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Rogue traders jailed

Five rogue traders have been jailed for a total of 19 years after tricking elderly householders into paying thousands for substandard or unnecessary work.

A 57-year-old man and four others in their 20s took £190,000 from vulnerable people in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire.

In September the men admitted conspiracy to defraud at Bristol Crown Court.

The gang chose people who were vulnerable but had significant savings, telling them repairs were needed on their homes. The "improvements" were typically done badly or for grossly inflated prices.

They returned several times for extra money, with many of the 11 victims who signed off cheques confused about the prices and the alleged faults.

Five people living in the Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath areas and aged between

58 and 87 paid the rogues between £15 and more than £15,000 for work.

Another six victims across Gloucestershire, aged between 81 and 94, handed over up to £66,000 each.

The 57-year-old was jailed for six years and four months, and the other men were given sentences ranging from 13 months to five-and-a-half years following a joint investigation by Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset police.

The defendants' finances are now under Proceeds of Crime Act investigation.

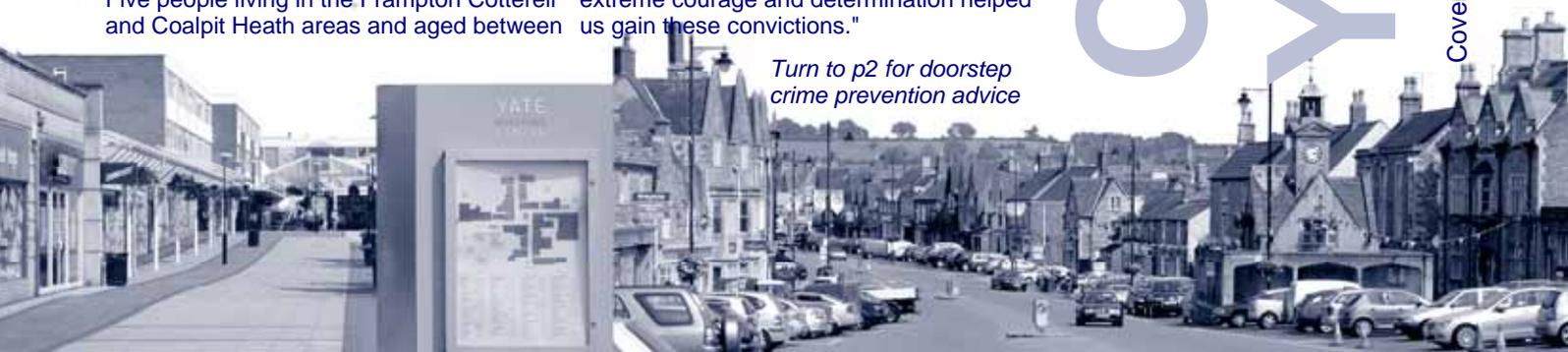
DC Dai Nicholas, from South Gloucestershire Police's Priority Crime Team, said: "All the officers involved in this case, from both forces, would like to personally thank the witnesses.

"Many are elderly and vulnerable. Their extreme courage and determination helped us gain these convictions."

Turn to p2 for doorstep crime prevention advice

Chipping Sodbury, Yate & Villages

Covering the areas of: Acton Turville, Frampton Cotterell, Hawkesbury, Iron Acton, Old Sodbury and Westerleigh.



Have your say

Visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk to see the issues local people have told us matter most, propose new priorities, find out when your next community meeting is and contact your neighbourhood team.

Alternatively you can contact them by calling 0845 456 7000 or e-mailing ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

To deter doorstep criminals:

- If you're unsure, don't open the door
- Always check identity cards
- Never accept work from a cold call visit
- Get several written quotes for any work
- Ask for references from satisfied customers. You could even arrange a visit to see the work.
- Remember you are entitled to a seven-day cooling off period before work starts.

Worried by a cold-caller? Contact Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or police on 0845 456 7000.

For more information deterring doorstep conmen visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk or www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Chipping Sodbury & Cotswold Edge

To contact your neighbourhood team (pictured below) call 0845 456 7000 or e-mail ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PC Mike Hart



PCSO Paul Fortune



PCSO Richard Gay

Keeping you safe at the Mop Fair

Neighbourhood police praised young people after Chipping Sodbury Mop.

The neighbourhood team of police officers, PCSOs and Special Constables patrolled the two-day event in September.

Sergeant Adrian Fallows said: "It was a great opportunity for us to engage with local people. It was nice to see families with young children enjoying the event alongside teenagers."

Under Operation Relentless, keeping young people safe, police checked the areas where teenagers gather before the event and seized a small quantity of alcohol.

