

Adur NHW Newsletter



Shoreham & Southwick Issue

November 2024

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Stay safe over the Black Friday period!

With Christmas now not far away and the Black Friday period running from Friday 29th November to Monday 1st December (Cyber Monday), we will be more likely than ever to look for bargains when buying presents and other seasonal goods online. Scammers will, as usual, be eager to take advantage of the unwary, so Get Safe Online – the UK's leading Internet security website - has provided the following tips for your protection:

- When shopping online, ensure website authenticity by carefully checking the spelling of the address. Ideally, type it in rather than clicking on a link in an email, text or post, as scammers can easily create fake websites that mimic the real thing.
- When paying, ensure that the page is secure by checking that addresses begin with 'https' and have a closed padlock in the address bar. Bear in mind that the site could still be operated by fraudsters, though the page is secure.
- Many advertisements for items such as gifts, holidays and events on social media and online forums are fraudulent, so be extra vigilant about checking authenticity.
- Never transfer money directly to unknown people or companies. Your bank may be unable to recover or refund your money if you've been scammed, so it's always best to pay by credit card.
- Log out of the web page or app on completing payment. Simply closing it may not log you out automatically.
- Ascertain the authenticity of your purchase - fake or counterfeit goods are of inferior quality, contravene copyright law, affect the livelihoods of workers who make the genuine article and can also be dangerous to users.
- Avoid 'free' or 'low-cost' trials – without thoroughly reading the small print and trusted reviews, you may end up incurring large monthly direct debits.
- Beware fraudulent emails, texts or DMs, or fraudulent offers on social media.
- Never click on links in emails, texts or posts that you're not expecting, and don't open unexpected email attachments as this may allow malware to infect your computer.

Every year, more than 1,700 people die on UK roads and another 30,000 suffer life-changing injuries. There has been no significant reduction in these numbers for over a decade. And behind every statistic is a grief-stricken family trying to cope with the complex procedures that often follow a road crash.

The role of Brake in such cases is to provide expert emotional and practical support to the families involved through its National Road Victim Service, which is a free, professional, trauma-informed service for road victims. The right support at the right time can prove invaluable - but, what is more:

- Brake is playing a leading role in the development of a Road Victims' Charter, calling on the government to provide sustainable funding and parity of care for road victims and their families, wherever they are, wherever they live, and whether or not a crime has occurred.
- It brings communities together to remember loved ones who have died or suffered life-changing injury in road crashes.
- It helps children and young people learn about its work.
- It helps organisations that employ people who drive for work to learn why we need robust investigation into the causes of road crashes, so we can understand why they happen and prevent future road death and harm.
- It helps people whose lives have been wrecked by road crashes to talk about their experience.

This is Brake's biggest annual road safety campaign, in which thousands of schools, organisations and communities get involved to share important road safety messages and raise funds to help Brake care for more road victims and campaign for safe roads for everyone.

To get help after a road crash, call 0808 8000 401 or email help@brake.org.uk

Financial Crime

The period leading up to Christmas is fraught with the risk of financial crime across the board as people get themselves into "bad" debt (i.e. consumer and car loans), without reflecting beforehand as to whether it is necessary or not. Those who are desperate for money are also more likely to be sucked into activities such as money muling or seeking loans from unlicensed lenders.

This is set against the following background:

- 57% of the UK population is in debt
- The annual cost to the NHS from financial stress is £10.3 bn
- Your attitude to money is formed by the time you are seven years old
- In recent years there has been a big push in short-term finance, targeted at the poorest and most vulnerable

There are seven general reasons why people fall into "bad" debt:

