



Colin's Blog

Friday 2nd March 2018

Whilst avoiding the snow and cold, and keeping warm at home, I was reminded of terrible winter way back in 1963 when the snow was as high as the platforms of Elsenham Station, and I couldn't get to school for two or three days (possibly the highlight of my school year!).

Somewhere in the archives, I have a photograph of the snow bound station, however, after trying to locate it, I have come to the conclusion that it is tucked away in a safe place, probably, never to be found again. To my amusement, I did find an old school photo, taken around 1960, which proves that I was somewhat slimmer than my subsequent years!

Although, as I have reported in previous blogs, having moved from my private school in London to Stansted County Secondary school, in what these days is called year 8, I spoke BBC English, and was polite and somewhat shy, which resulted in having to endure around two years of bullying by a small number of my peers and older children, until one day, I snapped, and dealt with the ring leader!

Three important positive things that I learned, from my experiences were: You need to face these demons, and deal with them as appropriate, and, help those who you find suffering from the same abuse. There is no place for bullies either at school, or indeed in the workplace.

Luckily for me, there was no such thing as cyberbullying, mobile phones or other gadgets, which are commonly used these days to cause harm and upset to victims. Many children and young people are under tremendous pressure in our education system today.

I am sure that we all know that *bullying* adds to the academic pressures, and causes many problems, which, can sometimes lead to loss of confidence, self harming, and, sadly in some extreme cases, suicide.

The white stuff and the chilly weather, has meant that my family and I are not off to a fun weekend at a preserved railway in Kent, and are missing out on an afternoon tea as well. Probably a good thing from my point of view, as I am still on a diet!

However, with the possibility of more snow yet to come, it's better to be safe than sorry!

Make sure that you all keep warm, and make sure your friends and neighbours keep safe and safe also, especially if they are elderly or vulnerable.

It's good to hear that many owners of 4 x 4 vehicles are doing their bit, to help some people to get to and from work, and people are providing hot drinks and blankets to people stuck and stranded on roads across parts of the UK that are worse affected.

It's one good thing about so many of our population, that in times of need, regardless of their personal background, creed, gender or other factors in our PC World, people in the UK, rise to a challenge, to help others!

Our emergency services, backed by servicemen and women from our armed forces, backed by many civilian volunteers, show the real face of Britain today!



Contactless card fraud has overtaken cheque scams for the first time as experts warn the 'wave and pay' limit should not be lifted.

The latest figures from UK Finance show that contactless card fraud overtook cheque fraud in the first half of 2017, hitting £5.6million.

Finance experts have warned banks against raising the £30 limit, for payments which do not require a pin number, to avoid incentivising more criminals to steal them.



The National Cyber Security Centre reports that working with web hosting services, they have managed to close down 121,479 scam sites in its first year of operation.

The NCSC also worked with 1,719 sites across the UK that had been infiltrated by scammers three quarters of sites that tried to imitate UK Government sites were taken down within 24 hours, and in one month alone, more than 746,000 NHS Phishing emails were blocked. A total of around 54 million scam emails were blocked in 2017.



Despite the NHS spending around 21 million pounds since last year's WannaCry ransomware attack, 200 of the 236 NHS Trusts assessed, have failed to meet the minimum standards of security.

People are still receiving calls purporting to be from their Internet Service Provider, saying that their internet connection is going to be shut down because their account is being used for criminal activity, the perpetrator asks some technical questions, then offers to sort it out if given the account holders password and sometimes, their bank details.

A variation of this is when a call is received by user, from someone purporting to be a Police Officer, who suggest that their internet account is being used for criminal activity, then asks for their bank details for clarification. One such call was recently received by a friend locally. The caller said that he was a Detective Chief Inspector! Obviously, it was yet another scam!

With our weather taking up much of the media news space, and Brexit still causing much discussion, there is little else of interest for me to report on this week.

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You can also read my blog at: <http://www.eppingforestnhw.org.uk/>

