

# Worthing NHW Newsletter



February 2024

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## Worthing Neighbourhood Police Meeting

Good progress in tackling shoplifting and anti-social behaviour was reported at the latest Worthing Neighbourhood Police Meeting, but an upsurge in moped thefts was also noted and the public needs to engage more effectively with the Police when reporting crime.

A very prolific local shoplifter was recently sentenced to 76 weeks' imprisonment and also received an 8 year Criminal Behaviour Order, and intelligence gathering regarding crimes against businesses is bearing fruit. However, the public tend to report crimes on social media when they should be reported on the Sussex Police website or 101, and is often reluctant to provide written statements which may well contain vital information in the investigation of crimes. It should be remembered that criminal activity can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers either online or on 0800 555 111.

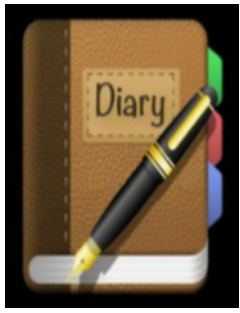
Anti-social behaviour powers are being used effectively as regards addressing criminal behaviour among young people, but there has been a spate of moped thefts and Sussex Police are working with specialist enforcement agencies to prevent this. Disc locks (to help secure the front brake disc) and grip locks (to secure the brake and throttle controls) are effective safeguards as are D-locks on the front wheel and chain locks through the back wheel.

There was some good news for NHW members in that the Engagement Officer responsible for compiling the Crime Alert Reports is to be replaced, though this may take some time due to vetting requirements.

Encampments in town are not a policing matter unless there is associated anti-social behaviour and criminality. The Safer Communities Partnership should be contacted in the first instance and a Public Space Protection Order can be issued if necessary, but often the inhabitants are vulnerable and the SCP has a duty of care towards them.

A notable further achievement was the closure of the Eight Till Late and Pie & Mash shops for three months for anti-social behaviour, following a multi-agency investigation.

Web Site : <https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>



## Partnership Engagement

Goring Library Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 - 11:00 Hrs to 12:30 Hrs

Broadwater Library Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 - 10:00 Hrs to 11:30 Hrs

Durrington Library 85 Salvington Road - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 12:00 Hrs to 13:30 Hrs

## Memorandum of Understanding

Sussex Police have long extolled Neighbourhood Watch as being the “eyes and ears of the community” when it comes to reporting and sharing information with the police. Only this month, PCC Katy Bourne described Neighbourhood Watch as “an invaluable partner of the police”. But this partnership is one that should work both ways and, at the moment, it does not. The reason for this is that NHW members have not been receiving any Crime Update Alert messages since June 2023, when the Engagement Officer responsible for collating and sending those messages retired and has not been replaced. These messages are of vital importance as they enable Co-ordinators to warn their members about criminal activities so that they can safeguard their property and neighbourhoods. In addition, when we know that criminality has occurred, our members can report on any suspicious incident, which they would not ordinarily do if they were unaware of such activity.

S.34(2) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that “a Chief Officer of Police must make arrangements for providing persons within each neighbourhood in the relevant Police area with information in that neighbourhood (including information about how policing in that neighbourhood is aimed at dealing with crime and disorder there”. But, in April last year, a report by HM Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services judged Sussex Police “inadequate “ for its recording of data about crime and responding to the public. And the new Memorandum of Understanding between Sussex Police and Neighbourhood Watch is unspecific about Police commitment to providing information.

The loss of the Crime Update Alerts has led to many NHW Co-ordinators becoming disillusioned and leaving Neighbourhood Watch, and it would appear that Sussex is the only county in the country where timely crime reports are not being received. Whilst acknowledging that Sussex Police are handicapped by a heavy workload and a dysfunctional criminal justice system, NHW members could be excused for wondering whether Sussex Police regard them as an irrelevance at best or a nuisance at worst.



If you received this newsletter by email it means that you are correctly registered on our database Neighbourhood Alert.

