



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 294 – AUGUST 2022

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

➤ **EMERGENCY REQUEST FROM FAMILY MEMBER TO SEND MONEY – SCAM WARNING**

Another scam warning from banks about receiving a text message apparently from a family member saying they have lost their phone and have borrowed one from a passer-by, or damaged it and it's nearly out of power. They are desperate to get some cash to pay an urgent invoice, restaurant bill, medical bill, car rescue bill, anything – but it's urgently required. "Please transfer some money to this account...."
Of course it's not true.

➤ **STEALING FROM THE DECEASED**

It might sound an impossible thing to do, apart from it being an inhumane act, but it is a fast rising type of identity theft - taking on the mantle of the dead. It can be a recent bereavement or even someone who died years before. But above the money is the distress it can cause the bereaved families.

❖ **How It Works**

The criminals will search for a bereavement notice, usually of an elderly person, in a newspaper, and then apply for a certificate of birth in the name of the deceased. They can then discover where the person lived and other details, enough to possibly obtain a National Insurance number or driving licence, that will allow the criminals to successfully apply for loans and credit cards. The first the relatives of the dead know is when they receive a call about unpaid bills.

Another way is for the criminal to view the house of the deceased once it's put up for sale. All too often mail, such as credit card offers or bank statements, is left lying around. It can be easy to pick these up to begin taking over the identity.

❖ **Why are the identities of the deceased so desirable?**

Firstly, it takes longer for anyone to discover there's even been a theft, giving the crooks more time to rack up bills. Secondly, older people tend to have been more scrupulous about money, which means that they have sound financial histories, making payments on time, so obtaining credit cards and loans in the deceased's name becomes easier.

❖ **How To Avoid It**

- Don't put a bereavement notice in the newspaper. It becomes a magnet for criminals, and from the tiniest pieces of information they can piece together the identity of the dead.
- If you're selling a house of the deceased, make sure all personal information regarding the former owner is locked away. Remove and shred all mail before anyone views the house. Inform the Post Office of the death and have mail redirected to a relative.
- Inform the credit reference agencies of the death. This prevents anybody from taking out any loans and credit cards in the name of the deceased, or running up debts on stolen cards.
- Give the deceased's name to the United Kingdom Bereavement Register, an organisation that stops junk mail going to the deceased.

➤ **CRIME REPORTS**

The crimes shown in the tables below are taken from the police.uk website. To view a map of the crime locations go to: <https://www.police.uk>

Click **Your area** then in the **Find your local area** box enter **S25** then click on **S25 Sheffield** This will show **Rotherham South** Click on **Crime Map** and select the month.

The above is fine if you are looking at a small area. If you want to identify crimes in an area such as South Anston or North Anston, you need to determine what latitude and longitude boundaries define that area. Then download the data in spreadsheet (csv) format and construct selection formulae using the boundary definitions. (It's not straight forward!). To do this, from the above website click on **Download area crime data** select **South Yorkshire Police** then **Generate file**. This will create a zip file to download. This file contains details for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, and has around 16,000 items every month.

➤ **CONTACTS**

- ❖ **SY Police:** <https://www.southyorks.police.uk>
- ❖ **Emergencies:** call 999:
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

All Crime reports in these tables contain public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0 see: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN MAY & JUNE

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
First Lane	Criminal damage/arson	Sheffield Road	Other theft
First Lane	Anti-social behaviour	Sheffield Road	Vehicle crime
High Street	Violence offences	St David's Drive	Public order
Lidsters Lane	Other theft x 3	St David's Drive	Violence offences
Lobelia Court	Vehicle crime	St James Avenue	Violence offences
Lockwood Avenue	Drugs	The Haven	Other theft
Mill Lane	Vehicle crime	Westbank Drive	Violence offences
Petrol Station	Other theft x 6	Willow Close	Public order
Petrol Station	Anti-social behaviour	Yeomans Way	Other crime
Sheffield Road	Violence offences x 4		

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN MAY & JUNE

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Abbey Way	Burglary	Norfolk Drive	Anti-social behaviour
Abbey Way	Other theft	Nursery Road	Anti-social behaviour
Abbey Way	Burglary	Oakdale Road	Violence offences
Ambleside Walk	Violence offences	Park Avenue	Vehicle crime
Back Lane	Vehicle crime	Patterdale Way	Anti-social behaviour x 2
Bennett Croft	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Portland Close	Violence offences x 2
Bennett Croft	Violence offences	Sanctuary Fields	Anti-social behaviour x 3
Brook Mews	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Sanctuary Fields	Criminal damage/arson
Buttermere Close	Violence offences x 3	Sports/Rec Area	Vehicle crime
Caldbeck Place	Other crime	The Green	Shoplifting x 4
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour	The Oval	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Criminal damage/arson	The Rise	Criminal damage/arson
Caperns Road	Violence offences	Warwick Way	Violence offences
Edinburgh Drive	Criminal damage/arson	Warwick Way	Anti-social behaviour
Edinburgh Drive	Public order	Warwick Way	Public order x 4
Falcon Way	Public order	White Gate	Violence offences
Hanging Bank Ct	Anti-social behaviour x 5	Windmill Road	Criminal damage/arson x 3
Hanging Bank Ct	Drugs	Windmill Road	Vehicle crime
Hanging Bank Ct	Violence offences x 2	Woodland Avenue	Violence offences x 2
Hanging Bank Ct	Other crime	Wright Street	Public order x 2
Houghton Road	Burglary	Wright Street	Other crime
Houghton Road	Other crime	Wright Street	Other theft
Keswick Way	Anti-social behaviour		