

Newsletter

Spring 2005

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NEWS

You may have noticed we are now trading as Lyon Insurance Services Ltd. We're trying to outrun the taxman, only the name has changed, nothing else!

On 14th January 2005 the Financial Services Authority (FSA) took over responsibility for regulating general insurance sales, advice and administration. We are pleased to confirm that Lyon Insurance Services Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the FSA – Registration number 307845.

Among the many advantages of the new regime will be clearer information for consumers about general insurance policies, and access to the Financial Ombudsman if they have a complaint, or to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme if firms go out of business. All this comes at a cost - mainly to your postman's back and the rainforests, as we, and the insurance companies churn out more and more paper.

keyfacts

Look out for this logo of the newly introduced "Keyfacts" document. This should be issued with all quotations, so that consumers can compare insurance policies more easily, and understand the nature and cost of the policy they're buying, it should include clear information on any significant and unusual exclusions. Read it carefully before deciding to take out a new policy, or use it to compare cover with your existing arrangement.

The Institute of Actuaries now claims the "Compensation Culture" costs £10 billion a year in payments, or 1% of the Gross National Product of the U.K. This is growing at 10% per year, so in 10 years time we will be where the States are now.

Many claims are fraudulent, but these aren't victimless crimes. Insurance is like a bucket – policyholders put money in – those that claim take it out – what is left belongs to the insurance company. But an empty bucket needs topping up – by increased premiums – Paid by you and me.



Property for sale? Just send details and we will advertise it for you free of charge.

B & B Isle of Mull

4 en-suite bedrooms, fishing rights to loch. Excellent business opportunity.

Mrs Rothwell 01681 700247 £270,000

Self-Catering Dorset

3 bed attached modern cottage near heritage coast, in delightful village of Litton Cheney. 4 star tourist board rating. Very successful lets for past 3 years

Mrs Jackson 01732 884277 £205,500

Self-Catering Scottish Borders

2 beds, 2 baths, 2 public rooms & kitchen. Visit Scotland 3 star rating, high repeat business

Mrs McGregor 01750 32205 £120,000

Self-Catering Llyn Peninsula North Wales

Country/Coastal house with 2 self-catering cottages in grounds. Outdoor pool, hot tub. Workshop/Studio. Secluded location but close to amenities

Mrs Spilsbury 01758 720944 OITRO £650,000

DISORDER IN COURT

Some questions actually asked in court

Q: Are you sexually active?

A: No I just lie there.

Q. Have you lived in this town all your life?

A: Not yet.

Q: Doctor, before the post-mortem, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it was possible the patient was alive when you began the post-mortem?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, doctor?

A: Because his brain was in a jar on my desk.

Q: But, could the patient still have been alive?

A: Yes, it's possible he could be alive and practising law somewhere.

Electric Shock

Mr Repath of Shropshire had a surprise call from his electricity supplier British Gas (confusing eh!). "They must have spotted my entry in Yellow Pages under Guest Houses." he said "Tried to increase the VAT on my electricity from the 5% household rate to 17.5% business rate. When I told them we're only a small B & B, they rung off – and I've heard nothing since."

Your intrepid reporter was on the case - from the government website www.businesslink.gov.uk I found the Custom & Excise National Advice Service Line on 0845 010 9000. Here a helpful young lady said hotels (which she thought includes Guest Houses and B&Bs) should pay the business rate, she promised to send the relevant booklet.

The *HM Customs & Excise Notice 701/19 VAT Fuel & Power* is hardly bedtime reading, but my understanding is – Any Guest House or B & B where the average monthly consumption is less than 150 therms of gas, and/or 1,000 kilowatts hours of electricity (different rates apply for solid fuel, LPG and oil) - pays 5% VAT, as does any self catering holiday accommodation irrespective of usage.

Once these figures are exceeded the property is classed as "mixed use" Then the 5% rate still applies if the domestic usage is 60% or more, but if the domestic use is less than 60%, the higher 17.5% rate is charged on the non-domestic percentage only.

Has your supplier been in contact? What rate are you paying? Please let us know

Pets Corner

What is a cat?

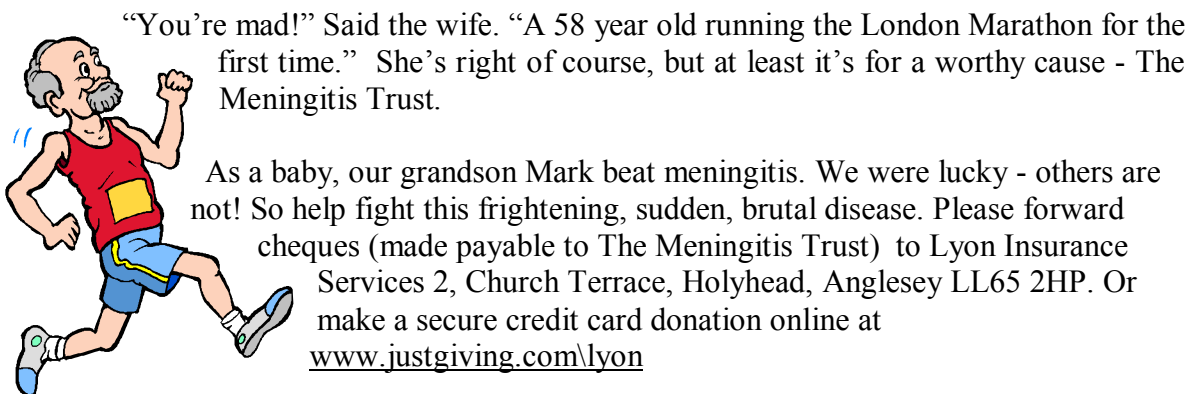
1. Cats do what they want.
2. They rarely listen to you.
3. They're totally unpredictable.
4. When you want to play, they want to be alone.
5. When you want to be alone, they want to play.
6. They expect you to cater for their every whim.
7. They're moody.
8. They leave hair everywhere.

Conclusion: They're tiny women in little fur coats.

What is a dog?

1. Dogs spend all day sprawled on the most comfortable piece of furniture.
2. They can hear a package of food being opened 2 streets away, but don't hear you when you're in the same room.
3. They can look dumb and lovable at the same time.
4. They growl when they are not happy.
5. When you want to play, they want to play.
6. When you want to be alone, they want to play.
7. They leave their toys everywhere.
8. They do disgusting things with their mouths and then try to give you a kiss.
9. They go right to the crotch as soon as they meet you.

Conclusion: They're tiny men in little fur coats



Look out for me on 17th April I'm number 8840 – leaning on the St. John's Ambulance man

John Lyon

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