



IAAI - UK

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS

SPRING
2006

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Presidents message

Dear members,

It has been almost a year since I last wrote to you, and much has happened during that time. My first message is to thank over one hundred of you that managed to attend our AGM, in future to be called our Annual Training Conference, which was held in the City of London. The Association of British Insurers supported the chapter again by giving us their splendid conference room for the day. Our thanks go to Catherine Ward and Jane Milne and EMS wireless smoke detection and intruder alarm systems who sponsored the refreshments for the day and had a stand at the venue. Our thanks to all at EMS, particularly Ray Barbuti. The attendees heard four excellent presentations from Claire Purton, Gordon Rolfe, Jo Morrissey, Garry Millington, Ruth Buckley and Michael Bamforth.

The aim of the IAAI-UK is to share training, knowledge and experiences amongst our members to improve fire, explosion and arson investigations within the UK. With our very successful summer meeting in Glasgow last July, three training days in London, Teeside and Glasgow on Forensic Awareness, our continually updated website and our 2006 ATC, we can pride ourselves on meeting those aims.

I would like to thank the committee and the Regional Representatives for all the hard work they have put into your chapter.

On January 16th and 17th, a two day meeting was held at BRE in Garston (thanks to the Fire Research Station for sponsoring two meeting rooms for the occasion) where all of the committee and regional reps discussed IAAI-UK business at great length. The opportunity was taken to photograph those present and subsequently put those photos onto the web page so you can put a face to the names.

A consensus was done, (by me!), as to whether you preferred using the bulletin board or the round robin emails that I occasionally circulate to discuss current issues and requests for information. Your replies were overwhelmingly in favour of the emails, so I shall continue to do this but would still encourage you to use the facility of the bulletin board in the recently updated website.

We have been asked by the Arson Control Forum to support their event this summer (26/6/6) and I would recommend that you register your intention to attend ASAP on the ACF website to ensure a space is reserved for you.

I would like to thank the membership for re-electing the committee to represent and manage your organisation on your behalf into our 4th year and now with 400 members.

This year the subject of our Training Road Show is "Photography at Fire Scenes". The London and the South East regional representatives organised and ran the first day at the London Fire Brigade training headquarters at Southwark. It was a thoroughly relevant and well pitched training day, I recommend you visit the website and register when the Road Show visits your region.

Our congratulations go to Dave Brocklesby and Hilary Brown who recently passed their Certified Fire Investigators exam. Again I would like to encourage those of you who are eligible, to apply to challenge the exam (details available on the website).

Finally, I encourage you all to promote the IAAI -UK at every opportunity as the Fire and Explosion Investigators Forum of the UK.

Peter Mansi, President

TRAINING CALENDAR 2006

Regional Training days planned for 2006 - Fire Scene Photography

The day will be £50.00 for IAAI-UK Members and £65.00 for non-members. The non-members will get one year's membership, subject to satisfactory references and vetting.

13 March 2006 (London & South East regions) LFB Southwark Training Centre

10 April 2006 (Wales & South West regions) DVLA Development Centre, Swansea.

22 May 2006 (Scotland and North East regions) Location will be in Glasgow.

11 July 2006 (West Midlands and North West regions)

9 October 2006 (East Midlands and East regions)

IAAI-UK Summer meeting and training day - 10 July 2006 (location to be arranged). International Symposium on Fire

LIVE, LEARN AND PASS IT ON

The IAAI were given the opportunity to hold a workshop at this years Live, Learn, Pass it on conference at Brunel University between 29 and 30 June. We wanted to organise a hands on workshop to encourage delegates to use their hands on and documentation skills.

Due to the numbers at the conference we had to break up delegates in to four syndicates. All of the syndicates were collectively briefed by John Galvin, detailing what the task was and how to go about it. This brief included that delegates needed to assume that they were standing in the compartment of origin of a fire scene.

We had previously prepared four pergolas in rooms and positioned 4 poster-size colour prints within each pergola, one print detailing a side of a room from a fire scene. Two previously investigated fire scenes were used. One was of a fatal fire where the compartment had reached flashover conditions and the second was a television fire in a compartment which had not gone to flashover.

A leader was appointed for each syndicate by the organisers. All of the syndicates were given packs that included written briefs, copies of images used in the workshop and materials required to document the scene and make observations.

