

My Somerset Life

A diary by Brian Snellgrove

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I have been offered \$5,500,000

Scam E-mails

In case there is anyone on the planet who has not received such letters, here is one such, quite brief in my experience compared with some.

My name is Julia Margaret Flesher Koch I am an American socialite and philanthropist, the wife of David Hamilton Koch who was an American businessman, political activist, philanthropist, and chemical engineer. I believe strongly in "giving while living". My philosophy about life is that you should use your wealth to help people and I have decided to secretly give US\$5,500,000.00USD to randomly selected individuals worldwide.

On receipt of this email, you should count yourself as the lucky individual. Your email address was chosen online while searching at random. Kindly get back to me at your earliest convenience, so i know your email address is valid.

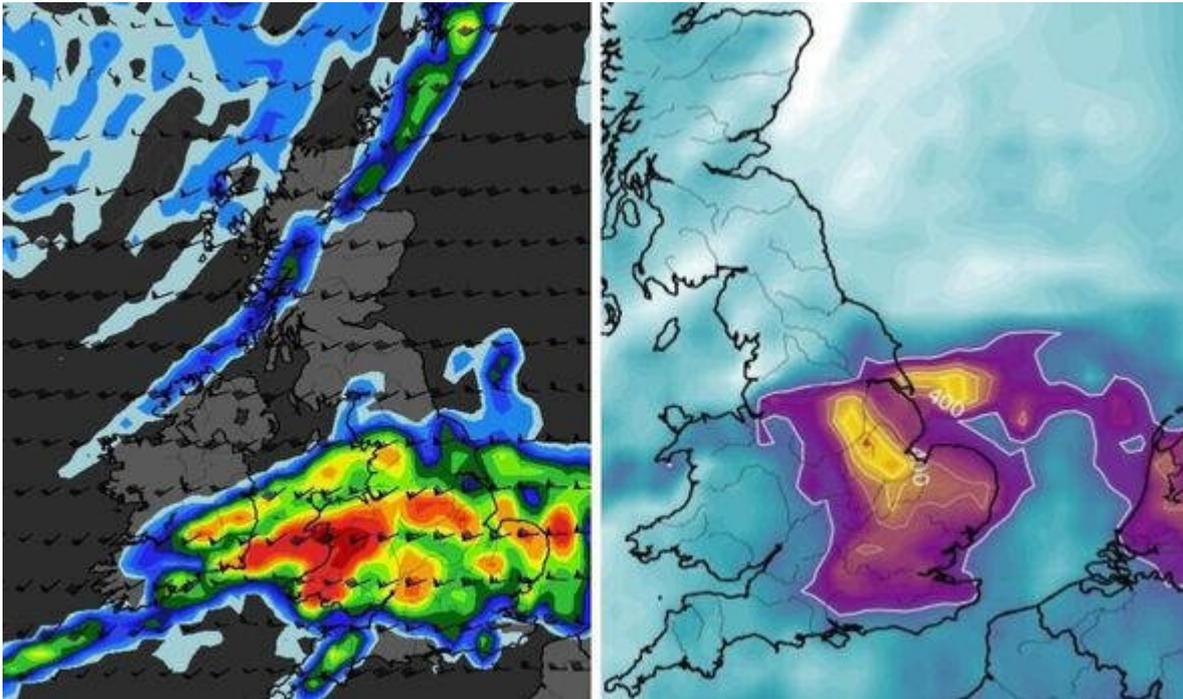
I have not been on the receiving end of scams like this because I've heard enough from the unfortunate experiences of other people. You submit your details and then you are asked for a fee up front to facilitate the payment. This has been known historically as the Nigerian 911 scam. You are then asked to make another payment because of various demands made by other people so the carrot is in front of the donkey but just beyond reach.

This will go on for as long as you allow it and then finally when your phone calls go unanswered you realize that you have been condoned or scammed. I do not understand how people can fall for this, but if it did not work then the scammers would not do it. I suppose if only one person in a thousand responds then that's worth doing, after all emails are easy

enough to send by the tens of thousands so what do they have to lose?

A variation on this is when they get your bank account details and they use the information to systematically clean out your account. Instant communication worldwide can work massively for you, but also massively against you so do everything through your bank especially when you are transferring funds to somebody else.

Yet another scare warning



Oh my goodness, the Powers That Be are not trying to make us afraid are they? UK storm: Fierce 250-mile-long will hit UK in hours- and maps show exactly where, So this was written at 9.07 on Thursday morning. Time will tell. At 10pm in the evening there is no wind and light rain.

The largest private jet in the world



At first glance you would think this is a living room but wait – someone somewhere has decided that there are enough very rich people who may choose to fly around the world in this. Bargain basement it is not. Check out the article here by my favourite blogger Sam Chui

Our uniqueness

One of my given thoughts today was that there are as many worlds as there are individual consciousness. In other words come where we are all unique. This started before we were born with our dispositions in past lives, modifying the generic code, not to mention the manner of our birth and the unique series of events in terms of meeting people, going to places, the effect of our presence on our friends and they on us. There can be no dispute that we are truly unique.

This should affect our attitude. We can be immensely proud that if we've made it this far through this mind field that we call the human life and that whenever we go to a social event,

we have something to contribute that no one else can. It may not be through words or exhibiting a talent like playing music but rather our very presence which will add to the mix because that is the nature of quantum entanglement.

You cannot help but be quantumly entangled because you are a human being.

So when people say, 'I don't know what I have got to contribute to this particular discussion', they have got their perspectives totally wrong. You don't have to know a lot about something but if you know or are interested enough to ask a question that could start a chain of events that unbeknown to you could affect hundreds of people. For example you could be talking to a decision maker. Not only what you say but the way you say it could influence them because you introduced a vector that they had not thought of. You of course will not know the effect you've had.

Evening prayer group

We had our evening of Fellowship. There were six of us and we were asked to say what the most important parables were of Jesus. My favourite one is the sower. Jesus used parables, simple pictorial images that everybody could understand " *a sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the wayside and it was trodden down, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. And other fell on good ground and sprang up and bore fruit an hundred fold.*

Jesus was obviously very concerned that they got this most important message because he cried out 'he that has ears to hear, let him hear' and he does not utter that after most of the parables.

Then, unusually, Jesus explains what he has just said;

the seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are they that hear, then comes the devil, and taketh it away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they which when they hear, receive the word with joy: and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell amongst thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart having heard the word, keep it. and bring forth through with patience.

I have not uttered this in public for years and years but I read it to the other people there and realize that is a very good way of managing our expectations because we may sow seeds in people's minds but they don't appear to take any notice. If they had this attitude when Jesus himself spoke they people can certainly do it with us.

I reflected on what I had said about the right way to approach people and I got a good idea. If they lose their temper and speak in foul language I can say instead of rebuking them," I used to be like that once and it was horrible and the way I got out of it was"... And then tell my story. Why not share the fact that you are human and have failings. Do we really want to put ourselves on a pedestal.

One of the other people was talking about being stretched and how she hated it but knew it was important. I got the image of a balloon which is only a balloon and can perform the functions of the balloons because the rubber of which it is made is stretched by blowing air into it. With no stretching it's just a lump of rubber and will not fulfill its purpose. If we are not going to allow ourselves to be stretched then what is the point? We might as well go along to Tesco's to compare prices.

The evening ended with the guys praying for me and my stomach which was very comforting.

I'm very glad I go to the nearer meeting. To go to the further one it is a 20 minute drive in the dark and the rain. I do not like driving through the countryside in the dark with lights suddenly coming on you and blinding you. It is so easy to miss a corner and create an accident and being in hospital is the last thing I want.

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