

Adur NHW Newsletter



Lancing & Sompting Issue

April 2024

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Over a quarter of UK citizens don't feel safe at home, with antisocial behaviour (67%), burglary (52%) and cybercrime (44%) being the top three most feared crimes across the UK.

Although the Office for National Statistics reported that crime rates dropped by 10% in 2023, the National Crime & Community Survey conducted by Neighbourhood Watch and SimpliSafe Home Security found that 37% of participants experienced a crime last year, with 63% of those having experienced antisocial behaviour, followed by physical assault (25%). But 58% of people who witnessed a crime over the past 12 months did not report it, mainly because they didn't believe that the Police would take any action, but also out of fear of reprisals.

Neighbourhood Watch has supported the Home Office's work this year in trialling new policing approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour across England. The findings of the survey highlight the need for further research into why antisocial behaviour remains a pervasive crime nationwide.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, said: "It is clear from the findings of our survey that we must continue to prioritise sharing resources and raising awareness of antisocial behaviour, burglary and cybercrime. It's important to help empower people to take action to protect themselves and prevent these crimes from impacting them and their communities. Working collaboratively with other organisations will be essential to help reduce crimes such as ASB in communities, and increase feelings of safety and community wellbeing."

Neighbourhood Watch continues to work hard to support its members with understanding how to respond to antisocial behaviour and harassment, either as a bystander or as a victim, and highlights the importance of being an active bystander. Through training provided by organisations such as Stand by Me UK via the Safer Communities Partnership, attendees receive guidance on how to intervene safely and effectively, document or support the victims of these crimes. Statistics show that 56% of respondents changed their behaviour after seeing crime prevention campaigns, suggesting that people feel better equipped to take action or change their behaviours in the face of crime.

Tim Drew

www.lancingnhw.org.uk

‘Are you scam savvy?’ sessions back by popular demand in 2024

Fraud is the most common crime in the UK, accounting for almost 40% of all crime in England and Wales.



In West Sussex, during the last three months of 2023, a total of £3.5 million was lost to fraudsters, with 53% of victims being over the age of 75.

In the same time frame the top three fraud types were courier/impersonator fraud, dating and romance scams, and sextortion which is classed as a form of blackmail.

To support residents from becoming victims of fraud, West Sussex County Council’s Digital Safety Team has organised another round of their popular ‘Are you scam savvy?’ online and in-person sessions, which were launched last year.

These free 1.5-hour sessions are open to anyone who wants to keep themselves, or friends and family, from falling victim to different types of scams, both online and offline.

The dates available for the online only sessions are:

Wednesday 22 May: 1pm - 2.30pm

Friday 5 July: 11am - 12.30pm.

In-person ‘Are you scam savvy?’ sessions will also be taking place on

Monday 17 June at Shoreham Library: 10am - 11.30am .

If you can’t attend the library events in person, there is also the opportunity to view these online.

Booking is essential to attend any of the in-person or online sessions and free tickets can be ordered through www.eventbrite.co.uk by searching for ‘Are you scam savvy?’.

Councillor Duncan Crow, Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, at the county council said: our Digital Safety Team has been working across West Sussex for a number of years making sure that residents are advised on how best to remain as safe as they can from scams and fraud in the online space. This supports our [Council Plan](#) theme of keeping people safe from vulnerable situations.

The creation of the online and in-person ‘Are you scam savvy?’ sessions this year enables our residents to choose whether to receive the latest advice online or at one of our libraries, which are amazing community hubs that many locals already rely on to get information, help and support from our trusted staff members.

“If you aren’t 100% comfortable with keeping yourself safe online, or you want to learn more to support your family members, I would definitely recommend booking onto one of these free sessions with the team.”

If you cannot attend any of the sessions, you can still visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/staying-safe-online where you can find more information on how the Digital Safety Team can support you, your family or business to keep safe online.

Social Media Security

In a recent update, Instagram has rolled out a new feature aimed at enhancing user awareness regarding potential suspicious activities and impersonation attempts that may be circulating online. With scammers continually devising new, sophisticated ways to extract personal information and financial data, this latest addition seeks to support users to safeguard their accounts.

Instagram will now provide users with notifications and alerts when they detect an account engaging in potential scams or suspicious behaviours. These notifications include:

- Issuing a security alert when an account attempting to follow you is flagged for potential impersonation or scamming.
- Sending a security alert when Instagram suspects that a certain account might be deceptive and sends you a direct message.
- Notifying users when a link appears dubious, displaying a pop-up message advising caution and suggesting review.

While these notifications do not prevent users from interacting with potentially suspicious accounts, they serve to promote critical thinking and provide users with additional time to assess the content. Instagram also encourages users to take advantage of its Security Check Up feature, which offers support for creating strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, and setting up recovery information.

If you suspect that you may have fallen victim to a phishing attempt, then the best course to pursue is as follows:

- Contact your bank immediately if you suspect your banking details have been compromised.
- Change all of your account passwords, even if you believe they have not been compromised.
- Document the incident by making notes of what transpired or capturing screenshots of messages and websites.
- Report the incident to the Police or authorities such as Action Fraud.
- Notify the social media platform about the incident. For guidance on reporting to various platforms, you can visit Report Harmful Content.

