Office, Chester or at any Police Station."

On the 12 February 1883, an inquest was held into the death of Thomas Earlam gave the result as being that he had been unlawfully killed by person or persons unknown.

Census records from 1861 show lodgers at 127 Turnpike Road as Thomas Bailey who was born in Macclesfield in 1801 (Aged 60) and was a broom maker. Thomas Earlam was 39 and the lodging house Keeper with Mary Moarne 31 as a general servant from Ireland.

Survivor of the initial attack, Mary Moarne (Moran) was described on the 1881 census as being the housekeeper of the lodgings and was born in 1818 in Ireland. She died on the morning of the 16 February 1883, from wounds sustained in the attack by killer Patrick Carey.

On the 24 February 1883, Patrick Carey (John White) had been found by Police Detective Sergeant Jackson at a Booze / Lodging House in 1 Court, Ashley Lane, Charter Street, Manchester where he was arrested and taken to court wearing clothes he had taken from the Smallwood lodgings and belonging to Mr Edward Sempey. Patrick had tried to pawn the clothes he had stolen to a local woman called

Mary Murphy who had refused the sale. She was also found in the Manchester area at the time of the arrest of Mr Carey. After an appearance in a Manchester Court, Superintendent Hindley applied for Mr Carey and Mary Murphy to be moved to Sandbach for their trial for Murder by Patrick with Mary facing a charge of Receiving Stolen Goods (Items from the Smallwood Lodgings).

News spread quickly back to Sandbach that the couple were on their way to the Railway Station where a group of 2,000 people turned out to greet the Police and to see the murderer.

The following day some 600 to 700 people gathered outside the Police Station on the Square to again catch a glimpse of the Murderer (This report may have been wrong as the Police Station had moved to Bold Street and although the Original Town Hall on the Market Square was possibly still in use as a Court the Literary Institute next to the Police Station was also said to hold "Police Courts" which this was). They were however thwarted as Magistrate Mr G. W. Latham decided to hold the hearing in the Police Station in-front of Chief Constable John H. Hammersley and a number of press reporters. The Sandbach Police Court on the 27 February 1883 was held with Mr Wilbraham, Captain Kennedy and Mr E Ashton presiding. Mr Patrick Carey (John White) was remanded in custody for a week at Knutsford before being sent for trial at Chester Crown Court, with Mary Murphy being released on Bail.

According to some reports at this time, Murderer Patrick Carey was actually a father of four and was also known as John or Jack White and it is possible that he was the same Patrick Carey who on the 28th June 1876 had been convicted of Larceny at Nether Knutsford and sentenced to two months in prison, which may account for him being of no fixed abode and living as a "Tramp". This trial on the 28th June 1876 also convicted a Mary Ann Davies of Larceny and Indebtedments (4 Months in jail), Emma Place for Larceny after a previous summery conviction (3 Months) and John Lea for Larceny (2 Months) with William Gaynor, Wright Hurst and Henry Andrew all being acquitted of the crime.

After the appearance in the Sandbach Police Court, Patrick Carey alias John White was taken to Chester jail and on the 12th April 1883, was sent before Mr Justice Hawkins, with Mr Marshall and Eldon Banks prosecuting, with Mr Colt Williams appearing for the Defence.

Patrick Carey pleaded guilty to stealing the clothes and other items but throughout the trial continued to plead innocence to the crime of Murder. The Jury took just six minutes to convict Carey of the Murder during the trial at the Chester Assizes and he was sentenced to death by hanging.

While in jail his wife and children visited him before he was hung by executioner William Marwood at Chester prison at 8am on the 8th May 1883.

Patrick Carey's last words before he was hung were "My Jesus, My God, Have Mercy and Compassion on me a poor wretched sinner". He then entered the record books as being the last person to be executed at Chester Castle (Prison).

In 1891, an intoxicated tramp called Teresa Virgo from Liverpool was convicted at Sandbach Magistrates Court by Major Kennedy of being drunk in the Market Square, Sandbach on Monday the 20 April 1891. PC Henry Eden stated that at 11.30pm he heard the prisoner making a noise. A man was with her. And was trying to persuade her to go to her lodgings. This she declined to do and sat on a step. The man tried to drag her along, and she then began to be noisy and made use of abusive language.

The prisoner said at her trial that she was sorry for what had occurred and was fined 5d including costs or in default of payment seven days imprisonment with hard labour. She went to gaol.

PC Henry Eden was born in Leeds in 1867 the son of George Eden (1841 in Leeds) and Jane Eden (1840 in Unchard, Staffs) with a sister Sarah J Eden (.b. 1864 in Burslem Staffs) in 1891 he was living at 31 Wheelock Road (Now Crewe Road) a few doors down from the Cricketers Arms as a lodger with Samuel Fox (37), Eliza Fox (30), Alice Fox (3) Edwa Fox (10 Month Old).

In 1911, Henry Eden had married Sarah Eden (43 Assistant School Teacher), and had a Son Henry Eden (16 Coal Minor Hooker on), Daughter Ethel Eden (11) Oswald Eden (5) and was living with his widowed mother Jane Eden (75) at Englesea Brook, Weston, Crewe and was a Coal Minor, Hewer.

In 1896 the Sergeant at Sandbach was Charles Green with six men based at the Bold Street, station.

HOPE STREET SOLICITORS

In 1896 and possibly before there was a solicitors at 11 Hope Street, Sandbach. Robert Bygott and Sons also had an office in Crewe and Middlewich and at this time Robert was also the "Clerk to the Magistrates" when they met in Sandbach and Middlewich for their Petty Sessions.

The firm continued at Hope Street until about 1980 when Robert Parr Solicitors took over the building.

CHESHIRE POLICE

In 1896 there were 11 Divisions of Cheshire Police with the Chester Headquarters at 113 Foregate Street.

CHIEF CONSTABLE	Lt Colonel John H. Hammersley.
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE AND SUPERINTENDENT	Lt Colonel G.H. Cope.
SUPERINTENDENT	W. Leigh (Chief Clark)
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR	David Pearson.

DIVISIONS in 1896

Altrincham, Broxton, Eddisbury, Hyde, Macclesfield, Middlewich (see Below), Nantwich (Incl; Crewe), North Wirral, Runcorn, South Wirral and Stockport.

MIDDLEWICH DIVISION Superintendent Nathan Large at Middlewich.
Inspector Jonathan Dodd at Middlewich

- Included
- Alsager
- Astbury
- Betchton
- Booth Lane
- Brereton
- Buglawton
- Castle Northwich
- Davenham
- Goostrey
- Hartford
- Holmes Chapel (Sergeant John Marshall in Charge at Middlewich Rd)
- Latch Dennis
- Leftwich
- Lostock Gramam
- Mow Cop
- Moulton
- Newton
- Radnor
- Rode Heath
- SANDBACH (Sergeant Charles Green at Bold Street with 6 men)**
- Scholar Green
- Smallwood
- WHEELOCK**
- Wimboldsley
- Winsford
- Winnington
- Witton

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By 1901 John Thomas Robinson (.b. 1854 Aged 37 in Macclesfield a Police Constable) joined the Sandbach Police and was housed at 26 Bradwall Street, Sandbach. He would retire from the force by the 1911 census.

BELOW ARE HIS ENTRIES IN THE CENSUS.

- 1891 CENSUS (27 Paddock Road, Eccleston, Cheshire)
- John Thomas Robinson (.b. 1854 Aged 37 in Macclesfield a Police Constable)
- Judith Robinson (.b. 1853 Aged 38 in Macclesfield)
- Berth Robinson (.b. 1876 Aged 15 in Macclesfield)
- John W Robinson (.b. 1877 Aged 14 in Macclesfield)
- Edmund Robinson (.b. 1897 Aged 12 in Macclesfield)
- Catherine Robinson (.b. 1881 Aged 30 in Sandbach / Brimstage, Cheshire)
- Rebecca Robinson (.b. 1884 Aged 17 in Sandbach / Altringham, Cheshire)
- May Robinson (.b. 1887 Aged 14 in Sandbach / Altrincham / Altringham, Cheshire)
- Maria Robinson (.b. 1889 Aged 12 in Eccleston, Lancashire a Confectioner)

- 1901 CENSUS (26 Bradwall Street, Sandbach)
- John Thomas Robinson (.b. 1854 Aged 47 in Macclesfield a Police Constable)

Judith Robinson (.b. 1853 Aged 48 in Macclesfield)
Berth Robinson (.b. 1876 Aged 25 in Macclesfield)
Catherine Robinson (Later Catherine Flockton)
(.b. 1881 Aged 30 in Sandbach / Brimstage, Cheshire)
Rebecca Robinson (.b. 1884 Aged 17 in Sandbach / Altringham, Cheshire)
May Robinson (.b. 1887 Aged 14 in Sandbach / Altringham / Altringham, Cheshire)
Maria Robinson (.b. 1889 Aged 12 in Eccleston, Lancashire a Confectioner)
Frank Robinson (.b. 1892 Aged 9 in Eccleston, Lancashire a Moulder)
Gladys Robinson (.b. 1894 Aged 7 in Sandbach)

1911 CENSUS (26 Bradwall Street, Sandbach)
John Thomas Robinson (.b. 1854 Aged 57 in Macclesfield a Police Pensioner)
Judith Robinson (.b. 1853 Aged 58 in Macclesfield)
Maria Robinson (.b. 1889 Aged 22 in Eccleston, Lancashire a Confectioner)
Frank Robinson (.b. 1892 Aged 19 in Eccleston, Lancashire
a Moulder at Foden's Ltd)
Gladys Robinson (.b. 1894 Aged 17 in Sandbach)
Catherine Flockton (Catherine Robinson)
(.b. 1881 Aged 30 in Sandbach / Brimstage, Cheshire)
A Widowed Dress Maker.
May Flockton (.b. 1911 Aged 5 Months)

In January 1917 John's son, Frank Robinson was killed in action as part of the "Royal Engineers".
He had been aged 24 years 7 Months when he enlisted on the 11 December 1915 and was approved on
the 2 June 1916 at Chatham (No 67096).

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In the 1902 Kelly's directory Sergeant Charles Dean and 6 men occupied the building in Bold Street
and the same directory in 1906 still lists the following serving officers at Sandbach, Charles Dean
(Sergeant of Police living at Hightown, Sandbach) and William Elwood (Constable living at Bellevue
Terrace, Sandbach).

CHESHIRE POLICE

In 1902 there were 11 Superintendents, 13 Inspectors, 79 Sergeants and 334 Constables in Cheshire

CHIEF CONSTABLE	Lt Colonel John H. Hammersley.
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE	W Leah based at the County Police Office, Chester.
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR	William Hoole, Chester.

The Middlewich Division of which Sandbach was still part of was under David Pearson at the County
Constabulary office at Middlewich. Inspector John Sherwin was based at Northwich

1911 CENSUS (Bold Street, County Police Station in Sandbach)

Thomas Woollam (.b. 1870 Aged 41 from Whitchurch a Police Sergeant)

Edith Woollam (.b. 1881 Aged 30 in Crewe)

The couple were married for 8 years and had two children.

Herbert Edward Woollam (.b. 1904 Aged 7 in Cheadle)

Doris Winefred Woollam (.b. 1909 Aged 2 in Sandbach)

The 1911 Census also shows a Mr Richard Bostock (.b. 1868) and his wife Mrs Alice Bostock (.b.
1869) who were both born in Sandbach and now resided in the Police Station, Stretton, Warrington and
he was a Police Officer Acting Sergeant. They had two sons, Clunie (Aged 16), Rufus (Aged 13) and a
daughter Edith (Aged 11) as well as a niece staying with them called Elizabeth Smith (Aged 3).

SANDBACH

In 1914, William Lawson was the Sergeant in charge with six men in Bold Street.

NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

It was also a time when many of the police wanted to volunteer to fight for their country and this left
the country with a lack of officers willing to enforce the law. In 1914 Sir Edward Ward the Chief
Commissioner of Police, called upon volunteers to become Special Constables wanting men not able to
fight for one reason or another to apply for the positions, however journalist Nina Boyle in the
newspaper "VOTE" called upon women to apply for the jobs as well. Margaret Damer Dawson (.b. 12

June 1873 at 1 York Road, Hove in Sussex) and Nina Boyle joined forces to found the Women Police Volunteers with Margaret taking on the role of Commandant in 1915 with Mary Allen (.b. 1878 in Cardiff) as her Sub Commandant. Mainly made up of suffragettes the movement grew but in February 1915 when they were asked to enforce a Police Curfew against women Nina and Margaret fell out leaving Margaret and Mary in sole control of the volunteers working for free. As the movement grew the organisers decided to change the name from the "Women Police Volunteers" to the "Women's Auxiliary Service". When the Armistice was signed there were over 357 members of the Women's Police Service. Margaret and Mary decided to ask the new Police Commissioner Sir Nevil Macready to make the women a permanent feature of the Police Force but he refused saying that women recruited by Margaret were "Too educated" and would "Irritate" male members of the force. He did however feel that women could be recruited into the force and so he decided to recruit and train his own women for the new Police Force.

Cheshire Police did hire women during the war with 12 ladies being employed in Birkenhead in 1917 with 2 of them being employed after the war on a more formal basis. These women were the exception to the rule and according to Peter Wroe from the Museum of Policing in Cheshire website as the County didn't employ women until 1944.

In Sandbach under the "Special Constabulary Act 1914" the Chief Constable appointed men (and 12 Women in Birkenhead.) to this Second Police Reserve as Special Constables who were sworn in and had the full powers of Police Constables with Warrant Cards, a Baton, a Whistle and a Badge issued to allow them to do their new job.

At the start of WW1 (28 July 1914) there were a number of anti-German riots and attacks including one on a German Pork Butcher in Crewe resulting in the arrest of 17 persons charged with a breach of the peace.

At the beginning of August 1914, a local Police Constable passing the Holly Bush Inn, Sandbach noticed flames from the rear of the house. On investigation the Constable discovered the body of landlord George Eccles in flames. He immediately called out the Sandbach Fire Brigade to put out the fire and an investigation was started into the landlord's death. (*4 Aug 1914 Liverpool Echo Pg 6*)

A report in the 30 June 1916, Nantwich Guardian gave an account of an assault on a PC Green and Mr John Walsh of 7 Steven Street at 9am on the previous Saturday by Mr Dobbins who was at the time drunk. (Possibly not Sandbach)

At the end of September 1915 at a Petty Session various members of the public were given the job of special constable to cover the area during the First World War.

1915	Mr George Boulton (Special Constable for Sandbach)
1915	Mr William Gibson (Special Constable for Moston)
1915	Mr Herbert Farr (Special Constable for Moston)
1915	Mr Herbert Chesters (Special Constable for Wheelock)

The 1916, Sandbach Petty Sessions were held before Mr E Hartban (In the Chair), Messrs J.F.T. Rowds, William Foden Mr J. T. Dunson and Mr S Hollinshead.

The 1917, Sandbach Petty Sessions were held before Messrs J.F.T. Rowds (In the Chair), William Foden and W.M. Cross.

In 1919, everything changed in society and the same with the Police force as prior to 1914, forces were allowed to pay their officers what they wanted. In 1918 the Metropolitan Police went on strike to have their Union the "National Union of Police and Prison Officers", recognised by their employers. On the 1st March 1919, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Desborough was formed to look at Pay and Conditions for all Police Officers in England and Wales. One condition of the new pay was the loss of the Union something officers were not prepared to do and so they went on strike in 1919 to keep their freedom. The result of the strike was an increase in better conditions but also didn't see the Union's power increasing; it was however kept as a representative body for discussions.

In April 1920 the Chief Constable was authorised to purchase ex War Department motor cycles for each division at a cost of £75 each and one with a side car for the Headquarters costing £110.

On the 18 November 1921 Mr J. F. T. Royds presented medals to sixteen members of the Special Police who did duty during the Great War (WW1).

In 1930, the force were allowed to buy cars and purchased three Alvis Cars to work alongside some new motorcycles also purchased at this time.

The 1930's also saw the first automated traffic lights installed in Cheshire at Crewe (1931).

In 1934, Cheshire Police introduced Radio's to their officer's patrol cars to allow them to communicate while on duty. The force also introduced its first Criminal Investigation Department (CID) based at the Chester Headquarters. In 1935, a training centre for new recruits was set up in Crewe on Nantwich Road. The following year in 1936 a Forensic Science Laboratory was set up to help with investigations and was housed in a wooden hut next to the HQ Building.

1938 CENSUS / ENGLAND WALES REGISTER (Police Station. Bold Street, Sandbach)

Edward J Stokes (.b. 25 Feb 1890 Aged 49 a Police Sergeant)

Edith A Stokes (.b. 30 June 189 Aged 50 unpaid Domestic Duties)

James C Stokes (.b. 25 Sept 1912 Aged 27 unemployed Hotel Waiter)

Kathleen E Stokes (Later Cliffe) (.b. 18 July 1922 Aged 17 a Salt Packer)

Barbara J Stokes (.b. 4 Feb 1928 Aged 11 at School)

1939 CENSUS / ENGLAND WALES REGISTER (Hawthorn Villas, Wheelock, Sandbach)

Daniel Davenport (.b. 18 Feb 1864 a Retired Police Officer)

Agnes M Davenport (Later Davies) (.b. 24 Feb 1899 Domestic

During the 1939-45, Second World War 254 Constables and 31 Cadets from Cheshire signed up to fight in the armed forces.

The Second World War also saw the instillation of an Air Raid Siren on the top of the Bold Street station which was used to call attention to an Air Raid by German planes. It was kept on the station roof after the war for use by the local fire brigade who used it to call retained firemen to a "Shout" until it was moved in 1961 to their own new station tower on the Common.

Nearby Congleton Borough Police Force in 1940 had Mr R W James as Chief Constable of Congleton, Mr J N Solly M.C. as the Inspector of the Special Constabulary with about 51 police and detectives.

In 1944, Cheshire Police appointed its first POLICE WOMAN with 12 women from the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps which had been set up during WW2, officially joined the regular force having been appointed as Police Constables.

A picture from the war years in Congleton showed members of the Constabulary in a group photograph with two women police constables, Peggy Roger and Elsie Green (Later Thompson). Peggy Roger lived at the Bridestones in Congleton and walked down to the station each day and it was recounted that as she left each day the Chief Constable would remark "Roger you must let me know as soon as possible if the Germans land on the Cloud". Peggy's sister was called Betty and worked at Capesthorne Hall which had been requisitioned for the war. Brother George was a famed war photographer and journalist.

The Sandbach Police organised a dance at the Town Hall on April 4th 1945 on behalf of the Police Benevolent Fund. The Billy Gibbons Band was engaged to provide the music.

In 1947, Congleton, Hyde, Macclesfield and Stalybridge merged with the Cheshire Constabulary and in 1948 the force had 1,016 policemen and 34 policewomen.

Building work started in 1952 to produce over 500 houses in a new housing scheme which would be owned by the Police Committee.

Cheshire Constabulary also purchased various buildings to house its Officers around the county. These buildings included some on the Palmer Road estate in Sandbach which housed policemen and their families in about 9 or 10 houses which had been purchased between 1968 and 1971. The force also purchased a few houses in neighbouring Ormerod Close which were occupied by officers who were attached to the Motorway Unit based at Knutsford Services. However, a change in policy in 1974 meant that the houses were no longer needed as Officers had to find their own accommodation rather than rely on the force to provide a home and so the buildings were surplus to requirements and were sold off by the Cheshire Constabulary, mainly to those occupying them.

The 1960's saw the force investing in new modern Police Stations to replace the 1896 buildings they had acquired at the start of the Cheshire Constabulary.

The 1961, Annual Police Ball was held at Sandbach Town Hall with music provided by Ralph Cowdall with various policemen attending including PC Bailey, PC Barlow, PC Clarke, PC Jones and PC Wright.

In 1961, Traffic Wardens were introduced to Cheshire. Sandbach by the late 1960's had two wardens Beryl Brindley and Jean Langford whose job it was to keep the roads clear and also at various times to act as crossing wardens in Congleton Road, Offley Road and Elworth when the lollipop person was unavailable. Mr Coppenhall was one of these on Congleton Road with Elizabeth Bailey on Offley Road which were installed at these places due to public demand for safety for the new school built in the late 1960's. Beryl recalled that the Police Officers would drive them to the location of the crossing and then would sometimes leave them there on their own, possibly returning for them after the school had opened or on a number of occasions they would park their car a little further away and wait for them to finish their job before driving her back to the station or the town where she would continue to do her job as a Traffic Warden. Wardens in the 1960's were not out to book all cars in the street they were at the time tasked with educating the drivers to the correct procedure written in the highway code. This also meant that to book a car disobeying the law they would have to wait 10 minutes while observing the car to see if the owner returned to the vehicle before being allowed to book them for the fine of £2. There were however occasions when a visiting senior officer was coming to the town that they had to impose the law a little bit more or should I say be seen to impose the law on habitual offenders including one shopkeeper on the corner of Crewe Road and Middlewich Road who parked his van for a long time in a restricted area while he unloaded and presumably had a cup of coffee and served a few customers before moving on. It was not unknown for Beryl to be told by a Senior Officer to move the vehicle as it was obstructing the road and she had to have stiff words with the shopkeeper. Traffic Warden Jean Langford knew her job and a story told by Beryl shows the power of the traffic warden at the time. Sandbach was on the route of various military convoys that came off the M6 and headed towards Nantwich, Crewe and North Wales. On one occasion Jean was on traffic duty directing the cars in the centre of the town when one of these convoys came through. She put her hand up to stop the military vehicles from moving when the officer in the lead jeep put his head out of the window and told her that they were the Queen's Army and she should let them pass. Jeans priority was the other vehicles and possibly people crossing so she refused to let them continue on their journey until she had sorted out the other civilian vehicles etc. The 1960's also had another job for the Traffic Wardens as in the middle of Sandbach in front of the Town Hall were a set of Traffic Lights. It was the job of the Wardens to pop along to the lights when Foden's and ERF's were finishing for the day to change the timing of the lights to allow the workers to get home quickly and not clog up the town. They would also reset them back to their normal settings for the rest of the day with a little button connected to the control box.

At the start of 1965 Margaret Hare was asked by one of her neighbours a local policeman if she would be interested in a cleaning job and making cups of tea for the police at Bold Street. Having just come out of Hospital, Margaret only wanted a temporary job and so agreed to have an interview. When she turned up in her finery to meet the station officer she was very nervous but what happened next was very quick as she was introduced by her friend the Officer took one look at her and said "Can you start tomorrow" and that was that. Margaret was soon put upon as she started at 6.30am when Officers were starting to come on duty they asked her if she could make them some breakfast. In those days there were no cornflakes for workers it was bacon and eggs with toast and occasionally some black pudding which she would then take their orders and what they hadn't got in she would pop down the road to Yates Butchers to get for their fry-up. So keen were the policemen to have their early morning breakfast they soon started to pick up Margaret in the morning, with her loaf of bread and take her to the station.

MOONLIGHT FLIT TO A NEW STATION.

In June 1965, Sandbach Police did a "Moonlight Flit" from their offices in Bold Street to rooms behind the Courtrooms in Middlewich Road (The Magistrates Court were opposite what is now Cheshire East's Headquarters, Westfields) a building that was formally the Congleton Rural District Council Offices and were built by John Stringer.

The first enquiry at the new offices was at 3 O Clock when a man asked them where the Police Station was!

