

Credit card skimming and passport cloning

Barry Parsonage was telling me about a credit card reader scam and asked about the validity. It is an issue that only concerns radio frequency enabled Credit and Debit cards (and the latest issues of passports).

In this day and age it can be very easy for us to get paranoid about security issues – awareness is one of our greatest allies.

I have looked through various websites and come up with these two links which you may find useful. As there seems to be no definitive answer – apart from requesting your bank to supply a RFID free card – it is good to be aware of the problem. Rather than explain the situation in full, type in the first link (see below) and read up – and watch the video. Apparently a similar problem may arise with the latest passports.

You may already be aware of this and, like Barry, taken your own course of action. (Wrapping the card in aluminium foil reduces the sensitivity of the RF device).

First link gives detailed information about RFID-enabled credit cards.

<http://www.snopes.com/fraud/identity/pickpocket.asp>

The second link is an on-line shop that offers some protection and has protective sleeves and wallets for sale.

<http://www.smartcardfocus.com/index.shtml> (select RFID Blocking Icon)

Looking back at the two links it does look like gobble-de-gook. Use care to type each letter/symbol correctly.

With so many hoaxes about, this may be one of those topics that could have value.

This Day In History

- 1479 -- Vasco De Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope.
- 1906 - SOS adopted as International Distress call.
- 1929 - Donald Bradman scores 157 for New South Wales
- 1934 - Song 'Santa Claus is Coming To Town' first heard.
- 1963 - John F Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas Texas.
- 1975 - Juan Carlos proclaimed King of Spain
- 1990 - Margaret Thatcher resigns as Prime Minister

Editor's Notes

Articles/photos received will only be published for the current month if they reach me **no later than the Saturday before** publication at the monthly General Meeting. All other photos/articles will be published on the Club Website. Whilst it is understood that not all members have computers the preferred method of receiving articles/photos is by email. The number of pages in the Newsletter may vary and will be based on information supplied.

Articles should be restricted to **approximately of 250 words**. Articles will be edited, major changes by agreement with the member/author concerned.

Any opinions expressed within the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee.

The Publicity Officer (**Harry Medcalf**) may submit extracts of articles and photos to the local

Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: Brian Spencer

No.169

November 2012

Fine Dining at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club



A great opportunity to taste excellently prepared and well presented food.



President, Brian Spencer, welcomes our newest member, Peter Weston, to our club.

Club Christmas Cards.

In respecting the wishes of members concerning exchanging of Christmas cards, some prefer to make charitable donations at this time of year. It is true to say that all charities need our help but, alas, we are, only able to help a few. Listed below are members making donations and who wish to send Christmas Greeting to their Probus friends and be remembered, especially at this time of year..

Tim & Sheila Daly, Brian & June Senior, Geoff & Sheila Silvester, Terry Booth (& Pat), Rod & Hilary Crowley, Fred & Pat Ditchfield, Mike & Yvonne Lock, Alfred & Gill Wallwork, Jim & Sylvia Bailey, Derek & Norma Smith, Neil Crabb, Tony Ferneyhough, Peter & Joyce Gray, Richard & Annette Humphrey, John Barry, David & Jenny Roy, Bill Arnott, Barry & Kath Parsonage, Ian Scholes (& Mollie), Roy & Mary Willson,

Other members who wish to send cards, the mailbox service at the Christmas Lunch will also be available. Please accept my apologies if your name has been omitted.

Situation Vacant

There is a vacancy for an Honorary Treasurer.

This rewarding an undemanding position becomes vacant in April 2013 and provides an opportunity to become involved in the running of our Club through membership of the Main Club Committee.

No experience or accounting qualifications is necessary as full training will be given. Possession of a Laptop or PC together with modest computer skills would be useful. Those interested in finding out more should contact me in confidence. **Dennis Rose**

FINE DINING EVENING – 10 NOVEMBER 2012

Once again Carl and his catering staff lived up to their high professional reputation by providing an excellent meal that everyone enjoyed.



The function room at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club provides a warm and intimate environment. Starting with a welcoming glass of sherry, members and guests were able to spend time catching up with the latest news before being called for dinner.