We were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm of all the syndicates. A lot of work was put into the exercise and the team leaders were tasked with collating all of the observations and providing a set of comprehensive notes. The syndicates were given until lunchtime of the following day to complete their notes and submit them.

There was a lot of information available to the syndicates within the photographs including fuel packages, burn patterns, ventilation effects, temperature indicators etc.

The marking was undertaken by a panel made up of Bobby Schaal and Jack Malooly (visiting speakers from the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), John Galvin, Nick Carey and Mark Ross.

All of the panel members were very impressed with the standard of the notes and the excellent diagrams that had been drawn from the scene images. The notes were very thorough and included observations, possible hypothesis and conclusions from the information that was available to the syndicates. The marking was very difficult due to the high standard. However, there has to be a winner.

Congratulations to syndicate number 3 who had green coloured spots on their name badges. The members of this syndicate were: Geoff Laver, Steve Law, Scott Lee, John Lentini, Ahmed Mahmood, Kevin McGrath, Bob Milne, Adrian Moore, Jo Morrissey, Dave Myers, Dougal Naismith, Andy Newland, Paula Pond and Mark Powell. All syndicate members were presented with a bottle of wine as a prize.

So many questions were raised by the syndicates about the two scenes that we were allowed time to give a short presentation on the background to the scenes and the conclusion of the investigations. This just shows how passionate and enthusiastic we all are about our profession. Many thanks to Gardiner Associates for allowing us to run the workshop at this years conference.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 30th January 2006, IAAI—UK held its third Annual General meeting - which will be known as the Annual Training Conference from now on - at the Arson Prevention Bureau in central London.

The day began with a welcome to all delegates from our president Peter Mansi and from John Judd, the Assistant Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade.

We then progressed the AGM where all committee members were re-elected to their positions. The financial accounts were given on behalf of our treasurer Dave Stokes who was unable to attend and were agreed by all present. The newsletter, the website and other membership issues - including the previously mentioned issue of Irish membership - were then discussed by the delegates.

Finally, this years Training Road Show— 'Photography at Fire Scenes' - was discussed and the details given to members with the success of last years 'Forensic Awareness' Road Show being acknowledged.

At the culmination of the AGM the training day commenced, with the first of four presentations for the day. This was from Claire Purton, an Arson Task Force Practitioner from the London Fire Brigade. Claire's presentation was entitled " Arson –It's a people thing" and encompassed the role of practitioners and how it has a positive impact on communities.



The IAAI-UK committee and John Judd, ACFO, LFB.

The second presentation was by Jo Morrissey, a Metropolitan Police Scene examiner and Garry Millington, a fire investigation officer from the London Fire Brigade, and was titled " Cannabis factories in London".

Jo explained how the number of these factories has increased significantly during the last year and the impact that they have had on crime in the communities where they are found. The presentation included video and photographs of the scale of these grow operations.

Garry focussed his section of the presentation on the history of these factories and the links with Canada, as well the fire and health and safety risks including those from booby traps left by suspects.



Ruth Buckley, scene examiner, Metropolitan Police Service and Michael Bamforth, L;P Archaeology

Before the break John King from FM global gave a short presentation detailing how this company can assist any organisation committed to fire reduction and prevention.

The third presentation was given by Ruth Buckley who is now a scene examiner with the Met Police but was originally an archaeologist and Michael Bamforth a practising archaeologist. They discussed the relevance of archaeology to fire scene investigation and examined the similarities between the two disciplines. They used case studies and details of archaeological digs to demonstrate this.

The final presentation was given by Gordon Rolfe, a fire investigation officer from the London Fire Brigade. This was a detailed case study explaining an investigation into an explosion at a dry cleaners which Gordon had investigated.

It was a very successful and enjoyable day for all who attended.

Thanks again to all of those who made the day run as smoothly as it did, especially our secretary, Claire Purton who again organised so much behind the scenes.



Gordon Rolfe, Fire Investigation Officer, London Fire Brigade

Fire Investigators Association of Ireland

Belfast—2nd December 2005

Members of the IAAI—UK committee visited Belfast in December 2005 to support the IAAI—Eire chapter and to detail the advantages and learning points that we have experienced in order to assist Ireland, both the Republic and the North, in developing fire and non terrorist explosion investigations including training .

