



# 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**

## ➤ **DON'T GET SCAMMED TWICE: HOW RECOVERY SCAMMERS TRICK VULNERABLE VICTIMS**

### ❖ **Recovery scams: the basics**

- Recovery scammers try to take advantage of people who have recently lost money to fraudsters. These scams can take several forms. The original scammer might contact you posing as someone from a firm that can get your money back, or they may have sold your details on to another fraudster.
- You might encounter recovery scammers on social media. Scammers have impersonated ombudsmen and regulators in an attempt to convince victims they're genuine.
- The common tactics used in recovery scams include contacting you out of the blue, pressuring you to use their 'service', requesting your bank details and asking for an upfront fee. In some instances, scammers will create professional-looking websites full of fake five-star reviews to add a layer of legitimacy.

### ❖ **Recovery scammers on X (formerly known as Twitter)**

Suspected scammers on X have been found targeting scam victims who had messaged the fraud reporting agency Action Fraud, or who had tweeted that they'd been scammed.

### ❖ **Scammers in Facebook groups**

Recovery scammers also operate on Facebook, targeting groups apparently set up to identify scams and help victims. One group with more than 7,000 members has a host of users claiming they can help people get their money back.

### ❖ **Suspicious companies**

While some of these fraudulent social media accounts might arouse your suspicions, some dodgy companies have well-designed websites. The Consumers Association Which? found one such company and contacted it saying that we'd lost money to a scammer via bank transfer. We were told we'd need to provide evidence of our transactions with the scammer. We searched for the 'clients' displayed on the company's website and found two of them on other websites under different names. We also found that the website was created just a few months ago - a common red flag.

### ❖ **How do I identify a legitimate company?**

- There are genuine companies that claim to be able to help you recover losses. Claims management companies must be authorised by the FCA, unless excluded from the need for authorisation - solicitors, for example, are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Genuine companies will be listed on the FCA's register, but you'll need to do due diligence as some dodgy operators may copy details from genuine companies.
- Claims management companies can charge a fee for their services, though these are capped. Victims of scams can make claims for losses themselves without needing to pay a third party.

### ❖ **How to avoid recovery scams**

If you've been scammed, it's vital to be on your guard against any calls, texts, emails and social media messages from people claiming they can get your money back. Fraud reports can only be shared between law enforcement agencies, so if someone contacts you out the blue claiming they can trace your losses, they're almost certainly lying. If anyone asks you to pay a fee or provide your bank account or card details, end all contact immediately.

### ❖ **Getting your money back after a scam**

If you've been scammed, call your bank straight away using the number on the back of your card, and report the scam to Action Fraud. You can ask your bank to reimburse your losses. If your bank rejects your claim, you can escalate the case to the Financial Ombudsman. None of these steps will cost you money, and you don't need to enlist the services of a third party to help you make a claim.

### ❖ **How to report dodgy accounts and websites**

- You can report Facebook accounts, groups and posts by tapping the three dots in the top right-hand corner of the page and selecting 'report.'
- To report an account on X, tap the three dots above its bio and select 'report.' You can report individual posts by tapping the three dots above the posts and selecting 'report.'
- Suspicious websites should be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre.

➤ **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**  
**Advice for Victims:** on the home page of SYP, information about support and useful contact details of other supporting agencies you can access. From the above page, there is a link to **Domestic Abuse: The Silent Solution**. This is when you call 999 but are unable to speak to the operator. The operator will ask you a series of questions - they may ask you to cough, or make a noise, or press a button on your phone, so they know you are listening to them. They will then ask you to press '55' on your keypad. This lets the operator know that you are in an emergency situation and require urgent help.
- ❖ **Areyouok?** Information and advice on violence and abuse: <https://www.areyouok.co.uk>
- ❖ **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)  
**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>
- ❖ **Adviceguide:** (was Citizens Advice). Help with problems such as benefits, debt, work, energy, health, housing, relationships, consumer problems such as building work, energy and water supply, faulty goods, paying bills, refunds for faulty goods and poor services, rogue traders, travel, making a complaint and taking legal action: 08454 040506 (6p per minute) or local rate charge 0208 1850 710
- ❖ **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
Hawthorne Avenue	Vehicle crime	Orchid Way	Violence offences
Kirkstall Close	Violence offences	Pembroke Rise	Anti-social behaviour
Lidsters Lane	Burglary	Petrol Station	Shoplifting
Lidsters Lane	Other theft x 2	Pine Avenue	Violence offences x 34
Manor Farm Gdns	Violence offences	Second Lane	Public order
Orchard Gardens	Violence offences		

**CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN JULY**

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Brook Croft	Violence offences	Mulberry Road	Public order
Eastwood Avenue	Burglary	Ryton Road	Possession of weapons
Elm Tree Close	Violence offences	Ryton Road	Violence offences
Granary Court	Burglary	Sanctuary Fields	Violence offences
Greenlands Rise	Vehicle crime	The Green	Shoplifting x 2
Hanging Bank Crt	Anti-social behaviour x 2	The Rise	Public order
Hawkshead Cresc	Violence offences	Willow Chase	Vehicle crime
Limekilns	Public order	Woodland Drive	Burglary
Limekilns	Violence offences x 2	Woodland Drive	Criminal damage/arson
Memory Lane	Vehicle crime x 2	Woodsetts Road	Anti-social behaviour
Memory Lane	Other crime		