Margaret Hare was asked if she would continue to work for the police at their new premises and after seeing them decided to stay on to clean the building and to make those all-important breakfasts and cups of tea. She also didn't want to forget the old Bold Street station and before it was demolished to make way for a new Barclays Bank (Who paid £9,000 for the site) she acquired the Union Flag that flew on the top of the building. This Flag would accompany her to all the stations in Sandbach until she retired and then on a trip to the Counties Police Museum in Warrington she donated it to their exhibition.

Sandbach had two police officers and a sergeant permanently based in the town, but because of its proximity to the Motorway it was also the signing in place for the Motorway patrols and so at one time you could have about 20 people in the station plus many senior officers from both Congleton and Crewe who turned up for various reasons. Tuesdays were also busy as this was the day of the trials in the Courtroom and so more officers from the surrounding area turned up to the station wanting to be fed and supplied with drinks. It became a very friendly place for Margaret as she got to know many of the Policemen and they soon became part of her extended family. When she decided to lean to drive it was Sandbach Police who taught her and also took her to the test centre.

In the 1970's Her Majesty the Queen visited the Crewe area and was due to arrive at Crewe Station before visiting a number of farms in the area and then going up the Motorway to the Airport. The procedure for such an occasion needs a bit of practice to make sure that everyone knows what they are doing and so the Motorway Patrol needed someone to stand in for Her Majesty. Who better than Margaret Hare their cleaner and friend who needed little persuasion to put on her best clothes and to be taken in the Queen's transport from the Station in Crewe and then round the route the Queen was to take while at the same time giving a Royal wave to those passing by and chatting to the farmers so the escort could time the visit. With outriders and Police cars in-front and behind the convoy at the end of the trip then joined the M6 at Bartomley before being escorted to Manchester Airport in about 17 minutes. The trip back however took a little longer as there were not flashing blue lights or outriders but what a superb day for Margaret one she will never forget, Her day as the Queen.

By the end of the 1980's, court proceedings were moved to Crewe and soon after it was decided to sell the building and create a new temporary Police station opposite. After a number of occupants in the old courthouse the building was offered for sale by Right Move on the 16 October 2013 for £275,000 but the building was later withdrawn from sale only to be offered to HB Community Solutions Living Ltd who then put in an application to demolish the courthouse and erect a three-storey accommodation building with 15 supported living apartments (Application 14/5285c) for people with physical and learning disabilities. This application was approved by Cheshire East on the 30 March 2015 and on Wednesday the 12 August 2015 the bulldozers moved in to knock down this historic building in the town.

In 1964 work started on the new Cheshire Police Headquarters on Nuns Road, Chester and was opened in 1967.

In 1965, Chief Constable Mr H Watson introduced 15 Motor Cycle Police to travel along main roads and the Motorway. By the end of the year there were twice as many Police on bikes looking after our roads.

In 1967 Cheshire Police introduced the "Panda Car" to their fleet of cars.

This was also a time of change for the organisation of the force with nine divisions being introduced in 1967 based at Chester, Crewe, Altrincham, Macclesfield, Northwich, Stalybridge, Stockport Birkenhead and Wallasey.

In February 1968, the Police Station in Bold Street was demolished in preparation to build a bank on its footprint.

In 1971 the Cheshire Police Force introduced a Drug Squad to deal with the increasing amount of illegal drugs coming into the area. The squads were based at Stockport, Chester and Bromborough with 10 officers.

TEMPORARY BUILDING TO BRICK BUILT STATION

Sandbach was also ready for a change after moving to a portacabin opposite the magistrates court in the 1980's it was decided to build a new station for the officers and staff and so the Sandbach Police moved back on a temporary basis to their old station and a portacabin behind the Courthouse until a new building had been erected.

In April 1990 the new purpose-built Police Station on Middlewich Road next to Westfields the home of Congleton Borough Council was ready for duty and the officers and cleaner Margaret Hare took their work back over the road. The building was officially opened by the Chairman of the County Council's Police Committee Cheshire in May 1990.

However, the new police station soon became a closed building to the public as only a direct phone link to Winsford headquarters was made available for the public to contact the constabulary with the police using it as a stopping off point and administration building.

A year later from the opening of the new station, Beryl Brindley retired as a Traffic Warden having given 17 years of service.

In 2003 the Cheshire Police Headquarters moved to bigger premises at Clemonds Hey, Winsford.

On the 5 August 2005 police were called to the back of the Iceland store on the High Street after delivery men discovered the body of Peter Harris while they were delivering to the store at 5.15am.

Peter had sustained head injuries and had died at the scene. Sean Carrahar was later charged with his murder.

In 1855 Sandbach Police had dealt with a suicide / murder and in 2009 they had a similar case when Sarah Richardson was stabbed to death by her estranged husband after she had changed her Facebook from married to single. Her ex-husband Edward Richardson killed Sarah at her parent's home in Sandbach before he headed to Congleton where he slashed his own wrists. Officers called to the crime discovered Mr Richardson 40 minutes after the killing and took him to hospital where he was charged with murder.

On the 10 September 2011 the Police held its first Open Day at the station and Westfields Car Park. On the 4 August 2013, four men were accused of the attempted murder of 26 year old David Johnson in Birch Garden, Sandbach.

On the 11 June 2015 the emergency services were called to Sandbach Police Station when it became the centre of attention after a suspicious letter was taken to the station by a member of the public. It sparked a major incident when the contents were found to be an unknown substance. Two Fire engines an Ambulance and specialist units were called to join the Police in dealing with the item which turned out to be harmless but the activity certainly gave the people of Sandbach something to talk about on Facebook.

In 2015 Sandbach became part of the Crewe division, one of 8 Local Policing Units based in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port, Macclesfield (Including Congleton), Northwich, Runcorn, Warrington and Widnes.

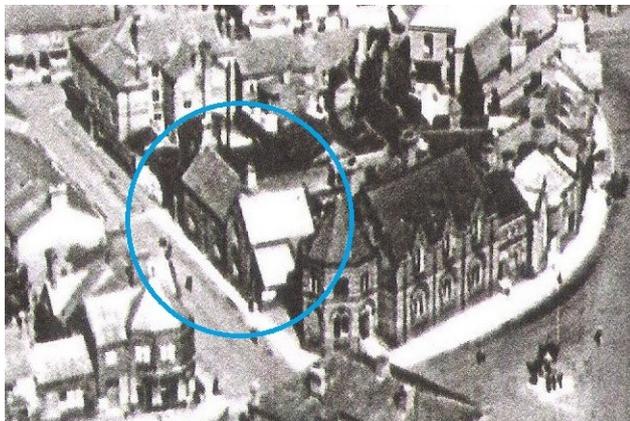
In July 2015 the Chief Constable decided that it would be better if Sandbach PC's could be briefed at the Crewe or Macclesfield Headquarters leaving the Sandbach Station left alone for longer periods of time.

In May 2016 it was announced that Cheshire Police would be wearing a "Hard Cap" Rather than a Hard Helmet as was traditionally worn giving the impression of a more relaxed force but still with the protection needed on their heads. The unisex hats were first tried out in Northwich and Chester and were proposed in 2014 but took two years to make sure they were suitable for officers, making Cheshire the first force in the country to adopt these across the board in 2016.

In March 2018 there was an investigation into a possible murder in Town Fields, Sandbach.



(1760 Police Station / Now a Shop)



(Bold Street 1857+ / Demolished Feb 1968)



(Bold Street 2016)

Bold Street Station 1857 to 1965? (in 1914 Kelly's Directory)



(1965 to 1980's now demolished)

(Site of the Police Station at the back of the Magistrate's Court)

Temporary building opposite.



(1990 Police Station, 19 May 2004 pic)

EXTRA INFO

Sandbach Special Constable Sergeant 568 John Edward Hind was 44 years as a Special Constable making him the longest serving Police Special in the area (.D. 21 Sept 1970).

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POLICE HOUSES IN SANDBACH

- Abbey Road (Near an opening – There is a crest still on the building)
- Cookesmere Road (2X)
- Crewe Road opposite Park Lane
- Elworth Road, Elworth (Number 70)
- Hungerford Place (Possibly Number 24 / 22 with crest on building)
- Lightly Close near the Salt Line (Possibly Number 109)
- Market Square (At the back of the shops next to Godfrey William's)
- Middlewich Road
- Palmer Road (Various on the left hand side)
- Platt Avenue (By the Council Offices and opposite the Girl's School side entrance)
- Third Avenue (3X)

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POLICE STATIONED AT SANDBACH (Not all known)

DATE	NAME (Rank etc.)
1855	Constables Walker and William Faram
1857	Superintendent William Faram (See above)

1861 PC Dale (County Force)
 1866 Inspector / Sergeant Hulme (Sandbach Police)
 To 1873 PC James Green (Killed on duty) (earned just over £1 a week)
 1873 Superintendent Rowbotton
 1873 PC Thomas Jones (Wheelock Police)
 1873 PC Williamson
 1873 PC Booth
 1883 Sergeant Oldham (Market Square Police Station)
 1891 PC Henry Eden (.b. 1867)
 1896 +- Sergeant Charles Green at Bold Street with 6 men
 1902 to 1906+- Sergeant Charles Dean (Sergeant of Police living at Hightown, Sandbach)
 1906 +- Constable William Elwood (Living at Bellevue Terrace, Sandbach).
 1911 Thomas Woollam (.b. 1870 Aged 41 from Whitchurch a Police Sergeant at Bold St)
 1914 Sergeant William Lawson (Sergeant in charge with six men in Bold Street)
 1915 Mr George Boulton (Special Constable for Sandbach)
 1915 Mr William Gibson (Special Constable for Moston)
 1915 Mr Herbert Farr (Special Constable for Moston)
 1915 Mr Herbert Chesters (Special Constable for Wheelock)
 1920's – 1930's Sergeant William James Bendall (Sergeant)
 1936 to 1960's Les Bendall
 1938 Edward J Stokes (.b. 25 Feb 1890 Aged 49 a Police Sergeant at Bold St)
 1954 to 1966-7 Harry Elder (.D. 1979)
 1950's Sergeant Ambrose Mort
 1960's Keith Hopley
 1960's – 1970's Sergeant Andy Findlayson
 2009 to date PCSO "Spike" Elliott
 Tbc PCSO Suzanne Green
 Tbc to Jan 2022 PC Steve Dutton

SANDBACH POLICE Cheshire Constabulary website 2017-18.

Sergeant Claire Lloyd
 PC Mark Cook
 PC Barbara Evans
 PC Deborah Jerman
 PC Louise Austin
 PCSO "Spike" Elliott (2009 to Date)
 PCSO Suzanne Green
 PCSO Anthony Lemon
 PCSO Jill Cope
 PCSO Nigel Hobbs

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CHESHIRE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS and Police killed on duty.

