

# VILLAGE WATCH

Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
Edition 316 – JULY 2024

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

## ➤ NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FUNDING - UPDATE

After last month's good fortune of receiving an additional £100 from our Parish Council grant, we have also received a donation of £1,000 from a long-term South Anston resident. The donation was made in recognition of the work done by our Neighbourhood Watch in helping our community, and the need to continue publication and distribution of the Village Watch to inform and advise residents to help keep them safe from criminal activities. Apart from ensuring we now have sufficient funds to continue printing our newsletter for many months, we can also look at replacing worn and missing and installing new Neighbourhood Watch signs without necessarily needing outside funding.

## ➤ COURIER FRAUD: STAYING FINANCIALLY SAFE IN THE WORLD OF ONLINE BANKING

Online and phone banking can make life easier for some. Instead of having to go in store to manage your finances, it can be done from your home, or anywhere in the world, as long as you have a mobile phone and access to the internet. However, there are risks attached to online financial management that can leave you vulnerable to courier fraud, and sadly it is often the elderly who are most impacted by this style of scam.

The most common way that courier fraudsters operate is by calling their intended victim on the phone and claiming to be from their bank, the police, or another trusted authority. Once they have established a veneer of trust, the fraudsters will claim that an unusual payment has been spotted on your bank card, or that another party has been arrested for using your card details illegally. They will then attempt to get your personal financial information - which should never be given out over the phone - such as your PIN (Personal Identification Number). You may be directly asked for your PIN or asked to type it into your phone – you should never provide this information. The scammer may say your card has been cloned and you need to hand it in. They will send a taxi to your address as a courier to pick up your card, and even the taxi driver may not be aware that they are part of the scam. Once the scammer has access to your card and PIN, they will be able to spend your money. A bank or the police will never pick up your bank card, cash, or other valuables by courier. If the caller you are speaking to is trying to arrange this, it is a scam.

Other methods of courier fraud include:

- Being told to withdraw a large amount of cash that the scammer says will be used to help identify a corrupt member of bank staff and returned to you. It won't be.
- Fraudsters posing as a police officer and directing a victim to purchase an expensive item - to help identify counterfeit sellers - which is then given by a courier to the scammer's partner.
- Being told that your bank account has been compromised and that you need to transfer your funds into a new safe account, which is actually set up and controlled by the scammer, meaning that you won't see that money again.

❖ If you use an online banking app, only use the official app provided by your bank. Only download apps from official app stores, such as: Apple iTunes, Android Marketplace, Google Play Store.

❖ Keep your phone's operating system updated with the latest security patches and upgrades.

❖ Never give your mobile banking security details, including your passcode, to anyone else and don't store them on your phone.

❖ For added security set up a password or PIN to lock your mobile.

❖ Just like on your computer, you can get antivirus tools for your mobile; use a reputable brand. Some banks offer free antivirus software for their customers' phones. Check your bank's website for more information.

For more information and help or to report this and many other types of fraud, see **Action Fraud** in **CONTACTS** below.

From the South Yorkshire Police website – see **CONTACTS** below – scroll down to the bottom of the page. Under **Information and services** select **Crime prevention advice**. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and under **Related pages** select **Fraud advice**.

➤ **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**

**Advice and information:** on the home page of SYP there are details of supporting agencies you can access.

**The Silent Solution:** If you need urgent police help but cannot speak: Dial 999; Listen to the questions from the operator; Respond by coughing or tapping your device, if you can. If prompted, press 55 to let the operator know it's a genuine emergency and you'll be put through to police. See **Independent Office for Police Conduct:** <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/news> - scroll down to **Silent Solution**.

❖ **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

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

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**CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN APRIL**

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Pembroke Rise	Vehicle crime	Wesley Place	Violence offences
High Street	Vehicle crime	Lockwood Avenue	Anti-social behaviour
Wesley Place	Drugs	Second Lane	Anti-social behaviour
Petrol Station	Public order		

**CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN APRIL**

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Anston Close	Violence offences	Kendal Avenue	Anti-social behaviour x 2
Back Lane	Violence offences	Keswick Way	Anti-social behaviour
Back Lane	Criminal damage/arson	Limekilns	Anti-social behaviour
Bedford Close	Other theft	Manvers Close	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Vehicle crime	Mulberry Road	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Violence offences	Narrow Lane	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour x 4	Patterdale Way	Other theft x 2
Common Road	Burglary	Ryton Road	Criminal damage/arson
Common Road	Public order	Scarborough Close	Anti-social behaviour
Common Road	Anti-social behaviour x 3	The Green	Shoplifting x 7
Eastwood Avenue	Vehicle crime	The Green	Violence offences x 3
Edinburgh Drive	Public order	The Green	Criminal damage/arson
Greenland Close	Shoplifting	The Rise	Violence offences
Hall Close	Vehicle crime	Wellington Avenue	Violence offences
Hillside	Violence offences	Willow Chase	Vehicle crime