



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 313 – APRIL 2024

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

➤ NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FUNDING

This newsletter is distributed to around 1,000 homes. The only direct cost for this is the printing. Many years ago the printing was done by South Yorkshire Police. SYP also paid for room hire at the Loyal Trooper where the monthly Co-ordinators' meetings are held. Financial support from SYP ceased in 2013, but since then the Loyal Trooper has let us have meetings there for free. Our Parish Council allows printing of the newsletters at the Parish office, but we have to pay the cost. To meet this cost we have been fortunate to have had grants awarded by both our Parish Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Unfortunately, this year RMBC has no further funds to allocate, and will not be considering applications until after the May council elections, and there is a possibility that our application will not be successful. A grant application has been made to the Parish Council, but at the time of preparing this newsletter, nothing has been announced.

Other sources of funding have been looked into, but they tend to support very specific groups such as children or disabled people, and most are interested in funding one-off events and projects. If we cannot find sufficient funding for our newsletter production, then our simplest option would be to reduce the frequency of newsletter production to two-monthly or even three-monthly. If we cannot find any funding, then the newsletter, and the Watch, will cease completely. The March issue was produced thanks to the generosity of our RMBC Councillor Drew Tarmey.

➤ COMMON TYPES OF PHONE SCAM

Impersonation scams: Someone calls you claiming to be from your bank's security or fraud department. They say that your account has been compromised or suspicious transactions have been attempted, and encourage you to transfer your money into a 'safe' account. Scammers have also been known to impersonate the police, utility providers and government departments.

Remote access scams: Similar to the above, the fraudster claims your account has been compromised and informs you that you'll need to install software onto your device so that they can access the account. If you're asked to download software, end the call, disconnect from your wi-fi and delete anything you've downloaded.

Tech support scams: The fraudster impersonates a tech company such as Microsoft, and informs you that your device has been infected with malware. To fix the issue, they will ask you to download malware or software to give them control over your device.

HMRC scams: The scammer claims to be from HMRC, telling you that you have underpaid your tax. Some scammers use automated messages which state that you're being taken to court and ask you to press a number that then puts you through to a fraudster. Other HMRC scams begin with an email or text message asking you to call a number to secure your account or claim a tax refund.

Investment and financial scams: A scammer calls you about a phoney investment opportunity, promising huge returns.

Prize draw scams: A fraudster says that you've won a prize or the lottery. They'll invent a story to make up for the fact that you don't remember entering a competition. You'll be asked for your personal or financial information to receive the prize or money.

❖ Watch out for number spoofing

This is when a scammer disguises their true caller identity by masking it with a company's legitimate phone number to appear genuine. If you receive an unexpected call from a company, it's always best to hang up and call them back yourself using an official customer number listed on their website. Be aware that scammers may be able to keep your phone line open even after you've hung up, so if you hang up on a dodgy call, wait for at least 10 to 15 minutes to call the company back on a trusted number or use a different phone. If you receive a call claiming to be from your bank or telecoms company, call 159. You can then choose the company's genuine customer service line.

➤ **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.

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**

❖ **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

❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

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CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN JANUARY

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Lilac Close	Anti-social behaviour	Petrol Station	Criminal damage/arson
Lobelia Court	Violence offences	St James Avenue	Violence offences
Orchid Way	Violence offences	The Haven	Anti-social behaviour
Parkstone Place	Anti-social behaviour	West Bank Rise	Vehicle crime

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN JANUARY

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Buttermere Close	Vehicle crime	Mulberry Road	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour x 3	Patterdale Way	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Burglary	Poplar View	Vehicle crime
Caperns Road	Criminal damage and arson	Sanctuary Fields	Vehicle crime
Caperns Road	Vehicle crime	Sikes Road	Violence offences x 2
Caperns Road	Violence offences	The Green	Public order x 2
Common Road	Burglary	The Oval	Violence offences
Common Road	Vehicle crime	Wellington Avenue	Drugs
Cramfit Close	Public order	White Gate	Violence offences x 3
Ennerdale Close	Public order	Windermere Court	Anti-social behaviour
Hanging Bank Ct	Anti-social behaviour	Woodland Drive	Violence offences
Lonsdale Close	Anti-social behaviour	Wright Street	Violence offences