

## Benefit scam couple had £100k in bank

A Cambourne couple have received criminal records after failing to declare savings of more than £100,000 while claiming benefits.

David Stubbins, 62, and his wife, 58-year-old Amanda, both of School Lane, Cambourne, were prosecuted for failing to notify South Cambridgeshire District Council that they held large sums of money in undisclosed investments.

By failing to notify the council of the savings, the pair falsely claimed almost £6,000 in discount on their council tax, which they have already repaid in full. The couple both pleaded guilty before Cambridge magistrates.

Mr Stubbins was sentenced to 16 weeks in prison, suspended for two years. He must also pay £85 in costs and a victim surcharge of £115.

Mrs Stubbins was fined £2,000, and ordered to pay costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Cllr Simon Edwards, cabinet member for finance, said: "Benefits are there for those who need them – not for someone who had over £100,000 sitting in the bank while making a claim. This is a deplorable act of sheer greed. By taking money that they are not entitled to means others in real need are being deprived."

## Getting all fired up for hospice's hot walk fundraiser



Michael Jarvis, who works for Each, will be braving the firewalking challenge in Milton on Friday

Milton will be full of brave soles this Friday (September 15) when East Anglia's Children's Hospices (Each) hosts its first ever firewalk.

The charity's adrenaline-fuelled fundraiser, at the Lion and Lamb pub, will see participants hot footing across coals up to 649C (1,200F). Among those set to be involved is Michael Jarvis, Each press and media officer, who is raising money specifically for the charity's Help at Home appeal, which is supported by the *Cambridge Independent*.

The appeal aims to raise £87,500 so Each can set up its Help at Home service – matching a caring volunteer to a family to provide practical support such as cooking and cleaning.

Michael and fellow firewalkers will be guided by experts from UK Firewalk. They will be cheered on by family, friends and colleagues, who themselves will enjoy live jazz by the Alley Cats, a drink and a hog roast.

Michael said: "This month marks a year for me at Each. It's been a real privilege to work with and write about so many extraordinary people, from the families we support to our

volunteers and everyone who has done fundraising for us, and I can't help but feel compelled to do more myself. That's why I'll be taking part in our firewalk – even if friends do think I'm mad!

"Obviously it'd be great if people could sponsor me, but it'd also be great if people could consider becoming a Help at Home volunteer to support a service that will be hugely valuable to our families once it's set up.

"Each has three hospices, including one just round the corner from the Lion and Lamb in Milton, and its services include end-of-life care, short-break care and bereavement support. The charity needs more than £5m from fundraising every year and events like the firewalk, which is being sponsored by Mick George, are key to achieving that.

"Those who would like to watch on the evening can call 01223 204916 or email [cambs@each.org.uk](mailto:cambs@each.org.uk) for more information."

Those unable to make it can show their support by sponsoring Michael at [virginmoneygiving.com/michaeljarvis93](mailto:virginmoneygiving.com/michaeljarvis93). Anyone interested in becoming a Help at Home volunteer can call Agnes Toth on 07889 251385 or email [agnes.toth@each.org.uk](mailto:agnes.toth@each.org.uk).



## Rural travel hubs are working for villagers

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Rural travel hubs are to be examined in more detail after a study has revealed that 90 per cent of people traveling on the guided bus from Swavesey come from the village or neighbouring Over.

This suggests the hubs will be beneficial to the people who live near them, and the district council is hoping more parishes will consider a travel hub in their village.

An initial call was made by South Cambridgeshire District Council last year, asking parishes to suggest improvements. Six areas – Swavesey, Oakington, Foxton, Meldreth, Shepreth and Whittlesford – showed interest in the travel hubs and have been working with the council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to look more closely at how the hubs could work in practice.

The project appears to have the support of the parishes, provided the hubs do not draw car users to their villages.

Parishes are hoping to find ways to encourage sustainable transport both to and from travel hubs, which would aim to improve rural links.

Swavesey parish councillor Doug

Hunt said: "The car park and cycle facilities at the Swavesey guided busway stop are well used and enable people to easily access good public transport.

"It is good news that the survey results indicate that it is predominantly Swavesey and Over residents who use these facilities.

"However, rural hubs should really be designed around the premise of people walking, cycling or using public transport to get there. Indeed, rural hubs would not be welcomed if it resulted in a significant amount of additional cars from further afield travelling through already congested villages.

"Currently many people in South Cambridgeshire villages find it impossible to access public transport. If rural hubs were to be serviced by regular feeder buses, for example, this would provide an integrated transport system for the rural areas."

An event last week was the latest step in the rural travel hubs project. The council and GCP reported that participants were very supportive of the idea and highlighted many public transport challenges facing the smaller villages.

Parishes were keen to discuss how villages can be connected and looped into high-speed quality

transport networks, and suggested what facilities the hubs would need to be successful. These include a toilet, using porous surfaces that fit in to village settings for any new car parks, using enclosed and secure lockable boxes for cycle storage and bus-turning circles.

The work with the six parishes so far indicated that issues such as space to build a facility, reducing on-street parking around rail stations/bus stops and ease of connection into Cambridge by regular high-quality public transport are important factors.

Cllr Peter Topping, leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "We have championed rural travel hubs as we think they can deliver the right solutions for our villages.

"This is not a one-size-fits-all situation and the conversations with parishes over recent months are really helping to shape what could be delivered for each community.

"We have six villages that are working very closely with us and I'd like to see more come forward. The research done at Swavesey demonstrates to our other villages that the improvements really do have a very positive effect for people living close by."



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