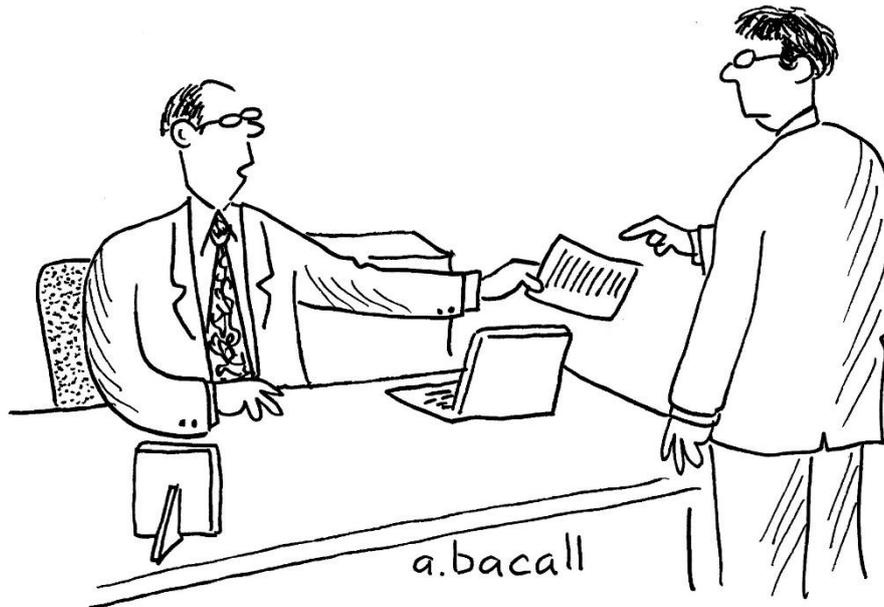


Colin's Blog - Don't be Fooled

Inter-Crime Special 31.3.2017

INVESTMENTS
INC.



*"They say a fool and his money are soon parted.
Here's a list of some fools. Make it happen."*

Welcome to this special Mega-Blog recapping on the many messages relating to Fraud and Scams that I have issued in recent months.

Good advice from: **GET SAFE ONLINE WEBSITE:**

<https://www.getsafeonline.org>

Passwords & Securing Your Accounts

Passwords are like keys to your personal home online. You should do everything you can prevent people from gaining access to your password. You can also further secure your accounts by using additional authentication methods.

Passwords: When creating a password, make sure it is long and strong, with a minimum of eight characters and a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. ***You should also remember not to share your password with others.*** Make your password unique to your life and not something that is easily guessed. It is a good idea to have a different password for each online account.



Write down your password and store it in a safe place away from your computer and change your password several times a year.

Other Ways to Secure an Account: Typing a username and password into a website isn't the only way to identify yourself on the web services you use.

- **Multi-factor authentication** uses more than one form of authentication to verify an identity. Some examples are: voice ID, facial recognition, iris recognition and finger scanning.
- **Two-factor authentication** uses a username and password and another form of identification, often times a security code.

Over time, more websites will be adopting multi-factor authentication. In some cases, the services may be available, but are not required.

Many email services offer two-step verification on an opt-in basis. Ask your financial institution and other online services if they offer multi-factor authentication or additional ways to verify your identity.

BULLET POINTS

- **Secure your accounts:** Ask for protection beyond passwords. Many account providers now offer additional ways for you verify who you are before you conduct business on that site.
- **Make passwords long and strong:** Combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a more secure password.
- **Unique account, unique password:** Separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals.
- **REMEMBER to write it down and keep it safe:** Everyone can forget a password. Keep a list that's stored in a safe, secure place away from your computer.



“A man who said he was here to upgrade our data spent all morning on your computer, but then left out the window when he saw you coming. Isn’t that odd?”

How to get really ‘hacked off!’ Computer hacking is illegal and carries a possible sanction of imprisonment. Computer hacking has been thrown into the public eye recently with increasing allegations that certain newspapers hired private investigators to hack into people’s phones and computers in order to obtain stories that would sell.

Computer Misuse Act

Under the Computer Misuse Act it is an offence to hack into somebody else’s computer or send them a form of virus that allows them to obtain information from somebody else’s computer.

The reasoning for the introduction of this Act was the fear that individuals, in particular private investigators, might be able to obtain information about other individuals without their knowledge or consent.

