



# VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
Edition 273 - JUNE 2019

## ➤ **CONTROLS PREVENT PHONE FRAUDSTERS SPOOFING HMRC**

New defensive controls deployed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have put an end to fraudster's spoofing the tax authority's most recognisable helpline numbers.

Fraudsters have increasingly mimicked legitimate HMRC helpline numbers (often beginning with 0300) to dupe taxpayers and steal money. Last year alone, HMRC received over 100,000 phone scam reports. The 'spoofing' scam worked as taxpayers would receive calls and, on checking the numbers online, would find they appeared to belong to HMRC. This often led people to believe fake calls were real and enabled fraud.

The new controls, created in partnership with the telecommunications industry and Ofcom, will prevent spoofing of HMRC's most used inbound helpline numbers and are the first to be used by a government department in the UK. Criminals may still try and use less credible numbers to deploy their scams – but that means they will be easier to spot. Since the controls were introduced in April this year, HMRC has reduced to zero the number of phone scams spoofing genuine inbound HMRC numbers. This has resulted in the tax authority already receiving 25% fewer scam reports against the previous month.

HMRC will continue to work with network providers to eradicate fraudulent numbers that are reported, and during the last 10 months has requested the removal of over 1,050 numbers from being used by scammers. Criminals often target the elderly and vulnerable using HMRC's brand as it is well known and adds credibility to a fraudster's call, though this will now be significantly harder to do. In the last year, HMRC identified 3,441 phishing scams before they were reported thanks to proactive intelligence work. During the same period, HMRC requested the takedown of 12,366 phishing websites.

HMRC will only ever call you asking for payment on a debt that you are already aware of, either having received a letter about it, or after you've told them you owe some tax, for example through a Self Assessment return.

- How to spot a scam
  - ❖ Recognise the signs - genuine organisations like banks and HMRC will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, password or bank details
  - ❖ Stay safe - don't give out private information, reply to text messages, download attachments or click on links in emails you weren't expecting
  - ❖ Take action - forward details of suspicious calls claiming to be from HMRC to [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and texts to 60599, or contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use their online fraud reporting tool if you suffer financial loss
  - ❖ Check GOV.UK for how to avoid and report scams and recognise genuine HMRC contact

Other changes also mean you will never have to read aloud your card details to an operator. If anyone is ever in doubt about who they are speaking to, check the number and end the call. You can contact HMRC using one of the helpline numbers or online services available from GOV.UK

From June 2019, callers paying tax or debts over the phone to HMRC will enter their payment details via their phone keypad instead of supplying this verbally over the phone. The operator will remain on the call throughout while the card details are processed via the system but will not be privy to the customer's secure information.

## ➤ **CRIME REPORTS**

As in months previously when two months' worth of crime data get reported together, the first impression is that the numbers have increased. In fact they haven't, the totals are average. Just seeing a list of them all, there appears to be a lot more.

➤ **WHAT'S HOT?**

❖ **Thefts from Gardens**

A very mean and petty type of crime is the theft of items from gardens. These can be ornaments, hanging baskets, sometimes even furniture. Some of these items can have significant meaning to the owner, and their loss is far more than the monetary value. It can be difficult to make some of these items secure, but it's worth trying anything to reduce the chance of theft.

➤ **CONTACTS**

❖ **SY Police:**

**Emergencies - call 999:** when there is a threat to life (including road traffic accidents where persons is imminent• A suspected offender is still at the scene of a crime or any delayisruption to the public is currently taking place or, is likely to take place

**Non-emergencies - call 101:** to report a crime not currently tak

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

**CRIMES REPORTED IN MARCH AND APRIL IN SOUTH ANSTON**

Bank Street	Burglary	Petrol Station	Other theft x 3
Bank Street	Violence offences	Petrol Station	Shoplifting x 2
Church Court	Criminal damage/arson	Sheffield Road	Criminal damage/arson
First Lane	Anti-social behaviour	Sheffield Road	Violence offences x 2
High Street	Criminal damage/arson	Sports/rec Area	Vehicle crime
High Street	Other theft	The Haven	Burglary
Holmes Field Cls	Public order	Wesley Place	Bicycle theft
Holmes Field Cls	Vehicle crime	Wesley Place	Criminal damage/arson
Lockwood Avenue	Vehicle crime	Westbank Drive	Vehicle crime
Lidsters Lane	Criminal damage/arson	Yeomans Way	Violence offences
Lidsters Lane	Other theft x 3		

**CRIMES REPORTED IN MARCH AND APRIL IN NORTH ANSTON**

Abbey Way	Other theft	Manvers Close	Vehicle crime
Abbey Way	Burglary	Newcastle Close	Vehicle crime
Anston Close	Other theft	Park Avenue	Anti-social behaviour
Bennett Croft	Violence offences	Plantation Avenue	Vehicle crime x 2
Borrowdale Cresc	Violence offences	Plantation Avenue	Criminal damage/arson
Caldbeck Place	Anti-social behaviour	Portland Close	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour	Portland Close	Criminal damage/arson
Caperns Road	Vehicle crime	Portland Close	Vehicle crime
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 2	Portland Close	Violence offences x 3
Devonshire Drive	Other crime	Sca Fell Place	Criminal damage/arson
Eastwood Avenue	Violence offences x 2	Sunnyside Close	Public order
Edinburgh Drive	Violence offences	Sunnyside Close	Vehicle crime
Falcon Way	Criminal damage/arson	The Green	Vehicle crime
Grasmere Close	Violence offences	The Green	Anti-social behaviour x 2
Hanging Bank Ct	Shoplifting	White Gate	Anti-social behaviour
Hanging Bank Ct	Public order x 2	Woodland Drive	Other crime
Hanging Bank Ct	Vehicle crime	Woodland Drive	Violence offences x 3
Houghton Road	Other theft	Woodland Drive	Anti-social behaviour
Houghton Road	Public order	Wright Street	Criminal damage/arson
Houghton Road	Theft from the person	Wright Street	Burglary
Houghton Road	Vehicle crime x 2	Wright Street	Other theft
Houghton Road	Violence offences	Wright Street	Violence offences x 4
Lakeland Drive	Violence offences x 2		