



# 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**

## ➤ SYP CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

On a web browser, enter <https://www.southyorks.police.uk> click on *Find out* then click on *Crime prevention advice*. Here you will see advice and support and how to report crimes or suspicious behaviour about many subjects including the following:

- Antisocial Behaviour, Bike safety and security, Burglary, Business Crime, Drug Driving, Drink driving, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced marriage, Hate crime, Honour based abuse, Modern Slavery, Road safety, Sexual offences, Don't make it easy for thieves, Body Worn Video, Wildlife and Rural Crime, Fraud, Cyber Crime, Using E-scooters, Dangerous dogs, Stalking and Harassment, Spiking, Knife Crime

## ➤ COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME

On a web browser, enter <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk> scroll down to COUNCIL SERVICES and click on COMMUNITY AND LIVING then scroll down to Community safety and crime

There is a lot of information and guidance on:

- The Safer Rotherham Partnership, A guide to CCTV cameras and security, Antisocial behaviour, South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, Domestic Abuse, Hate crime and hate incidents, Prevent and Channel (This is about safeguarding and supporting children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism. It deals with all kinds of terrorism or groups that encourage violence to influence governments, intimidate the public and advance their cause.). Fly tipping, litter problem, noise nuisance, a lost or stray dog, dog fouling, graffiti and fly-posting, overflowing litter or dog waste bin, leaves on a public road, path or pavement, noise and anti-social behaviour, rubbish in a garden, vandalism to a Council property, an abandoned vehicle, an untaxed vehicle, an uninsured vehicle, a vehicle with no MOT, a hedge overhanging a road pavement or footpath, weeds or overgrown vegetation causing a danger on a road, pavement or footpath.

## ➤ TAX SCAMS: WATCH OUT FOR FAKE HMRC CALLS, TEXTS AND EMAILS

Around this time of year scammers try to impersonate HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) by sending out dodgy emails, texts and letters, and making scam calls to unsuspecting taxpayers. These are some of the tactics used.

- **Scam calls:** Automated calls are among the most common types of tax scam. Dodgy calls commonly come from withheld numbers or mobile numbers, and contain an 'urgent' pre-recorded message for the recipient. One example of an automated message stated: 'An important letter was sent to you from HM Revenue and Customs that requires immediate attention, please press 1'. Or a call stating that the recipient has underpaid tax, is subject to legal action, or that an important document has been returned to HMRC. If you receive a scam call, don't press anything, just hang up. If you do follow the automated prompt, you'll be put through to a scammer who will request your personal and financial details.
- **Impersonation emails:** Scammers can send out dodgy emails claiming you need to log into your tax account or are due a tax refund. Some scam emails mention a P800 document, an annual tax calculation that HMRC sends via post. These emails come from the fake address [noreply@hmc.co.uk](mailto:noreply@hmc.co.uk) – note the missing 'r' in HMRC. The emails contain an attachment to download the document. If you do so, a virus may be installed on your device. Delete the email and follow the steps outlined below to report it.
- **Dodgy texts:** A fake HMRC text message stated that the recipient had 'an outstanding tax refund' and included a link to 'follow instructions to claim your money'. This link was to a phishing website that requested personal and financial information. Do not respond to any unexpected message claiming to be from the tax office.
- **Reporting HMRC scams:** HMRC provides advice on many types of scam. Go to <https://www.gov.uk> and type "phishing" in the search box. You can help protect others by reporting scam attempts.
- **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC):** Here is lots of information about how to recognise and report emails, texts, websites, adverts or phone calls that you think are trying to scam you:  
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams>

- **Text messages:** Report scam text messages by sending them to 60599. You can also forward them to the National Cyber Security Centre on 7726 - it's free. This will report the message to your mobile phone provider. You can report scam WhatsApp messages by pressing and holding the message before selecting 'report'.
- **Emails:** Forward scam emails to [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) with a subject line describing the email. You can also select 'report spam' on Gmail, 'report phishing' on Hotmail or send scam emails to [abuse@yahoo.com](mailto:abuse@yahoo.com) if you're using a Yahoo account. General email phishing attempts can be forwarded to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).
- **Letters:** Report scam HMRC letters by contacting the HMRC team the letter says it's from – eg. debt management. You can also report scam letters to Royal Mail  
<https://www.royalmail.com/reportingscammall>
- **Calls:** Report scam calls received on your mobile to 7726. You can also share them with HMRC online. You will need to sign in using your Government Gateway User ID or your email address.
- **Websites:** Suspicious websites should be reported to the NCSC. Go to <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk> and type "websites in the search box.

If you've lost money to a scam, contact your bank immediately and report the scam to Action Fraud – see below.

## ➤ 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. Web site at: <http://www.safefromscams.co.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>
- ❖ **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: <https://www.citizensadvicerotherham.org.uk>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

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