



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 292 – JUNE 2022

View on the Anston Parish Council website: <https://www.anston.gov.uk> under **Community**

➤ LATEST SCAMS

❖ Energy Crisis Scams

With the current energy price rises, many scammers are impersonating energy providers. Fake e-mails relating to refunds, payment owed or offering to find you the best deal are designed to steal your personal and financial information. Visit official websites only and be careful not to click on the adverts.

❖ Covid Text Scams

A text message may claim that you've been in contact with someone who has COVID-19. You could then be asked to click on a link to provide your financial information to book and pay for a PCR test. Do not engage or share your bank details. This may lead to card fraud or the fraudster may follow up with a phone call posing as someone from the bank.

❖ Ukraine Crisis Scams

Unfortunately criminals are taking advantage of the situation in Ukraine. Avoid responding to unsolicited emails, texts and social media adverts. Always visit the official websites when making donations.

❖ Holiday fraud

As demand for holidays soars, so does the number of scams. Criminals are always finding new ways to trick people and make them part with their hard earned cash. When booking a holiday here or abroad, it's important to do your research before handing over any money or personal details.

- Whilst most online accommodation booking platforms are legitimate, criminals use these platforms to defraud victims by advertising counterfeit accommodation websites.
- In some cases, victims have searched for flight tickets online and found a website they believe to be the company's genuine website. In other cases, victims reported responding to an approach or advertisement on social media or using what they believed to be legitimate flight comparison websites.
- In both instances, victims reported being contacted by someone purporting to be from the airline, or flight comparison website, to take them through the booking procedure and take payment.
- The fraudster may completely end contact after receiving payment, or provide the victim with fake booking information. Sadly, some victims have only become aware that they have been the victim of fraud when they arrive at the accommodation or airport and are unable to check-in.

Tips to avoid falling victim to holiday fraud:

- Stay safe online: check the web address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name – such as going from .co.uk to .org. If you decide to deal directly with the property owner or a letting agent, ask them questions about the booking, room, location and area. Don't book on websites that don't have a padlock icon (https) in the address bar, and be extra cautious if you're asked to pay using bank transfer or cash; pay by credit or debit card if you can.
- Do your research: don't just rely on one review – do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible. If a company is defrauding people, there is a good chance that consumers will post details of their experience, and warnings about the company.
- Check whether the company is an ABTA Member. Look for the ABTA logo on the company's website. If you have any doubts, you can verify membership of ABTA online on their website. If you're booking a flight as part of a package holiday and want more information about ATOL protection, or would like to check whether a company is an ATOL holder, visit the CAA website.
- Pay safe: where possible, pay by credit card. Avoid paying directly into a private individual's bank account.
- Check the paperwork: study receipts, invoices and terms and conditions, and be very wary of any companies that don't provide any at all. When booking through a Holiday Club or Timeshare, get the contract thoroughly vetted by a solicitor before signing up.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to **Action Fraud**.

➤ **CONTACTS**

- ❖ **SY Police:** <https://www.southyorks.police.uk>
 - ❖ **Emergencies:** call 999:
 - When there is a threat to life (including traffic accidents where persons are injured, the road is blocked or a vehicle involved in the accident has failed to stop); A serious offence is actually in progress; 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:** 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 online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>
 - ❖ **Action Fraud:** To report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime: the Action Fraud contact centre: 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
- Rotherham & District Citizens Advice**
<http://www.citizensadviceotherham.org.uk>
 Advice Line: 03444 111 444 open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN MARCH & APRIL

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Acer Close	Vehicle crime	Pembroke Rise	Vehicle crime
Church Court	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Petrol Station	Anti-social behaviour
High Street	Burglary	Sheffield Road	Criminal damage and arson
High Street	Violence offences x 2	Sheffield Road	Violence offences x 6
Laurel Close	Vehicle crime	St David'S Drive	Criminal damage and arson
Lidsters Lane	Other theft	St David'S Drive	Other theft
Lilac Close	Burglary	The Haven	Criminal damage and arson x 3
Lobelia Court	Anti-social behaviour	The Haven	Public order
Lobelia Court	Violence offences	The Haven	Drugs

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN MARCH & APRIL

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Abbey Way	Vehicle crime	Lakeland Drive	Violence offences
Anston Close	Public order	Lindale Close	Burglary
Buttermere Close	Anti-social behaviour	Mulberry Road	Violence offences x 2
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour	Narrow Lane	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Criminal damage/arson x 3	Norfolk Drive	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Public order	Patterdale Way	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 6	Rutland Avenue	Anti-social behaviour
Cramfit Close	Other crime	Rutland Avenue	Public order
Cramfit Road	Anti-social behaviour	Sanctuary Fields	Anti-social behaviour
Cramfit Road	Criminal damage and arson	Sunnyside Close	Other theft
Derwent Close	Violence offences	Sunnyside Close	Public order
Eastwood Avenue	Violence offences	The Green	Anti-social behaviour
Grasmere Close	Violence offences	The Rise	Public order
Hanging Bank Court	Anti-social behaviour	Warwick Way	Public order
Lakeland Drive	Burglary		
Hanging Bank Court	Public order	White Gate	Other theft
Hawkshead Crescent	Vehicle crime	Windermere Court	Anti-social behaviour
Houghton Road	Criminal damage and arson	Windermere Court	Vehicle crime
Keswick Way	Anti-social behaviour	Woodland Drive	Anti-social behaviour