For those seeking further insights into cybersecurity and best practices, SWGfL's security page

(<https://www.swgflstore.com/>) offers a wealth of information, including downloadable resources and free guidance covering various scenarios. SWGfL provides online safety training, tools and resources for schools and other organisations to help them meet their safeguarding obligations.

Clare's Law

Sussex Police have significantly improved their service to potential victims of domestic abuse with an innovative new system.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also known as Clare's Law (named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by a former domestic partner who police knew to be dangerous) allows people to request information on their partner or ex-partner's criminal history to see if they are at risk of domestic violence under the "Right to Ask" scheme. An individual can also make an application about someone else's partner or ex-partner.

In Sussex, a new process has been introduced to reduce the time taken for people to receive this information – in some cases, responses are being given 75% more quickly than before the pilot - which means more people are making informed decisions on their own safety much sooner, potentially saving lives. Disclosures can also now be made virtually, providing a more convenient, discreet option for people who may not wish, or may not be able, to meet in person.

Under the "Right to Ask" scheme, Police forces are expected to respond within 28 days of a disclosure request being received, but the new process has, on average, reduced the time frame to an average of 14 days.

Police can also proactively disclose information about an individual's violent or abusive behaviour that may impact their current or ex-partner. That process is called "Right to Know" and these disclosures are being given 25 days faster, at an average of 19 days. There is also an urgent disclosure process where disclosures can be given the same day in some cases.

Where there was no relevant history to report, users were informed within eight days, providing them with an increased measure of reassurance.

Detective Inspector Martin Alchin-Gadd of Sussex Police said: "I would urge anyone who has doubts about a new partner, or just wants extra peace of mind, to submit a Clare's Law application.

"If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse, please report to police online or via 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency."

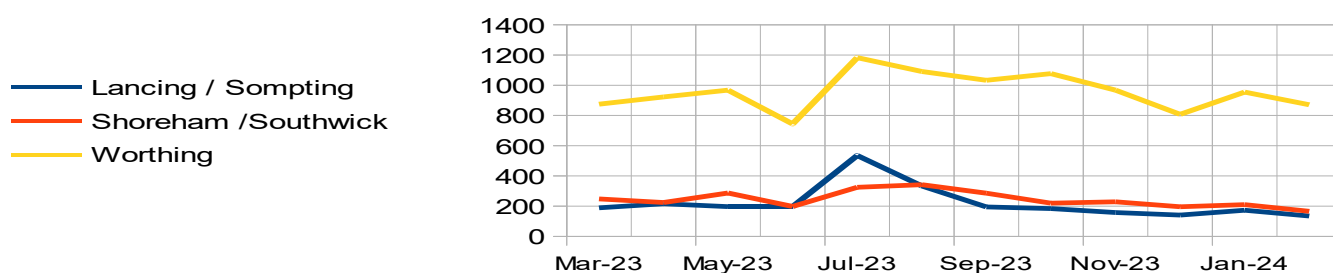
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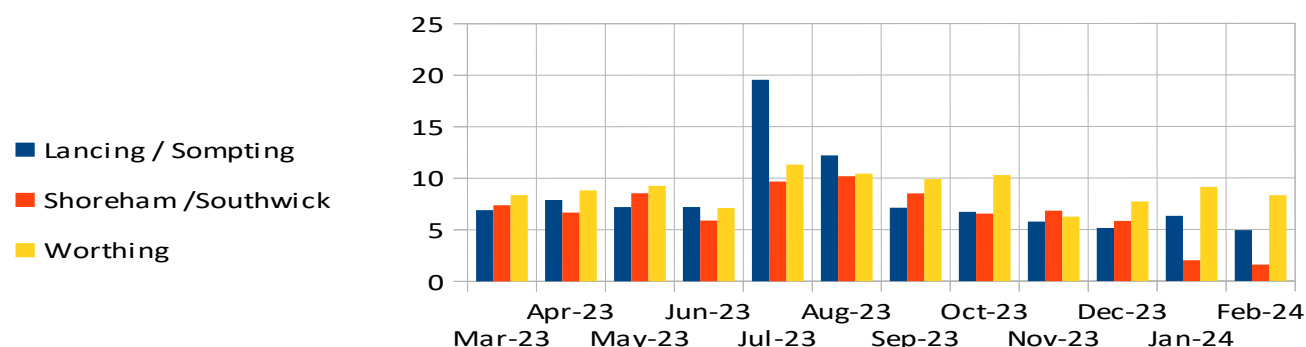
Crime Statistics for February 2024

February 2024	Churchill	Cokeham	Manor	Mashbarn	Peverel	Widewater	Sub Total
Antisocial Behaviour	1	2	2	3	3	3	14
Bike Theft	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Criminal Damage	3	1	0	2	0	0	6
Drugs	0	0	0	1	3	3	7
Other Crime	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
Other Theft	0	0	3	1	2	4	10
Weapons	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Public Order	2	1	2	2	0	1	8
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft Shop	3	0	1	18	9	0	31
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence & Sex Offences	12	3	10	9	5	12	51
Totals	24	8	18	38	22	25	135

Crimes March 2023 to February 2024



Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)