(1984 Police Memorial Trust established to erect memorials to serving officers killed in action. / Police Roll of Honour Trust)

1788 **Police Officer John Parry killed in the line of duty** while arresting a suspect on Warrant in Chester.
 He died in December 1788 while arresting a man for assaulting his wife. (Chester Police)
 1863 **PC Daniel Lalor died** on the 23 March 1863 and was discovered dead in the yard of the Commercial Hall in Chester having been on night duty. (ChesterCity Police)
 1867 The "Fenian Plot" by Irish Nationalists intended to seize ChesterCastle and take all its weapons. Cheshire Police received information about the plot on Sunday the 10th February 1867 and immediately enrolled 500 Special Constables under Mr G.L. Fenwich the Chief Constable. Along with the military who guarded the castle armoury they thwarted the plot by about 2,000 "Finians" who had come to the area.
 1873 On the 24 February 1873**PC James Green (.b. 1836 .D. 24 Feb 1873 aged 36) was murdered** while on duty.
 His body was dumped in the Trent and MerseyCanal near Elworth (Moston).
 (Sandbach / Middlewich Police of Cheshire Constabulary)
 1885 **PC John Miller** was fatally injured when he was run down by a horse while on duty at local races on the 24 July 1885. (Cheshire Constabulary)
 1887 **PC James Davies** was found drowned on his beat at night in suspicious circumstances

- on the 17 December 1887 aged 44. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1891 **PC Joseph Darlington** died on the 11 September 1891 aged 36 when he collapsed while chasing youths who were causing a nuisance. (ChesterCity Police)
- 1894 **Police Constable Charles Alfred Cartledge killed in the line of duty** when he was fatally injured stopping a disturbance. He died on the 23 January 1894 aged 49 when he intervened in a disturbance while he was off duty. (Congleton Borough Police)
- 1897 **PC Henry Williamson** died on the 10 November 1897 aged 49 from injuries sustained when he fell while chasing a suspect (Cheshire Constabulary).
- 1900 **Police Constable Alfred Kerns killed in the line of duty** when he was fatally injured while struggling with two men and sustained a fractured skull on the 7 March 1900 aged 42. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1909 **PC John Edward Edmonds** died on the 26 February 1909 aged 38 when he fell off a wall and sustained injuries while checking premises. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1909 The Gorse Hall Murder took place on the 1 November 1909 when an intruder was discovered in the building by one of the maids at 9pm. Mr George Henry Storr the contactor who owned the building on the Stalybridge and Duckinfield border, went to investigate and was stabbed to death by the intruder who then escaped. Cornelius Howard the Nephew of the deceased was accused of the crime but a court acquitted him. The following July a Mark Wilde was convicted of another stabbing crime in Stalybridge was put in front of witnesses at Gorse Hall and identified as the intruder. Like Mr Howard when it reached court there was not real evidence he had committed the crime and was acquitted. The family coachman committed suicide three weeks after the stabbing and like the others in the case no connection was made to the murder of Mr Storr.
- 1940 On the 29 July 1940 the first air raid took place in Cheshire when bombs were dropped on the Southern Suburbs of Crewe.
- 1940 August 1940 bombs again fell on Crewe, damaging 50 houses in Bedford Street, Crewe.
- 1941 **PC Frank Marshall** died on the 8 April 1941 aged 24 when he was killed by a high explosive bomb during an enemy raid on Crewe. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1958 **Sergeant Charles Hector Brown** died in Cyprus when he was seconded to the British Police unit there and was involved in a car crash on the 14 January 1958. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1963 The Moors Murderers take their first victim on the 12 July 1963. Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were arrested on the 7 October 1965 after an investigation by Cheshire Police and a search of Saddleworth Moor for their victim's bodies. In April 1966, the two murderers were tried at Chester Assizes for three of the murders and were both found guilty.
- 1967 **PC Anthony Wood** was killed on the 19 February 1967 aged 28 when his patrol car was responding to an emergency call. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1967 Plane Crash in the middle of Stockport killing 72 people when a British Midland flight returning from Palma, Majorca crashed in open area at Hopes Carr near the centre of Stockport on the 4 June 1967 missing houses and demolishing a garage. Twelve passengers survived the crash including the Captain which was investigated by Cheshire Police and investigators from the Board of Trade. 12 hours before another chartered DC4 crashed in the Pyrenees.
- 1967 **PC Gwynfryn B Williams** died on the 3 September 1967 when his Police Dog van crashed on an emergency call. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1969 **PC Michael Adrian Sheppard** died on the 13 April 1969 aged 22 when a police car he was travelling in crashed at Hoylake. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1974 PC3213 Wright a Cheshire Police Officer was kidnapped while on duty, responding to a 999 call with a detective. They approached a suspicious man who drew a gun and took PC Wright hostage.
- 1975 **PC Frank Taylor** died on the 29 August 1975 aged 44 when he was killed in a motorcycle road traffic accident while on duty as a motorcycle officer at Penketh (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1977 Police Officers shoot and kill escaped convict William "Billy" Hughes a rapist who stabbed two of the officers in the neck with a 7inch blade while they were taking him to court. While on the run he took a family hostage for three days in an isolated "Pottery Cottage" on the 12 January 1977 killing all but the mother (Morgan family) who he used to escape from the police who had surrounded the cottage on the 14 January 1977. Billy was apprehended in Rainow in Macclesfield.

- 1977 **PC Graham Simmonds** was killed in a motorcycle accident on the 26 February 1977 aged 26. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1984 Lindow Man a 1,500 year old corpse was dug up in Cheshire sparking a murder investigation when it was thought to have been a 25 year old wealthy man who had been hit on the head, garrotted and had his throat cut. Cheshire Police were involved in the excavation of the site. The body was discovered on the 1 August 1984 by professional Peat Cutters.
- 1986 **Sergeant Alan Robert Wyman** died on the 5 February 1986 aged 30 when he was fatally injured in a road traffic accident while driving to assist in a vehicle pursuit. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1989 **Detective Sergeant Neil Ross Gibson** died on the 7 January 1989 aged 32 in a traffic accident while on a crime squad attachment. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1993 Terrorists attacks in Cheshire on the 25 February 1984.
- a) PC Mark Toker shot in the leg and lower back by three men during a routine stop and check.
 - b) 50 minutes later a Motorist in Lymm was kidnapped by the gunmen who stole his car.
 - c) 4pm a gas depot in Warrington exploded.
- 20 March 1993
Terrorists explode the Warrington bomb outside Boots killing 2 children Tim Parry and Jonathan Bell and injuring 56 shoppers.
- 1996 Helicopter Crash in Middlewich killing five people including Matthew Harding the Chelsea Football Club Vice Chairman on the 22 October 1996. The helicopter was on its way back from a Chelsea match at Bolton Wanderers.
- 1998 Murder of Teenager Claire Hart on her way to school in Congleton in June 1998. Her body was found five days later floating in the river Dane. In May 1999 Craig Smith was found guilty of her murder. It was said that within five-minutes of Smith meeting Claire he had beaten her, Shot her and strangled her to death.
- 1998 Julia Webb (aged 52) a Northwich mother was battered to death while walking her dog in Sandiway near the Primary School on Norley Road on the 22 July 1998. The crime is still unsolved (www.unsolved-murders.co.uk)
- 1999 **PC Neil Anthony Heathcote** died in May 1999 aged 30 when his crime car crashed while responding to an emergency call. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1999 Winsford Train Crash between a Virgin Train and a First North Western Pacer Train on the 23 June 1999.
- 1999 **Detective Constable Stuart George Cookson** collapsed and died while on duty at Widnes Police Station on the 2 November 1999 aged 45. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2001 **PC Robert Graham** was killed in a motorcycle accident while travelling home from day duty on the 13 February 2001 aged 56. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2003 Murder of Shafilea Ahmed by her parents in what was described as an 'Honour Killing'. They were found guilty on the 3 August 2012 and sentenced to life (25 Years).
- 2004 **PC Mark Leach** was killed in a motorcycle accident while travelling home from night duty on the 19 July 2004 aged 38. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2005 **PC Jonathan Richard Speakman** (from Chester) died while on holiday on the 29 January 2005 aged 33 when he drowned trying to save a child swept out to sea off Spoon bay beach, north of Sydney, Australia. He was surfing and gave up his bodyboard to one of the three children and a man swept out to sea by a rip tide. The child was saved due to the actions of the PC. PC Speakman joined the police in 1998 and had just been assigned to the CID (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2005 **PC Kevin Brinkman** died on the 29 March 2005 aged 33 when he was killed in a road accident while seconded to the Asian Tsunami disaster area.

CHIEF CONSTABLES

- 5 Jan 1857 to 28 Nov 1877 First Chief Constable – Captain Thomas Johnnes Smith
(Thomas Johnnes Smith died at the age of 64 on the 28 November 1877)
- (1877) 19 Feb 1878 to 18 June 1881 Chief Constable Captain John William Arrowsmith (Tbc)
(Chief Constable of Bedford Borough who was then appointed Superintendent of Hyde division and then Deputy Chief Constable in 1871, succeeding Mr Little who had died in 1870.

In Feb 1878 Capt. Arrowsmith was appointed Chirf Constable of Cheshire. A Scandal involving the appointment of his sons to senior positions led to a reprimand by the Police Committee.

On the 18 June 1881 Captain John William Arrowsmith died at his home "The Elms", Hoole Road, Chester aged 49)

4 Aug 1881 to 29 Sept 1910	Captain / Lt Colonel John H. Hammersley	
30 Sept 1910 to 30 Apr 1934	Lt Colonel P Malcolm	
1 May 1934 to 30 Sept 1935	Captain Sir A. F. Hordern	
1 Oct 1935 to 30 Sept 1946	Major Sir Jack Becke	
1 Oct 1946 to 1963	G. E. Banwell	
1963 to 1974	H Watson	
1974 to 1977	W Kelsall	
1977 to 1984	G. E. Fenn	
1984 to 1993	D. J. Graham	
1993 to 1997	J. M. Jones	
1997 to 2002	N. K. Burgess	
2002 to 2008	Peter Fahy	(Deputy Chief Constable = Graham Gerrard = 2003 to 2009)
2008 to 2014	David Whatton	(Assistant Chief Constable = Janet McCormick = 2010 to 2012) (Assistant Chief Constable = Ruth Purdue = Date Unknown) (Deputy Chief Constable = Helen King = Date Unknown)
2014 to date	Simon Byrne (Suspended in August 2017 for Pending Gross Misconduct hearing which he was acquitted of in December 2018. He was on a fixed contract of 4 years he was never reinstated when it ran out in in June 2018) (Assistant Chief Constable = Darren Martland = Jan 2018 to Date)	
Aug 2017	Acting Chief Constable	Janette / Janet McCormick (ACC = 2010 to Date)
	Acting Deputy Chief Constable	Darren Martland (Appointed Jan 2017)
	Temporary Assistant Chief Constable	Sacha Hackett
	Assistant Chief Officer	Julie Gill
Feb 2019	Darren Martland (Chief Constable appointed in February 2019)	

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (Elected)

2012 to 2016 John Dwyer (Conservative / Former Assistant Chief Constable of Cheshire)
(13.74% Turnout due to no other elections at this time / Results 15 November 2012)
1st Ballot

John Dwyer	40,122 (+ 8,469 2 nd Round) (CONSERVATIVE)
John Stockton	30,974 (+ 6,376 2 nd Round) (LABOUR)
Sarah Flannery	18,596 (INDEPENDENT)
Ainsley Arnold	10,653 (LIB DEM)
Louise Bours	8,557 (UKIP)

2016 to May 2021 David Keane (Labour) Votes went to Second Preference.
(23.85% Turnout due to local elections in some areas / Results 16 May 2016 / Cheshire East 20.52% turnout no Local elections)

1 st Ballot	
David Keane	72,497 (+ 12,104 2 nd Round) (LABOUR)
John Dwyer	69,322 (+ 12,330 2 nd Round) (CONSERVATIVE)
Jonathan Starkey	21,991 (UKIP)
Neil Lewis	18,530 (LIB DEM)
2 nd Round Totals	
David Keane	84,601 (LABOUR)
John Dwyer	81,652 (CONSERVATIVE)

May 2021 to Date John Dwyer

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POLICE TERMS

Bobbies = Named after Sir Robert Peel (Bobbie)

Panda Cars

Thin Blue Line

Z Cars

SANDBACH POLICE HISTORY compiled with the help of;
Will Brown the Curator at the Cheshire Police Museum.
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POST OFFICE
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One of the great comforts at this time is that some things have not changed and the delivery of Mail is one of these. The Postal Workers in Sandbach, Congleton, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel, Cranage, Biddulph and all over the country are doing a sterling job of carrying on as they have done through two world wars and various outbreaks since the postal service was first introduced in 1660 by Charles II. Not only are the delivery men and women a necessary part of life but the Post Office itself in the town or village has always been a rock in the community with many supplying goods as well as stamps and today they are still a vital part of the network to make sure items are sent correctly and to give out cash to those who collect their pensions and also whose bank is not in the town and the cash machines are not as secure as they should be.

Today the Post Office performs over 100 different transactions in its office from taking payments to Postal Orders, insurance and of course selling stamps for hundreds of countries with deliveries in the world-wide network of delivery people from the Post Office and Parcelforce.