We were greeted by Paul Carolan, Secretary of the Fire Investigators Association of Ireland, and Peter Craig the Assistant Chief Fire Officer of the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade. We held a meeting in the headquarters building where we discussed the multi agency approach to fire investigation .

We were then taken to the Forensic Science Laboratory and listened to some case studies presented by Dennis McCauley. We also had a tour around the laboratory and were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Forensic Scientists present.

It was agreed by the UK committee that to assist Ireland in promoting fire, explosion and arson investigation within its Fire and Police services, we would give membership by association to the UK chapter, including web— access, to all members who join either in the North or the Republic. Their fees will go to the IAAI—Eire chapter, as the UK membership is strong enough to sustain this.

This gesture was warmly received by Paul Carolan, Pat Fleming, the outgoing president and the new president Cathal McConn.

Fire Investigators Association of Ireland AGM (IAAI-EIRE)

On the 26th January 2006, Jo Morrissey and Peter Mansi visited the Limerick Fire Brigade headquarters along with other members of the UK chapter to attend the FIAI-AGM.

Jo gave a presentation about the role of scenes of crime officers at arson scenes in London and discussed the importance and effectiveness of a multi agency approach to investigation and training. Jo particularly focussed on the forensic training provided by the Metropolitan Police to LFB Fire Investigation Officers and conversely the benefits to scene examiners of attending fire scenes with Fire Brigade Investigators.

Peter gave a presentation about the new powers to investigate fires given to authorised fire officers in the UK by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. He also discussed the impact of National Occupational Standards on fire investigation. Peter discussed the structure for Borough Arson Liaison Officers from the Police, Fire Brigade and scene examiners in each borough in London and how this is an effective model for efficient fire and arson investigation and fire reduction.

Presentations were also given by Liam Fleury from the Forensic Science Laboratory, Garda Síochána headquarters about the role of a forensic scientist and by Paul Carolan who discussed the role of fire fighters at crime scenes and the need for structured fire investigation training.

Thanks to Limerick City Fire Service and particularly CFO Michael Ryan, Shane M^cCarthy and Pat Roche for the use of their facilities and the welcome we received.



Paul Carolan, Secretary IAAI-EIRE, Peter Mansi, President IAAI—UK, Cathal McConn, President of IAAI—EIRE, Jo Morrissey, Metropolitan Police Service, London, Liam Fleury, Head of chemistry, Forensic Science Laboratory ,Dublin and Michael Ryan, Chief Fire Officer at Limerick Fire Brigade Headquarters for the IAAI—EIRE AGM.

REGIONAL PAGE

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service held several training days throughout the year at their training centre in Stevenage. This training was aimed at Junior Officers and Scenes of Crime Officers.

The training was prepared and presented by Assistant Divisional Officer Malcolm Sawdy, Station Officer Dave Stokes and Sub Officer Paula Stevenson and of course Browza, the accelerant detection canine.

The training has the theme Observe and Preserve, and provides an introduction to fire investigation, and the benefits of a multi agency approach.

Dave Stokes, a graduate of the ATF school at FLETC (Federal Law Enforcement Training Centre) focused his presentation on fire science and its practical application for origin and cause investigators. He also discussed the various causes of fire and the motivation of arsonists, using case studies to illustrate.



Dave Stokes and Malcolm Sawdy at Longfield

Malcolm Sawdy discussed HFRS procedures and his presentation had an emphasis on safety at fire scenes. He also discussed court room procedures and evidence preparation and presentation, which was particularly relevant to the officers present who had very little courtroom experience.

Paula Stevenson explained the use of hydrocarbon detector dogs at fire scenes and then took the students outside where Browza demonstrated his ability to detect ignitable liquids, even odourless ones.

There were several demonstrations outside including pouring an ignitable liquid through the letterbox and an explanation of the effects of the location of a fire within a compartment. The students found the course both interesting and informative and all felt that the increased knowledge would improve their performance.



South East Region - Surrey Another dangerous candle

A Surrey resident recently experienced a small fire at her house involving yet another decorative but dangerous, imported candle. This design incorporated a large candle placed inside the hollowed out shell of a coconut after the edible flesh had been removed, but leaving the external coir husk in place for decoration.

As the candle burnt down these fibres were only 4cm from the naked flame, which eventually set fire to them.

Luckily the householder was at home and alerted by the foul smell quickly extinguished the fire.

This fortunate owner recalls buying the item from an East Surrey garden centre but has also seen them offered for sale at other locations; they obviously carry no BSI or EC safety markings.

Our firm recommendation is that on no account should they be used, and if seen for retail sale the relevant Trading Standards department is notified without delay.

I am grateful to Dave Weeden and Andy Coombs for bringing this incident to my attention and assisting with investigations.

Chris Vince Fire Investigation and Arson Task Force



ARSON CONVICTION AND ARRESTS

North East Region

Would be firefighter gets life for arson...

On the 4th March 2004 members of the fire investigation team were requested by fire crews to determine the cause of a serious house fire at 5 Donnisthorpe Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire. The property was a semi-detached bungalow in an inner city area of Bradford. The seat of the fire was located to the front bedroom in an area in or around the wardrobe. There was what appeared to be evidence of a forced entry at the rear of the property and some signs of theft/vandalism in the bathroom. Using proven scientific investigation techniques the FI officers were able to determine the cause of fire as deliberate and estimate the time of ignition. They were also able to establish that the broken glass in the window believed to be the point of entry had been broken from the inside. With this evidence the police were requested and a crime established. The occupier of the property was James Bradshaw a 24-year-old father of three, the crews pointed out that they knew James and he had been seen at numerous fire scenes in the past. The police investigation was able to establish that Bradshaw had been in the property at the time the fire started, he was arrested for arson with intent to endanger life. Bradshaw at this time was on bail pending a court hearing in relation to an arson attack on a JCB excavator, for which he was later convicted.

During the investigation of Donnisthorpe Street many of the fire crews in the Bradford area were giving evidence relating to sightings of Bradshaw at fire scenes. He was usually dressed in a fluorescent jacket and rigger boots and would identify himself as an employee of a demolition company or a security guard, many of the fire scenes being on building or demolition sites. He would also offer advice on water supplies, where to place jets and any dangerous substances involved. These sightings went back four or five years and involved personnel from several stations some of which had retired from the fire service.

The police agreed to investigate all of the sightings and other fires that may have been attributed to Bradshaw over the years. The Fire Investigation Team trawled the management information system for fires within a half mile radius of Bradshaws known addresses, any fires called in by a number of telephone numbers known to be used by Bradshaw and fires involving plant or equipment on building sites throughout Bradford. Also junior fire setting databases and the fire service application archives were searched. Over 40 incidents from 1999 to 2004 could have been linked to Bradshaw in some way; all this evidence was passed onto the police to investigate.

Bradshaw was charged with 18 counts of arson 3 of which were with intent to endanger life and a three-week court case started in June 2005. The first indictment was for Donnisthorpe Street where he was charged with endangering the life of the firefighters attending. The other two endangerment incidents were; his parents next door neighbours house on Christmas day 2001, the house was empty but due to the fire being started next to the gas meter was deemed to endanger the people in the adjoining property and a flat where it was

believed an alcoholic was in at the time in January 2002. Other offences were a portable first floor office cabin on a building site where he reported to crews attending that 2 children were in the property and the most bizarre where he set fire to a portable toilet locking himself inside and claiming others had locked him in when the door could only be locked from the inside. The court heard he targeted building sites where he had been unable to obtain work or to hold down a job. Homes he set fire to belonged to people he had a grudge against. The judge told Bradshaw he had a desire to play the hero at the scenes of his fires. He had a fascination with fire and had once applied to be a firefighter but failed due to his academic skills. On 15th July James Bradshaw having been found guilty all three of the endangerment charges and ten of the other fifteen charges of arson was sentenced to life imprisonment. The judge stated, following psychiatric reports, "no medical disposal was available and the life sentence would protect the public from serious harm".

Leading Counsel for the Crown stated, "In my long experience of Criminal matters this series of offences constitute a complex and serious series of offences of this nature. I have not been able to discover a similar series of Arsons which have been recorded".

Chris Clarke, FI Team

South West Region

Bin arsonist gets life sentence

An 18-year-old man has been jailed for life after setting fire to two wheelie bins in north Devon. Homeless Christopher Brown only caused a few pounds of damage when he set fire to the bins in Barnstaple.

But Judge Graham Cottle gave him an indeterminate sentence under new laws after hearing Brown threatened to commit more crimes if he was released.