Officers also checked local off-licences and convenience stores for under-age alcohol sales.

One shop worker was issued with an £80 on-the-spot fine.

PS Fallows said: "Some teenagers had taken alcohol from home as we confiscated bottles of liqueur as well as lager.

"We will be in touch with their parents. Under-age drinking can make young people more vulnerable and more likely to get involved in anti-social behaviour."

Police made just one arrest in the town over the two nights of the fair. The teenage girl was charged with a public order offence after abusing officers.

Officers did later arrest two teenage women in connection with an assault on a 16-year-old on the Saturday night, after the Mop fair closed. They were bailed for further enquiries.

RELENTLESS ON...

KEEPING YOU SAFE

Safer at home

Neighbourhood police joined forces with Avon Fire & Rescue Service to make sure vulnerable people in Chipping Sodbury and Yate are safe at home.

In August and September, PCSO Richard Gay joined fire safety officers and Meals on Wheels to visit housebound people.

PCSO Gay said: "We called on more than 30 people over several days. The fire service fitted smoke alarms for free – including ones specially-adapted to alert people with hearing impairment.

"I gave householders doorstep crime prevention advice and where needed got the Bobby van – a police security-trained carpenter – to visit. He can install door chains and other security equipment."

The visits were part of Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Operation Relentless, aimed at making sure the whole community is, and feels, safe.

For more on Operation Relentless visit the website, www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Drugs seized

Police have seized and destroyed suspected cannabis plants with a potential street value of £245,000 from a rented business unit in Winterbourne.

Western Power staff disconnected and made safe an illicit electricity supply, and SITA waste management staff helped clear the 245 plants.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Adrian Fallows said: "Information from local people is the key to our success in keeping our streets safe from drugs.

"Tell the neighbourhood team at Chipping Sodbury police station by calling 0845 456 7000 or e-mailing ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

"Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. They never ask you name or trace your call."

You can also visit us on Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, through you mobile or TV service or via our Police Kiosks



Car park scam man jailed

A 53-year-old man who distracted his victims by asking for directions before stealing cash and bank cards has been jailed.

The man struck in Yate in June, approaching a 75-year-old woman in a supermarket car park. While she was distracted looking at his map, he took cash from her bag which was in her car.

The man was sentenced to 12 months in jail in September after committing similar offences in Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare and Northamptonshire.



'Cannabis' seized

Police seized around 50 suspected cannabis plants, with a potential street value up to £50,000, in a raid in Yate.

South Gloucestershire officers, supported by specialist firearms officers, searched the property in September.

They recovered plants, hydroponic equipment and a BB gun, and arrested a 31-year-old man, who was bailed pending a forensic analysis of the plants.

The raid came just a day after the neighbourhood team found suspected cannabis plants at a house in Coalpit Heath.

Officers recovered two full-grown plants and 20 seedlings, potentially worth up to £22,000, and hydroponic equipment.

A 15-year-old boy and a 36-year-old woman were arrested and released on police bail pending forensic tests.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Adrian Fallows said: "Information from local people is the key to the success of Operation Relentless, keeping our streets safe from drugs.

"Tell the neighbourhood team at Chipping Sodbury police station by calling 0845 456 7000 or e-mailing ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

"Alternatively contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. They never ask your name or trace your call."

Murder: grandchildren appeal for answers

Six months after the tragic death of Barry Rubery (right) his grandchildren have made an emotional appeal to bring his killers to justice in a short film featured on YouTube.

Barry, 69, was brutally attacked outside his Iron Acton home on April 28 this year. He died as a result of significant injuries.

Grandson George Kelley said: "Six months down the line is just too long. Please come forward with anything that you know. Anything could help so if you have any information then please call the police."

DCI Garry Reeves said: "I need to find answers for the family of Barry Rubery. Both they and I are extremely frustrated that someone has that vital piece of information and is not providing us with it.

"I would once again urge anyone who has not spoken to me or my officers to come forward and do so."

Anyone who may have information is asked to contact the incident room on 0117 945 4057 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

You can see the emotional appeal at: http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/special_appeals/barry-rubery/
You said; we did

Safer on the roads

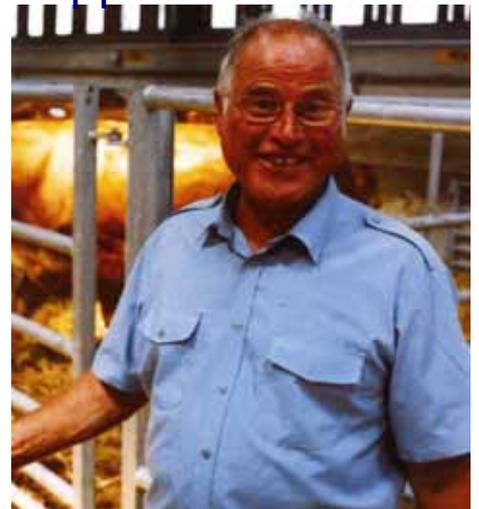
Ten vehicles were ordered off the highway in a roadside check in Yate in August.