All of these people are working as much as they can to make sure you have contact with the outside world and like the NHS staff are putting their lives at risk when handling cash, letters or parcels so I and I am sure many more would like to thank them for their service.

In Sandbach, the postal service has been going a long time with the Mail coaches travelling from the North of England to London stopping off at the George or Wheat sheaf where the post was sorted and delivered by an errand boy or postman by then end of that day with sometimes two or three deliveries being made on the coach run.

The earliest post-mistress in Sandbach was Miss Sarah Sibson (Died in 1857 aged 90) along with her letter carrier being a Betty Kent. There were two Miss Sibsons, maiden ladies who were the daughters of the Rev. John Sibson who for 36 years was the curate of the Parish of Sandbach. In her will in 1857 Sarah made provision for the building of St John's Church in Sandbach Heath (Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott).

The 1822, Piggots Directory has the following information. Sarah Sibson (Post Mistress) Post to Knutsford every afternoon at three o'clock from whence the letters are sent to all parts of the United Kingdom.

After Sarah Sibson the job was passed on to Mr R Eachus an auctioneer in the Town who then passed it on to Mr W Eachus.

In 1834 the Post Office moved to "The George" Public House and then to the "Wheat sheaf".

In 1850 Thomas Proudman was the Post Master at the Post Office, Market Place, Sandbach with letters arriving from London and other places at 6.30am and 4pm with the collection being despatched at 6.30am and 9.15pm.

In the 1850 directory there was also a Stamp Office in High Street with Sarah and Ellen Moss as the Sub-distributers.

The 1896 and 1902 Kelly's Directory shows the Post Office at the Express Delivery and Annuity and Insurance Office, The Square, Sandbach with Postmistress Mrs Kate Eachus.

(1896) Post, M.O. and T. O., S. B.

Letter arrive from all parts of the Kingdom at 3am and are delivered at 12.45pm, 3.30pm and 6.45pm

Letters are dispatched from Sandbach at 11.15am, 9.45pm and 10pm.

Money Orders are granted and paid from 8am till 8pm (Opening Hours)

There are wall boxes at Bradwall Road, Wheelock Road, The Hill and a Pillar Box at HighTown.

One of the workers for Mrs Eachus was Albert Bullock of Colley Lane. When he left school, he became a telegraph messenger on the square. In those days there were four postal deliveries in the town including one on a Sunday. Albert then became a worker for the GPO engineering department and was one of those who helped relocate the post office from Eachus's shop on the square to the new post office in Bradwall Road. Albert recalled that most of the equipment was relocated using a hand cart to

move it to the other side of the town. In 1910 Albert Bullock joined the Manchester City Police Force but when war started in 1914 he joined the Brigade of Guards, the Cheshire's and the Royal Army Medical Corps. Albert was wounded in Ypres and was transferred to become an Officer at the Criminal Lunatic Asylum in Broadmoor. Albert returned to the police force after the war and became a sergeant in Bootle where he stayed until 1935 when he retired having gained the rank of Inspector. In 1936, Albert started working for the Sandbach Savings Bank and during the Second world war taught civil defence organisations about air raid precautions.

A telephone directory of 1913 lists Frank Blease as a postman in Elworth with Mr Brickhill as Sub Post Office manager.

Kelly's directory of 1914 lists Moses Smith Brickhill as a Stationer and Post Office in Elworth.



(After 1902 - 1914) 1932 Picture location in Bradwall Road.

Kelly's directory of 1914 lists Moses Smith Brickhill as a Stationer and Post Office in Elworth. It is not sure when the next move took place but it was after 1902 and before 1914 when an entry in Kelly's showed the "POST OFFICE – Post, M.O.T and Telephone Express Delivery Office, was at Bradwall Road (Letters should have Cheshire Added) with Postmaster William M John." With the war on the horizon the local post office in Sandbach had been based in various locations including a public house / hotel in Sandbach called the George, the Wheat Sheaf (Run in 1914 by James H Rowbotham) and was now based in Bradwall Road with Postmaster William M John who was responsible for the distribution and collection of mail in its area. A postcard from this era showed that distribution was on a local basis rather than the central system we know today. A letter or card could be addresses with the name of the person and first line of the address or in some cases just the name of the person and the words "Local Post" underneath and the postmaster would know where to take it thus bypassing sending it to the national network. The Post Office was also responsible for the Telegraph Service and in certain areas and the Telephone exchange which serviced the various private telephones as during 1914 there were no public call boxes (Introduced in 1920) on the streets and so the caller would wind a handle on the phone to call the exchange who would then through a series of jack plugs would redirect the call to either a local phone on their "Board" or into the National system for calls outside Sandbach. Some exchanges did have a phone in the shop for people to use at a cost but most didn't. Alsager had a Public Call Office on Crewe Road in the Post Office which also provided money orders and a Telegraph Office and a Post Office off Sandbach Road run by Mrs Sarah Barrett in her confectionary shop also had a phone for customers. During the war the opening times changed to a 9am opening and a 7pm closure for the taking of Telegrams with a 6pm cut off time being implemented for telegrams to be sent that day as after 6pm it would be delivered the following morning.

LOCAL POST TIMES

BRADWALL Letter Box Cleared 9.05am and 7.30pm by Elworth Post Office

BRERETON GREEN – (Mrs Emily Lloyd Sub Post Mistress) Letters through Sandbach arrive at 7.30am and 5.50pm and are dispatched at 9.05am and 6.20pm with no delivery on a Sunday.

ELWORTH (Post M.O and T and Telephonic Express Delivery Office Mr Moses Smith Brickhill as Sub Postmaster) and his wife Mrs Pattie Brickhill who worked part time at the AbbeyFieldsHospital. Letters through Sandbach arrive at 6.30am and 4pm and are dispatched at 11.45am , 12.30pm, 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 7.20pm and 9.45pm.

HASSALL 7.30am and 4.40pm weekdays and Sundays at 8.15am

HASSALL Bridge 7.40am and 6.25pm weekdays and Sundays at 8.05am

HASSALL GREEN 8.20am and 6.15pm weekdays and Sundays at 8.00am

SANDBACH (Money Orders and Telegraph Office)

Before 1914 the POST OFFICE – Post, M.O.T and Telephone Express Delivery Office, was at Bradwall Road (Letters should have Cheshire Added) with Postmaster William M John.

Kelly's 1914 Directory lists the following Collection and Delivery Times.

Letter arrive from all parts of the Kingdom at 3 and 5.45am, 12.45pm, 3pm and 6.15pm and are delivered at 7am, 1.10pm, 3.15pm and 6.30pm.

Letters are dispatched from Sandbach at 10.30am, 11.15am, 3pm, 9.30pm and 10pm.

Money Orders are granted and paid from 8am till 8pm (Opening Hours)

In 1917 Miss Hilda Mary Swain worked at the POST OFFICE from 6am until 8am in the morning and then went to work at the Abbey Field Hospital for 5 hours as a General Worker putting in 240 hours until February 1918.

One lady recalled that during this period of time because mail was delivered on size she wanted to send a copy of the local Chronicle to her relative and regularly put the paper through her Mangle (To squeeze clothes dry) to make it smaller.

In October 1927 Harry Mortimer (Cornet Player and Conductor with Foden's Band) became the new Postmaster at Elworth Post Office taking over from Mrs Bicktill. He was unable to work at the Foden Factory and so to stay with the band he looked for other employment and the Post Office looks to have been the perfect job with hours he could decide which ones to work and still play with the band at concerts, tours and competitions.

On the 1 October 1969, the General Post Office (GPO) who had run the service since 1660 was dissolved and the Post Office took over and created Post Office Counters Ltd.

The Post Office on Bradwall Road, Sandbach remained at this location until 1972 when a new building was constructed on the Market Square along with a Distribution Centre / Sorting Office at the back.



(Market Square 19 May 2004)

The current one is near the Waitrose (Superstore) on George's Walk (opened in November 1991 with a green sign took over the shop from Hattons Home Improvements) with the main sorting office still being at the back of the Market square building where it is now only used as a distribution centre and pick up point for undelivered mail.

The Current POST OFFICE is situated at 5 St George's Walk, Sandbach CW11 1AF had a major refit and sometime between Mar / Apr 1994 the new Post Office was opened by regional manager Gwyn Owen and Sub Postmistress Pauline Mountford.

Although it is still a Main Post Office (Rather than a Crown Office) it is privately run as a shop and Post Office in one building.

As changes in the postal service took place many branches were forced to close and Elworth which had a Post Office at 11 London Road for many years until the cutbacks by Post Office Counters closed the branch April 2005. At the time it was run by Fiona and Kay and has been a great loss to the north of the town.

POST BOXES IN SANDBACH (Letter Boxes)

1896 POST BOXES

There are wall boxes at Bradwall Road, Wheelock Road, The Hill and a Pillar Box at HighTown.

CURRENT POST BOXES

Abbey Road / Middlewich Road Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Wall Tower)

Belle View Terrace / Cecil Rigby Close (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Bradwall Road / Bold Street / Literary Institute Corner (Elizabeth II)

Bradwall Road / Bradwall Street Corner (George VI)

Urban myth says that the wall box was replaced by the George VI Box after a car crash knocked down the wall. This was however not true as it was considered too small to take the

amount of mail being dropped off and so the Post Office, much to the dismay of the owners, knocked down the wall to fit a larger box. However the owner of the wall was not happy and complained to the head office and so John Keane was approached to see if he would mind having a pillar box next to his garden wall. He agreed and the George VI Box was installed making everyone happy.

(Adapted from Sandbach History Facebook – John Keane)

Common / Outside the Library (Elizabeth II)

Congleton Road in the wall by Filotimo Restaurant (Wall Mounted – George VI)
Fairfield Ave (37) / Third Avenue (Queen Elizabeth II – Wall Tower - Not pointing to road)
Gawsworth Drive / Tatton Drive (Pole Box originally but by March 2009 it had become an ERII Box)
Heath Road (Sandbach Heath) / Wrights Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Hill Sandbach / Newcastle Road / Hassell Road Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Middlewich Road / Outside Golf Club (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Newcastle Road / Dubthorn Lane Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Park Lane / Crewe Road (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Post Office Distribution Centre / Market Square (Elizabeth II)
Queen's Drive roundabout (**Edward VII – Oldest Post Box in Sandbach**)
St George's Walk / Outside Post Office (Queen Elizabeth II – Double Box and Franked Box)

BRADWALL

Pillar Box Lane / Brawall Road Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick in Hedge)

ELWORTH

Abbey Road / Deans Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
The Avenue / Marsh Green Road (38 Corner) (Queen Elizabeth II ? Wall Pillar)
Elworth Road (93) / Deans Lane (*Known also as Garden City Post box*) (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Lawton Road / St Peter's Rise (Superstore Car Park) (Queen Elizabeth II)
London Road / Near Railway Station / Park (Queen Elizabeth II) (Installed after April 2005)
London Road / Elworth Post Office (Queen Elizabeth II – DE COMMISSIONED)
Mill Lane / Warmingham Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick Next to K6 Telephone Kiosk
De-commissioned?)
Watch Lane / Plant Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick Next to Telephone Kiosk)

ETTLEY HEATH

Elton Road / Rookery Tavern (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Millbuck Way – Industrial Estate (Queen Elizabeth II New Box)
Thornbrook Way / Next to Playground (Queen Elizabeth II New Box)

MALKINS BANK

Hassell Road (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick – Set into the hedge Near canal bridge)