"You admit candidly if you were subject to a community order you would commit a serious offence" – Judge Graham Cottle.

The new legislation applies to people over 18 who commit crimes which are punishable by life. This includes arson, no matter how small.

The court heard that Brown, who admitted the offence, told social workers he intended to commit very serious offences when let out.

Peter Ashman, defending, said: "My client is looking for a sentence which is as long as possible. He cannot countenance living in the community at all.

"It is a very sad picture and one can only hope that in time he may change his views."

Judge Cottle said: "This is a highly unusual case. He says he is going to do something very serious if he is released, he has been convicted of a specified offence and he is 18."

He told Brown: "You have a number of previous convictions for offences of destruction and damage to property.

"You admit candidly if you were subject to a community order you would commit a serious offence in order for a long prison sentence to be imposed."

HAZARDS OF LINSEED OIL

February 2005

Police were called to a reported arson/burglary, by workmen completing a house conversion of a secluded, detached rural dwelling, the workmen had turned up at daylight for work and entered to find a rear facing ground floor room of the premises damaged by fire.

Damage to the glass in the window unit within the room gave a suspicion of a forced entry, building materials including paint cans and box packaged building supplies which were stored in a corner of this room appeared to have been set alight.

At that time I was attached to the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Fire Investigation Unit as a scene examiner. On my arrival at the property, a Police Officer and a Fire Investigation Officer were already in attendance, the scene had been secured and all non essential persons had been removed from the area. I was able to establish that no forced entry had occurred, the window was intact and no tool damage was evident.

An internal examination followed, the room most affected by the fire was the room going to be converted to a main kitchen, a corner, which at the time was used as temporary storage space for materials (boxed tiles, cement /plaster bags and paint, placed on a base of chipboard sheet) this corner appeared to be the area of most damage, with heat spalling to the wall plaster work, charring to an adjacent wooden corner cupboard, interior window frame and the exposed beams above, plastic wrapped items adjacent (radiator) and further away (vertical wooden pillar / door to adjacent room) being scorched by radiated heat.

Services to the house were connected, and a number of power sockets were located in the room, however, on examination those closest to the fire area were found sooted and had nothing plugged in at the time, there was a power extension cable running through the area, some of the cabling being affected by heat / flame but it was also unplugged at the time, there were no other electrical items in the vicinity. Gas was yet to be connected in the room.



Photos courtesy of West Sussex Fire and rescue Service

An area of this corner space was excavated to establish the lowest point of burning (seat of fire), during which, pieces of heavily and part charred fabric which smelled of linseed were found, saw dust, used as filler for the cardboard boxes of French tiles was also present and also appeared to be contaminated with the oil. A one gallon can, labelled as linseed oil, was also found, on it's side with the cap blown, but this tin was slightly away from the identified seat of fire.

Other possible causes of ignition were also considered, a number of cigarette butts were found on the floor of the room (none in the temporary storage corner) and the work team did smoke but the butts were normally discarded outside. The foreman also conducted a 'walkthrough', turning off / unplugging tools etc, and securing the property at the end of each day.

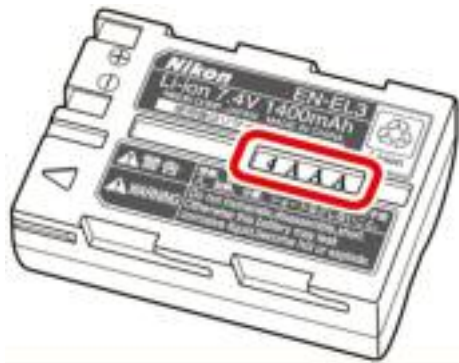


Attention focused on the presence of the linseed oil. Linseed oil, when used under normal conditions, polymerises in contact with air, forming a protective surface to wood or other porous surfaces. When used, heat is given off in the process the resultant heat is normally dissipated freely over a period of time. It was established from the foreman, that a newly laid tile floor in an adjacent room had been sealed with this substance the previous day by a sub contractor, he also used this corner area of the kitchen for storage of tiles and other working materials. including dust sheets / rags.