Neighbourhood PC Ian Matthews was joined by specialist road policing Vehicle and Operator Services Agency officers. They pulled over drivers and moped riders aged 16 to 60 in the operation.

Ten vehicles were barred from moving until faults like bald tyres and illegally tinted windows were fixed.

One moped with faulty brakes was so dangerous it had to be collected on a trailer.

The operation followed local concern about anti-social vehicle use.



Frampton Cotterell

To contact your neighbourhood team (pictured below) call 0845 456 7000 or e-mail ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PC Ian Matthews



PCSO Andy Pound



PCSO Katie Radnedge



Avon and Somerset Police Authority

Avon and Somerset Police Authority is an independent body of local people who oversee the police. One of our roles is to consult with you to find out what you want from your police service.

Soon there will be tough decisions on the future shape of policing within Avon and Somerset and we welcome your views. You can take part in the latest consultation online at www.aspol.a.org.uk

Avon & Somerset
Police Authority

your police | your voice

Don't suffer anti-social behaviour in silence

E-mail ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk or call us on 0845 456 7000. Alternatively call South Gloucestershire Council's ASB team on 01454 868582 or e-mail asb.reporting@southglos.gov.uk to report problems in your area.



Yate

To contact your neighbourhood team (pictured below) call 0845 456 7000 or e-mail ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PC John Gillman



PC Giles Sutton



PCSO
Gareth Betts



PCSO
Tony Bristow



PCSO
Summer Jones



PCSO
Darren Thorn



PCSO
Gary Tilling



Police recover stolen dogs

Police have reunited Howie, a stolen Springer spaniel, with his owners.

The dog was stolen from Frampton Cotterell on Thursday July 29 2010, and on Saturday August 07 2010 neighbourhood officers searched an address in the village.

They recovered the spaniel and a lurcher which had been stolen from Warminster two years ago.

Neighbourhood PC Ian Matthews said: "We scanned a number of animals at the property for identifying microchips.

"Howie's owners are delighted their dog is back. The lurcher was rehomed."

He said police recommend that dogs always wear an identity tag and that dog owners have their pets micro-chipped.

Pictured above is a police Springer spaniel.

Appeal after attempted robbery

Police are still trying to trace a cyclist who helped a woman after an attempted robbery in Yate.

The 28-year-old was walking along Goose Green Way at about 6am on Wednesday September 8. Near Lye Field Park, a man appeared and tried to take her bag.

She struggled and he punched her in the face before making off empty-handed. He was described as white, 5ft 10ins to 6ft tall, clean shaven and square jawed.

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

We hope you find this newsletter full of useful and interesting information.

It's all about keeping you up-to-date on what we're doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in your area.

We also need to let you know who your local officers are and how to contact them – not just if you've been a victim of crime, but to highlight a problem of simply have your say.

Your views and observations are really important to use.

In addition, you'll find crime prevention messages and news on local offenders who we've brought to justice.

As you know, budgets are under considerable pressure in the public sector.

To save money and still stay in touch, we're going to get newsletters out in cost-free ways through popular public places, such as supermarkets, garages, health centres, post offices and pubs.

We want as many people as possible to read the newsletters online – you'll find them at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsletters so please visit the page to sign up for updates when your latest edition is ready to view.

You can also give feedback by completing the online questionnaire.

Thanks for your time – we look forward to hearing from you.

He wore a black hooded top and trousers. DC Mark Gilbert said: "A male cyclist stopped to help the woman. I'm very keen to hear from him as he may have valuable information which could help our enquiry.

"We very seldom see incidents like this in the town and we need people to help us catch this man. If you can help please call me at Staple Hill on 0845 467 7000.

"Alternatively contact the independent Crimestoppers charity – details below."

If you need this document in another format

Telephone - **0845 456 7000**

Typetalk - **01275 816 888**

or visit

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/WebsiteResources/accessibility/

To report a non urgent crime, discuss your policing priorities or receive crime prevention advice please call **0845 456 7000**

Email

ssnchippingsodbury@avonandsomerset.police.uk

or visit

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Call the charity
Crimestoppers anonymously on
0800 555 111

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

*We never ask for your name
or trace your call*