If you did not receive it by this method and wish to receive it on a regular basis please register at

<https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

## Households who are struggling with the cost of living

A range of extra support is being provided which will be paid to eligible individuals automatically - including the Energy Price guarantee which restricts the amount that you can be charged per unit of electricity and gas, and the Winter Fuel and Pensioner cost of living payment, whereby all those born before the 25th September 1957 will get an extra £300 on top of their Winter Fuel payments.

In addition, there is the UK Government-funded Household Support Fund which is available up to the 31st March this year. Local county councils have been allocated funding by the Department of Work and Pensions to support residents in need. If you are in receipt of benefits, these will not be affected if you receive a payment from a Household Support Fund scheme. Those households seeking further details, or who believe that they meet the criteria for funding, can apply online via the Community Hub application-based element of the scheme on [westsussex.gov.uk](https://westsussex.gov.uk).

Furthermore, tax-free childcare up to £2000 a year is available (depending on eligibility) for all children in your family to help with the cost of approved childcare. This rises to £4000 a year for disabled children and covers the cost of childminders, nurseries and nannies, plus after-school clubs and play schemes.

Please note that your childcare providers must be signed up to the scheme before you can pay them and benefit from tax-free childcare, so do check with them to ensure that that is the case.

Lastly, don't forget that council tax support is available from local councils and personalised job support is available through Job Help ([jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk](https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk)); also, that tax relief and work-related expenses can always be claimed from HMRC.

Tim Drew

## Romance scams

With St. Valentine's Day not far off, the need to beware of romance scams has never been greater. According to Lloyds Bank, romance scams increased by 30% last year, with victims losing £8,234 on average.

Men represented 53% of reported cases last year, with the South East of England reporting an average of 15% higher than that of other regions. Those aged between 45 and 54 were the most likely to fall victim. But this year, those aged between 65 and 74 have proved most likely to be defrauded; the number of cases amongst this group rising nearly 75% year-on-year, averaging losses of over £12,000.

Romance scammers work by exploiting their victim's emotions, setting up false profiles on dating websites, apps and social media. They try to appeal to the victim's sympathies when asking for money, giving reasons such as having a sick mother who needs an urgent operation but cannot pay for it.

Fraudsters often go to great lengths to win your trust (sometimes sending gifts) and usually ask for lots of your personal information but reveal very little about themselves. Some tell-tale signs that you may be dealing with a fraudster include the following:

- They seem to have fallen in love with you rather quickly
- They soon want to leave the dating site or app for instant messaging, email or text instead
- They claim to be from the UK, but say that they are away working or travelling
- They tell you that they're planning to visit you, but something comes up at the last moment to prevent them from coming

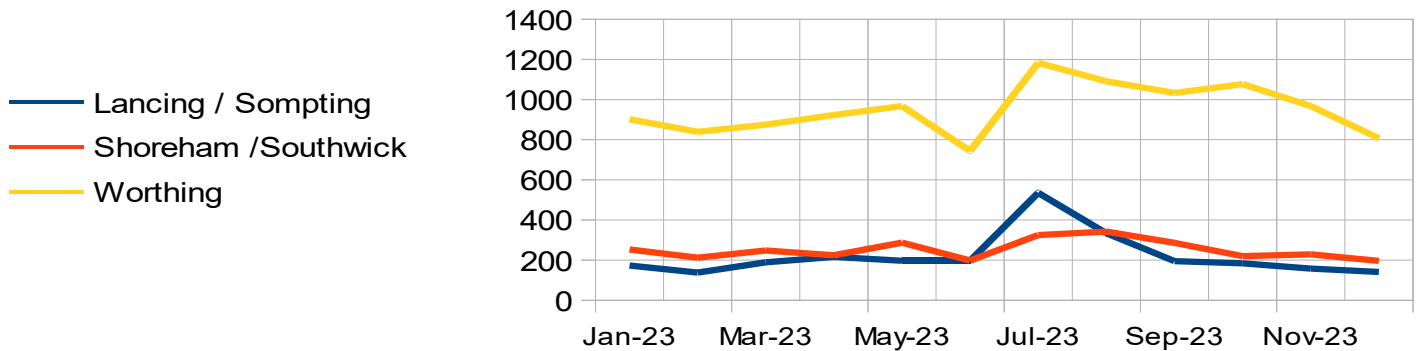
One of these points on their own might be considered innocent. But more than one, together with a request for money, may be a sign that it's a romance scam.

