



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
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View on the Anston Parish Council website: <https://www.anston.gov.uk> under **Community**

➤ ENERGY REBATE SCAMS

Thousands of reports have been made to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) about scam e-mails purporting to be about energy rebates and refunds. The scam e-mails claim that the recipient is due an energy rebate payment as part of a government scheme and provides links for the recipient to follow to apply for the rebate. The links in the e-mails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

All of the reported e-mails display the subject header “Claim your bill rebate now” and the criminals behind the scam may use an **Ofgem** logo and colours to make the e-mail appear authentic. Some e-mails asked the recipient to “apply for an energy bill rebate before September 2020”, which prompted many recipients to realise the e-mails were not genuine. Ofgem is working with the National Cyber Security Centre to prevent these malicious attacks. If you are unsure if something is a scam, pause, check and don’t let callers push you into anything. Genuine organisations won’t mind you calling back; only scammers apply pressure and insist you hand over details immediately. If you have any doubts about a message, contact the energy company directly and do not use the numbers or address in the message. See below about reporting scam e-mails.

➤ PHISHING: SPOT AND REPORT SCAM EMAILS, TEXTS, WEBSITES AND CALLS

‘Phishing’ is when criminals use scam emails, text messages or phone calls to trick their victims. The aim is often to make you visit a website which may download a virus onto your computer, or steal bank details or other personal information.

❖ Why you should report phishing scams

The **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)** is a UK government organisation that has the power to investigate and take down scam e-mail addresses and websites. Reporting a scam is free and only takes a minute. By reporting phishing attempts, you can:

- reduce the amount of scam communications you receive
- make yourself a harder target for scammers
- protect others from cyber crime online

• Report a scam e-mail

If you have received an e-mail which you’re not quite sure about, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. You should not report a crime to the NCSC. If you’ve lost money or have been hacked as a result of responding to a phishing message, report this to Action Fraud – see **CONTACTS**.

• Report a scam text message

Most phone providers are part of a scheme that allows customers to report suspicious text messages for free by forwarding it to 7726. Your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender, if it’s found to be malicious.

• Report a scam phone call

If you think you have been the victim of a phone scam, if you’ve lost money or have been hacked as a result of responding to a phishing message, report this to Action Fraud – see **CONTACTS**.

• Report a scam website

If you think there is a website that is trying to scam you, report it to the **NCSC** – see **CONTACTS**. Do not click on the suspicious link. Carefully copy and paste it into the form on the NCSC website, or write it down on paper first if that feels safer.

• Report a scam advert

Scam adverts can appear on websites, while using a search engine or social media. These adverts will often look genuine. They might try to hook you in using false celebrity endorsements, or by offering goods at a discount. But the aim is to steal money from you, or sell you goods that bear no resemblance to what was advertised. If you see a suspicious ad, you can report it to the **Advertising Standards Authority** – see **CONTACTS**. This includes adverts you see on newspaper websites, search engines, social media.

➤ **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
- National Cyber Security Centre NCSC:** You can report a suspicious website link or URL using the form in this link: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website>
- ❖ **Advertising Standards Authority (ASA):** Report an online scam ad at: <https://www.asa.org.uk/make-a-complaint/report-an-online-scam-ad.html>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

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CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN JULY

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Bank Street	Criminal damage/arson	Pembroke Rise	Anti-social behaviour
Bank Street	Public order	Petrol Station	Burglary
Bank Street	Violence offences	Petrol Station	Other theft
Church Farm Court	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Second Lane	Drugs
Lockwood Avenue	Violence offences	Second Lane	Public order
Mill Lane	Criminal damage/arson	The Haven	Violence offences x 2
Mill Lane	Violence offences	Wesley Place	Violence offences
Orchid Way	Public order	West Bank Rise	Other theft
Orchid Way	Violence offences x 8		

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN JULY

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Back Lane	Anti-social behaviour	Nursery Road	Violence offences
Back Lane	Public order x 2	Park Avenue	Vehicle crime
Back Lane	Violence offences	Sanctuary Fields	Anti-social behaviour x 2
Brook Mews	Anti-social behaviour	Sanctuary Fields	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Burglary	Ullswater Close	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Criminal damage/arson x 2	Warwick Way	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 4	White Gate	Criminal damage/arson
Common Road	Vehicle crime	White Gate	Violence offences x 2
Cramfit Road	Violence offences	Windmill Road	Criminal damage/arson x 2
Hanging Bank Court	Violence offences	Windmill Road	
Kendal Avenue	Anti-social behaviour	Woodland Drive	Violence offences x 2
Lakeland Drive	Violence offences	Woodland Drive	
Mulberry Road	Anti-social behaviour	Woodsetts Road	Violence offences
Narrow Lane	Other theft	Yew Tree Avenue	Other theft
Netherthorpe Way	Violence offences		