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Beware of bogus rent rebate man

Spalding police are warning people to beware of a bogus caller who has been visiting homes in the area promising to give rent rebates.

The man escaped with £40 from a home in Boston on Wednesday and now police are anxious to trace him.

He is described as 5 ft 5 in. aged about 35, of stout build, with grey hair dressed in a suit. He was wearing a grey suit.

A spokesman for Lincolnshire police said: "Similar excuses may have been given in order to obtain cash and elderly persons in this area are asked to contact the police as soon as possible if such a person calls upon them."

Weekend break-ins

Local police are investigating a number of break-ins over the weekend.

£400 was stolen some time on Saturday from 164 Queen's Road, Spalding, the home of Mr Storey.

A video recorder and three-hour tape worth £500 were taken from a house in West Street, Fellingham between 7.30 pm on Saturday and 1.30 on Sunday.

Raiders escaped with £61 cash from a house in East Street, Boston, between Monday and Saturday, while the owners were on holiday.

On Thursday night 6,000 cigarettes and a small amount of cash were stolen from Chapman's paper and tobacconist shop, in High Street, Holbeach, and were taken from the Fenland Sheepskin Company in Johnson Avenue, Spalding.

From Dewhurst Salads of Millgate, Wharfedale, thieves took tools worth £75.

Changing room theft

Visitors from Grantham must have thought it simply wasn't cricket on Saturday when they visited Spalding for an away match.

For sneak thieves escaped with their watches and wallets while they were playing against Spalding.

Secretary Mr Brian Stray said that the wallets contained only small amounts of cash and most of them were stolen from just inside the changing room, indicating that the thief was in a hurry.

Collision

Two cats were extensively mangled when they were involved in a collision at the A16 at Pinchbeck on Sunday.

The driver of a Vauxhall Cavalier, 33 Alfred Alberti, of Gosberton, and a Ford was driven by Mr De Robert Pacey, of 3 Capit Lane, Pinchbeck, escaped injury.

SUMMER

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Town cinema shuts down

Reporter: TRACEY GRAY

Jury told boys were shown 'blue' films

The pornographic magazines were stored at Holbeck police station in Pe Alan Williams Bradley's locker, Nottingham Crown Court heard on Friday.

The magazines and three "blue" films were shown to excite the boys while they visited Bates, a scoutmaster, at his flat in Spalding, said Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, prosecuting.

Bates (35), of 75c Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, is charged with 11 offences, including indecently assaulting boys aged between 11 and 15, and four of committing serious sexual offences with three boys, aged 12 and 14. His pleas are guilty to all the charges.

The offences are alleged to have taken place in Bates' flats at 3 Gore Lane, Spalding, 75c Pinchbeck Road, and at scout camps across the country.

A policeman loaned hard-core sex magazines to fellow boys, a court has been told.

Another youth, now 16, told how in 1981 he had been invited to spend the night at Bates' flat in Pinchbeck Road.

They went out to a pub, where the boy drank a pint of cider, and the two returned to the flat at midnight, when Bates started to touch him. "I was shocked and frightened, and I struggled," the boy said, "I didn't say anything. It was frightened."

Mr Brian Smedley, QC, defending, alleged Bates had made up the whole story. But the boy looked shocked and replied loudly: "How could I make that up?"

ON SETTEE

The boy said when he was about 13, Bates had tried to pull him towards him while they were on the settee, saying: "Just relax."

"I didn't like it in the slightest," the boy told the court.

He said he had later visited Bates at his Pinchbeck Road flat.

"Usually when I went alone something would happen," the boy said, "I felt I couldn't really stop John because he was stronger than me."

IN UNIFORM

Bates is alleged to have driven to one son's home in his police Panda car, wearing full uniform, twice indecently assaulting him and once committing a serious sexual offence.

On one occasion — a few days before Christmas 1981 — Bates sent the boy's younger sister to a nearby shop in a village outside Spalding, giving her £1 to buy chocolate, to explore the district.

"We were tooling along on the country lanes, not at any great speed, when the next thing I remember was waking up in a ploughed field with Liz unconscious beside me, and locals shouting in my car," said Mr Stewart, a former inspector with the NFU Mutual and Avon insurance company, based at Springfield.

"No other vehicle was involved."

INJECTIONS

Mr Stewart, who runs the cafe in Aynhoeville Gardens, did not lose consciousness until after the 192-hour drive by ambulance to hospital in Palma.

"They had taken us first to a local village doctor who gave us both an injection, and when we arrived in hospital we were in a room together," said Mrs Stewart, who suffered injuries to her neck and was only detained overnight.

But Mr Stewart, who had fractured a vertebra in his spine, and sustained a triple fracture of his left wrist, also needed oxygen for breathing difficulties, before he was put in plaster from shoulder to waist.

The couple were on holiday with son Jonathan (11), daughter Fiona (18) and Fiona's boyfriend Don Redshaw, of 7 Fennell Road, Pinchbeck.

"Don was super. He had never been abroad before but he hired a car and drove to Palma to bring us the insurance documents we needed," said Mr Stewart.

Mr Stewart rejoined his family and the party was able to fly home three days later as arranged.

He and his wife are full of praise for the help received on the spot from Club International, and the flight back where Mr Stewart was carried on the plane space made for his wheelchair.

Punch-up after insult on CB

Peter Culliff (44), of 33 Millfield Road, Market Deeping, was so incensed by being insulted over the Citizens Band radio by David Crowson (19) of 21 Lancaster Way, Market Deeping, that he went to Crowson's charge they were each independently discharged for two years.

