



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 283 – JUNE 2021

➤ CARRYING ON

It was March 2020 when this newsletter was last published. Not only was production of the newsletter halted, but it would not have been appropriate to ask people to continue with the distribution. We are hoping that this edition will be a re-start, but it only gets put into letter boxes thanks to those who volunteer to deliver them. Over the last year we have all seen changes to our daily lives; some inconvenient, some annoying, some heart-breakingly sad. But all through these months there have been those beacons of light and warmth, people and organisations doing extraordinary things for the benefit of others. Helping those most in need, which ultimately helps the whole of our society. In Neighbourhood Watch, we try to help our part of the world to fight off the ever-present disease of crime.

➤ CRIME NUMBERS OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS

It would be heartening to think that many crimes may have decreased during the lockdowns, but those that have were balanced out by rises in others.

In South Anston there were significant drops in Burglary and Other theft, but increases in Anti-social behaviour, Public order and Violence offences. The net result was a change from a total of 190 in 2019 to 193 in 2020.

In North Anston, there were significant drops in Burglary and Other crime, but increases in Anti-social behaviour, Drugs and Violence offences which took the totals from 346 in 2019 to 415 in 2020.

➤ CYBER SECURITY

The number of electronic devices and their uses in many people's everyday lives has grown enormously in recent years. Security cameras, mobile phones, laptops, printers; online activities such as e-mail, shopping, banking, gaming, gambling, social media; "smart" devices such as door bells, TV's, fridges, radio speakers, fitness trackers, electricity and gas meters; cars with radio signalling keys - all these devices and activities carry personal information about the user or what they are doing. This could range from very personal information such as bank account details, to indications of when you are not at home, and possibly away on holiday. All useful information for criminals.

Cyber security is the protection by individuals and organisations to reduce the risk of being affected by the services we access online - both at home and work.

To take one of the most common devices that can be hacked - the router or hub. If you have wi-fi in your home or work place, even your devices are connected by cable, the box that connects to the outside world will be a router or hub. These devices can be detected - and "listened to" - from outside the building. The most important defence is to set them up with strong passwords. Too many devices – not just routers – are left with their default passwords. But these tend to be the same ones used over and over again for multiple purposes e.g. 'admin', '123456', 'password'. Hackers will try these to access your network and, if successful, can even lock you out of it and demand payment to release it. Buying reliable products is also a good idea; cheap ones can be very vulnerable.

❖ Tips for staying secure online

- Always use strong and separate passwords for all devices and your login accounts
Use three random words to create a strong password. Numbers and symbols can still be used if needed, for example toast921doggygarages!
Be creative and use words memorable to you, so that people can't guess your password. Your social media accounts can give away vital clues about yourself so don't use words that are easy for people to guess.
Cyber criminals know many of the simple substitutions we use such as 'Pa55word!' which utilises symbols to replace letters. Never use the following personal details for your password:
 - partner's name, child's name, other family members' name, pet's name, place of birth, favourite holiday place, something related to your favourite sports team.
- Install the latest software and app updates. These contain vital security elements to protect your

devices from cyber criminals.

- Use two-factor authentication if it is available. This will send a one-off code to your mobile phone to use when logging in.
- Password managers can help you create and remember passwords.
- Secure smartphones and tablets with a screen lock. This offers an important extra layer of security.
- Always back up your most important data. Safeguard your key documents by backing them up to an external hard drive or a cloud-based storage system.

More details are at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk> under **Information for** then **Individuals & families**.

➤ CONTACTS

- ❖ **SY Police:** <https://www.southyorks.police.uk>
- ❖ **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, 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.
- ❖ **Report an incident online:** As an alternative to 101, you can report a non-emergency incident online at <https://www.reportingcrime.uk>, or from the main SYP web page under **Report something**
Reporting domestic abuse and advice for victims are also the SYP site under **Quick links**.
For general enquiries, you can email enquiries@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
Please do not use this email address to report crime – see above to report an incident online.
- ❖ **Crimestoppers:** you can report crime or suspicious activity anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 Monday-Friday 08:00-22:00; Saturday and Sunday 10:00-16:00 or by completing an online form at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>
- ❖ **Crime Prevention - police site:** <https://www.police.uk/pu/advice-crime-prevention>
Also on the SYP site under **Quick 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. 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. Report fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk
Specialist fraud advisers are available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 5pm
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

CRIMES REPORTED IN APRIL IN SOUTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
First Lane	Criminal damage/arson	Lockwood Avenue	Vehicle crime
High Street	Vehicle crime	Manor Farm Gdns	Criminal damage/arson
Lockwood Avenue	Drugs	Petrol Station	Other theft

CRIMES REPORTED APRIL IN NORTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour x2	Sanctuary Fields	Violence offences x2
Caperns Road	Violence offences x2	Shopping Area	Anti-social behaviour
Falcon Way	Violence offences	Sikes Road	Vehicle crime x2
Houghton Road	Burglary	The Green	Anti-social behaviour x3
Narrow Lane	Public order	The Green	Criminal damage and arson
Nursery Road	Anti-social behaviour x2	The Green	Violence offences
Patterdale Way	Criminal damage/arson	Windermere Court	Other theft
Ryton Road	Anti-social behaviour	Woodland Drive	Anti-social behaviour
Ryton Road	Criminal damage/arson	Woodland Drive	Burglary