



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 270 – March 2019

➤ **LOOKING BACK - AGAIN!**

In case all the figures in last month's Village Watch weren't enough, here are some more. In 1996, about two years after the formation of our Neighbourhood Watch, there were around 59 Co-ordinators distributing 700 newsletters. We now have 38 Co-ordinators distributing 920 newsletters. So maybe our Co-ordinators today are a lot fitter than those in the early years? And in 1995, a police report showed that there had been 19 burglaries and two attempted burglaries in South Anston *in just two months!* Last year there were 15 burglaries in 12 months. Not pleasant at all for the victims of those crimes, or of any crime, but when we are constantly bombarded with media messages about reducing police numbers and increasing crimes, we need to look at where we were only a generation ago.

➤ **VILLAGE WATCH – ON ANSTON PARISH COUNCIL WEB PAGE**

The Aims and Objectives of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch include improving the sense and feeling of security, developing a community spirit, and reaching as many residents as possible. The whole reason for this newsletter is to promote these aims. So the more people it reaches, the more fulfilled are these objectives. As can be seen from the above paragraph, we are reaching less than half the households in South Anston alone, and a very small proportion of households in North Anston. As in many aspects of our 21st century lives, however, many people now have access to the World Wide Web via the internet, which can be a source of useful information (as well as a lot of rubbish). Our newsletters can be found on the Anston Parish Council web site at <http://www.anston.gov.uk>. From the main page select **Community Newsletter** and click on any of the documents listed. (They are in pdf format so you will need Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer to open them. If you don't have this software you can download and install it free from <https://get.adobe.com/uk/reader>)

➤ **WHAT'S HOT?**

❖ **Bank Identification Numbers - BIN scams**

Have you ever had someone on the phone, claiming to be from a bank or business, and quoting some of the numbers on your bank card at you? The BIN, or Bank Identification Number (or Issuer Identification Number), identifies the institution that issued the card. Most people would reasonably assume that things like Bank Identification Numbers would be difficult to obtain, but it's actually very easy.

If someone claiming to be from your bank's security division rings up and says there's been suspicious activity on your account, and wants to confirm that you're the account owner, you're probably going to listen to what they say. He – and it's usually a man – asks you where you bank. You tell him, and he says "Does your card (credit as well as debit cards) start with the following digits....?" He quotes the BIN at you. Since most people don't know what the BIN is, that would convince most that he really is calling from the bank.

From there it just takes a few more questions to obtain the full bank card number and three digit security code (from the back of the card), and may also glean your account password. The caller may ask you to make a note of a (fictitious) incident reference number and will give reassurance that the account hasn't actually been compromised and there is nothing to worry about!

How To Avoid Being A BIN Scam Victim

Since scammers rely on sounding plausible to their victims, the best way to avoid being scammed is simply to doubt everything you hear. If someone calls claiming to be from your bank, insist on returning the call, and don't use the number they give you. Put the phone down and find the bank's phone number on the back of your card, or on a statement, or in the phone book. Wait at least five minutes, or use another phone (not an extension of a landline), call your bank and ask for the security centre. Sometimes you may get a genuine call from your bank's security centre about an expensive or unusual purchase made on a credit card. They may give you a phone number and ask you to call back. Again – don't use the number they give you. The safest thing is not to offer any personal information about your

cards or accounts until you're convinced the person on the other end is exactly who he claims to be. It's your money – and possibly your identity – at stake.

❖ **Fake Charity Donation Scams - e-mail solicitations**

People are generous in giving to charities, especially after a natural disaster, for victims of war, famine etc. But charities and charity appeals offer opportunities for scammers. A spam e-mail solicitation is the most common type of fraud. In the wake of a natural disaster you might receive an e-mail about an "urgent appeal" for aid. The name of the supposed charity might be very similar to that of an established and familiar one. To donate you're directed to a web site that looks professional, and you donate by credit card. Unfortunately, it's all fake, and instead of helping the victims, you've not only given money to crooks, you've also given them your personal and financial details. A variation on this is asking you to phone a premium rate number to donate, with the assurance that all proceeds will go to charity. Never trust an e-mail solicitation. Always check with the **Charity Commission** to ensure the charity is real before giving. If you feel you've been scammed, contact your bank immediately.

➤ **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.
- ❖ **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: <https://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com>
Action Fraud: the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime. It is run by the National Fraud Authority – the government agency that helps to co-ordinate the fight against fraud in the UK. 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
- ❖ **Charity Commission:** Contact Centre open Monday to Friday, 10am to midday and 1pm until 3pm 0300 066 9197
To find a charity go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>
- ❖ **Victim Support:** If you have been the victim of crime, and you feel shocked, sad, distressed or angry, Victim Support is a national, independent charity whose trained volunteers and staff can help you. Their services are independent of the police, free, confidential and available to everyone, regardless of whether the crime has been reported or how long ago it took place.
<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk>
Supportline
Call Supportline free on 08 08 16 89 111. You can dial 141 to hide your number, but please check with your network provider as this doesn't work on some mobile networks.
Normal opening hours for Supportline are:
Weeknights: Monday to Friday 8pm to 8am Weekends: 24 hour service
If you have been a victim of a violent offence, you may be eligible for compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). You can apply for compensation whether someone has been prosecuted for the offence or not. To find out more, visit: www.cica.gov.uk or call CICA on 0800 358 3601
South Yorkshire Victim Support
Call Rotherham Victim Support Service on 01709 361076
9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. For out of hours see **Supportline**
E-mail: Rotherham.vs@victimsupport.org.uk
On Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/victimsupport>
On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/victimsupport>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

CRIME FIGURES FOR JANUARY WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER