



“Wow! I just won a big prize on the Internet and all I had to do was download something that made my computer freeze up!”

Colin's Blog

23rd June 2017

Scams Awareness Month 2017

Launching July 2017

Citizens Advice and Trading Standards Services are leading activities throughout the month of July for Scams Awareness Month.

The campaign is all about supporting partnerships nationally and locally to give consumers the skills and confidence to identify scams, share experiences and take action by reporting suspicious activity. Check out: - https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/current_campaigns/scams-awareness-month/scams-awareness-month-2017/

You will all know how much that I continually ‘bang the drum,’ about scams, yet these are happening more and more each day, we all know that the perpetrators of such crimes are evil people who prey upon the naivety or vulnerability of others. In the general run of things one could categorise such criminals as ‘Low-life members of society, with few, if any, moral standards and a total disregard for the health, well-being, property and rights of others. As my Mum used to say: ‘People who prey on others are Scumbags!’ They do not adhere to ‘Political correctness,’ so they don’t deserve any such courtesy, or indeed to be given any consideration whatsoever! As a nation, we have become a soft touch for criminals, who, if caught, do not, in my mind, often receive the punishment that fits the crime!

As an old-tyme bobby, who first joined up as a Special Constable in the 1960’s, then signed up as a ‘regular’ in the 1970’s, I have seen the decline of our once hard-line response to criminals degenerate, it to what is often a more liberal approach to offenders, which, as we all know, does little to dissuade many of them from a life of crime. In the words of Queen Victoria “We are not amused!”

Throughout July, I will be including more information or articles about Scams.

Disturbing facts are now emerging, relating to the horrific tragedy at the Grenfell Tower block. The sad and appalling loss of life, the terrible injuries of survivors. So many innocent people! We must not make judgement or come to any conclusions relating to the cause, but, need to wait to hear from the professionals and the subsequent enquiry.

The cries and protests of so many members of our Emergency Services, at the start of the government imposed cutbacks, are now coming back to haunt those responsible. Remember the placards: 'Cuts cost lives!'

Well this is of course, also true when it comes to using non-compliant building materials, however, at the moment, this appears to be media speculation, and, as I said previously, we will have to wait for the findings of the inquiry. If such is proved, then those responsible from the government downwards, must be brought to justice, and punished accordingly. Sadly, that will not bring back loved ones, but they, and their families, deserve justice.

Recent events, do seem to have been a bit of a wakeup call to those in power, and having seen pictures of some members of parliament, in particular the House of Lords, dozing off during debates, perhaps, the wakeup call, may help them to sit up and take notice of the people whom they are supposed to serve. Perhaps it is also time to have a system whereby the members of the House of Lords, only keep their place by public consent, in the same way as the House of Commons?

Whilst starting to write my blog, I have heard the news of another terrible event in London, when a man has deliberately driven into a group of Muslim worshipers on their way from a Mosque, having been praying during Ramadan. If this is meant to be a revenge attack for the recent atrocities in Manchester and London, killing or maiming others is totally unacceptable, and only adds to existing tensions which will probably lead to even more Hate crimes. History has taught us, that 'Two wrongs do not make a right!' **STAMP OUT HATE CRIME NOW!**

As I continue to write my blog, the temperature in the garden has reach 33 degrees centigrade, so, just in case we are in for a longer spell of hot weather, my thoughts have now turned to the tinder dry grass verges, fields, woodland and other open spaces.



ONE 'THOUGHTLESS' MOMENT IN TIME

Whilst out earlier today, I witnessed some blithering idiot toss a cigarette out of their car window, unfortunately, I was not close enough to clock the registration number! What kind of fool does such a thing in this weather?

With this in mind, I make no apology for reprinting the article that I circulated some weeks ago. Please pass this good advice on to others

SENSE & SENSIBILITY

KEEP SAFE THIS SUMMER

Many of us will be out and about with our family and friends and, enjoying outdoor activities over the next few months.

Here are a few thoughts and facts to consider: -

- A Fire can destroy a tent in less than 60 seconds.
- In the UK, around 79,000 fires are started on grass and heath land every year (This is an average of 216 every day!)
- On average, 1,400 fires per year occur in caravans.
- Avoid: open fires in the countryside. Always have them in safe, designated areas.
- Never, throw cigarette ends or matches out of car windows. (Such thoughtless actions, are the cause of thousands of fires every year).
- Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands, or anywhere that sunlight shining through glass, can start a fire.
- Remember, Barbecues and excess alcohol do not mix. Always ensure that safety guidelines are followed, and that the Barbecue is under the control of a responsible, sober adult.

Children are naturally curious about barbecues! They want to see what's going on, how well-lit it is, what's cooking and are always keen to know when it's going to be ready to eat. They're drawn to where the cooking is going on, yet that's the most dangerous place to be. In fact, each year about 1,000 people suffer injuries, such as burns, caused by barbecues.

Ensure children are supervised well at any barbecue. Tell them of the dangers of going close to the barbecue and that the person doing the cooking needs to have plenty of space to cook safely. Running about and playing in the garden may not be practical if the garden is small, and you don't want to run the risk of a child colliding with the barbecue.

Instead, organising for an adult to play games with children away from the cooking area is beneficial, such as inside the house or in a front garden. Or, if you haven't got much space, perhaps they can take them out to a park whilst the cooking is in action. This way, they could certainly use up some energy and work up an appetite before they come back and eat!

Many fires start from the lighting of Barbecues, so here is some sensible advice to ensure that the Barbecue is Set Up Safely: -

Firstly, ensure that it is alright to light a barbecue or Fire at your chosen location. (Many open spaces such as Epping Forest are protected by Bylaws which make it illegal to do so).

To ensure everyone stays safe when you're barbecuing, the person in charge needs to set up the cooking device correctly, on a clear flat surface, light it properly and take care as they start to cook.

- Before you start, ensure the barbecue is in good working order.
- Find a place to set it up where the ground is flat and way from any sheds, fences, trees or overhanging shrubs.
- Never light a barbecue indoors or in a garage.
- Use charcoal and cover the base of the barbecue - about two inches deep.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for lighting your barbecue, as models differ.
- If it's windy, ensure the wind is blowing away from you when you light the barbecue.
- Keep children away from the barbecue as you light it.
- Don't wear loose clothing, or anything could dangle onto the flames.
- Don't use any flammable accelerants, such as paraffin or petrol.
- Light the barbecue at arm's length.
- Once the barbecue is lit, keep children away from it.
- Keep a bucket of water close at hand, in case of emergencies.
- Never leave the barbecue unattended and don't try to move it whilst it's lit.
- When you've finished cooking, don't try to move the barbecue until it has cooled down completely. Then empty the ashes onto garden soil.
- Don't put ashes straight into a dustbin or wheelie bin - if they are still even slightly hot, they'll melt the plastic and cause a fire.



REMEMBER THIS SOBERING THOUGHT: -

**ONE TREE CAN MAKE A MILLION MATCHES
ONE MATCH CAN DESTROY A MILLION TREES!**

**ONE CIGARETTE BUTT OR EVEN A DISCARDED GLASS
BOTTLE CAN DO JUST AS MUCH DAMAGE!**

After all the horrible things that have affected us all in the past few weeks, my wife and I were thrilled to be invited to a special 'Retirement Celebration, arranged and hosted by Sue Taylor (Chair of Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch) and her husband David, and attended by members of the committee, and PS Simon Dear. It was a great event, the memories of which, will stay with us forever. So, a 'Big Thank You' goes to everyone who were involved. I have felt very privileged, to have been given several good 'send off's since hanging up my hat, and I am pleased that the work that I have done over the past ten years, has been appreciated, by so many people!

As I said last week, whilst waiting for my replacement to come onboard, Terry Fowles from Essex Watch, has taken on the job of circulating the Burglary Hotspots, and is dealing with any matters relating to Essex Watch.

A reminder of Terry's contact details: terry.fowles@essex.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 101 Ext: 420149

Please report crime and incidents direct to the Police and not to Essex Watch, using 101 for None Emergencies 999 for Emergencies or report on line at: -

<https://www.essex.police.uk/>

By popular request, I will continue to produce my weekly blog for the foreseeable future. You can of course, unsubscribe by sending an email to: -

colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk

Tomorrow, (Saturday), I will be at the Ongar Rotary Clubs 'Stroke Awareness Day,' in the Budworth Hall, Ongar from 9.30am until 3pm. Entry is free and you have an opportunity for a free check-up and advice from the nurses' present.

On Thursday 29th June, I will be hosting a joint Ongar Rotary and Fyfield Probus BBQ evening, with entertainment 7.30pm – 10.30pm. Tickets £20 each include as much as you can eat BBQ, choice of deserts and 'Diane,' our guest singer at the Hunters Meet, Hatfield Heath. Tickets available from me. Contact via my neighbourhoodmatters email address above.

On Saturday 1st July Ongar Rotary Club are organising an Antiques valuation day in the Budworth Hall, Ongar, Between 10am – 3pm. Come along with your heirlooms or possible treasures!

On Sunday 2nd July Harlow Neighbourhood Watch will be at the Harlow Museum, so come along and meet the team (See details on the next page).

On Monday 3rd July, come along and meet me, together with Steve, from Essex Fire & Rescue, at the charity stall (adjacent to Barclays Bank and Costa Coffee) in Epping Market between 9am - 12 midday.

Did someone say that I have retired?

HARLOW ARTS COUNCIL & HARLOW MUSEUM

Present

Art of the Garden Party

Sunday 2nd July 2017

1pm – 4.30pm

Harlow Museum & Walled Gardens

Muskham Road, Harlow CM20 2LF

ADMISSION FREE

HARLOW CHORUS, DE MERC CHOIR, NEW ED COMMUNITY CHOIR, HARLOW ROCK SCHOOL, HARLOW BALLET, HIP HOP POP, RAZED ROOF, JIM KATS

Various stalls including our local Harlow Neighbourhood Watch offering

FREE MEMBERSHIP to residents.

Bring the family, bring a picnic. Licensed Bar

Harlow Council is working in partnership with Science Alive, who now manage the Harlow Museum service for the local community.

Harlow Museum is an oasis of tranquility, a centre for researchers, a family day out in the Walled Gardens and much more besides. The Museum is located in the former Mark Hall stables, linked with the Mark Hall Manor House – visited on three occasions by Queen Elizabeth 1 and her retinue. It is surrounded by the beautiful Walled Gardens which were originally the kitchen gardens for the great house and the famous families which lived there.

For further information on exhibitions, activities and the Friends of Harlow Museum group, please visit www.science-alive.co.uk/harlow-museum

Contact Details:

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