

Press release: Tamworth angler fined for obstruction after fishing illegally

On 7 March 2017 at Nuneaton Magistrates' Court, Michael Hawkeswood of Ealingham, Wilnecote was fined £286 for wilfully obstructing a constable in the execution of his duty, with costs of £172 and a victim surcharge of £30 imposed after a prosecution by the Environment Agency.

Mr Hawkeswood also faced charges of fishing without a rod licence, failing to state his name when addressed by an Environment Agency enforcement officer and using behaviour that is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. Mr Hawkeswood received no additional penalty for these charges.

The offences took place on 21 August 2016 at Pooley Park Pools, Polesworth. Mr Hawkeswood was convicted in his absence.

Andrew Eardley of the Environment Agency said:

The majority of anglers fish legally and purchase a rod licence. With an annual licence costing £30 it seems ridiculous that anglers risk a significant fine.

The minority of anglers that fail to buy a rod licence are cheating their fellow anglers and the future of the sport. Rod licence cheats risk a criminal conviction, a significant fine and could lose their fishing equipment.

It's good to see that the courts take instances of obstruction against enforcement officers seriously and that offenders are prosecuted.

Money from rod licence sales is invested in England's fisheries and is used to fund a wide range of projects to improve facilities for anglers including protecting stocks from illegal fishing, pollution and disease; restoring fish stocks through re-stocking; eradicating invasive species; and fish habitat improvements. Rod licence money is also used to fund the Angling Trust to provide information about fishing and to encourage participation in the sport.

You need a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence to fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel in England. Buying a rod licence is easy, simply visit www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence.

Anyone witnessing illegal fishing incidents in progress can report it directly to the Environment Agency hotline, 0800 80 70 60. Information on illegal fishing and environmental crime can also be reported anonymously to Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Chinese scientists plan wearable device that can listen, speak

Chinese scientists are researching the new material graphene to produce a smart wearable device to enable those with hearing and speaking disability to listen and speak normally.

Ren Tianling, a professor at the Institute of Microelectronics of Tsinghua University, is leading the team on the device, taking full advantage of graphene's special characteristics, such as excellent electric and thermal conductivity.

Graphene is a thin layer of pure carbon, a two-dimensional form of carbon in sheets just one atom thick, tougher than a diamond, yet lightweight and flexible, and it is a material with extremely strong electric and heat-conducting properties.

Ren's team has published a research paper on producing the wearable device made of graphene, in Nature Communications, an international science journal, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The porous graphene material would make the device detect weak vibrations while it could produce sounds in a wide spectrum from 100Hz to 40kHz under the thermoacoustic effect.

Researchers would first record and encode the disabled people's sounds, such as coughs, whispers and screams, in different intensity and frequency into groups and then match each group with sounds of words, phrases or sentences.

When the device detects the sounds in groups, it will "speak" the words, phrases or sentences.

Tao Luqi, a doctoral student who took part in the research work, said the deaf-mute people need to compose the codes of their sounds in groups and remember them. It is something similar to typing the keys on a keyboard, and the device would respond to the codes by speaking the words back.

The device would also create the sentences in different tones as it would be capable of capturing even small differences such as high or low pitch.

Boy injects rice soup into belly



Si Shunyang, a nine-year-old boy in Yunnan, has to inject liquid food to live. [Photo/cjn.cn]

Si Shunyang, a nine-year-old boy in Yunnan Province, has to inject liquid food such as porridge and milk into his belly to live.

He drank sodium hydroxide by mistake on Feb. 21, 2016 and was sent to a local hospital immediately. Sodium hydroxide is a corrosive strong alkali that burned the boy's esophagus. Si Xingchang, the boy's father, said that sodium hydroxide is used for cooking at home but his son drank it because he thought it was beverage.

After leaving the hospital, the boy could not swallow food. "I took my kid to the hospital in Kunming, and the doctor told me that only hospitals in Beijing, Shanghai and overseas countries can cure my son," said the boy's father.

Si Xingchang took his son to Shanghai, where he had surgery on April 14, 2016. "The result of the surgery was good at first. But my son again could not swallow any food after coming back from Shanghai," said by Si Xingchang.

He then took his son to Chengdu for treatment. "The doctor told me that my son's condition is not suitable for surgery now," said Si Xingchang. Since then, he feeds his son liquid food such as porridge and milk by injecting the liquid food from a fistula on his son's belly.

Half a year ago, the doctor told Si Xingchang that his son could be in danger without a surgery. However, he has already spent out all of his money.

After the report of local media this February, Si Xingchang received 200,000 yuan in (US\$29,000) donations.

He took his son to a hospital in Chengdu on March 7. The little boy will have two examinations on March 11 and March 13. The doctor will decide whether the surgery can be arranged or not based on the results of the two examinations.

The little boy has been out of school for a year. He said his biggest wish is to go back to school as soon as possible.

Women hit six times harder this Budget by government cuts

House of Commons analysis commissioned by Labour has revealed that as of the Chancellor's budget yesterday, women continue to be hit six times harder than men by government policies.

Sarah Champion MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, said:

"Yesterday the Prime Minister and Chancellor talked up the significance of International Women's Day yet their warm words have amounted to nothing.

"Calls for a budget that works for women have been ignored.

"Women are still bearing the brunt of this Tory Government's failed austerity agenda – with the 86 per cent impact figure on women remaining unchanged since last year. Things are just as bad as ever for women under this Tory Government.

"Labour calls on the Government to urgently publish analysis of the true impact of their budgets and spending announcements on women and to explain how they intend to reverse this disproportionate impact.

Under a Labour Government, all economic policies will be gender audited to ensure that we have an economy that works for all."

China to build undersea lab



China's deep-sea manned submersible Jiaolong conducts scientific exploration in the southwestern Indian Ocean in December.[Photo/Xinhua]

China will build an undersea lab that can contain dozens of people. "China's manned deep-sea submersible Jiaolong can hold a few people and stay under water for 12 hours. Our future deep-sea lab station can stay under the sea for half a month or even months," said Yan Kai, an NPC deputy and director of National Key Lab for Deep-Sea Manned Equipment.

Wan Gang, minister of Ministry of Science and Technology of China, said that deep-sea lab station was listed as a key project in China's Science and Technology Innovations 2030 Project during a national science and technology conference in January.

According to Yan Kai, the difficulty of building a deep-sea lab station is almost the same as building a space station. Yan said that scientists can cultivate and research deep-sea creatures, explore deep-sea mineral, oil and gas resources and research the genes of deep-sea creatures for medical use.

Yan said the deep-sea lab station will use fuel cell or nuclear power because it will stay under the sea for a long time.

The material used for the deep-sea lab station is a major technical problem. "The submarine pressure in 1,000 meters deep sea is 100 times than the pressure of the atmosphere, which means even a tiny nail will bear the

pressure of 100 kilograms," said Yan.

Therefore, special material with light weight and high pressure resistance will be a must if the deep-sea lab station needs to stay under 1,000 meters of water. Moreover, the problems of deep-sea navigation and communication, precise control and manipulation in lab station also need to be accounted for.