With the exclusion of any possible deliberate causes, it was felt that the fire was most likely caused accidentally, by the spontaneous combustion of the linseed oil in the cloth fabric. This would have occurred slowly over a number of hours, (overnight) the heat from the drying oil, unable to dissipate freely by being contained within the cloth (due to spillage or having been used as a cleaning rag), in an exothermic reaction, the heat building until the cloth / oil ignites. The resulting slow burning fire had then used up all the available fuel (cloth, sawdust, paper cement bags etc) contained within the temporary stored materials area, causing a large amount of smoke, but localised heat /flame damage and had self extinguished and cooled with the smoke dissipating before the workmen returned. Discarded smoking materials were also considered but this seems less likely.

SOCO Martyn Ridley RFP, Sussex Police

RECALL NOTICES



Voluntary Recall of Rechargeable Li-ion Battery EN-EL3 for Nikon D-SLR Cameras

Type:	Digital camera
Manufacturer:	Nikon
Model number:	Li-ion Battery EN-EL3 for Nikon D-SLR Cameras
Serial number(s):	See below for batch numbers involved
Manufactured dates:	
Recall date:	22-Dec-2005

Through strict quality control procedures Nikon has detected that on rare occasions some rechargeable Li-ion batteries of the type EN-EL3 for Nikon Digital SLR cameras may become defective, resulting in overheating during recharging. Investigations have clarified that the cause of the defect is not a design fault, but has resulted from a temporary problem in a manufacturing process that occurred during the production of this battery type between May and September 2004. In the interests of customers and as a reflection of Nikon's commitment to safety and product quality, the company has initiated a voluntary recall and replacement program of all EN-EL3 batteries manufactured during this period. The EN-EL3 is provided as a supplied accessory with the Nikon D100, D70 and D50 Digital SLR cameras. It is also sold as a separate accessory for these camera models, and can be used in the Nikon D70s.

To date, Nikon has received notification of five occurrences of defective batteries worldwide of which two have been in Europe. No cases of personal injury have been reported; however, the overheating has caused damage to adjacent material during the recharging process, and further use is not advised.

Batteries that are affected can be found in the list below and should be returned to Nikon for replacement. Customers should follow the on-line procedure described at www.europe-nikon.com/support. Assistance with completing the procedure can be obtained by calling Nikon at the dedicated national number +44 (0)2871 305 500.

Kingavon Fan



Kingavon Fan Heater FH1K - Recall

The following notice has been published in the national press: BATCH NUMBER: 08573L031307 or 08534K031273
Batch number can be found on the base
We have found that under certain circumstances the above product may develop a fault. Whilst the product works properly under normal working conditions, if the internal fan fails the product will overheat and may catch fire causing a safety risk.

Carlton Fans

Type:	Fans
Manufacturer:	Carlton
Model number:	TF2005 and TF2005RS
Serial number	not applicable
Manufactured	March 2005 to January 2006
Recall date:	18-Feb-2006

Sold through Currys, Dixons and PC World

Product recall of Carlton TF2005 and TF2005RS Tower fans. This recall does not affect any other Carlton fans.

Ongoing quality control checks have revealed that in a limited number of cases, a connection within the fan in this product may overheat, which in turn could result in smoke or flames being produced.

As a precautionary measure, we are asking owners to stop using these fans, disconnect the product from the electrical supply and return the product to their local store where they will be given a full refund of the original purchase price. A receipt would assist us with our record keeping, but is not essential.

IAAI-UK MERCHANDISE



Embroidered Polo Shirt (grey with red IAAI-UK logo). Available in Medium, Large and Extra-Large sizes. Price £18.00 (+ Postage)



Enamelled metal Tie or Lapel pin. Engraved chrome with a red IAAI-UK logo. 20mm in diameter (approximately 3/4 of an inch). Price £2.00 (+ postage).



Tea / Coffee mug. White colour with red IAAI-UK logo. Price £5.00 (+ Postage)



Mouse Mat. White background with a red IAAI-UK logo. Price £3.00 (+ postage).

We have the following merchandise items available. Please [complete](#) the order form and post the form, or email Pete Mansi with your order at pete.mansi@iaai-uk.org.uk



Application for membership

I hereby make application for membership of the **International Association of Arson Investigators - UK Chapter in**

Last name	First name	initial	Date of birth
Home Address			
City	Town	County	Post code
Phone	Fax	E Mail	
Employer / company			
Business Address			
City	Town	County	Post code
Phone	Fax	E Mail	E Mail

accordance with its Constitution. All information given by me is warranted to be true.