A varied meal, comprising a cornucopia of options for all tastes, was

interlaced by wines from around the Globe.

Rod Crowley provided a witty, succinct thank you to the staff for their efficient and courteous service but above all to Brian Mallett, whose organisation and attention to detail made the event so successful. **David Rooke**

Long Walk Monday 9th November

The day dawned bright as a record seventeen of us gathered at the Green Dragon in Sambourne just south of Studley. Before the off we all ventured into the pub to order a meal for our return where the landlady informed us she felt slightly jaded after a Halloween party the night before, upon which one of our group discreetly observed she was still dressed in character.

Our walk set off past Coughton Court and on to a ford which fortunately had a foot bridge for us to cross, and an ideal photo opportunity, from here a steady climb took us to a vantage point where we had a brief coffee break. At this point a

slight error in navigation resulted in a changed circular route returning eventually back to the start via the grounds of Coughton, which made for a pleasant route. Back at the pub a splendid meal was enjoyed by all to round off a very pleasant walk and social occasion. With many thanks to Brian and Dorothy for organising. **Geoff Silvester**



Walk from the Feathers



This month's short walk, organised by Roy, started from The Feathers in Lichfield. As Ivor let his dog, Obi, out of his car a lady motorist who had also just parked up exclaimed 'you are beautiful'. The moment passed and Obi responded affectionately.

The walk progressed across Beacon Road, down a short lane and into Beacon Park. It has to be said that Roy's luck had almost run out. It was a dreary sort of day - dank and heavily misty. Roy's only comment was 'I didn't order this !' But true to form, the weather did improve with slight glimpses of the sun and no rain !! How does this man weave such a spell ??

From Beacon Park the walk extended to include a visit to nearby deer park. There must have been 50 or 60 roaming freely complete with attendant stags. Unfortunately the deer were some way off and, even with the telephoto on maximum the photos were not that good.

The walk itself was very pleasant being slightly soft underfoot. The conversations were wide ranging.

On most folks minds was the voting for the new local police commissioner. As the media had not seemed to have covered the subject satisfactorily there was a lot of concern as to the outcome of such a post. Many of the walkers talked about Christmas and holidays (forthcoming or recent returns).

Back to the pub and suddenly my name had changed from 'deer' to 'darling' !! But apparently it did not just apply to me. I could not help but feel a little deflated !! (smiles). In the end we were all addressed as 'guys'. There was a considerable wait for some for their food but the chatting went on unabated. Selby summed up the day and gave special thanks to Roy and Mary for a well planned walk.

Tony Ferneyhough

Remembering

I am composing this report only two hours after our speaker, Mr David Howe produced for our club , one of the best presented and enjoyable talks that we have received this year. His subject was "Remembering not to forget". There would appear to be a fine line drawn between remembering, forgetting and dementia, and this is why I am sat at the computer trying to remember all the content of his talk.



What we do not realise is that our brain, from the earliest days is analysing facts and constantly updating our memory cells, and hopefully storing them for future use.

You may think that you have forgotten certain episodes in your lifespan , but all the time our memory is being added to on a daily basis so that at our time of life it only needs a trigger for us to recall an event or happening that normally you would not remember.

How often do you meet someone and cannot remember their name? You keep talking to them in the hope that something will jog your memory and when it happens you can then recall exactly where you last met them and in what circumstances. Maybe you would then like to forget ?

This was one of the few speakers that had the courage to get our members singing, he produced examples of memory joggers by singing the first line of well known tunes such as "Dads Army" , "Coronation Street" and the "Archers" and of course our members could finish all the verses in a rousing chorus. What memories we still have !

Examples of catch phrases , such "Shut that door" "Nice to see you nice" "Its a cracker" or "Its the way I tell em" are always lodged somewhere in our memories and only need a trigger to remind you when you last heard them spoken and by whom. I could go on, but not wishing to overload to your memories any further, but I have just remembered when I last ate !

A vote of thanks was given by John Fellows and the members responded with loud applause. **John Buckland**

A lady invited some people to dinner..

At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.

'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the lady answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

Events and Activities from November 2012 to March 2013

Thursday 22nd November

The Forensic Science of Handwriting
David Bexendale

Vote of Thanks: Ray Clark
Newsletter Report: Selby Betts

Kitchen Rota: John Booth
Terry Booth, Dennis Perkins
David Roy, John Cheal

Thursday 6th December
Long walk led by Rod Crowley
Direct or meet at Roy's 9.00 am to car share

Friday 7th December
Christmas Lunch
Event Manager: John Purnell

Thursday 13th December
Lunch at Bromley Hayes Garden Centre
Start: 12.15 for 1230. Cost : approx £8.00
Coordinator: Tony Ferneyhough

**There is NO General Meeting in
December**

2013

Thursday 10th January
Lunch - Birmingham College of Food
Cost. £14 per person
Coordinator Brian Mallett

Thursday 17th January
Long Walk led by David Rooke
Meet at Roy's 9.00 am to car share

Thursday 24th January
**Pompeii - the Nice and the Naughty from
2000 Years Ago**
John Reedy
Vote of Thanks: Ernest Williams
Newsletter Report: John Cheal

Kitchen Rota: Barry Gill
Peter Gray, Barry Parsonage
Peter Prime, Derek Smith

Thursday 31st January
Short Walk led by Brian Spencer
(Buck's Fizz)

Thursday 7th February
Long Walk led by Geoff Sylvester
Meet at Roy's 9.00 am to car share

Thursday 14th February
Skittles Evening
Organisers: Jim Bailey & Mike Gospel

Thursday 28th February
**A Potted History of the 20th Century
(Part1) Martin Harrison**
Vote of Thanks: Tim Daly
Newsletter Report: Neil Crabb

Kitchen Rota: Alf Dineen
Mike Gospel, Ian Scholes
David Wallis, Peter Weston

Monday 11th March
Long Walk led by Dennis Rose
Direct or meet at Roy's 9.00 am

Thursday 14th March
Garrick Theatre Backstage Tour
Coordinator: David Rooke

Thursday 21st March
Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Thursday 28th March
**A Potted History of the 20th Century
(Part 2) Martin Harrison**
Vote of Thanks: Alf Dineen
Newsletter Report: Roy Galloway

Kitchen Rota: Ray Clark
Neil Crabb, Tim Daly
John Purnell, Brian Mallett

Thursday 4th April
Long Walk led by Rod Crowley
Direct or meet at Roy's at 9.30 am

See the Club Website for additional photos and information.

Please inform **Ron Ryman** if you are unable to attend a General Meeting by the **Sunday** before that General Meeting.

If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or the Newsletter Report please get in touch with **Tony Ferneyhough**, well before that General Meeting.

Graham Jones should be notified - in plenty of time - if you are unable to carry out any of the Kitchen Rota duties

Please Note Date Changes

The visit to the College of Food is Thursday 10th January starting at 12.00
The Long Walk is 17th January meeting at Roy's at 9.00 AM
Buck's Fizz Pub Amble is to be held on Thursday 31st January.

Long Walk Thursday 6th December 2012 Alrewas, and Fradley Junction

The walk: 6.25 miles, easy, flat walking with very few stiles.

Start and Lunch: George and Dragon, Main Street, Alrewas, DE13 7AE
Making a group reservation means we all choose, on the day, from their "credit crunch" menu. £5 or £10, depending on your appetite. (snack menu e.g. baguettes specifically excluded).

Meet: to car share at Roy's, 32 Le More to leave at 9.15.

Directions:

A38 towards Burton
A513 exit for Alrewas
At end of slip road turn right (SP Kings Bromley)
First right Fox Lane
T- junction with Main St. – turn right
George and Dragon on right, opposite war memorial.
Car park entrance before pub

Journey time: 20-25 mins. Meet at car park about 9.45

To give comfortable time for walk and lunch, walk to start by 10.00

Toilets: May have access at Fradley Junction, about 25 mins into the walk

Rod's mobile (on the day only) **07949 621809** *New number

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.