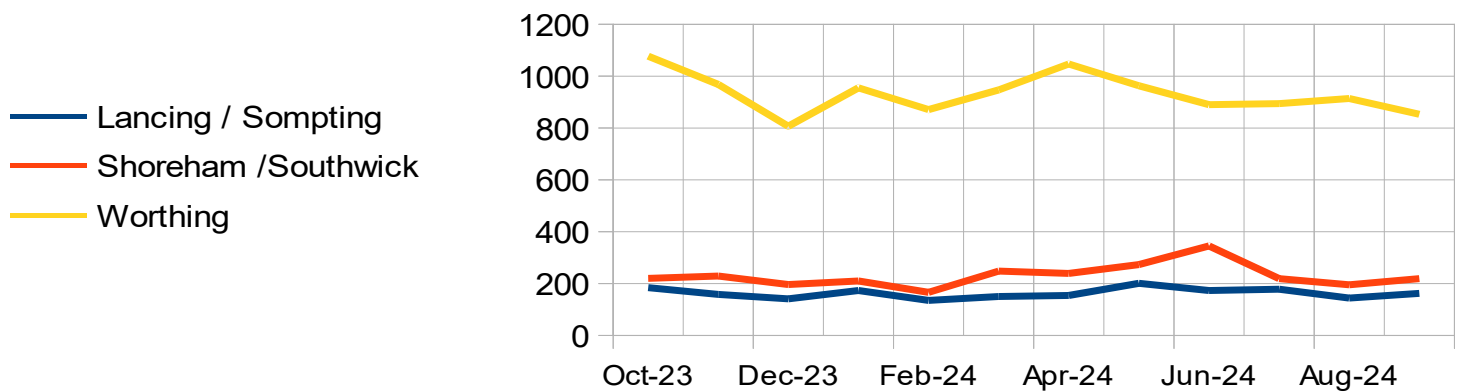
- Financial traumas – linked to events in the past such as a burglary or bankruptcy
- Mental health issues - these include addiction or parents with very sick children who need to stay with them in hospital (mental health and finance providers do not collaborate in working towards solutions)
- Guilt and shame – this can involve people ignoring bills and then being faced by bailiffs
- Fear of missing out – often social media generated and increasingly common as people get themselves into debt to "keep up with the Joneses"
- Comparison – where people feel their self-worth is attributed to how much they earn
- Cultural attitudes - where buying on credit is the norm rather than saving up
- Gender – often women are not allowed to be involved in handling family finances

Moneyhelper, which is a government-backed service (<https://www.moneyhelper.org>) offers online support when it comes to debt management but – given what is at stake – budgeting, the consequences of not maintaining financial control and the risks of being lured and snared by supposedly easy money should really be taught in our schools at as early a stage as considered possible.

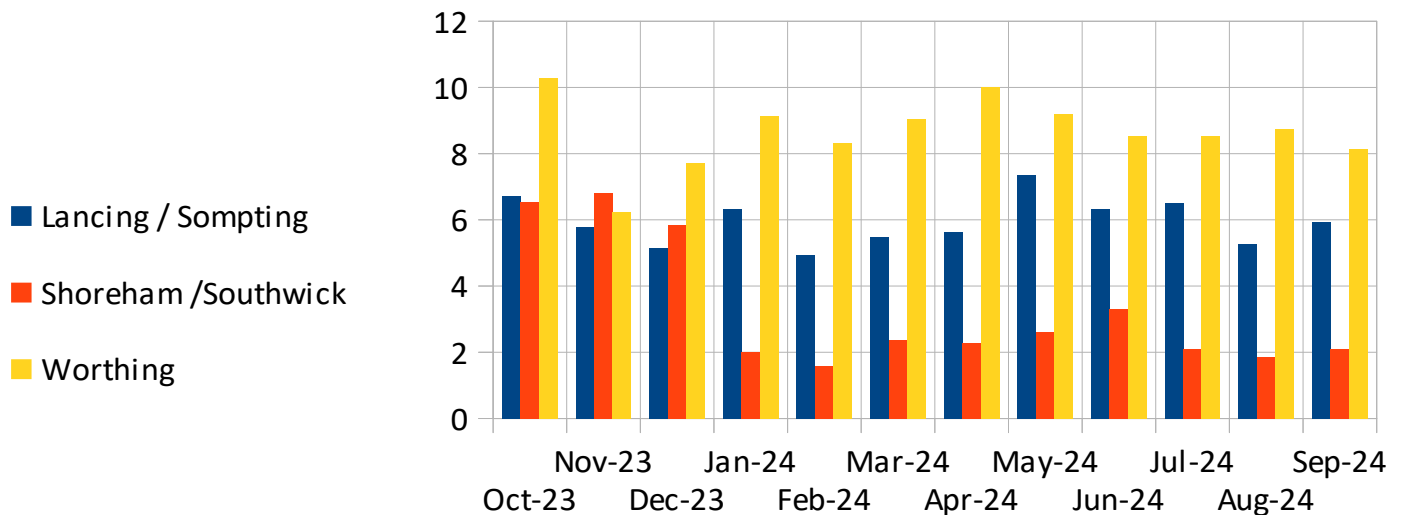
Crime Statistics for September 2024

	Buckingham	Eastbrook	Hillside	Marine 1	Southlands	Southwick	St Mary's	St Mary's	St	Sub Total
September 2024						Green	North	South	Nicholas	
Antisocial Behaviour	2	3	16	8	2	5	2	5	2	45
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Burglary	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	7
Criminal Damage	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	17
Drugs	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Other Crime	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
Other Theft	0	3	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	10
Weapons	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Public Order	0	0	3	2	1	1	4	7	0	18
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft Shop	0	0	0	0	1	8	1	20	0	30
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Violence & Sex Offences	4	11	12	8	4	12	5	13	4	73
Totals	7	26	42	20	14	28	19	54	9	219

Crimes October 2023 to September 2024



Crimes per 1000 of Population



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