



# VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
Edition 293 – JULY 2022

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

## ➤ **PROTECTING ONLINE ACCOUNTS**

With the high number of attempts to gain information that would allow criminals to access people's bank account, e-mails and social media accounts, many organisations now offer – or even insist on – additional safeguards. Just one password is now not considered safe. Two-step verification (2SV) - also known as two-factor authentication (2FA) and multi-factor authentication (MFA) - is being used to make it harder for criminals to access your online accounts, even if they know your password.

2SV provides a way of 'double checking' that you really are the person you are claiming to be when you're using online services or social media. When setting up 2SV, the service will ask you to provide a 'second step', which is something that you (and only you) can access. This could be a code that's sent to you by text message, or that's created by an app on your mobile phone.

### ❖ **How do I set up 2SV?**

Some online services will already have 2SV switched on. However some don't, so you will need to switch it on yourself to give extra protection to your other online accounts, such as e-mail, social media and cloud storage. If available, the option to switch on 2SV is usually found in the security settings of your account (where it may be called 'two-factor authentication'). There is detailed help on how to reset your e-mail password with different providers and how to turn on two-factor authentication (2FA) for e-mail and social media at <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/passwords>

### ❖ **Advice on how to stay secure online from the UK's National Cyber Security Centre**

The Cyber Aware pages (<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>) contain links to the instructions on how to set up 2SV across popular online services such as Gmail, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Outlook.

- Use a strong and different password for your e-mail using three random words. Your email password should be different from all your other passwords.
- Combining three random words that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.
- Do not use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name).
- Save passwords in your browser: Need help remembering all your passwords? Get a password manager, or save them to your browser.
- Back up your data: Make sure you can recover your important photos, documents, and other personal data stored on your IT equipment.
- Update your devices: Applying security updates promptly will help protect your devices and accounts from cyber criminals.

## ➤ **THE MONEY-GRABBING MALWARE TARGETING ANDROID USERS**

A malware campaign targeting Android users can rack up high phone bills for victims. The stealthy malware named SMSFactory infiltrates phones and uses trickery to hide itself on the device so the victim is unaware of the damage being done. Malware attacks such as SMSFactory are becoming increasingly common and difficult to spot, so it's important to know what to look out for and the preventative measure to take.

### • **What is SMSFactory?**

The malware sneakily taps money from victims by sending premium text messages and making calls to premium-rate phone numbers undetected. One version is also capable of extracting victims' contact lists, spreading the malware further.

### • **How does SMSFactory infiltrate a device?**

This kind of malware is spread through malvertising, a type of cyberattack that uses adverts to send people to websites hosting malware. SMSFactory also appears to be distributed through and alerts displayed on

sites offering game hacks or free video streaming sites. The malware is disguised as an app which can be downloaded. Once installed it hides itself, making it nearly impossible for victims to detect the cause of the additional charges on their phone bills.

❖ **How to avoid mobile malware like SMSFactory:**

● **Stick to official app stores**

SMSFactory highlights the importance of using verified app stores to install applications. Third party stores or unknown sources may contain malware and aren't blocked by an authority, such as Google.

● **Install an antivirus on your mobile device**

This is especially important if you choose to install apps from unofficial sources. You can also be protected from malicious websites this way.

● **Remain vigilant**

It's important to remain cautious when downloading new apps, especially apps advertised in short and catchy videos.

● **Disable or limit premium SMS with your carrier**

SMS - Short Message Service - is a text messaging service on most telephone, Internet, and mobile devices. While there are legitimate uses for premium SMS, recent SMS malware campaigns highlight the importance of having control over additional charges on your phone contract. Disabling premium SMS features – or at least setting a limit – significantly reduces the potential impact of campaigns like this. This is especially important on children's phones.

➤ **VILLAGE WATCH COVERAGE**

Throughout the years of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch, the distribution of the Village Watch newsletter has varied. Some streets have had full coverage from the start, some have had coverage start and stop and start again, some have partial coverage, and some have never had any. All deliveries are, of course, only possible because of the volunteering efforts of our Co-ordinators/Distributors. Without these public spirited people (currently 36), there would be no Neighbourhood Watch. Producing a newsletter with information about what crime has been going on in the area, what to look out for and how to protect yourself and your property, would just be ineffective because no one would see it. (It is on the Anston Parish Council website – see above, but not everybody has internet access.)

Currently in South Anston the following do not have coverage: Chapel Walk, High Street, Laurel Close, Lidsters Lane, Mill Lane, Orchard Gardens, Ryton Road, Sheffield Road, St. James' Avenue, Wesley Place, West Bank Rise, Worksop Road, Yeoman's Way. If anyone would be willing to join our band to deliver to any of the above, please get in touch: South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194.

➤ **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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**Rotherham & District Citizens Advice**

<http://www.citizensadvicerotherham.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