



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 244 – November 2016

➤ **National Mattress Scam**

- Rogue traders have been selling supposedly new mattresses out of the back of vans. The van may even show the name of a well-known bedding company. In fact the mattresses were recovered from skips or were “trade ins”. The scam was featured on BBC Radio 2, when it was obvious that this was happening nationwide and probably thousands of households had been left out of pocket with nothing but a dirty, smelly or damaged mattress to show for it.
- The mattresses appear undamaged because of new plastic packaging and possibly a clean mattress cover, but a used, discarded mattress will almost certainly be horrifically unhygienic. Also, many of the old mattresses which are being sold do not meet flammability regulations, so could be putting lives at risk.
- One version of the scam is aimed at pensioners. Age Concern alerted Trading Standards officers after a number of elderly residents had been targeted by door-to-door sales people who were attempting to sell over-priced “medical” beds and mattresses.
- A recent attempt in South Anston shows that these, and indeed all scams, don’t go away. Like the mattresses, they are re-cycled.

➤ **Inheritance fraud**

- Another scam that has been around a good while, but is still going. A scam inheritance letter was received by a South Anston resident, in which the correspondent claimed that a person with the same surname as the recipient had died in a foreign country. Because the deceased had left a large amount of money in a bank account, but had no heirs, the letter suggested that the recipient could “inherit”.
- The fraudster usually claims to be a lawyer or some other legal official. They tell you that a person sharing your family name has died and left behind a vast amount of money. The lawyer is administering the estate and has been unable to identify any of the dead person’s relatives. If no relatives can be found, the money will go to the government. The lawyer suggests that, because you share the same family name as the deceased, he could pay the inheritance to you. You could then split the money between you, rather than handing it over to the government.
- The fraudsters will emphasise the need for secrecy and warn you not to tell anyone else about the deal. They will also stress the need to act quickly. There is, of course, no inheritance, and the person contacting you isn’t a lawyer or legal official. If you respond to the fraudsters, they’ll ask you to pay various fees – for example: taxes, legal fees, banking fees etc. – so they can release your non-existent inheritance.
- Each time you make a payment, the fraudsters will come up with a reason why the inheritance still can’t be paid out without another payment. The fees can’t be taken from your inheritance and have to be paid up front.
- If you become reluctant to pay a fee or suggest you can’t afford it, the fraudsters will put pressure on you by reminding you how close you are to receiving a massive sum of money, and of how much you’ve already paid out. The fraudsters may also ask for your bank details so they can pay the inheritance directly into your bank account. But, if you hand over your bank details, the fraudsters can use them to empty your account.

WHAT'S HOT?

➤ **Tool Thefts From Van**

- Valuable power tools were stolen from a van parked on Windsor Walk overnight. The van was believed to have been locked but there was no sign of forced entry. In such cases, neither the police nor the insurance company is likely to take any action.

➤ **Roof Repairs**

- Another attempted scam reported was a man knocking on the door and claiming that a tile on the roof at the rear of the property was cracked, and he was offering to replace it. He invited the occupier to come round to look at the tile. Was this a ploy to get the occupier out of the house so that his mate – waiting in the van parked outside – could nip into the house? And how could anyone – other than a neighbour – see a roof tile at the back of the house (it was a bungalow)? After declining the offer, the man got nasty, used offensive language and left.

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 Us** tab under **Report a crime**.
- **Crimestoppers:** To give information about crime (you don't have to give your name): 0800 555 111. Open Monday-Friday 08:00-22:00; Saturday and Sunday 10:00-16:00
Action Fraud: To make a report contact the Action Fraud contact centre on 0300 123 2040. You may make the report anonymously. 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
- **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194
- **Rother Valley South Area Assembly Meetings 2016:**
Monday 5th December, 2pm Todwick Village Hall

CRIMES REPORTED IN AUGUST IN SOUTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Crowgate	Anti-social behaviour	Nemesia Close	Burglary
Crowgate	Violence/sexual offences	Petrol Station	Burglary
High Street	Anti-social behaviour	Petrol Station	Other theft
Kirkstall Close	Vehicle crime	Sheffield Road	Violence/sexual offences
Lidsters Lane	Other theft	Wilberforce Road	Anti-social behaviour x 2
Manor Farm Gdns	Anti-social behaviour		

CRIMES REPORTED IN AUGUST IN NORTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Ambleside Walk	Violence/sexual offences	Nursery Road	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Portland Close	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Public order	Sanctuary Fields	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Violence/sexual offences	Sikes Road	Anti-social behaviour
Hall Close	Anti-social behaviour	Sunnyside Close	Anti-social behaviour
Hawkshead Cresc	Criminal damage and arson	Winberry Ave	Anti-social behaviour
Lakeland Drive	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Woodland Drive	Anti-social behaviour
Lindale Close	Public order	Wright Street	Violence/sexual offences
Nursery Crescent	Other theft		