Culliff admitted driving with 169 milligrammes alcohol in 100 millilitres of urine and 132 milligrammes over the limit.

Cinema-goers in Spalding and district received a shock at the weekend when the town's only cinema the Gemini in London Road, suddenly closed.

The Gemini did not re-open on Thursday after the customary mid-week closure on Wednesday.

And on Saturday, a spokesman for the company that owns the cinema, Axholme Cinema Services, said that the firm had gone into voluntary liquidation.

The Doncaster-based company hopes that the cinema will be re-opened and the spokesman added that there had been interest shown by one or two people.

The future of Axholme's other seven cinemas in a chain across the Midlands and Yorkshire also hangs in the balance.

Axholme has owned the cinema since September, 1981, when it was known as the Regier.

Earlier this year it was rumoured that the cinema was to close following a cost-cutting exercise when the chief projectronist was made redundant.

TWIN JOB

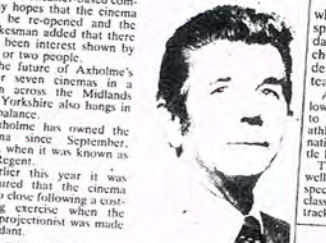
A new position of technical manager, amalgamating jobs of both the chief projectronist and the cinema manager was created.

Mr Douglas Westmacott, technical manager for more than seven years, became the technical manager in February.

Now he is one of the handful of staff employed at the cinema to lose his job.

Mr Westmacott confirmed on Friday that the cinema was in the hands of the receivers and said that it had been closed since the last showing on Tuesday.

He had no further comment to make on the closure of the cinema which has had a chequered history since its opening 45-years ago.



Mr Douglas Westmacott, technical manager of the London Road cinema, in Spalding for more than seven years.

Until 1967 the cinema was known as the Odeon and was then taken over by the Clavens, which later spent more than £50,000 converting it to a two-screen complex.

The Regier group stepped in to run the cinema in 1974 and ran it for seven years, until Axholme took over.

Jobless figures show slight improvement

Unemployment figures for Spalding dropped by only seven last month, but there were encouraging signs that more permanent vacancies might be on the way.

The total out of work at Spalding is now 1,696, at Holbeck 851 and Bourne 414.

The Spalding figures are "rather disappointing," says Mr Smith, Spalding's jobcentric manager. Mr Vin Smith.

Last month 75 people were found work at Spalding and 88 vacancies had been notified, he said.

Vacancies were increasing but the majority of them were only seasonal in the horticultural industry picking strawberries and bulb lifting.

But Mr Smith said he felt there was an "underlying trend" still only very slight, towards more permanent vacancies.

Mr Smith said Spalding had got its first community progress scheme designed by the Government to provide

Parents protest about dog dirt on footpaths

South Lincolnshire's perennial problem of footpaths dotted by piles of dog dirt has bubbled to the surface again — this time at Pinchbeck, writes reporter Mark Nicholls.

And now parents are up in arms over a dramatic increase in the amount of dirt on pavements near Pinchbeck school.

They fear for the health of their children and are demanding action against the problem.

Pinchbeck parish council is already considering employing a full-time street cleaner specifically to clear dog dirt from footpaths.

But this will cost local ratepayers at least an extra £2,000 a year — simply to combat the reckless action of careless dog owners.

Meanwhile, mothers are having to endure the unpleasant task of cleaning dog dirt off shoes and clothes of infants who paddle through it on their way to and from school.

HEALTH HAZARD

"But also it is a great health risk, children can catch disease from dog dirt which can spread them blind," Mr Gordon Blam, headmaster at Pinchbeck primary school, said children brought dog dirt into school on their shoes and staff had to clean them up.

He had a message for local dog owners: "Please be more considerate when walking dogs and don't let them foul the pavements."

"Remember it is near a school," he said, "and the children's health could be at risk."

He asked dog owners for their co-operation and expressed concern about the health risk adding: "I recently met a young boy who had gone blind in one eye as a result of getting his hands in dog dirt."

Another disgusted parent, Mr Gerald Gregory, of 138 Spalding Road, Pinchbeck, summed up the situation.

He said: "Several people allow their dogs to foul the pavement and something must be done about it."

The children ran out of school, they are excited to see their parents. They are through all the dog dirt, jump into the car and into the house."

Steps are already being taken by the parish council to solve the problem.



Commonwealth champion and UK record holder Shirley Strong (right), on her way to victory in the Spalding on Sunday.



Only 3,000 turn for Dewhurst Games

Spalding's fourth Dewhurst Games got off to a spectacular start on Sunday with a spot-on performance by the Pathfinders' military display team.

Add then the surprisingly low 3,000 crowd was treated to a brilliant afternoon of athletics from a host of the nation's top stars at the Castle Field track.

Though attendance was well down on previous years spectators saw several world class performances in both track and field events in a relaxed atmosphere which sited both athletes and spectators.

The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly Chris Black's performance in the hammer circle.

He threw the hammer a mammoth 74.42m — the best throw in Britain this year — a distance which qualifies the Scotman for the World Championships later in the season.

Among the big names present was Tessa Sanderson, Ainsley Bennett, Sonia Lannaman, Judy Oakes, and the man who laid on the show, former shot putt champion Geoff Capes.

Geoff was doubly pleased with the occasion — its overall success, and because he achieved a new world record in throwing a 56 lb weight over a high bar.

He heaved the weight a massive 16 feet nine inches into the air beating a rival's record set up in a world's strongest man contest.

Later he said: "The crowd, turnout could have been much better but we clashed with several other events."

"But as attendances at

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