

VILLAGE WATCH

Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 320 – NOVEMBER 2024

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

➤ HOME SECURITY

To protect your home against burglary think **WIDEN: Windows, Interior, Doors, Exterior, Neighbours.**

As the darker nights draw in, there is a bigger focus on home security. Research has shown that a combination of security actions provides many times more protection for your home than no security. A combination of WIDEN actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. As with all types of crime, prevention is much better than cure.

WINDOWS: Are your windows closed and locked? Do they have sensors and are they activated? Have you secured your garage and shed windows with locks?

INTERIOR: Are your inside lights on a switch timer or smart bulb with timer? Is your home alarm on? Are your valuable items such as jewellery, car keys, laptops, tablets, cash and phones out of sight? Have you created a written and photographic record of any items of value (financial or sentimental)? Are your chargers and cables for phones and laptops out of view?

DOORS: Is your front door double or deadlocked? Are all the doors to your home locked? Are your door keys kept out of sight (but to hand in case of emergency)?

EXTERIOR: Are your outside lights on a sensor? Have you cut down tall hedges around the outside of your home? Is all packaging from expensive items e.g. laptops, tablets, phones, TV's, games consoles out of sight? Are your sheds, side gates, garages and outbuildings locked? Are your vehicles locked and valuables removed? Are items that can be used to break in, e.g. bricks, rubble, ladders and garden equipment put away?

NEIGHBOURS: If you are going away for a while, have you let your neighbours know? Do you have a local Neighbourhood Watch group?

Opportunity plays a big role in enabling crimes to be committed, particularly burglaries. Most domestic burglaries are committed by opportunists. Criminals will look for homes that:

- seem unoccupied
- have little or no apparent security
- have doors or windows left open
- where they think they won't be seen.

A home's overall impression will influence whether a burglar targets it. As a general rule, if it looks like there is someone inside, the burglar is likely to go elsewhere. A home in a dilapidated state will seem easier to break into, so deterrents can be tidying up a garden, or repainting doors and window frames.

One crime often produces the opportunity to commit another. For example, burglars may return weeks after a break-in because the resident may be out and the property could have new replacement items.

Before upgrading your home security think about what part of your home seems more vulnerable, how often you are at home, and when it is empty. Wherever possible, always ensure security products you purchase are Secured by Design or Sold Secure – these are good quality, independently tested products. Use a Master Locksmith Association (MLA) approved locksmith to fit your locks or to ask for expert advice about upgrading your home security.

➤ BLOCKING NUISANCE PHONE CALLS

- ❖ **On an Android phone:** press the phone icon, then press the three vertical dots and select “Settings” from the list. That brings up “Block numbers”.
- ❖ **On an iPhone:** Go to your list of recent callers (open the Phone app, then hit the Recents tab at the bottom). Click the “i” symbol next to the unwanted number, scroll down and tap Block this Caller, then confirm your decision.
- ❖ **On a home phone:** The BT 4600 range, the BT Advanced Phone Z, and the BT Premium Phone all come as recommended by Which? (Consumers Association magazine.)

❖ **Blocking calls using your home phone provider**

Most of the major landline phone providers now offer a free service to reduce the number of nuisance calls that you receive. Here's what's on offer from the biggest providers:

- BT's Call Protect is a more powerful (and free) tool than some of BT's other call features, such as Choose to Refuse and Anonymous Call Rejection which you have to pay for.
- Sky has Talk Shield
- TalkTalk's free call blocking feature is called CallSafe.
- Virgin Media doesn't have anything as advanced as the three other big phone providers, and you have to pay around £3 per month for it.

❖ **Blocking calls with a standalone device**

If you don't want to replace your home phone and your provider can't block the nuisance calls you receive, then another option is to buy a separate call blocker and plug it in to your existing device. These usually work in the same way as the call blockers built into phones in that they have a 'black list' of numbers or number types, and stop any incoming calls from them.

➤ **CONTACTS**

❖ **SY Police: <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk>**

Emergencies: call 999: Non-emergencies: call 101 to report a crime 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**

❖ **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>

All Crime reports in these tables contain public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0 see: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3>

CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN SEPTEMBER

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Laburnum Close	Violence offences	Petrol Station	Shoplifting x 2
Lidsters Lane	Anti-social behaviour	Second Lane	Public order
Lilac Close	Vehicle crime	Wesley Place	Vehicle crime
Lobelia Court	Vehicle crime	Wesley Place	Other crime
Pembroke Rise	Anti-social behaviour		

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN SEPTEMBER

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Brook Mews	Vehicle crime	Portland Close	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour	Ryton Road	Criminal damage and arson
Caperns Road	Criminal/arson x 2	Ryton Road	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 3	Sikes Road	Drugs x 2
Common Road	Anti-social behaviour	Sunnyside Close	Criminal damage/arson
Hanging Bank Ct	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Sunnyside Close	Public order
Kendal Avenue	Violence and sexual offences	The Green	Anti-social behaviour
Limekilns	Anti-social behaviour	The Green	Robbery
Limekilns	Other crime	The Green	Violence offences
Lodge Farm Close	Violence offences	Wellington Avenue	Other theft
Main Street	Vehicle crime	Woodland Avenue	Other crime
Manvers Close	Anti-social behaviour	Woodland Drive	Violence offences
Netherthorpe Way	Vehicle crime x 2	Woodsetts Road	Anti-social behaviour
Patterdale Way	Other theft	Yew Tree Avenue	Criminal damage/arson