An individual should be entitled to keep what they have on their computer private and only allow others to use it by giving their consent, and companies have the need to store confidential data or intellectual property rights securely.

In most cases computer hacking will carry a relatively lengthy punishment because there are other more serious elements to the crime than simply computer hacking. Computer hacking is often used as a method to commit crimes such as fraud or theft. Naturally, if somebody were to hack computers to steal things from another computer then the more serious offence would be the actual theft. Computer hacking would be the aggravating factor that would add to the criminal punishment dished out by a judge.

DON'T BE FOOLED: IDENTITY THEFT – A GROWING PROBLEM

Sadly there are lots of unscrupulous people out there, just waiting for opportunities to steal your identity. Customer and Contact lists held by legitimate companies and kept on databases, are sometimes hacked into by criminals, who can then have a field day at your expense, selling on your personal details to criminals and criminal organisations.

As well as the above, there are many ways by which criminals can obtain and use your identity, so here are a few tips to help you protect your identity and prevent criminals from committing fraud in your name:-

Always keep important personal documents, plastic cards and chequebooks in a safe and secure place.



Don't share personal information unless you are confident that you know who you are dealing with.

When you dispose of statements, receipts and other documents which contain information relating to your financial affairs, **DESTROY THEM**, preferably by shredding.

Always thoroughly check bank and card statements as soon as they arrive. If you find an unfamiliar transaction, contact your Card Company or bank immediately.

Remember that your post is valuable information to an identity thief or other criminal. If you fail to receive a card statement, bank statement, utility bill or other financial information contact the supplier a.s.a.p.

If you move house, make sure that you get your mail redirected to your new address immediately.

Always make sure that you are aware of your security settings when using the internet, especially when using social media sites. Or social media.

Never share your personal data (such as your date of birth or full address on social networking sites.

It is also foolhardy, to announce information on such sites, telling everyone as when and where you are going away on holiday. If you must, it is far better, and indeed safer, to write or talk about it once you have returned. Criminals, especially burglars, relish the opportunity to glean information about you from social media and networking sites.



Putting aside the good advantages of social media. I have long been concerned about the side effects of social media sites, they play a big role in facilitating the spread of cyberbullying. Too many people also use them to aggravate situations and to wash their dirty washing in public! An old saying with much relevance in today's world.

And finally: "Every picture tells a story."



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APPEAL BY HARLOW COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM

Sumners and Katherines estates in Harlow have recently seen an increase in Mini Moto activity.

There are just a few that like to ruin things for others so if you spot any of these people please get in touch via 101. If you have any footage of the perpetrators please send that on to us, but don't risk your safety to capture anything. Kind Regards Harlow CPT

Mini Motorbike Safety



Advice from RoSPA and shared on Social Media.

This information is intended for parents who are considering buying a powered 'toy' for their children, and in particular: mini motorbikes, go-peds, monkey bikes, quad bikes and similar off road vehicles. The document offers simple advice and outlines factors to take into consideration before, during and after

purchase.

Mini motorbikes, quad bikes and powered scooters are known as 'mini motos' or 'go peds'. They can be bought for as little as £150. Many of these machines are very powerful capable of travelling in excess of 40 mph and some can reach 60 mph.

Under pressure parents buying mini motos will not always be aware that they may be encouraging their children to break the law and putting them at risk of severe injury. Many of the mini motorbikes on sale are marketed as toys, however machines with electric or petrol motors are classed as motor vehicles.

Safety issues

There have been at least seven fatalities involving mini motorbikes since September 2004. There are no national figures for injuries caused as a result of mini motorbike use. However, of the seven recent fatalities:

- Five involved children under 15 years of age
- Six occurred whilst on the road
- One included young children riding as passengers on the vehicle

RoSPA is concerned that the lack of suitable recognised places to ride and irresponsible selling will lead to parents allowing children to ride on pavements and roads, public parks or on open and unused land; which is potentially illegal and

dangerous to both riders and other users. We are also concerned about riders using these machines without protective equipment - especially a motorbike crash helmet.

The problem has become greater with an estimated ten-fold increase in sales since 2002, primarily due to their low cost and the ability to buy online. The influx of lower quality cheap machines and little emphasis on safety precautions from these suppliers has added to the problem.

Legal issues

Many Local Government and Police authorities have become increasingly concerned over the misuse of mini motos and other small powered vehicles. The Home Office has recently launched an initiative targeting the misuse of mini motorbikes - specifically seizing and crushing illegally ridden machines.

Off road - The only place it is legal to ride off road on a mini motorbike is on private land with the landowner's permission. There have been cases where the landowner has been prosecuted following motorbike accidents on their sites, even when they had not given permission to ride.

On Road - Any powered vehicle used on the public highway must comply with all aspects of road traffic law. In order to be able to ride legally on road, the rider must have, or comply with the following: ***Colin's Footnote:*** In law, an area of 3 feet (91.44 centimetres) ,either side of a highway is deemed to be part of the highway

- **Minimum of 16 years of age**
- **Wear an approved crash helmet**
- **Have a valid driving licence**
- **Road Tax**
- **Insurance**
- **Vehicle registration**
- **MOT certificate**
- **European Community Whole Type Approval or Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval**

Information for parents

RoSPA believe that many potential incidents can be avoided if mini motorbikes are used in a managed environment, with appropriate safety equipment and training such as that promoted by the Auto Cycle Union (ACU). What follows is some simple advice if you are considering purchasing a mini motorbike:

Before purchase:

- Check there are local safe and legal riding sites
- Budget for the cost of appropriate safety equipment and rider training
- Work out how the mini moto will be transported to and from safe sites
- Establish how you can control use of the bike when it is not supervised
- Check for a local reputable dealer

During purchase:

- Check if the bike is limited to 50cc
- Ask the dealer about local sites and clubs or opportunities for under 16's to ride
- Check for appropriate (ideally CE marked) and well fitting helmets, gloves, boots and leathers.
- Ask what maintenance support, and guidance is available from your dealer network

After purchase:

- Ensure use of the mini moto is supervised at all times
- Join the ACU or member club
- Get some training
- Ride the machine in the right place, with supervision and with safety equipment.

HISTORICAL POINT OF LAW: During my time as a serving Police Officer, I recollect using the 1837 act and the 1861 act, although I am not sure about the 1837 act, to the best of my knowledge the 1861 act has not been repealed.

However, Section 72 of the 1835 Highways Act definitely remains in force: -

“If any person shall wilfully ride upon any footpath or causeway by the side of any road made or set apart for the use or accommodation of foot passengers; or shall wilfully lead or drive any horse, ass, sheep, mule, swine, or cattle or **carriage of any description**, or any truck or sledge, upon any such footpath or causeway; or shall tether any horse, ass, mule, swine, or cattle, on any highway, so as to suffer or permit the tethered animal to be thereon.”

I remember that cyclists thought that they could not be prosecuted for the offences described below, if their wheels did not exceed eighteen inches in diameter. How wrong they were!

The wording of Section 35 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1948 (c. 58), s. 1(2)) is as follows: “35. Drivers of carriages injuring persons by furious driving Whosoever, having the charge of any carriage or vehicle, shall by wanton or furious driving or racing, or other wilful misconduct, or by wilful neglect, do or cause to be done any bodily harm to any person whatsoever, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years.”

There are still many pieces of legislation that remain on the statute books which either are, or indeed could still be, used today.



In the news again this week, a drone came dangerously close to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, putting the pilots and crew at risk. It was flying much higher than that permitted, and without the authority of the Civil Aviation Authority. Bearing in mind the recent event in Westminster, this highlights yet another area of concern, and one that could be exploited by

terrorists. With the increased use of drones, and the potential threat that they and their operators pose, there needs to be even stiffer penalties than those currently available to our Courts, and, once sorted they need to use them effectively!

With all that is going on around us, it can be all too easy to feel depressed, and downhearted, but, often, for many of us, there is something good, just around the corner.

My wife and I were recently able to spend some more quality time with our grandchildren, which also meant we trotted off to the cinema in Harlow to see the new film version of *Beauty and the Beast*, then, three days later, we were back to the cinema, this time in Huntingdon, to see the film again with our other grandchildren. On both occasions we were immersed into the world of make believe, well away from the realities of life. Whilst writing my blog, I am thinking ahead to presiding over my next Rotary meeting, in my role as the 'Mad Hatter,' at our forthcoming 'Tea Party,' in Ongar!



As we go about our daily lives, we are often presented with difficult challenges, and I for one, remember, some difficult times during my childhood, when I often immersed myself into reading a book, and found myself transported into the world of make believe, with page after page, stretching my imagination to new limits.

With the advent of new technology, the joy that I found between the covers of books, is almost lost, or not experienced, by many of today's children and young people, who tend to rely upon the latest gadgets, to fill their day. Technology does of course have its rightful place, but, in my view, books also have an important role to play. That reminds me of the first few words of a song sung by the character 'Maurice,' in the new film of *Beauty and the Beast*.

How does a moment last for ever? How does a story never die?

Go on, if you can, treat yourself and your loved ones, and go and see the film, which is showing in cinemas NOW!

colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk

Report received via National Neighbourhood Watch

Scandalous waste of precious resources as Environment Agency contractors destroy river habitat

After a lengthy investigation, the Angling Trust has uncovered evidence of the destruction of habitat for fish and other wildlife by Environment Agency contractors carrying out flood defence works on rivers in six English counties, in what has become an issue of national concern.

The problems have arisen from over-zealous contractors, funded by the Environment Agency, causing widespread damage to bankside trees and removing in-river debris. This work has left affected stretches devoid of riparian cover and consequently fish populations are now at significantly greater risk of predation by otters, cormorants and goosanders, and will have less food from invertebrates that rely on vegetation and woody debris.

The Angling Trust issued a formal complaint on behalf of its members regarding related issues on the River Idle in Lincolnshire and the River Mole in the Thames catchment. Despite receiving a positive response to enquiries from Environment Agency officers in the River Idle area, with a promise to learn from what appeared to be an isolated incident, it now appears that the problem is much more widespread.

The Angling Trust has received information from anglers in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Hampshire, Warwickshire, Surrey and Kent in response to an appeal for information on its Facebook pages. This post reached over 68,000 anglers and almost 10,000 engaged with the thread, demonstrating the scale of the issue. A dossier of evidence compiled by the Angling Trust to demonstrate the impact of the works has been sent to the Environment Agency.

In response to these complaints, Judy Proctor, the Deputy Director for Agriculture, Fisheries & Natural Environment at the Environment Agency has written to the Chief Executive of the Angling Trust confirming that the Agency has reviewed their existing guidance around channel maintenance works. It was also stated that the Agency is working with local managers to ensure appropriate consultation with affected parties is carried out in the future.

The annual budget for flood defence work exceeds the sum generated from rod licence sales for habitat improvement projects by a huge factor, and yet money from the floods budget is being used to undo the good work funded by the other.

One particularly perverse example was reported on the River Medway in Kent. The stretch in question is controlled by Royal Tunbridge Wells Angling Society, which recently received a grant of £2,000 from the Environment Agency for habitat

improvements including tree planting. Therefore, the club were shocked when they visited the stretch in December 2016 to oversee a fish stocking by the EA only to find another department of the same organisation destroying bankside habitat just downstream.

Clive Rainger, Chairman of Royal Tunbridge Wells Angling Society, explained: “The Environment Agency have been extremely professional and very helpful in assisting us to improve the habitat and fish stocks on this stretch of the Medway, but the flood prevention department have clearly not been working in unison. Although we managed to stop the damaging work by the contractors before it was completed, they had already undone some of our hard work.”

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal, said: “The removal of trees and in-river debris is particularly perverse because the EA also funds work to plant riverside trees to shade the water and other projects to install flow-deflectors to create fishery habitat. It constitutes both a scandalous waste of scarce public resources and a disregard for the sensitivity of the water environment. We welcome the Environment Agency’s national commitment following our investigation to take steps to stop this happening in future years and to consult properly with our member clubs and fishery owners. We are very grateful to all those who responded to us with information and encourage any member clubs or fishery owners who have concerns about damaging flood defence works to contact us as soon as possible so that we can make representations on their behalf.”

Don’t bring back an invader! Angling Trust’s appeal to anglers fishing abroad

Issued for Immediate Release

The Angling Trust is calling on globe-trotting anglers to minimise the risk of bringing unwanted invaders to Britain that could potentially damage fishing in rivers and lakes.

With fishing abroad becoming increasingly popular amongst UK anglers, the risk of inadvertently transporting invasive non-native species into Britain has increased. And while studies show almost half of anglers fishing in the UK regularly carry out ‘Check, Clean, Dry’ procedures to help reduce the spread of invasive species, there’s no obligation in some other European countries to clean or dry equipment before leaving the fishery.