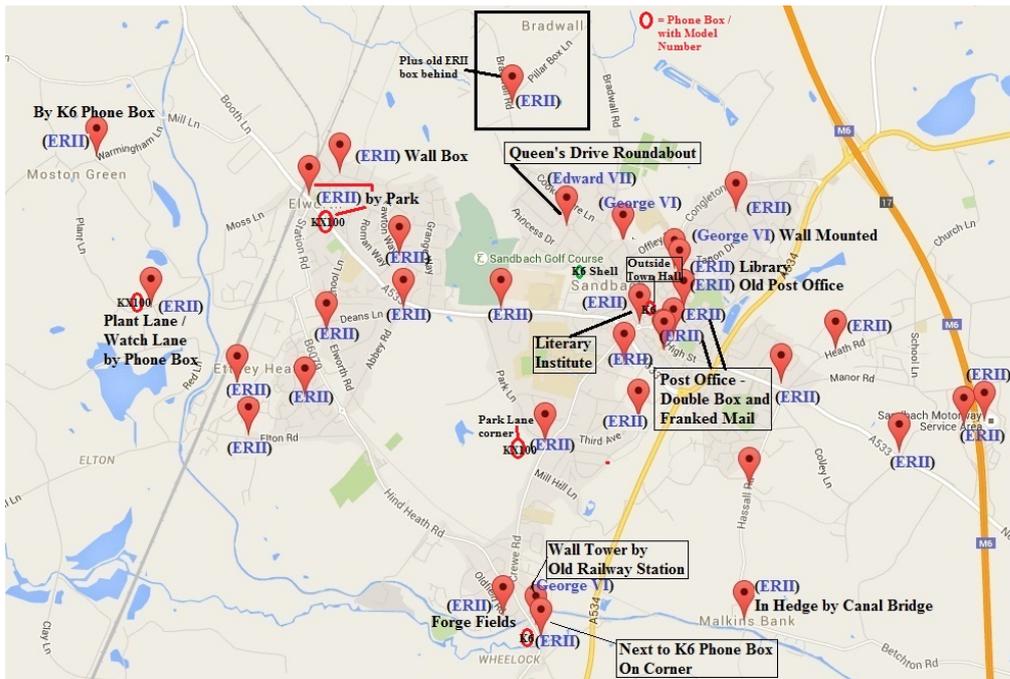
WHEELLOCK

Crewe Road / By Old Railway Station (George VI)
Crewe Road / (Nags Head) Village Green by K6 Telephone Kiosk (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Forge Fields / Oldfield Road (4) (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
Post Office at Wheelock (NO LONGER A POSTBOX)

<http://www.postboxfinder.co.uk/>



Edward VII Postbox on Queen's Drive Roundabout



PHONE BOXES IN SANDBACH

SANDBACH has a few examples of the K6.

- 1) Outside the Town Hall. – Grade 2 Listed.



- 2) On the corner of Platt Avenue and Sweettooth Lane (De-commissioned).

After a campaign to save the box in 2015, Sandbach Partnership took on ownership of the box with the assistance of Cheshire East's Assets department and in 2016 plan to move it from its current position to be renovated and then to the park where it will be looked after by the Sandbach Fire Cadets. The story goes that when they moved the box on the 9 June 2016 someone called the police who turned up in three cars from all over the County thinking someone was stealing the box. (see also below Platt Avenue / Middlewich Road Corner)



Platt Ave / Sweettooth Lane

In 2017 the box was repositioned in the park.

3) Crewe Road / (Nags Head) Village Green (Now and E-Mail / Text / Phone Site)



Wheelock (In Use)

4) Mill Lane / Warmingham Lane K6 Telephone Kiosk (De-commissioned) – Next to Moston notice Board.



Moston K6.

5) Warmingham Opposite the Church. (Now run by the Village Committee and is a tourist Point)



Warmingham K6

- 6) Third Avenue (Near Bottom of Road) / Near Town Fields. By 2009 it was a E-Mail / Text / Phone Site but by 2015 it had been removed.
- 7) Sandbach School has a Private box next to the Theatre.
- 8) Ken Beresford (Offley House) has a Private example stored in his garden shed.

PHONE BOXES IN SANDBACH (Still in use).

- 1) Park Lane / Crewe Road KX100
- 2) Somerfield (2009) / Co-op / Kwik Save shop car park in Elworth Lawton Road. KX100 (Next to QEII Post box)
- 3) Elworth Park / London Road KX100
- 4) Watch Lane / Plant Lane Corner KX100 (and Post Box on stick)
- 5) Hassell Road / The Hill Sandbach Heath – near the Top of the Hill Chip Shop KX100 (With Post box on stick)

OTHER SITES IN SANDBACH - Phone Boxes no longer available.

- 1) Outside the Library K6 / Replaced by KX100 in 1990's to 2006+ next to Steps near Masonic Hall.
- 2) By the Bus Station on the Common K6 replaced.
- 3) 2 x KX100 outside Martin's Newsagents / Back of the Town Hall.
- 4) Lightly Close / Crewe Road Corner – Wheelock
- 5) Platt Avenue / Middlewich Road Corner – It has been suggested that this box was moved to the Platt Avenue / Sweettooth Lane position.

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TELEPHONE BOXES (A History / K6 and KX100 in Sandbach)

- K1 1920 the First standard telephone box introduced. It was made of Concrete. Few examples exist today with one in Trinity Market, Kingston upon Hull still in use. By 1925 (1,000 Made)
- K2 1926 Designed by Giles Gilbert Scott after a competition was launched in 1924 to find a design acceptable for the London streets. Erected only in the London Area with the K1 being erected elsewhere.
- K3 1929 Designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and built of Concrete. A costly product it was not widely used and a rare example exists at London Zoo outside the Penguin Beach. By 1930 (K2 and K3 8,000 Made)
- K4 1927 Designed by the Post Office Engineering Department they included a Postage Stamp dispenser which was quite noisy and the stamps stuck together in the damp atmosphere. Only 50 K4's were built.
- K5 1934 Made of Plywood and designed to be used at exhibitions and to be portable for demonstrations.

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K6 1935 (19,000 Made)

Produced by Lion Foundry in Kirkintilloch (K2 to K6 until 1984).

K6 also produced by Carron Ironworks near Falkirk in the 1960's.

K6 1940 (35,000 Phone boxes Available)

K6 1950 (44,000 Phone boxes Available)

K6 1960 (64,000 Phone boxes Available)

Designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott the kiosk has become an iconic part of many towns in the Country but is now being lost due to the increase in mobile phones and so the need for phone boxes is becoming less and less. Many of the K6 Kiosks have been converted into book lending posts or made into a feature in an area so that it would not be lost to the areas in which they stand.

This icon of British life was designed in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and is sometimes known as the "Jubilee Kiosk".

It was the first red telephone kiosk used outside of the London area with a total of 16,000 being installed between 1935 and 1940 bringing the total number of phone boxes in the UK at that time to 35,000.

Initially the phone box was not loved by all Councils and the public as many thought the Post Office red to be intrusive in the area and so the GPO (at the time) allowed some areas of natural beauty to paint their K6's in grey with red glazing bars.

However in most areas the colour scheme was kept red and is now reproduced in models, coin boxes and on tourist postcards and tea towels becoming as British as the bulldog or the red London bus or even the iconic Police Box used in Dr Who.

- K7 1959 Designed by Neville Conder but never went into production.
- K8 1970 (70,000 Phone boxes Available) K8 introduced in 1968 and designed by Bruce Martin. However it was only used as a replacement for damaged boxes and with the introduction of the KX100 only 12 K8 models remained in service making it a rare model.
- 1980 (73,000 Phone boxes Available) Post office Telephones were rebranded BRITISH TELECOM and in February 1981 it was announced that the Red Telephones would be repainted Yellow the new corporate colour of BT. After a public outcry it was announced that only 90 of the 77,000 boxes had been painted Yellow as an experiment.
- KX100 1982
- January 1985 Nick Kane the Director of Marketing for BT announced that the old style Red Phone Boxes would be replaced by modern silver boxes that could accommodate disabled access etc.
Local authorities managed to save 2,000 K6 and others by getting "Listed Status" for them and rural areas were allowed to keep them as it was cheaper than putting in a replacement for underused models. There are about 11,000 red boxes still existing in the UK (2015).
- KX100 1982
- KX200 and KX300 January 1985
- KX100 Plus 1996
- Multiphone kiosk introduced in 1999
- ST6 2007
- By 2005 BT had decided to shed many of its phone boxes as less than half of the 72,000 boxes were profitable with 99% of homes having a landline or access to a mobile phone and 85% owning a mobile.

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PRINGS / John Pring and Son Ltd, Elworth.

(Adapted from an article by Allan Littlemore in the Sandbach Chronicle 27 March 2014)

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Established in 1834 in Sandbach the business eventually moved to the Wire Mills, Elworth in 1834. It was in Elworth that they manufactured all types of steel wire and wire products both domestic and industrial. Nails, Springs, Mattresses etc.

John Pring was born in Bristol in 1811 and by 1832 had established a business in Sandbach on Scotch Common selling metal products including nails, stables and mouse traps.

By 1851 he was advertising his work as a "Wire Warper" and employed a man to help him. With the railway coming to Sandbach he decided to invest in a factory at Elworth and purchased land on the Station Road and New Street corner extending to Hill Street to produce bed springs, bird cages, meat safes (Netting to keep the flies off) and toilet chains. As part of the buildings built for John was his home which he named "Linden Bank" (Now the Bail Hostel) and was at the top of Station Road.

Unfortunately John Pring died in 1964 at the age of 53 from what was thought to be connected to drink. John Victor Pring his son had been born in 1845 and took over the business on his father's death.

John Victor Pring was also a devout Methodist who along with his wife held regular meetings at their house before he donated land on station road for the building of a Methodist Church in Elworth. The Foundation Stone was laid on the 29 September 1860 with the official opening being on the 19th March 1861.

With no heirs John Victor Pring decided that he should take on a partner to run the company and by 1914 the company were named "John Pring and Son, Partners F.J. Finlow and L W Finlow, wire manufacturers of Elworth Wire Mills, Sandbach".

The Finlow Brothers served in the Great War as it became known and in 1918 they returned to the company as managers of the works. Brother, Percy Finlow was appointed Director in Charge of operations and Leonard W Finlow became Works Director with Charles Salmon as works manager. Between 1918 and 1939 the company made extensive alterations and extensions to the premises to produce wire nails and wire netting which has since been dropped from their catalogue.

In the early 1920 the company built larger premises knocking down the original Methodist Church and building on land on both sides of Station Road with a mini railway between the Station and the works. The original nail shop on the corner of Station Road and Hill Street later became the rehearsal room of the Foden Motor Works Band.

In 1925 John Victor Pring died having handed the company over to Colonel Freddie J Finlow (who had served in the 7th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment .D. 1959)

By the 1930's the company were also producing springs for furniture and even railway carriage seats. They also started producing a rustless wire unrivalled at the time in the country.

By the 1960's a new factory had been built on Hill Street, for the production of their domestic wire work. The demand for plastic coated wire exceeded the capacity of Sandbach and so a new factory was opened in Derby Street, Crewe.

However finance was a problem and in the 1960's the company were taken over by "Hall and Goulding" (of Bognor Regis) in 1967 and in 1971 "The Bullock Group" took over Prings and Hall and Goulding.

In 1999 USA Company Leggatt and Platt Inc. of Carthage Missouri became the owners eventually putting Prings into receivership in Autumn 2009. In November 2009 the administrator sold the company for £3 to KTS Wire of Leeds and for a while it looked good but then it soon turned back to having financial problems and a plan to save the company by selling off the land at Elworth to build houses on which would in turn pay for a new factory in Middlewich was a bluff by the owners to fold the company and their plans were thwarted when Cheshire East Council insisted that the factory be built before the houses were started. Loyal workers found out there was no money in the company for wages in 2010 and volunteered to work for nothing until a buyer could be found but it was not to be and the company again went into administration and 176 years of Prings in Sandbach came to an end. Today all the buildings have been demolished and nothing remains of the wire company except photographs of the landmark signs and memories.

OTHER WIRE WORKS IN SANDBACH (1933 Town Guide reference)

NEWFIELD WIRE WORKS – Congleton Road, Sandbach.

At the Newfield Wire Works, Messrs A.V. Bosson and Son made a speciality of woven and spiral wire mattresses as well as Riddles, Meat safes, Fire Guards and Upholstery Springs.