If they send you a photo, you can check that it is really them by using a free reverse image search website and following the advice given. This kind of site searches the Internet to find if an image appears elsewhere with a different name. If it does, then your friend is probably a fraudster.

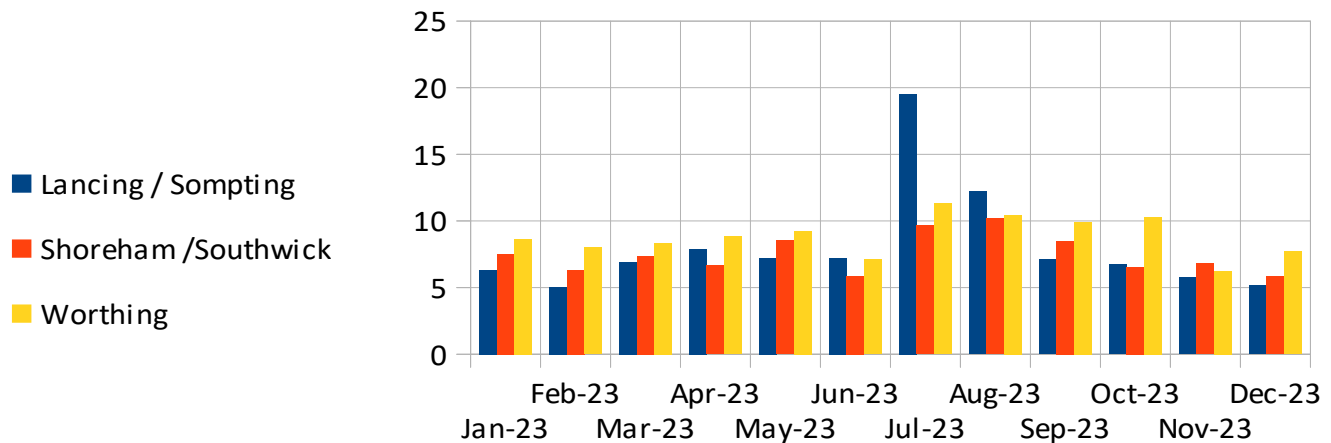
# Crime Statistics for December 2023

December 2023	Broadwater	Castle	Central	Durrington	Findon	Gaisford	Goring	Heene	Marine02	Northbrook	Offington	Salvington	Selden	Tarring	Sub Total
					BN										
Antisocial Behaviour	9	3	29	3	0	2	4	6	3	6	0	1	3	3	72
Bike Theft	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	9
Burglary	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	4	0	2	1	0	2	1	17
Criminal Damage	6	13	21	2	3	7	3	9	4	6	4	3	4	4	89
Drugs	2	1	15	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	2	27
Other Crime	2	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	17
Other Theft	5	3	16	1	0	4	0	4	0	8	4	1	2	3	51
Weapons	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	8
Public Order	4	4	17	1	1	2	2	7	4	4	0	2	3	3	54
Robbery	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Theft Shop	11	26	17	20	0	0	1	24	18	1	2	17	1	17	155
Theft Person	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Vehicle Crime	2	0	5	2	2	2	0	2	3	2	4	3	0	2	29
Violence & Sex Offences	18	23	77	10	1	19	8	30	6	27	8	15	8	20	270
Totals	60	77	216	39	8	37	23	91	39	62	25	47	28	55	807

## Crimes January 2023 to December 2023



## Crimes per 1000 of Population



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