



# VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
Edition 306 – SEPTEMBER 2023

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

## ➤ **NORTON GENIE – ONLINE SCAM DETECTOR**

Emails designed to extract personal information, links to dodgy web sites, invitations to download something for free that is actually software to infect your device with a software virus – these are all becoming almost daily events for many.

❖ These scams are becoming more sophisticated and harder to spot than ever before and there are several products that provide protection. The latest is a scam detection tool from Norton called Genie. This is a free app still under development, so that Norton can collect user feedback to make improvements. This means that Genie is constantly learning, so, every time you use the app, it learns and gets smarter. Genie can detect if texts, emails, websites or social media posts are a scam. Simply copy and paste or upload screenshots of suspicious messages to the app, and it lets you know immediately if it could be a scam. Note that at the moment it is only available for iPhones and iPads. The Android version should be out soon. The link is on the Norton web site <https://uk.norton.com/products/genie-scam-detector> or from the Apple app store.

### ❖ **Suspicious E-mail Reporting Services (SERS)**

If you have received an e-mail which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

### ❖ **Suspicious Text message**

7726 is a number that most mobile customers using UK networks can text to report unwanted SMS messages or phone calls on a mobile. This free-of-charge short code enables your provider to investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious.

The number '7726' was chosen because it spells 'SPAM' on an alphanumeric phone keypad – that's a handy way of remembering it.

## ➤ **OPEN DOORS AND WINDOWS**

It is always advised to close and lock doors and windows if you are not in your property, or not in the room. This can be easily forgotten if you go outside for a few minute, or in hot weather (remember that?) There are three types of door and window locks (which can be used for pets) available that can leave an opening in four positions and are lockable with a key and are quick and easy to install. Go to [www.locklatch.co.uk](http://www.locklatch.co.uk)  
If you want to buy one, use coupon code **NWNLock** at the check out to get a 15% discount (for Neighbourhood Watch members).

## ➤ **CRIME STATISTICS**

The crimes listed in the Village Watch are from : <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/south-yorkshire-police>

To see the crimes on a map from this page click on **Rotherham South** and select **Crime Map**. To get a detailed spreadsheet, click on **Download area crime data**, then select **South Yorkshire Police**. Select the types of crime and the month, and click on **Generate file**. This will download a spreadsheet of all SY (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield) crimes for the selected month. (This could contain over 15,000 rows of data.) To see crimes for a specific post code or area, there are several sources, but they may not produce quite the results you expect! Some of these are:

<https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/postcode>

<https://www.adt.co.uk/crime-in-my-area>

<https://crimerate.co.uk> This site shows that the community of North and South Anston is the third safest of small towns in South Yorkshire. It has a crime rate (that is number of crimes per 1,000 of population) 52% lower than the whole of Yorkshire and The Humber, and is 38% lower than the national crime rate of England, Wales & NI.

❖ The latest crime reports were not available at the time of creating this month's newsletter. Below are tables showing a comparison of the highest crime categories in 2022 compared with the first six months of 2023.

➤ **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](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>
- ❖ **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

The number of crimes in the first six months of 2023 in South Anston is about half of last year's, and the top four categories are unchanged, but the ratios have changed. Anti-social behaviour is now more than double the percentage of crimes, whereas Criminal damage and arson has halved, and Violence offences have dropped by a third. Shoplifting is unchanged.

Top Crime Categories	CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON			
	Year>	2022		Jan-Jun 2023
Total no. of all crimes >	195	%	100	%
Anti-social behaviour	18	9%	21	21%
Criminal damage and arson	35	18%	9	9%
Shoplifting	17	9%	9	9%
Violence offences	57	29%	20	20%
<b>Total of Top Crime Categories</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>

The number of crimes in the first six months of 2023 in North Anston is about half of last year's, and the top four categories are unchanged, but the ratios have changed. Anti-social behaviour is down by about a third, Criminal damage and arson and Violence offences are almost unchanged. The number of Shoplifting crimes has doubled, but the percentage has increased fourfold.

Top Crime Categories	CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON			
	Year>	2022		Jan-Jun 2023
Total no. of all crimes >	329	%	175	%
Anti-social behaviour	70	21%	23	13%
Criminal damage and arson	37	11%	15	9%
Shoplifting	9	3%	22	13%
Violence offences	105	32%	47	27%
<b>Total of Top Crime Categories</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>61%</b>