



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
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➤ DOES NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

According to research from Nottingham Trent University, residents living in areas covered by Neighbourhood Watch can expect to experience fewer crimes. It found that if a household were transplanted from a non-Neighbourhood Watch area to an identical area (in terms of population density etc.) with the only exception that there was an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme, then this household would experience 11% fewer crimes.

Since the mid-1990s, there has been a significant drop in burglaries according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales. During this period, the research by NTU reveals that burglaries have fallen faster in Neighbourhood Watch areas than others with otherwise identical household and area profiles. These findings also suggest that vulnerable social groups, including lone parents, social renters and people living in flats and maisonettes, who live within a Neighbourhood Watch area are more protected than others.

The research revealed that 72% of Neighbourhood Watch members live in urban areas, 22% in rural areas and just 6% in inner city areas. However, if asked to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, households in inner city areas would be the most eager to do so.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of the Neighbourhood Watch Network, said: "The evidence is clear. No matter your background, social class, whether you own your own property or rent, you are safer if you live within a Neighbourhood Watch area. The modern day Neighbourhood Watch operates in many different ways and is flexible to how people live and work. Some are run entirely online through social media, others have regular face to face meetings. Whatever works for you, works for Neighbourhood Watch.

➤ CRIMES ON OR NEAR...

The apparent location of crimes in the crime tables below can cause puzzlement when residents say they know nothing of a crime on their street. This arises because of a process in the reporting of crimes called Anonymisation. This process has to find a balance between informing the public and protecting the privacy of victims. To do this there is a list (latitude and longitude) of anonymous map points. Each map point was chosen to be at the centre point of a street, a public place such as a park, or commercial premises like a shopping centre, and has a catchment area which contains at least eight postal addresses, or no postal addresses at all.

When crime data is uploaded by police forces, the exact location of each crime is compared against this list to find the nearest map point. The co-ordinates of the actual crime are then replaced with the co-ordinates of the map point. So the locations published are only an approximate location of a crime — not the exact place that it happened. Hence there could be crime of Shoplifting that is reported as **on or near** a road where there are no shops, but that road is the nearest map point to the actual crime. Another example could be of Violence on a public footpath. This would be reported to the nearest map point which could be a road maybe 50 or even 100 yards away.

➤ PREVENTING VEHICLE CRIME

Most vehicle crime is preventable. It can take as little as 10 seconds for a thief to steal something from your car. Always lock your car whenever you leave it. Other things you can do include:

- Removing everything from the car; don't even leave a jacket where it can be seen
- Closing the sunroof along with the windows when you leave
- Not storing things in the boot; take them with you
- Storing car ownership information in your home, not your car
- Having a routine to ensure you always take the keys out of the ignition
- Taking removable stereos and sat nav equipment with you
- Using secure (theft resistant) number plates can make your plates less attractive to thieves

Where you park can make a big difference to the safety of your car and your belongings. Look out for car parks

approved by the police Safer Parking scheme with their distinctive 'Park Mark' signs.

How to keep your car safe at home

- Thieves sometimes break into houses looking for car keys. They also use wires and hooks to try and drag your keys through the letterbox.
- Keep your keys away from doors and windows, and tucked away out of sight.
- Have your vehicle's windows etched with its registration number or the last seven digits of the vehicle identification number (VIN). This can put criminals off, as it makes your car more difficult to sell.

Get help when buying a car

If you're thinking of buying a car you may want to do a little information gathering about vehicle security before you buy. The insurance research company Thatcham allows you to compare the security of new cars, motorcycles and trucks. It gives each vehicle a point score. That score can show you how the car you're thinking of buying compares to others on the market.

See: <https://www.thatcham.org/what-we-do/security/my-vehicle-search/>

If you're buying a used car, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) can tell you what it knows about the vehicle. That information can include the make and model, the year it was built, and whether tax is owed on the vehicle.

➤ **WHAT'S HOT?**

❖ **Bogus Callers**

- A report has been received about two men who called at a house saying that some ridge tiles needed replacing, and as they were doing some work around the corner, they could fit the job in. They were in a white Ford Transit van registration BK58 LFS.
- Other such callers can offer to clean a drive, repair a drive, or clean windows. Don't accept any such offer. They may be genuine, the chances are they won't be.

❖ **Environmental Issues**

- Regulations are in place to protect citizens from nuisances such as noise, bad smells, pet nuisance, litter, pest control. If you are concerned about any such issue in your area, you should keep a note of what it was, when, how bad the issue was (e.g. loud noises, bad smell), how long it lasted, what the effect was on you and your household.

These records should then be passed on to the Environment Agency on freephone: 0800 807060. They will use the information to help determine the level and frequency of nuisance that is being caused and its effect on the community. There may be some issues that the Agency cannot do much about. These include cooking smells from domestic properties and certain 'expected' noises or smells that are deemed 'normal' or incidental to where you live.

➤ **CONTACTS**

❖ **SY Police:**

Emergencies - call 999: when there is a threat to life (including road traffic accidents where persons are injured, the road is blocked or a vehicle involved in the accident has failed to stop); violence to a person or damage to property is imminent; a suspected offender is still at the scene of a crime or any delay in reporting the incident may prevent the offender being apprehended; serious disruption to the public is currently taking place or, is likely to take place

Non-emergencies - call 101: to report a crime not currently taking place and no offender is present, or to give information. Calls to 101 cost 15 pence per call from landlines and mobiles - no matter how long you're on the phone. A crime can also be reported on the main SYP web page (www.southyorks.police.uk) in the Contact Details tab under Report a crime.

at <https://www.reportingcrime.uk>, or from the main SYP web page <http://www.southyorks.police.uk> at the bottom of the page under **Contact us**

- ❖ **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>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194