



Colin's Blog Friday 6th April 2018



Welcome to this week's Spring blog, as we long back at last weekend's mixed bag of weather, glut of Easter Eggs and, from my prospective, delicious Hot Cross buns!

My family and I took part in an Easter Egg hunt at Wimpole Hall, then had a great family gathering back home.

I am sure that many of my readers will have also been celebrating Easter in church, and in accordance with their beliefs, so Easter is a time to celebrate, and to me, a time to look towards the challenges that may well lie ahead over the coming months, as we cope with the continuing austerity measures, the resultant cutbacks to vital services, and of course to the progress of Brexit!

Watching, listening and reading news report over the weekend, much has been said about the foolhardy closure and, or cutbacks relating to special needs education. Many of us have warned, those responsible for funding, of the dangers, implications, and indeed the stupidity of reducing, and in some cases, closing the much needed special needs schools and other provisions. Not every child can be integrated into mainstream education, and, in some cases, where this has been done, it has been to the detriment of both the children who need the special care, and other who do not, in the classroom. Yet, seemingly, from some of the reports, this, and the increase in demand, has come as a surprise to some! One wonders what planet some of those in power are actually on, or is it that they go around blinkered from the realities of the world around them? I have been privileged to work alongside supporting some special needs projects in the past, and, I admire the sheer dedication of those involved!



Centenary of the RAF

As Churchill once said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," referring to the ongoing efforts of the Royal Air Force crews who were at the time fighting the Battle of Britain, the air battle with the German Luftwaffe.

Over the coming months, there will be celebrations relating the centenary of the RAF, celebrating the achievements and sacrifices, made, towards protecting our freedom.

Thoughtless 'tossers' are killing our wildlife

As a new report - to be published in the 'Keep Britain Tidy' journal of litter and environmental quality - shows, littered drinks and bottles along our roadsides are

**killing millions of our native mammals every year, we are calling on everyone
- 'don't be a tosser!'**

Drinks bottles and cans that litter our roadside are also acting as graveyards for some of our rarest and most important small mammals - including shrews, bank voles and wood mice.

A study found more than 8% of littered bottles and nearly 5% of cans contained these poor animals' remains.

Our new campaign, for local authorities and land managers, is aimed at those motorists who thoughtlessly throw rubbish from their vehicles, with the simple blunt message 'Don't be a Tossler.'

With new regulations coming into force, making it easier for councils to fine those who throw rubbish from their cars, our CEO's message is loud and clear.

"Enough is enough. Keep your rubbish in your car and then put it in a bin when you can. Better yet, make sure you recycle it when you get home."

-Allison Ogden-Newton, Keep Britain Tidy CEO

Colin's comment: "I am always amazed and incensed at the amount of litter that is just discarded on verges, footpaths and cycle paths, by irresponsible scumbags, who think it is alright to litter both our countryside and urban areas. One of the problems is a number of foolhardy people of all ages, who think it's ok to toss their unwanted food containers, bottles and cigarettes, out of vehicle windows, under new legislation, DRIVERS ARE TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AND GIVEN A £150 FINE FOR THEIR, OR THEIR PASSENGERS ACTIONS!"

Stop development on Green Belt land and prevent de-designation of Green Belt.

Sign the petition at: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/206106>

We need to put 'Sense and Sensibility,' back into planning, rather than allow a blanket increase in development, which puts our heritage, ecology and particularly 'flood plains,' at risk, from some developers who may not have the same social conscious, at those of us who care about our environment!



FAGIN'S LAW

*"In this life, one thing counts
In the bank, large amounts
I'm afraid these don't grow on trees,
You've got to pick-a-pocket or two."*

Luckily, as you will know if you have seen the films or musicals, Oliver eventually escapes from his grasp!

There are lots of thieves out there ready to follow Fagin's example, especially now that we are heading out and about enjoying the spring and summer weather and possibly wearing less secure clothing!



LOOK OUT
THERE'S A
THIEF ABOUT

Try to avoid putting or keeping your wallet, purse or mobile phone in a back trouser pocket. If you use a handbag or man bag, don't carry it unzipped or open.

Remember that if you go around in the street wearing headphones, or walk around using a mobile phone, perhaps even engaged in deep conversation, you could be oblivious of what is actually happening around you, and, make yourself more vulnerable, therefore increasing your risk of becoming a victim!

If you need to use a cash machine to withdraw money, try to use one which is inside a bank, building society or shop. Sometimes it's a good alternative option to buy an item in a shop where they give cashback. It is unwise to be using a mobile phone or wearing headphones if you are using an ATM (Cash Machine), especially if you are using one which is located outside in the street or in a secluded area.

You need to make sure that there is nobody standing too close behind you, or anyone directly watching what you are doing. Cover the keyboard as much as possible whilst you are carrying out the transaction. **ALWAYS** make sure that you put your card and money away securely before you continue on your way.

Alert: Fraudsters claiming to be bailiffs tricking people into paying fake debts Posted 5th April 2018

Fraudsters are cold calling victims nationwide and tricking them into paying a debt for magazine advertisement subscriptions that do not exist.

How does this fraud work?

Victims receive a telephone call from someone purporting to be a bailiff enforcing a court judgement, attempting to recover funds for a non-existent debt.

Over the phone the fraudsters state the debt originates from the victim not paying a magazine advertisement subscription.

The fraudsters use a variety of magazine names and publishers and are using the names such “Scott Davis”, “Stephen King” and “Mark Taylor”. These are names of certified Bailiff Enforcement Agents employed by debt enforcement companies.

Bank transfer

Fraudsters then request that the debt be repaid by bank transfer. If the victim refuses, they threaten to visit the victim’s home or place of work to recover the debt that is owed.

Once the money has been transferred, victims are not provided with receipt details of the payment or contact details. Later when victims make enquiries, they’ll discover that the debt did not exist, and often that no advertisement was placed.

This type of fraud is nationwide. Since 2017, there have been **52 reports** relating to this fraud. From the reports received, there are a range of different businesses and individuals being targeted.

How to protect yourself: -

- **Listen to your instincts:** just because someone knows your basic details, such as your name and address, it doesn’t mean they are genuine.
- **Stay in control:** always question cold callers. Always contact the companies directly using a known email or phone number.
- **Don’t be rushed or pressured into making a decision:** A legitimate company will be prepared to wait whilst you verify information. If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it at: - https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or telephone: **0300 123 2040**





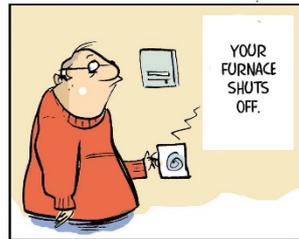
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quoting the area in which you reside, so that, I know from which to list remove your contact details. Thank you.

YOU KNOW SPRING IS HERE WHEN...



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

HELPING COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

