



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 264 – September 2018

➤ **ARE YOU CONNECTED? AND WHAT ARE YOU CONNECTED TO?**

The question is really about what devices you may have in your home, car or on your person that connect in any way to the internet. The number of gadgets that can do this today is staggering. Not just mobile phones, sat navs and computers, but kettles, toothbrushes, televisions, cameras, vacuum cleaners, even “smart” suitcases. They all perform their basic function of course, but they can now collect data about what you are doing, when, and where, and send it to an organisation that can sell it for marketing or other purposes. If you do have any of these devices, have you been asked for permission to share your data, and exactly what data?

- Why would anyone be interested in when you brush your teeth? Toothpaste makers and supermarkets would so they could send you a message about a special offer as you enter the store because your mobile phone can be tracked so they know when the right time is to send you the message.
- A robot vacuum cleaner can use a camera to map out your rooms so that it knows where to clean and what to avoid. Those pictures could very useful to all sorts of organisations to try and sell you carpets, furniture, curtains, windows, or how about home decorating products and services?
- Do you have a computer printer that connects to the internet? Whatever is printed on it - including information about how many pages, how much ink, your PC name and the print file name - can be tracked by the manufacturer or intercepted if you have an insecure wi-fi network.
- Smart suitcases are locked using a smart phone and a password. Is that safer than a using a key? Some cases had their master keys leaked a few years ago so a criminal who has these keys can use a smart phone to scan for Bluetooth devices in their vicinity, and unlock your case.
- Smart phones can also detect Smart Toys and send voice and text messages to them, and if there is no adult present, what could a small child be instructed to do seemingly by their toy? Would you give your child an internet-connected smart phone or PC to play with and leave them alone with it?
- Baby monitors have been hacked and the footage broadcast on a Russian website. The footage allowed users to see inside people's homes.
- If you have any device with an internet connection keep it as secure as possible:
 - ❖ Make sure you change the default settings and passwords
 - ❖ Choose strong passwords that aren't repeats of passwords you use elsewhere
 - ❖ Check for any security software updates regularly and make sure you install them
 - ❖ Secure your internet router or modem by changing default passwords and installing updates
 - ❖ Turn off remote access to your baby monitor if you don't need it
 - ❖ If you're using your smart phone app as a baby monitor, check the security settings and set a password if you can

➤ **FRAUD – THE BIGGEST CRIME CATEGORY**

The crime statistics derived from the crime reports as shown in this newsletter are based on data from South Yorkshire Police, but they do not show the full picture. Domestic Violence for example is not included in these tables and nationally it constitutes about another 10% of the total (which for England and Wales is about 6 million crimes a year). Fraud offences are also not included. (Frauds are recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau via Action Fraud, Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK. Action Fraud record fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces.) The Crime Survey for England and Wales, with the Office for National Statistics, provides another look at crime including fraud. This shows that the number of fraud offences is around five million, almost as much as all the other categories put together, and it is estimated to cost £10 billion a year.

Fraud crimes are mainly perpetrated through e-mails, phone calls, text messages, and letters, and are usually one of five kinds:

- Promises of free Gift Cards. These can be offered on e-mails or web sites that look like a popular store such as Marks & Spencer or Argos. The information you give can be used for ID fraud.
- Surveys that are actually trying to sell something. They can pretend to be from the Government or local Council or a research company, and can collect more information about you than you realise.
- PC and laptop viruses (real or imagined) where a phone call or message on your computer screen will tell you that you have a problem, but they have an “engineer” who can fix it. Beware also of downloading software from fake websites that look like that of a well-known anti-virus company.
- Investment opportunities that are too good to be true, but you must sign up quickly!
- Fake Prize Draws (or surveys) that fool you into receiving premium rate texts.

CONTACTS

- ❖ **SY Police:** for non-emergency calls, to report a crime, or give information: 101 or from the main SYP web page (www.southyorks.police.uk) in the Contact Details tab under Report a crime.
Local contacts: Police Sergeant Mark Worrall and Inspector Caroline Bakewell; also on Twitter @RothSouthNHP and Facebook at Rotherham South NHP.
Weekly drop in sessions: meet team members and discuss the issues that are important to you: Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington; every Wednesday 1.30 – 3 pm.
- ❖ **Crimestoppers:** To give information about crime: (you don't have to give your name) 0800 555 111 Monday-Friday 08:00-22:00; Saturday and Sunday 10:00-16:00 <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>
- ❖ **Crime Prevention - police site:** <https://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice>
SYP: <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk> - under **Useful links**
Crime Prevention - independent Crime Prevention and Home Security advice: website <https://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com>
Action Fraud: The national fraud-reporting centre. To make a report contact the Action Fraud contact centre on 0300 123 2040. You may make the report anonymously. Text phone users can ring 0300 123 2050. Specialist fraud advisers are available: Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 5pm
Report fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk
- ❖ **Rotherham & District Citizens Advice**
The Rain Building, Market Hall, Eastwood Lane, Rotherham, S65 1EQ
Advice Line: 03444 111 444 open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
<http://www.citizensadvicerotherham.org.uk>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

CRIMES REPORTED IN JULY IN SOUTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Crowgate	Burglary	Sheffield Road	Criminal damage/arson
Lidsters Lane	Criminal damage/arson	The Haven	Burglary
Mill Lane	Violence offences	The Haven	Vehicle crime
Petrol Station	Other theft x 2	Wesley Place	Violence offences
Petrol Station	Other crime	Westbank Drive	Criminal damage/arson

CRIMES REPORTED IN JULY IN NORTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Anston Close	Vehicle crime	Hanging Bank Ct	Violence offences x 2
Back Lane	Criminal damage/arson	Hawkshead Cresc	Vehicle crime
Bennett Croft	Burglary	Oakdale Road	Other theft
Bennett Croft	Burglary	Penny Piece Place	Vehicle crime
Buttermere Close	Burglary x 2	Plantation Avenue	Other theft
Caperns Road	Burglary	Plantation Avenue	Public order
Caperns Road	Criminal damage/arson x2	Portland Close	Criminal damage/arson
Caperns Road	Vehicle crime	Ryton Road	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 2	The Green	Other theft
Cramfit Road	Anti-social behaviour	The Green	Vehicle crime
Dukeries Drive	Anti-social behaviour	Windmill Road	Criminal damage/arson
Falcon Way	Anti-social behaviour x 3	Windmill Road	Violence offences
Hanging Bank Ct	Criminal damage/arson	Woodland Drive	Anti-social behaviour
Hanging Bank Ct	Other theft		