

Adur NHW Newsletter



Lancing & Sompting Issue

November 2023

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Digital Switchover - scam warning



From 2025, the old analogue telephone landline network will be switched to digital, meaning that all phone calls will go through the Internet, and everyone will require broadband to make landline phone calls. Criminals are already using this change to scam vulnerable people.

Remember to **never** provide personal or financial information to a cold caller, whoever they may claim to be. You can find out more about scams and fraud with our dedicated resource sheet.

AgeUK also has a useful webpage where you can read more about the Digital Switchover, especially if you need new equipment or support to make the change.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk>

Lancing & Sompting Burglaries & Vehicle Crime

Specific details of Burglaries & Vehicle crime are not available at this time.

www.lancingnhw.org.uk

The Children's Society

This year, The Children's Society (<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>) is running its award-winning #LookCloser campaign, which is aimed at raising awareness of child exploitation and how to spot and report it. This campaign is being run in conjunction with the British Transport Police and the National County Lines Coordination Centre.

Countrywide, young people are being manipulated, sexually abused, forced to launder money and deal drugs. On a conservative estimate, 46,000 children (some as young as six) are thought to be involved in gangs and some 4,000 teenagers are being criminally exploited in London alone. And 84% of parents are worried about county lines in their area.

Child exploitation begins when criminals start building a manipulative relationship (online and/or offline) with children, who may then be sexually abused, forced into labour or to skip school, made to launder criminal money and to sleep in drug dens, coerced into transporting drugs or stealing from shops, and keeping secrets from loved ones.

Young people are targeted at fast food outlets, shopping centres and parks. They are forced to travel on trains, buses, coaches and use roadside services for rest stops. It can also happen 'behind closed doors' in hotels, salons, and car washes, or online through gaming platforms or social media.

Any child can be exploited but, by learning to spot the signs and how to report, we can keep children safe from this abuse. If something doesn't feel right, call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency, or report online – but only report your concerns when it is safe for you to do so, even if this is after the event that your concerns initially arose.

If you are on a train, you can text the British Transport Police on 6106. Information on routes of travel, addresses, appearance, and behaviour of a child can all help to protect young people.

If you have information on child exploitation and abuse or suspect it may be happening but want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crimestoppers online or on 0800 555 111. A further source of aid is the NSPCC helpline (0808 800 500).

West Downs NHW Task Force

Last Thursday's Annual General Meeting of the West Downs NHW Task Force truly marked the end of an era, with Alan Murrell standing down as its Chairman – a post that he had held since its creation in September 2015. Prior to that, he had been Chairman of the West Downs NHW Search Team (of which he had been a member since its creation in 2001) since 2nd July 2004.

It was ultimately Alan's responsibility to ensure that the Search Team volunteers were recruited, trained, equipped, transported to the venues and then led effectively by the Team Leaders in searches, often over difficult terrain and in adverse weather conditions. But the volunteers always knew that Alan would put them first. No wonder, therefore, that many of them achieved their 10 Year Service Award and some achieved 15 years by the year that the Search Team ceased operations. The Team clocked up 106 searches and over 11,500 hours' worth of work.

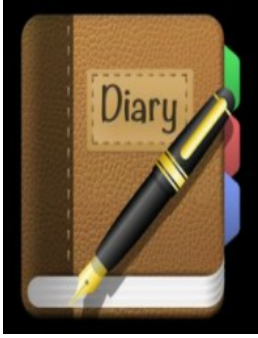
Moreover, it always proved able to field a group of volunteers at the shortest notice and was rightly honoured in November 2014, when it was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. And when Sussex Police advised in 2015 that they had no further use for its services, the decision was taken to rename the Team and to concentrate on community activities.

The demand for the Task Force's services has grown to this day, and the regard in which it is held is reflected in the fact that it has been accorded two Mayoral Receptions at Worthing Town Hall and a High Sheriff's Award in March 2019.

This tribute would not be complete without mentioning Sue, for she was unquestionably Alan's greatest support throughout until her passing in March 2021. Their commitment to their community didn't stop at the Task Force either, because they both supported their vulnerable neighbours during the pandemic and regularly maintained the two Neighbourhood Watch defibrillators in and about Worthing town centre - which Alan continues to do, in addition to conducting bike marking exercises both in Worthing and Shoreham.

Well done indeed, good and faithful servant.

Tim Drew



Lancing Community Hub

Thursday 7th December - 10: 00 Hrs to 12:00 Hrs - Lancing Parish Hall

Keep Lancing Lovely

Beach Clean - Sunday 26th November from 10 am.

lithium-ion battery warning

Businesses are being urged to consider how they store and use lithium-ion batteries in the workplace to reduce fire safety risks.

The warning comes after a fire at Swan Walk in Horsham on Wednesday (4 October) which crews from Billingshurst, Crawley and Horsham responded to.

Upon arrival firefighters quickly got to work and extinguished the fire after finding smoke issuing from both the ground floor and first floor of the commercial premises. Fortunately, the premises had working smoke alarms fitted which alerted Joint Fire Control of the incident early on.

A fire investigation has concluded the most likely cause of the fire was lithium-ion batteries within a smartphone.

Darren Wickings, Station Manager for Policy (Strategic Risk and Improvement), said: “Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries that are commonly found in household electrical items, such as mobile phones, laptops, vapes and e-bikes. The device you’re reading this on probably uses lithium-ion batteries.

“Their popularity and extensive use have resulted in fire and rescue services across the nation attending more and more battery-related fires, and we’re no different here in West Sussex.

