



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
Edition 305 – AUGUST2023

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

➤ FINANCIAL SUPPORT SCAMS

The rise in interest rates affecting most mortgages has triggered an increase in scammers purporting to offer financial support, when they are just attempting to steal bank details. Messages have been received claiming to be from the government and inviting them to click on a link that goes to a fake website to calculate whether they are eligible for support to pay mortgage interest.

- ❖ There is a genuine state backed scheme to help those on benefits to reduce loan payments, but criminals falsely claim that borrowers can receive thousands of pounds from the government regardless of their income.
- ❖ The fake website looks almost identical to official government websites and asks for personal information before stating how much support is available. Victims are then asked for bank details to receive payments. These details are then used to steal funds or are sold on to other fraudsters.
- ❖ Personal details are also used to cold call people pretending to be the police or their bank, and telling the victim that their account is exposed to criminal attack and that they should transfer the funds to a “safe” (i.e. the criminal’s) account.
- ❖ If you receive an email or text with any links to a website, do not tap or click on the link. Instead contact the organisation using information from the organisation’s website or documentation that you know is correct. Do not use any information from the suspect email or message.
- ❖ Any communication that asks for any personal information such as address or date of birth, is an immediate warning. A request for an account or card number is a definite red flag.

➤ BARBIE AND OPPENHEIMER SCAMS

Scammers are looking to take advantage of the release of the new Barbie and Oppenheimer films. The cybersecurity company Kaspersky found a malicious phishing website promoting limited-edition Barbie dolls. The site asks for your email address, home address and bank information.

Another scam is a claim that you can stream Oppenheimer online for free. You'll first need to pay £1 to 'register' - which is when they will try to steal your bank details.

➤ AMAZON WINNER TEXT

These texts inform you that you've won a prize and redirect you to a copycat Amazon website where your name is included on a list of 'winners'.

On the site, you'll be asked a series of survey questions before being told you need to enter your card details to pay £1 to receive your prize.

➤ NATWEST PHISHING SCAM

Scammers are once again impersonating NatWest in phishing emails. The latest dodgy email tells you a new number has been added to your online banking account and asks you to follow a link to make the change. The link leads to a convincing phishing website that copies NatWest's online banking page and asks for your customer number to log in.

➤ APPLE PAY SCAM TEXT RETURNS

Dodgy texts informing you that your Apple Pay account has been suspended are circulating once again. These texts prompt you to follow a link. The link takes you to a phishing website where scammers will attempt to obtain your information.

➤ BOGUS CALLERS

Gutters clearing, roof tiles replacing, drive cleaning – these are some of the common jobs that can be offered at the door. The claim may be that they are in the area – even on the street – doing a job for a neighbour, so they can do yours for a reduced price. One instance in South Anston was a man with an Irish accent and a battered blue van with no company name or phone number on the van. If someone asks to be allowed in to carry out some repair work or to read a meter, always ask for proof of identification or authorisation. Criminals will often work together, with one distracting you so that another can steal from you.

➤ **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
- 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>
- ❖ **Adviceguide:** (was Citizens Advice). 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
- ❖ **Advertising Standards Authority (ASA):** Report an online scam ad at: <https://www.asa.org.uk/make-a-complaint/report-an-online-scam-ad.html>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

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CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN MAY

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Bank Street	Anti-social behaviour	Primulas Close	Vehicle crime
Bank Street	Vehicle crime	Second Lane	Public order x 2
Church Farm Court	Public order	The Haven	Anti-social behaviour x 3
Holmes Field Cl	Anti-social behaviour x 2	The Haven	Burglary
Nemesia Close	Vehicle crime	The Haven	Violence offences
Pembroke Rise	Anti-social behaviour	Wesley Place	Anti-social behaviour
Petrol Station	Shoplifting	Wesley Place	Violence offences x 2

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN MAY

Back Lane	Burglary	Newcastle Close	Burglary
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Sanctuary Fields	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Burglary	The Green	Anti-social behaviour
Caperns Road	Vehicle crime	The Green	Shoplifting x 6
Edinburgh Drive	Vehicle crime	The Green	Violence offences x 2
Ennerdale Close	Burglary	The Orchard	Burglary
Hawkshead Cresc	Burglary	The Rise	Vehicle crime
Kendal Avenue	Burglary	The Wells	Violence offences
Narrow Lane	Other crime	Town Wells Court	Burglary
Ryton Road	Anti-social behaviour	White Gate	Burglary
Ryton Road	Violence offences x 2		