



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 282 - MARCH 2020

➤ PREVENTING BURGLARY

❖ Advice from SYP

Homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. Good window locks and strong deadlocks can make a big difference. There are a few tips below.

- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even when you're just out in the garden, remembering to double-lock UPVC doors (lift the handle and turn the key)
- Hide all keys, including car keys, out of sight and away from the letterbox (a device could be used to hook keys through the letterbox)
- Install a visual burglar alarm
- Install good outside lighting
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property
- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied
- Make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition
- Secure bikes at home by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage
- Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home
- Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property
- Ensure rear fencing is in good repair
- Improve natural surveillance at the front of your property i.e. trim high hedges
- Mark your property with postcode and house number and register your property for free with Immobilise
- Remove valuables from view of ground floor windows
- Store any high value items (i.e. jewellery, passports) in a properly secured safe or bank vault

For more tips on preventing burglary, including distraction burglary and to download the SYP crime prevention booklet go to: <https://www.southyorks.police.uk> - select *Crime prevention*, then *Burglary* and the link at "*For more advice, download our crime prevention booklet here.*"

➤ LOCKS AND SECURITY

Amazingly there is no government scheme for the licensing of locksmiths. The Master Locksmiths Association (MLA) is a not for profit organisation established to promote the level of skills and ethics within the industry. It has its own licensing scheme whereby all approved locksmith companies have to meet the following criteria:

- 1 Vetted – e.g. Criminal Records Check via the Disclosure and Barring Service
- 2 Inspected – Companies are regularly inspected
- 3 Fully qualified – Passed the MLA exam

Find a local MLA approved locksmith at: www.locksmiths.co.uk/faq/choosing-a-locksmith

There is a guide to minimum domestic security guidelines. On www.soldsecure.com - first click on *Downloads* then click on *The Master Locksmiths guide to minimum domestic security guidelines*.

Then *Download Home Security Guidelines PDF*

There is also *Recommended Further Reading* on:

- Home Security Advice: 15 Quick tips
- What is the most secure lock cylinder to prevent lock snapping?
- BS3621 Lock Guide – How to tell you have British Standard Locks

➤ **CONTACTS**

❖ **SY Police:**

❖ **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. A crime can also be reported on the main SYP web page Report an incident online: As an alternative to 101, you can report a non-emergency incident online at <http://www.southyorks.police.uk> - click on *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/crime-prevention-advice>

❖ **SYP:** <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk> - under Useful 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

➤ **WHAT HAPPENED WITH CRIME NUMBERS OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS? - CORRECTION**

As an addition to Mark Twain's remark about lies, damned lies and statistics, there are also statistical errors! In last month's VILLAGE WATCH crimes in North Anston was said to have increased by just over 25% to 346, when it was actually an increase of just over 3%. Compared with an increase in the whole of Rother Valley South of 12%, this is surprisingly low.

CRIMES REPORTED IN JANUARY IN SOUTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
First Lane	Burglary	Sheffield Road	Robbery
Holmes Field Close	Burglary	The Haven	Vehicle crime
Holmes Field Close	Other theft	Wesley Place	Criminal damage/arson
Petrol Station	Other theft x 3	Wilberforce Road	Violence offences
Petrol Station	Public order	Windsor Walk	Burglary
Pine Avenue	Burglary x 2	Windsor Walk	Violence offences x 11
Sheffield Road	Criminal damage/arson		

CRIMES REPORTED JANUARY IN NORTH ANSTON

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Caperns Road	Other theft	Rutland Avenue	Burglary
Caperns Road	Possession of weapons	The Green	Burglary
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 2	The Green	Public order
Cramfit Close	Criminal damage/arson	The Orchard	Criminal damage/arson
Eastwood Avenue	Burglary	White Gate	Drugs
Eastwood Avenue	Violence offences x 3	White Gate	Vehicle crime
Falcon Way	Anti-social behaviour	Windmill Road	Violence offences
Hanging Bank Ct	Drugs	Woodland Avenue	Vehicle crime
Houghton Road	Violence offences	Woodland Drive	Criminal damage/arson
Mulberry Road	Violence offences	Woodland Drive	Other crime
Norfolk Drive	Other crime	Woodland Drive	Violence offences