



VILLAGE WATCH



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

See **CRIME NUMBERS OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS** on the next page. Because of the changes in crime reporting since 2014, the numbers we see over recent years are much higher than in the earlier years. Up to 2014, in South Anston the number had dropped 75% in the previous ten years. In North Anston it had dropped 30% in the previous three years. (North Anston data was not collected before 2011.) Were these changes attributable to Neighbourhood Watch? As the numbers have now gone up, is that suggesting that Neighbourhood Watch isn't working?

The introduction of crime categories of Anti-social behaviour and Violence alone increased the crime figures by 60% over the last six years. This doesn't necessarily mean there is more crime being committed, but we are now seeing just how much of it there is. More detailed classification of crimes can now sub-divide what was previously one incident into several crimes e.g. Violence, Bicycle theft and Drugs offences could possibly result from one event. It is also possible that certain types of crime may be under-reported, or reporting may vary in different locations. Certain types of crime also decrease significantly in a locality when a serial offender has moved away or been locked up. It is thought that in today's electronic world, there are more crimes than we see reported because of the rise of Cyber Crime.

➤ DEALING WITH SUSPICIOUS EMAILS, PHONE CALLS AND TEXT MESSAGES

Criminals want to convince you to do something which they can use to their advantage. In a scam email or text message, their goal is often to convince you to click on a link. The link may take you to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords and personal information.

Over the phone, the approach may be more direct, asking you for sensitive information, such as banking details. They do this by pretending to be someone you trust, or from some organisation you trust. This could be your Internet Service Provider (ISP), local council, HMRC, bank, even a friend in need. The term 'phishing' is often used when talking about e-mails.

❖ Spotting suspicious messages

Spotting scam messages and phone calls is becoming increasingly difficult. Many scams will even fool the experts. However, there are some tricks that criminals will use to try and get you to respond without thinking. Things to look out for are:

- Authority - Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, doctor, a solicitor, or a government department. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations to trick you into doing what they want.
- Urgency - Are you told you have a limited time to respond (such as 'within 24 hours' or 'immediately')? Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.
- Emotion - Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.
- Scarcity - Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.
- Current events - Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times of year (like tax reporting) to make their scam seem more relevant to you.

❖ If it could be genuine

If you think a message might really be from an organisation you have an existing relationship with, like your bank, and you want to be sure, go back to something you can trust. Visit the official website, log in to your account, or use their phone number on a statement or bank card. Don't use the links or contact details in the message you have been sent or given over the phone.

❖ Make yourself a harder target

To make it harder for the criminals, you can do the following:

- For your social media applications and other online accounts, review your privacy settings.
- Think about what you post (and who can see it).
- Change your phone number to be unlisted, or 'ex-directory'.
- ❖ **What to do if you've already responded**
- If you've been tricked into providing your banking details, contact your bank and let them know.
- If you think your account has already been hacked, refer to the guidance on recovering a hacked account below.

All this and more can be found at the National Cyber Security Centre <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk> Click on *Information for* then click on *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**
- ❖ **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> or at 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

➤ CRIME NUMBERS OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Over the last five years more than two thirds of crimes are attributable to just three categories:

CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON

Year>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total no. of crimes >	109	154	141	190	193
	%	%	%	%	%
Anti-social behaviour	33	24	12	9	17
Other theft	23	34	30	29	15
Violence offences	15	19	26	22	27
Total of above %'s >	71	77	67	61	58

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON

Year>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total no. of crimes >	386	336	335	346	415
	%	%	%	%	%
Anti-social behaviour	51	33	22	20	23
Criminal damage and arson	13	10	15	7	7
Violence offences	13	21	27	33	39
Total of above %'s >	78	64	64	60	70