GEORGE VANABLES (Founded 1863) – Bradwall Road, Sandbach.

They made products for home use. Items included Riddles, Screens, Sieves, Meat safes, Fire Guards and Fencing.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMP (POW Camp)

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In May / June 1918 the War Department decided to set up a Prisoner of War Depot at Sandbach Heath to accommodate about 40 men who would be available for agricultural work within a radius of five miles, equipped with horses, carts and farm implements including ploughs, harrows, cultivators, drill, rollers etc. The men would be hired out in gangs along with a soldier in charge and are skilled agriculturists. Farmers in the vicinity of the depot could apply for one or two prisoners without a guard for a few days work. Applications were made to Mr C Russell Hall the Hon. Secretary of the District Committee at Chapel Street, Congleton.

During the Second World War there were a number of Prisoner of War camps all around the country with one in Weston near Crewe (191 prisoners at Crewe Hall Number 191), Warmingham and one at Sandbach Heath which was classed as a satellite camp (Overflow for possibly Crewe Hall).

Situated on land near the Church School the area has a wooden Watch Tower which was still there towards the end of the 1960's, a set of corrugated iron clad huts including one that was finally demolished in the early 1980's.

The camp held various prisoners including Italians and a German called "Werner" who went on to marry a Sandbach lady called Alma and they had a daughter called Erica Werner. The family is buried at St John's Church on the Heath.

There were three types of camp GRADE A (White) German anti-Nazi. GRADE B (Gray) had less feelings towards the Nazi's, GRADE C (Black) Probable Nazi leanings, GRADE C+ (Also Black) ardent Nazis.

LIST OF GREAT BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS CAMP NUMBER

1. Woodfield Farm Camp, Churchdown, Gloucestershire
- 1b. Graizedale Hall, Satterthwaite, Cumbria

2. Toft Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire
- 2b. Woodhouselee Camp, Milton Bridge, Penicuik Midlothian.
- 2c. Glen Mill, Wellyhole Street, Oldham, Lancashire.
3. Balhary Camp, Balhary, Perthshire.
4. Scraptoff, Thornby, Leicestershire.
- 4b. Gilling Camp, Hartforth Lane, Gilling, Richmond, North Yorkshire.
- 4c. Windletone Hall, Rushyford, County Durham.
5. Monrush, Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.
6. Racecourse Camp, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
- 6b. Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
- 6c. Glenbranter, Glenbranter, Argyll.
- 6A. Ashton Court, Bower Ashton, Somerset.
7. Winter Quarters Camp, Ascot, Berkshire.
8. Mile House, Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry, Shropshire.
- 8b. Warth Mills, Bury, Lancashire. (1)
9. Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury, Middlesex.
- 9b. Quorn Camp, Quorn, Loughborough, Leicestershire.
- 9c. Warth Mills, Bury, Lancashire. (2)
10. Gosford Camp, Gosford Castle, Market Hill, County Armagh.
- 10b. Cockfosters Camp, Barnet, London.
- 10c. Stamford Camp, Empingham Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
11. Gilford, Elmsfield, Craigavon, Portadown.
- 11b. Island Farm, Bridgend, Glamorgan.
- 11c. Racecourse Camp, Knavesmire, York, North Yorkshire
- 11A Trent Park Camp, Bramley Road, Enfield, London.
- 11Aa. Rayner's Lane, Harrow-on-the Hill, London.
12. Elmfield Camp, Gilford, Portadown, Armagh.
- 12b. Donaldson's College, West Coates, Edinburgh.
- 12A. Warth Mills, Bury, Lancashire
13. Shap Wells Hotel, Shap, Penrith, Cumbria. (1)
- 13b. The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire
14. Bun Camp, Doonfoot, Ayr, Ayrshire.
- 14b. Holywood, Jackson Road, Belfast.
15. Shap Wells Hotel, Shap, Penrith, Cumbria. (2)
- 15b. Donaldson's College, West Coates, Edinburgh.
16. Gosford Camp, Aberlady, Longniddry, East Lothian.
- 16b. Flaxley Green, Stilecop Field, Rugeley, Staffordshire.
- 16c. Prees Heath, Shropshire.
17. Lodge Moor Camp, Redmires Road, Lodge Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire.
- 17b. Hyde Park Gardens, 22 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2.
18. Featherstone Camp, Featherstone Castle, Haltwhistle, Northumberland
19. Happendon Camp, Douglas, Lanarkshire, Scotland.
- 19b. Douglas Castle, Douglas, Lanarkshire, Scotland.
20. Bickham, Bickham Common, Bickham, Tavistock, Devon.
- 20b. Bramham No. 1 Camp, Yelverton, Boston Spa., Yorkshire.
- 20c. Wilton Park, Bramham, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
21. Cultybraggan, Comrie, Crieff, Perthshire.
22. Pennylands Camp, Cumnock, Ayr, Ayrshire
23. Le Marchant Camp, Devizes, Wiltshire.
- 23b. Shrewsbury (GPC), Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
- 23c. Sudbury, Sudbury, Derbyshire.
24. Knutsford (MH), Knutsford, Cheshire.
25. Leamington (GPC), Leamington Spa
- 25b. Lodge Farm, Farncombe Down, Lambourn, Berkshire.
26. Barton Field, Ely, Cambridgeshire.
27. Ledbury, Ledbury, Herefordshire.
- 27b. Nottingham (GPC), Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.
28. Knighthorpe, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire.
29. Abergavenny (GPC), Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.
- 29b. Ormskirk (GH), Ormskirk, Lancashire.

- 29c. Royston Heath, Royston, Hertfordshire.
- 30. Aldershot (GPC), Aldershot, Hampshire.
- 30b. Carpenters Road, Stratford, London E15.
- 31. Ettington Park, Newbold-Upon-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire
- 32. Wormwood Scrubs, Shepherds Bush, London, W12
- 33. Dancers Hill, South Mimms, Barnet, Hertfordshire.
- 33b. Shorncliffe, Folkestone (GPC), Folkestone, Kent.
- 33c. Bonnytown Camp, Bonnytown Farm, Working Camp, Dunino, Kingsbarns, Fife.
- 34. Warebank Camp, Kirkwall, Orkney.
- 35. Boughton Park, Boughton, Northampton, Northamptonshire.
- 36. Darlington (GPC), Darlington, County Durham.
- 36b. Hartwell Dog Track Camp, Stone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
- 37. Bridgwater (GPC), Bridgwater, Somerset.
- 37b. Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
- 38. Pool Park, Efenechtyd, Ruthin, Denbighshire.
- 39. Castle Maxstoke, Maxstoke, Coleshill, Warwickshire.
- 40. Somerhill Camp, Tudeley, Tonbridge, Kent.
- 41. Ganger Camp, Romsey, Hampshire.
- 42. Exhibition Field Camp, Stanhope Close, Holsworthy, Devon.
- 43. Harcourt Hall, North Hinksey, Oxford, Oxfordshire.
- 44. Goathurst Camp, Goathurst, Bridgwater, Somerset.
- 45. Trumpington, Trumpington, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.
- 46. Kingsfold Camp, Billingshurst, Horsham, West Sussex,
- 47. Motcombe Park, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset,
- 49. Harrington Camp Farndon Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.
- 61. Wynol's Hill, Coalway, Coleford, Gloucestershire.
- 65. Setley Plain, Brockenhurst, Hampshire.
- 71. Sheriffhales, Shifnal, Telford, Shropshire
- 81. Pingley Farm, Brigg, North Lincolnshire
- 82. Matlaske, On RAF station Matlaske, Sheringham, Norfolk
- 83. Eden Camp, Ryton, Malton, North Yorkshire
- 93. Harperley, Fir Tree, Crook, County Durham
- 97. Birdingbury Camp, Working Camp Birdingbury, Bourton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire
- 103. Moota Camp, Moota, A595 Bothel, Cumbria
- 107. Penleigh Camp, Wells, Somerset
- 108. Thirkleby, Sandhill, Little Thirkleby, Thirsk, North Riding of Yorkshire
- 115. White Cross Camp, St Columb Major, Cornwall
- 116. High Hall Camp, Hatfield Heath, Epping, Essex
- 124. Ashton Gate Camp, Bedminster, Bristol
- 165. Watten Camp, Thurso, Caithness
- 155. Hornby Hall Camp, Brougham, Penrith, Cumbria
- 174. Norton-Cuckney Camp, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire
- 186. Berechurch Hall, Colchester, Essex
- 191 Crewe Hall, Crewe Hall, Crewe Green, Cheshire**
- 198. Island Farm, Bridgend, Glamorgan
- 251. East Cams, Portchester Road, Fareham, Hampshire
- 254. Sutton Bridge Camp, Working Camp, Holbeach, Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire
- 275/275a Kinnell Camp, Friockheim, Forfar
- 280. North Lynn Farm Camp, Working Camp, King's Lynn, Norfolk
- 292. Kirmington, North Lincolnshire
- 294. Fisher's Camp, Thedden Grange, Bentworth, Alton, Hampshire
- 402. Southampton, Highfield, Southampton, Hampshire
- 403. Brockley Camp, Brockley, Bristol, Somerset
- 405. Barwick House, Barwick, Yeovil, Somerset
- 614. Stoneham Camp, Eastleigh, Hampshire
- 663. Park House Camp "A", Shipton Bellinger, Tidworth, Hampshire
- 665. Cross Keys Camp, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset
- 666. Stoberry Park, Wells, Somerset
- 668. Aliwal Barracks, North Tidworth, Hampshire
- 669[5] West Ridge Gardens, Greenford, West London, Middlesex

- 672 Popham Micheldever, Winchester, Hampshire
- 675 Hiltngury Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire
- 676 Puckride Camp, Fleet Road, Aldershot, Hampshire
- 693 Whitchurch, Andover, Hampshire.
- 1000 Oakhangers Camp, Bordon, Farnham, Hampshire
- 1006 Willems Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire
- 1019 Aldershot, Farnham, Hampshire
- 1020 Shooter's Hill, Shooter's Hill, Woolwich, London
- Special Camp XI Island Farm, Bridgend, Glamorgan
- TBA Pitmedden Camp, Pitmedden, Aberdeenshire
- TBA Monymusk Camp, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire
- TBA Sandyhillock Camp, Elchies, Archiestown, Moray

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PROVIDENCE SCHOOL (Chapel Street)

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The Providence School was built in 1859 and has an entrance for boys and girls at either side of the building frontage.

As discussed earlier in the Almshouse section in 1660 a number of prominent people of the town donated a sum of money totalling £304 /6 /8d to form a charity to help the poor of the area. In 1865 the Almshouses were built but as some of the money from the charity must go to schooling it is possible that this earlier building was part of this charity's donation to the town. In 1906 the charity "Sandbach School and Almshouse Charity" were split into two parts.

The building is now owned by Sandbach Scouts as their headquarters.



(19 May 2004 Chapel Street)

On the 23 April 2016 Sandbach Scouts celebrated the anniversary of the building they had occupied for the last 40 years. They gathered together past and present scouts and leaders for a look back at the building and activities and even had a cake made for the occasion. Dennis Fricker, Jim Thompson, Reg Shallcross and Tony Harrison were guests of honour as founders of the group in Sandbach.

