



# VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
Edition 309 – DECEMBER 2023

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

## ➤ COLD CALL POLICE IMPERSONATION SCAMS WARNING

Scammers posing as police officers have been conning victims into handing over money and personal details. Police forces reported a spate of these scams earlier this year. Victims were told that a fraud case was being investigated, that a relative of theirs was in custody or that someone had their bank card and ID.

One report said they had received a cold call from someone who said he was a Chelmsford police officer. He read out a badge number and said that the police were holding a young man who'd been caught using the member's bank card. When asked which bank card he was referring to, the 'officer' couldn't answer. After asking a few more questions, including the telephone number they were being called from, as the number was withheld, the scammer became aggressive and eventually hung up.

Some of these criminals posing as police officers fabricate a scenario for the victim to hand over cash. Victims are told a 'courier' will be sent to collect the cash or other valuable items and if a person doesn't comply they face being 'arrested'.

### ❖ Spot and avoid cold call scams

- Never disclose financial information over the phone. Some cold calls are random attempts to trick victims into handing over sensitive information, others use details already known about you - such as your name or address - to sound more convincing. An unexpected call probing for information or asking for money should raise suspicions.
- Police officers will never make unsolicited calls to ask you for personal or financial information. They'll also never ask you to transfer money into an account, hand over cash or bank cards to a courier, or pay a fine or fee over the phone.
- Register with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) to stop legitimate companies from making unsolicited sales and marketing calls to you. So when you receive a call like this, you'll know a scammer is on the other end of the line. You could also consider installing a call blocker for nuisance calls.

### ❖ Reporting phone scams

To report a scam call received on your iPhone, text the word 'call' followed by the phone number to 7726. On an Android phone, text the word 'call' to 7726, and you'll then receive a message asking you for the scam number. WhatsApp scam calls can be reported by opening the WhatsApp chat with the dodgy phone number and tapping 'block'. You can report the contact by tapping 'report contact' and 'block'.

If you have been scammed, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to Action Fraud.

## ➤ CRIME LOCATIONS

In the Crime tables in the November newsletter, there was a report of Shoplifting "on or near" Lidsters Lane. As there are no shops on Lidsters Lane, this instance illustrates the effect of crime map points – a pre-defined list of locations used by the police. All crimes are reported as being "on or near" the nearest crime map point. Because there is a crime point located on Lidsters Lane, the crime of Shoplifting would most certainly be at the nearest shop to Lidsters Lane i.e. the petrol station. Also, there is no connection between "The Haven" and "Haven Farm Court" (which is adjacent to Lidsters Lane). The Haven is towards the bottom of Dog Kennels Lane.

## ➤ VILLAGE WATCH NEWSLETTER

If you wonder why you haven't seen this newsletter for some time, or maybe never before, it's because they are delivered by the voluntary action of our Co-ordinators/Distributors. These are the 40 residents in North and South Anston who deliver around 1,000 copies of the Village Watch every month, some on their own street, but some to streets that are several minutes walk away. The number of Co-ordinators varies for many reasons, and therefore deliveries can stop, then later re-start as someone else takes over a particular round, or a new volunteer takes up deliveries where previously there haven't been any.

- The printing of the Village Watch is done at the Parish Hall thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council, and the helpful co-operation of the Parish Clerk. There is a charge made for the printing, and this is met by

applying for - and hopefully being awarded - grants from RMBC and Anston Parish Council.

- One of the Objectives in our Constitution is "To reduce the opportunity for crime to occur." The information in the newsletter is aimed at meeting this objective by keeping people informed about criminal activity, how best to prevent crimes, and how to respond if you become a victim of crime. It can be disturbing reading about crime, especially when something has happened very close to where you live, but this is why it is important to be aware of criminal activity, and to use advice to reduce the chance of becoming a victim.

❖ **Does Neighbourhood Watch make any difference?**

According to police data, North and South Anston:

- is the third safest of small towns in South Yorkshire, the 21st safest overall out of South Yorkshire's 109 towns, villages, and cities
- has a crime rate (i.e. per 1,000 people) 52% lower than the whole of Yorkshire and The Humber
- has a crime rate 38% lower than the national crime rate in England, Wales & NI
- has an overall crime rate of 51 crimes per 1,000 people. This compares favourably to South Yorkshire's overall crime rate of 105 per 1,000.

Of course, the above does not prove that Neighbourhood Watch makes any difference, but if there was no Neighbourhood Watch, how would you know?

➤ **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>

❖ **SafeFromScams:** Don't become a scam victim. Learn about scams of all types, how they work, why people fall for them and how to make sure you don't <http://www.safefromscams.co.uk>

❖ **Get Safe Online:** Advice on what to watch out for and how to protect you and your family against dangers in using a computer, especially with easy online access to web sites and e-mails [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

❖ **Citizens Advice:** (was Adviceguide). 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

Rotherham & District Citizens Advice: To talk to an adviser call freephone advice-line on 0808 278 7911 Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm website at: <https://www.citizensadvice-rotherham.org.uk>

❖ **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

**The October crime figures were not available at the time of preparing the Village Watch newsletter. They will be included in the January issue.**