Personal details

Preferred contact address home work

Occupational affiliation	Primary duty	*Other (details)
Fire service	Fire investigator	
Police service	Forensic scientist	
Private investigation	Manager	
Insurance	Legal	
Engineering	Engineer	
Scientist/laboratory	Other *	

Are you a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators? Yes No
 If Yes please quote membership number: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes No If Yes please provide details.

I enclose the completed Standing Order form or have attached £12.00 as membership fee for one year (cheques to be made payable to IAAI-UK).

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Recommended by a member in good standing

Name (print) _____ **Signature** _____ **IAAI-UK Mem No** _____

Please send application form, completed Standing Order form / membership fee to:
 Mr J Galvin. IAAI-UK Membership Co-ordinator, 9 Bushey Bartrams, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7HE.

Date received	Application Number	Membership fee
Records updated	Date Approved	Initials



Please complete the standing order below for membership of the UK Chapter of the IAAI.

Standing Order Instruction to your bank:

Your Bank name:

.....

Branch full address:

.....

Branch postcode: Bank Sort code:.....

Account name to be debited:

.....

Account number to be debited:

.....

Account to be credited: International Association of Arson Investigators – United Kingdom Chapter

or simply IAAI-UK

Bank: National Westminster, Olney Branch

Bank Sort Code: 60-16-45

Account No. 83501118

Please debit my account in the sum of £12.00 (twelve pounds) immediately and then annually on the same

date continuing each year until you receive written notice from me.

Signed: Date:

Applicant's name:

Applicant's address:

.....

.....

Applicant's postcode:

.....

Applicant's home telephone number:

.....

Applicant's work telephone number:

.....

Please send application form, completed Standing Order form / membership fee to:

Mr J Galvin. IAAI-UK Membership Co-ordinator, 9 Bushey Bartrams, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7HE.

The International Association of Arson Investigators – United Kingdom Chapter

HOLD THE BACK PAGE

Office Talk

A couple of us were talking in the office the other day about various jobs we had picked up recently when the subject of sunlight as a cause cropped up. We typically get a number of these types of incidents every year. The majority occur either early, or late in the year when the sun is still strong but at a low angle. One of our investigators gave me some interesting photos of his sisters' bathroom window. She had phoned him up to ask him what he thought had happened.

If you look closely you can see that there are actually three separate burns. This is a relatively well known cause amongst Fire Brigade investigators, but I doubt if many SOCO'S have seen incidents of this nature.



The critical factor is the focal length of the mirror. A convex shaving mirror focuses the sunlight into a point at a given distance from the lens. If this happens to be on a combustible item and there is enough energy it can lead to ignition.

Mirrors are not the only item to cause this. We have had incidents involving photographic lenses, bull's eye windows, crystal balls etc. In fact one of our scientific advisors (who will remain nameless) retrieved a crystal ball from a fire to take it back to the lab. He put it onto the back seat of his car. When he arrived at the office he found that it had burnt a hole in his car seat. For the right price I may reveal their identity (or it might just be an urban myth).

A couple of conclusions can be drawn from these images- There are no curtains and the glass is not obscured, so if you are ever in the neighbourhood it might be worth hanging around.

The burns appeared to have happened over 3 separate days, yet the occupants did not notice them until some point after the third burn had taken place. It would suggest that they don't use the bathroom much!!

**Mark Ross, Fire Investigation Unit,
London Fire Brigade**

Cheese on toast Los Angeles

A mouse wreaked revenge on a pensioner who tried to kill it by tossing it into a bonfire. It scuttled back into the man's house and set the building ablaze.

Luciano Mares, 81, had been bothered by mice, so when he trapped the creature in his home he was determined to dispose of it.

"I had some leaves burning outside and threw it in the fire," said Mr Mares, of Fort Sumner, a village in New Mexico.

As intended the mouse caught fire. But it suddenly sprinted back towards the house and ran beneath the window. The fire which took the efforts of 13 firemen over three hours to extinguish, destroyed the entire contents of the house. Mr Mares is now staying at a local motel.

CAPTION COMPETITION



The above picture comes from the previously detailed training day given at Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Services training centre at Longfield, Stevenage.

No prizes for the winner, but suggestions about the content of the conversation occurring here are welcome from all members.

Replies which can be printed will be published in the next edition.