

VILLAGE WATCH

Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 315 – JUNE 2024

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

➤ SECURE WINDOWS AND DOORS

- ❖ How can you keep your windows and doors open but locked? **LockLatch** is a company that makes a range of security devices that not only provide security for your home, but also have other benefits including improving home ventilation and allowing for easy and secure pet access. There is a 15% discount for NW members. Use code **NWNLock** on Check Out. There is an Installation Guide and a video on the website <https://llr-i.com>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to *Installation*. Or phone 01948 831011
- ❖ **ERA Protect** has been the Neighbourhood Watch primary smart security sponsor since 2016. On the website there are many products such as locks, chains, alarms, motion sensors, cameras, lights. Go to <https://eraprotect.com> and click on the *Whole-Home-Security* tab. Phone 0345 257 2500.
- ❖ French door security lock **Patlock Security System** £42.50 for NW members, normally £49.99. PATLOCK is the police approved home security product for French doors, Patio doors and Conservatories, providing a visual deterrent to any would be intruders and instant peace of mind for home owners. PATLOCK is suitable for double doors fitted with 2 horizontal handles, easy to fit with ratchet locking bars that secure in seconds and works by holding the internal door handles secure, meaning the external handles cannot be operated. This ensures that the door mechanism remains in the locked position, even if the locks are snapped or removed. Recommended by Police Forces throughout the UK. Easily fitted and released in seconds with ratchet locking bars. No keys or code numbers required. Website: <https://www.patlock.co.uk/buy-patlock-nhw>

➤ CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

From a web browser, on the South Yorkshire Police website – see CONTACTS below – in the Search box, enter “*Crime prevention advice*”.

Or, using a smartphone, take a photo of this QR code and this will go directly to the page.



- ❖ **Protecting your home from crime:** Advice to keep your home safe from burglary and damage.
 - **Door and window lock advice:** Keep property secure by choosing burglar-proof doors and windows. Burglars target windows as they can offer easier access than doors. Check how your windows look from the outside, removing potential access points where you can.
- **Door security:** Use secure doors and key-fobs to keep property safe. Whether you live in a flat or a house, your front door will always tell a thief the levels of security surrounding your home. If it looks really secure and burglar-resistant, then they'll think twice about trying to gain entry.
- **Checklist for securing your home when you leave it:** When going out, leave your home as secure as possible. It's vital to leave your home secure whenever you leave it. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home.
- ❖ **How safe is your flat?:** Make your flat as burglar-proof as possible. Although there are fewer points of entry to a flat, they need to be as well protected as possible. As for overall building security, all residents need to keep an eye and an ear out as well as making sure that communal front and back doors are never left open.
- ❖ **Keep burglars out of your property:** Give burglars nowhere to hide and prevent distraction burglary. Burglars will use a variety of ways to avoid being noticed. Distraction burglars will pretend to be someone they are not, so it's important you are aware of the common methods they will use to get you to let them into your property.
- ❖ **Keeping your shed or garage safe and secure:** Don't make it easy for burglars to find the tools of their trade. Many people don't secure their shed or garage in the same way they do their homes - often using an easy-to-break lock or padlock to protect valuable contents such as a car, bike or lawnmower. An opportunistic burglar will try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to break into the main house.

- ❖ **Protect your property against vandalism:** Five steps you can take to safeguard a property from vandalism: Keep it visible; Create a boundary; Protect what's yours; Don't make it easy for them; Keep it tidy.
- ❖ **Protecting your home from crime:** Advice and measures to safeguard your home and prevent burglary.
- ❖ **Protect your phone:** How to make sure your mobile stays yours.
 - Don't leave your phone, iPad, tablet or camera unattended, out of your sight, or left on a table. Only use your mobile when it feels safe to. When you've finished using it, put it away. Use your phone's security features. Choose a strong PIN, passcode, password or pattern.
- ❖ **Protecting yourself from crime:** From avoiding mugging to dealing with dangerous situations, advice to protect yourself and how to react.
- ❖ **Helping other people feel safe:** Things you can do to make other people feel safer in public.
- ❖ **Preventing car and vehicle theft:** How to help safeguard your car from theft and protect its content.
 - Always lock it. Fuelling up or popping back into your house to get something are perfect examples of how easy it is to turn your back for a moment and forget your vehicle is unsecured. So get into the habit of locking your vehicle even if you're only going to be away from it for a moment.
 - If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.
 - Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'.
 - Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws.
 - Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels.
- ❖ **Prevent theft from a vehicle:** Keeping your car – and the personal belongings inside – safe.

➤ CONTACTS

- ❖ **SY Police:** <https://www.southyorkshire.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

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