“It’s always concerning when new fire risks and trends emerge, but it’s important to note that most of these fires are preventable. There are several safety measures that businesses can implement to protect their livelihood and prevent their work from becoming a victim of fire.”

Tips for preventing lithium-ion battery fires at your workplace:

Keep batteries away from flammable materials.

Store batteries in an enclosed outdoor area, making sure temperatures are maintained and don’t become very hot or cold.

Protect batteries from becoming damaged; do not use if they look physically damaged.

Safely dispose of old batteries at [your nearest recycling centre](#) as old batteries are more likely to start a fire.

Never charge or store batteries on your escape route.

Use the charger supplied with the device or recommended by the manufacturer.

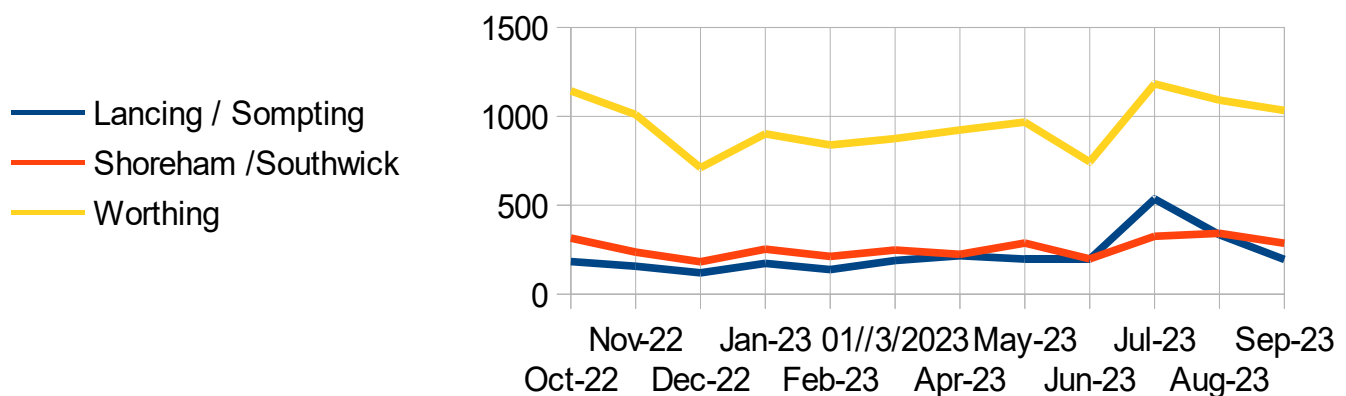
Avoid leaving chargers unattended when in use and unplug at the mains when device is fully charged.

Small business owners can find out more about their legal duties for fire safety in the workplace by [using our interactive business fire safety awareness tool](#).

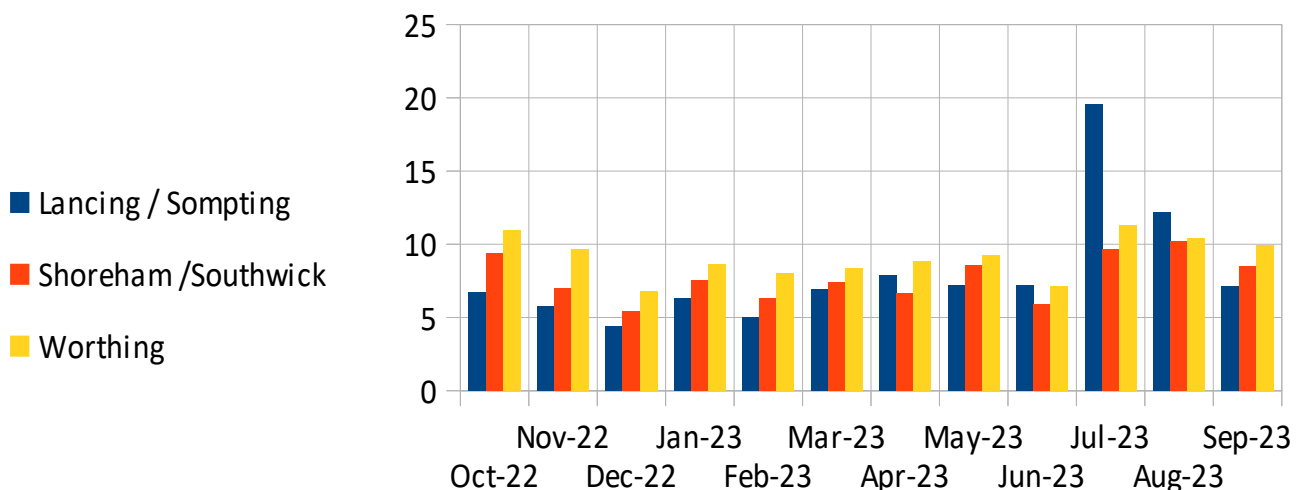
Crime Statistics for September 2023

September 2023	Churchill	Cokeham	Manor	Mashbarn	Peverel	Widewater	Sub Total
Antisocial Behaviour	7	2	4	3	3	1	20
Bike Theft	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Burglary	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Criminal Damage	3	0	1	0	0	1	5
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Other Crime	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Other Theft	4	1	1	1	1	3	11
Weapons	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Public Order	3	1	3	2	1	4	14
Robbery	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Theft Shop	1	0	1	36	9	0	47
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	3	0	1	0	2	0	6
Violence & Sex Offences	13	15	10	21	8	11	78
Totals	40	19	23	63	28	22	195

Crimes October 2022 to September 2023



Crimes per 1000 of Population



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