

Gryphon

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Spring Newsletter 2012

2012 is shaping up to be an interesting year! The iPad is selling in huge numbers and has changed how a lot of people use computers. The shortage of components caused by the floods in Thailand before Xmas is still affecting the price of many PC components, particularly hard drives.

People are still being caught out by telephone scammers pretending to be from Microsoft and claiming they have viruses.

Bob's son, Michael, has joined us and as a result we have launched a new service, Gryphon Media. We will offer a wide range of specialist filmmaking and video related services to individuals and businesses. We will offer Family History videos, corporate or product videos, Home Cinema systems and installation – see <http://www.gryphonlife.co.uk> for more information.

We are now able to take payment by Credit and Debit card (Visa/Master Card/Amex)

Remote Support

Our new Remote Access' support service is proving popular. If you need support you simply give us a ring and when advised go to our website and click on the icon for 'Logmein Rescue – click here to launch' and follow the on screen prompts. This will enable us to remotely control your PC and fix a wide range of software problems. The only constraints are that you have to be able to connect to the Internet. We charge £19.00 (inc. VAT) per 15 minutes

Which is the best Anti-Virus Software?

We have changed our preferred anti-virus package to Bullguard Anti-virus or Bullguard Internet Security. Bullguard was found to be one of the few security packages to detect the new generation of financial malware viruses by the BBC's Click program. These viruses are very sophisticated and steal credit card and bank account details. Many on the main stream anti-viruses packages miss them.

If you bank on line and make payments by credit card on-line then you should change to Bullguard.

Hard Drive supply problems

Floods in Thailand have caused chaos with some PC component manufacturers, most particularly hard drive manufacture, with major shortages beginning to affect PC production. The price of hard drives has more than doubled because of the shortages and is expected to increase further. This has had an affected on PC prices with systems being up to £50 more expensive than they were before Xmas.

Solid State drives set to replace mechanical hard drives?

On a brighter note, the long awaited solid state hard drives have started to appear at affordable prices. Bob has just replaced the main drive in his PC with a 128gb solid state drive and has noticed a big improvement in performance, claimed to be up to 50%. Not cheap, at around £100 + VAT, they are still too small and expensive to replace normal hard drives. However, in situations where performance is important, they can make a big difference, especially if used as the primary Windows drive (i.e. C) in conjunction with a traditional high capacity drive for storage. Because they are the same size as laptop drives, they can be fitted to either desktops or laptops.

Tablet Computing

iPads, and the Android equivalents, are becoming increasingly popular. As a tool for surfing the web and handling email, they are excellent.

The iPad is very easy to use and is extending computer use to people who would have never previously thought about using a computer. One customer is in his mid eighties, who never used a PC and struggled with the technology involved with his TV remote control, took to the iPad like a duck takes to water. He used it to play Scrabble and Cribbage and to read books. Because he could easily adjust the font size he was no longer limited to the large print books available at the library.

Android tablets are better than the iPad in many ways but are not quite as easy to use. The main benefit of Android is that you can easily expand storage memory and easily copy photos or documents etc. on to them. Android tablets also display some web pages better than the iPad.

We can supply iPads (prices as per Apple.com shop) and the Acer Iconia Android 3 tablet for £399 + VAT (pictured below) which is getting good reviews. Bob has both an iPad and an ASUS Transformer which is similar to the Iconia except that it can clip into a keyboard which effectively turns it into a net book, ideal if you do a lot of typing. Neither the iPad or the Android tablets run Microsoft Office but both have software available that will read and write Word and Excel files.

New PCs

The basic 'business' grade PC, without monitor, keyboard or mouse is currently £399.99 + VAT, typically an Intel i3 2100 dual core processor based PC with 4gb RAM, 1 terabyte hard drive and Windows 7 Home Premium 64 bit. An Intel i5 2300 2.8 Quad Core, based PC with 8gb RAM, 1 terabyte hard drive will be somewhere around £489.99 + VAT.

A good 22" widescreen monitor ranges between £99 and £120, depending on quality. We still recommend Acer laptops and can supply a range, starting at around £449 + VAT. As always we deliver and setup free of charge. We can also transfer data from your old PC and setup email etc. for a small charge.

Given the volatility in the market, all prices are subject to increase.

Web Design Services

The latest websites are as follows:-

<http://www.nailseachamberoftrade.co.uk>

<http://www.therealenergycompany.co.uk> – suppliers and installers of Solar Panel systems.

<http://www.italian-wedding-planner.com> – Wedding planner based in Tuscany, Italy

<http://www.tuscanvillaholidays.com> – Luxury villa holidays in Tuscany

Redesigned sites:-

<http://www.sportinggoldauctions.co.uk> – revamped site for this specialist sports and football memorabilia auctioneer. We also develop and supply their auction management software (AIMS) and PCs etc.

<http://www.real-ronda.com> –Real Ronda offer luxury villa holidays in and around Ronda and Gaucin in Andalucia, southern Spain

<http://www.clevedon-salerooms.com> – revised site design. We also develop and supply their auction management software (AIMS) and PCs etc.

PC Health Checks...

Given the current economic climate most users are holding onto their PCs for as long as they can. We find that regular PC health checks can keep your PC going for longer by removing unnecessary clutter and optimising the hard drive. We also check anti-virus status and PC security, and make sure you have a back-up process in place.

Current price of an on-site Health Check is £55 + VAT. *However, if you book a call before the 1st April 2011 we will throw in a copy of Norton Antivirus 2011 for £19.99 + VAT.*

Software Prices...

Bullguard Anti-virus 2012 (single user) - £24.99 + VAT

Norton Anti-virus 2011 (single user version) - £24.99 +. VAT,
Norton Internet Security 2011 (single user version) - £29.99 + VAT.

Microsoft Office 2010 - Professional Edition - £269.99 + VAT
Microsoft Office 2010 - Home and Business Edition - £189.99 + VAT
Microsoft Office 2010 - Home and Student Edition - £99.99 + VAT