In September 1968 Les Bassnett, Jim Hampson, Stuart Hurst and the Rev R Warner (Wesley Avenue Church) held a meeting to form the 3rd Sandbach (39 South West Cheshire) Group. It was the idea of Reg Shallcross whose son wanted to join the scouts but found that there wasn't a group in the area so he decided to form one and became Chairman of the Scouts in Sandbach. They were soon joined by Tony Harrison who was a leader in Chelford but lived in Sandbach and had been thinking of joining a group nearer his home. With the popularity of Scouts the groups grew until it was full to capacity and with such a demand for new places in the cubs and scouts the leaders decided that a new meeting hall was needed to replace their meeting place in the Wesley Avenue Church Hall and so in 1971 they looked at the Old Providence Sunday School in Chapel Street (1859 Boys / Girls) which was at the time in a derelict state. As it was owned by the Wesley Avenue Church and one of the Founders of the Scouts in Sandbach the Rev R Warner was in charge it was a simple matter of sorting out contracts and in December 1973 the purchase went through. There was however a new problem as the cost of the building had bankrupted the account of the scouts so there was no money to add new toilets, windows or even make basic repairs to the structure including the repair of the roof and installing electricity, water and drains. An appeal was launched and £800 was raised by the generosity of the people of Sandbach which went a long way towards the £7,000.00 cost of the building and the work needed to make it fit for holding meetings.

The scouts also purchased the two cottages next door which at the time housed Chickens in the back yard and were to be turned into storage spaces for the money making venture of collecting newspapers. In 1976 the Scouts opened up their new Scout Hall at the back of the Wesley Avenue Church with space for a stage, a fitted kitchen, Hobbies room, large Committee room and library as well as the main

meeting hall. By now there were 2 Cub Packs, 1 Scout troop and one Venture unit using the hall along with local MP Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe District which at the time included Sandbach) who held her surgeries there on a Saturday afternoon.

Eventually the stage area of the building was demolished and underneath were a couple of Chamber Pots which were sold for £400 by the antique shop on the corner of Chapel Street which was split between the Scouts and the Wesleyan Church who had sold the building to the scouts and who must have had something to do with the pots origins.

In 2016 the building was used by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Sandbach U3A and a Guinea Pig group who hold their National Show at the Scout Hall.

#HQ.
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#HR. RACES AT SANDBACH / Sandbach Race Course
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One of the events that happened in Sandbach during the 1800's was the "Sandbach Races". Held on its own Racecourse just off Congleton Road near Offley House it was a big event with various side shows taking place as well as the main races.



1818 Poster



1824 Poster.

29 Sept 1818

SANDBACH RACES

- 1) Will be run for PONIES not exceeding 13 Hands, a valuable Cup was donated by Mr Mellor for the winner of the race. Twice round the Course – Best of Heats.
- 2) HACKNEY SADDLE, BRIDLE AND WHIP.

Best of Heats. Three times round the course.

WEDNESDAY 30 Sept

- 1) A Valuable Cup for any Horse, Mare or Gelding that never started for a Fifty.
- 2) HACKNEY SADDLE, BRIDLE AND WHIP

Best of Heats. Three times round the course.

THURSDAY 1 Oct

- 1) CART- SADDLE, BRIDLE AND WHIP

By Cart Horses – Best of Heats.

29 Sept 1824

SANDBACH RACES

TUESDAY 10am. (29 Sept)

- 1) Purse of 15 Sovereigns with £50 added for Hoses of all descriptions.

Three year olds to carry 6 Stone 10lb

Four year olds to carry 8 Stone

Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 9lb

Six year olds to carry 9 Stone

Mares and Geldings allowed 2lbs.

Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

- 2) Purse of 5 Sovereigns with £50 added - By Galloways for Horses not exceeding 14 Hands. Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

- 3) On the same day a "Match" or Race took place between Mr West c.m. Augusts and Mr Bent's c.c. Regulus – Three times round the course.

WEDNESDAY 3pm.

1) A "Silver Cup" value 20 Guinea's with £50 added. – by Horse belonging to the Second Cheshire Regiment of Yeomanry Savalry, such horses are not being Thorough bred and never having started for a £50 and being bona tide the property of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates and having been on permanent duty this year. – To be rode by Members of the Regiment in Drill Dress – Best of Three heats, 3 Times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 8 Stone
Four year olds to carry 9 Stone 4lb
Five year olds to carry 10 Stone 8lb
Six year olds to carry 11 Stone 10lb

2) LADIES PURSE of 10 Sovereigns with £50 added –
Best of Heats Four times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone 7lb
Four year olds to carry 8 Stone
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 7lb
Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone

3) A Balloon will ascend from the race Ground immediately after the Cavalry Race.

THURSDAY 2pm.

1) THE PUBLICAN'S PURSE of 10 Sovereigns, with £50 added –
By Horses that never won a £50 Best of Heats, Three times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone
Four year olds to carry 7 Stone 10lb
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 12lb
Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone 12lb

2) A HANDICAP RACE for 5 Sovereigns with £50 added.

To be handicapped by the Stewards – Best of Heats 4 times round the course.

STEWARDS assembled at the George Inn on Wednesday at 1pm

HORSES to be entered at Mr J Hilditch's on Monday 27 September at 12O Clock.

Mr J Skerrett Esq (Steward).

Mr W Hall (Steward).

Mr J Hilditch (Clerk of the Course)

27 Sept 1825

SANDBACH RACES 2pm

TUESDAY 2pm. (27 Sept)

1) A PLATE VALUE OF £50 with 15 Sovereigns by the Stewards.

Three year olds to carry 6 Stone 10lb
Four year olds to carry 8 Stone
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 9lb
Six year olds to carry 9 Stone
Mares and Geldings allowed 2lbs.

Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

2) Purse of £50 with 5 Sovereigns added the Shopkeepers.

For Horses not exceeding 14 Hands. Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

WEDNESDAY 3pm.

1) A "Silver Cup" value £50. – by Horse belonging to the Second Cheshire Regiment of Yeomanry Savalry, such horses are not being thorough bred and never having started for a £50 and being bona tide the property of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates and having been on permanent duty this year. – To be rode by Members of the Regiment in Drill Dress – Best of Three heats, 3 Times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 8 Stone
Four year olds to carry 9 Stone 4lb
Five year olds to carry 10 Stone 8lb
Six year olds to carry 11 Stone 10lb

2) LADIES PURSE of £50 with 10 sovereigns added by the Ladies–
Best of Heats Four times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone 7lb
Four year olds to carry 8 Stone
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 7lb

Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone

THURSDAY 2pm.

1) THE PUBLICAN'S PURSE of £50 with 10 Sovereigns added by the Publicans –
By Horses that never won a £50 Best of Heats, Three times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone

Four year olds to carry 7 Stone 10lb

Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 12lb

Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone 12lb

2) A HANDICAP RACE for £50 with 5 Sovereigns with added by the Town.

To be handicapped by the Stewards – Best of Heats 4 times round the course.

STEWARDS assembled at the George Inn on Wednesday at 1pm

HORSES to be entries at Mr T Emery's on Monday 26 September at 12O Clock.

Mr W.J. Brown Esq (Steward).

Mr R Cockson (Steward).

Mr T Emery (Clerk of the Course)

R.A.F. CRANAGE
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Built in 1939 RAF Cranage (Royal Air Force Cranage) it was originally a grass field in Cheshire used as a training station and aircraft maintenance unit by August 1939 with eight hangers.

In August 1940, the airfield became the Relief Landing Ground for the No 5 Flying Training School.

On the 21 October 1940 the first flying unit based at Cranage was formed as the No 2 School of Air Navigation RAF, operating twin-engine Avro Anson aircraft. The unit was renamed the Central Navigation School in 1942 and had an increase in aircraft to 58 Anson's. The CNS left cranage in February 1944.

In December 1940, 96 Squadron (Night Flight) was formed as an operational squadron to fight enemy aircraft in the midlands and northwest with Mark 1 Hawker Hurricanes being used in a night air defence role protecting the industrial areas and Ports of Liverpool.

Between 1941 and 1942 just outside Sandbach at Betchton a Decoy Bunker was put into operation. It was designed to act as a Decoy to deflect enemy bombers away from the RAF Base at Cranage. The decoy was a "Q type" night decoy which was lit up to look like the Royal Air Force Base at Cranage (known locally as Byley Airfield) one of those who manned the decoy was Jack Bowser who died in May 2015 and was the last survivor of the 4 men who had set up the decoy each night.

In May 1941 seven Avro Manchester bombers were stored at Cranage pending a refit with new engines at the nearby Vickers-Armstrong shadow factory.

In August 1941 the Battle Headquarters building was completed and entered into use as a command post for the Air Defence Commander with a telephone exchange in the building included to keep the site appraised of incoming aircraft.

In October 1941, 96 Squadron moved out of Cranage to RAF Wrexham as the Luftwaffe moved away from bombing Britain towards the Russian front lessening air raids on Liverpool and Manchester.

In July 1942, 1531 Flight was formed as a Beam Approach Training Flight using the Airspeed Oxford. 96 Squadron had asked for a concrete runway to have been built to replace the three grass runways.

The only concession was the laying of an Army Track Wire Mesh. After they had left in October 1941 plans were put in place to replace the grass with American Pierced Steel Planking (PSP) in April 1943. The three runways were 3240 feet, 3860 feet and 3000 feet long.

In 1944 a number of Vickers Wellingtons were attached to Cranage to be used as training aircraft.

The United States Army Air Force brought in the 14th Liaison Squadron flight operating Stinson L-5 Sentinel Aircraft between May and Mid-June 1944 which were there to support the US Army based at Tatton Hall, Peover Hall (Where General Patton and Eisenhower made their plans for D Day.) and Sandbach as they prepared to take part in D Day (Operation Overlord). The USAF unit was part of the 9th Air Force and General Patton's 3rd Army with General Patton visiting Cranage in May 1944, from his headquarters in Peover Hall.

On the 8 February 1945, RAF Cranage was withdrawn from use as a satellite for other airfields and also in February 1945 a detachment of No 12 (Pilot) Advanced Flying Unit started operating from Cranage.

On the 19 May 1945, 1531 Beam Approach Training (BAT) Flight was disbanded and large crosses were painted on the end of the runways to stop aircraft landing leaving the base without aircraft for the first time in five years.

After the war in May 1945 by No 190 Gliding School and operated Kirby Cadet gliders at Cranage until 1947 with the aircraft being pulled into the air by redundant balloon winches. No 190 moved to RAF Woodvale.

The airfield was then used by the RAF as a storage and maintenance unit until 1945 when it was allocated to the USAF (United States Air Force) who stationed a number of non-flying units.

In June 1957 the USAF handed back Cranage to the RAF who decided to close the site on the 1 July with the storage unit closing December 1957 with it being abandoned in 1958 and the hangers being dismantled and sold off.

In November 1963 the M6 in Cheshire was opened and part of the road cut through the Cranage Airfield at its North East corner.

On the 24 July 2002, the Air Defences and surviving buildings of RAF Cranage were well preserved and "Listed" these include the Defence Headquarters, a Gun Pit, Aircraft Sleeper Shelter, Four 'Mushroom' Pillboxes (3 Complete and 1 demolished).

In 2000 Scottish Power put forward plans to store gas in caverns underneath RAF Cranage and in 2004 permission was granted and between 2011 and 2013 the caverns were filled with 6 billion cubic feet of gas.

BYLEY

A Vickers-Armstrong shadow factory was set up at Byley to assemble Wellington Bombers. Once they were assembled, they were towed to Cranage for their first test flights and then on to their delivery address.

SQUADRONS AND AIRCRAFT BASED AT CRANAGE

96 Squadron RAF (1940-1941) Hawker Hurricane and Boulton Paul Defiant.

307 Squadron RAF (Detachment from RAF Jurby) (1940-1941) Boulton Paul Defiant

2 School of Air Navigation (Renamed the Central Navigation School) (1940- 1942) Avro Anson

Central Navigation School (1942- 1944) Avro Anson and Vickers Wellington

1531 (Beam Approach Training) Flight RAF (1942-1944) Airspeed Oxford

14 Liaison Squadron (1944) USA Airforce – Stinson L-5 Sentinel

61 Maintenance Unit RAF (1945-1954) Repairs only.

RAF AIRFIELDS IN CHESHIRE

RAF Burtonwood (WW2)

RAF Calveley

RAF Cranage (WW2)

RAF Hooton Park (WW2)

RAF Padgate

RAF Poulton

RAF Ringway

RNAS Stretton (HMS Blackcap)

RAF West Kirby

RAF Wilmslow

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