Research carried out by the Angling Trust at 34 fisheries in northern France showed that 20 lakes (59%) contained at least one invasive aquatic plant or invertebrate – including the Caspian slender mysid (*Limnomysis benedeni*), a “high alert” shrimp

species not currently present in the UK. In addition, three different crayfish species and the highly aggressive top mouth gudgeon and black bullhead were also discovered.

Emily Smith, Angling Trust's Invasive Species Manager, said: "Many of the fisheries surveyed required anglers to arrive with dry nets, or in some cases the fishery dipped the anglers' equipment in disinfectant before they could start fishing. However, as there was no obligation to clean or dry the equipment upon leaving the lake, it raises concern as many aquatic invasive species have been shown to survive for over a fortnight on damp angling equipment.

"With frequent ferry and Eurotunnel links between Europe and the UK, if fishing equipment and clothing are not thoroughly cleaned and dried following a trip abroad, invasive species could be inadvertently transported back into the UK and introduced into a British water body on the next fishing outing.

"We're asking anglers fishing abroad to follow the same procedures they should be carrying out in the UK – check, clean and dry equipment every time you fish."

While this research focused on fisheries in France, many other popular fishing destinations in Europe have invasive species of major biosecurity concern to the UK. In particular, there are at least 10 aquatic invasive species in the Netherlands, as well as the salmon louse (*Gyrodactylus salaris*) in Norway which is having a devastating impact on their salmon fisheries.

The appeal comes as Invasive Species Week seeks to raise awareness of the devastating impact non-native species, such as the Quagga Mussel and Killer Shrimp, can have on British plants, animals and ecosystems. As well as preying on, out-competing and displacing native wildlife, aquatic non-native species can spread disease and block waterways. Their presence can sometimes be so damaging it can lead to significant changes to the entire ecology of a water body.

Recreational facilities, including angling, can suffer as a result of invasive species. Fish populations may reduce or change and invasive plants may restrict navigation through waterways, clog up propellers and add significantly to the management costs of our waterways.

Practising good biosecurity measures such as Check, Clean, Dry can help to stop the spread of invasive plants and animals from one water body to another. Animals, eggs, larvae and plant fragments are easily transported in or on equipment, shoes,

clothing and other damp places and can survive for a long time. For example, a killer shrimp can survive in the moist fold of a wader for up to 15 days.

While the financial costs of invasive species can run into millions of pounds, the cost to the UK's wildlife can be irreplaceable.



DON'T THROW IT AWAY



Pass it on
**Give your item
a new home**
Find out how to pass on
your old items for free



Essex County Council are working in partnership with [Epping Forest ReUse](http://www.eppingreuse.org.uk), Epping Forest District Council, [T.R.E.E.](http://www.treese.org.uk) and Chelmsford City Council to help residents in Epping Forest and Chelmsford buy second hand and donate unwanted items to help others. Epping Forest Reuse web address

<http://www.eppingreuse.org.uk>

Keep an eye on our [events page](#) to find out where and when we will be running reuse roadshows. <http://www.recycleforessex.com/>

T.R.E.E: <http://www.reuseessex.org.uk/category/categories/furniture>



Recycling centres are due to get busy over the upcoming [Easter weekend](#).

To avoid long queues, please remember to check opening hours [online](#) and try to avoid weekends and bank holidays.

Don't forget that some DIY waste and vans are now restricted at approximately half of recycling centres in Essex.

For more information please check the [Recycle for Essex](http://www.recycleforessex.com/) website:-

<http://www.recycleforessex.com/>

Celebrating cloth nappies

This year, Real Nappy Week takes place from 24 to 30 April and to celebrate we have a new competition...

Get a friend with a child in nappies or who is expecting a baby to [claim our £30 cloth nappy refund](#) and both you and your friend will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 in Love2Shop vouchers OR a cloth nappy hamper worth £149. Info on how to apply and T&Cs are available [online](#):
<http://www.recycleforessex.com/>



Mythbusting: Easter Egg packaging



Do you know what to do with all the packaging that comes with your Easter eggs? Cardboard and clean foil can be recycled in your kerbside collections. Plastic is a bit trickier and will depend on your [local recycling collection](#).

Each year more than 8000 tonnes of waste comes from Easter egg packaging so why not consider choosing eggs with reduced packaging, or giving a handmade gift that lasts. Websites like [Pinterest](#) have lots of inspiration for a waste-free Easter. <https://uk.pinterest.com/> **Colin's Footnote:** This is an excellent site which I use regularly.

