

I would like to say a big **THANK YOU!** To all the participants involved in this trial at Minshull Street Court.

The **WITNESS SERVICE** for giving me pep-talks when I needed it, and the offer of brews was prolific throughout my stay.

The members of the **JURY** for sitting through what must have been for them a lot of repetition, technical jargon, pointless questions, evidence bundles, lost time, travel, disruption to the norm, etc. If you are ever in the area, please feel free to drop in for a brew and a chat. We would really like that!

The **WITNESSES** for having the courage to turn up and give evidence. This is very traumatic, I know from my own experience!

TRADING STANDARDS for having the cahoonneys to take this to court in the first place, even though all the legwork was provided by MONICA and MIKE.

The **LEGAL PROFESSIONALS** for both sides. It's not a job that I envy that's for sure.

The **JUDGE** for being a human being, a very professional one at that. Also, a extremely competent typist. I never expected that.

To the **ENTRANCE STAFF** who always had a laugh with me on the way in.

The biggest thanks have to go to **MONICA** and **MIKE** as without their persistence this trial would never have happened.

There is a very valuable lesson to be learned from all this. When things went wrong on my build, I tried to get myself heard by many different bodies. Whilst they acknowledged my letters, they did nothing. After all this experience I truly believe that this is because as an individual the evidence can too easily be torn to shreds in court, so nobody in authority is interested as there will be no results. The various bodies concerned don't have the facilities to undertake an in depth investigation because there are too many rogues 'at it' to cope with, and too many do not get convicted.

So, the lesson I think is if you really do want to get justice, you have to begin to do it yourself. When I started my website it wasn't done out of spite, it was done as an attempt to warn others out there that sometimes people do not deliver what they promise, and so be careful. In fact it didn't really work as a deterrent as mostly the people who do the Google searches are already experiencing a problem.

What I did though, was to enable me to pass on any of the website contact details to MONICA and MIKE who had already been victims and had contacted me via my website earlier.

MONICA and MIKE using their own time and expense were able to use this information to build up a comprehensive case, and ultimately present it to Trading Standards, who overwhelmed by the detail and the fact there were 23 plaintiffs involved did not really have the chance to pass it up, unlike individual cases that are the norm.

So, if you feel you have been or may become a victim, do a Google search on the builders name, their company, any associations even their mobile phone number because you never know what Google may throw up. It is in fact pretty random, unlike the Defence was trying to say.

Consider creating a website. Yes it does cost some money, but if you can help either somebody being ripped off, or it works towards collecting other people who have been victims then it can all be worthwhile. It goes without saying that if you need help with any of this then feel free to contact me and I will offer all the assistance I can.

People like this who prey on others need to understand that technology is now here and can aid in rendering their underhand schemes obsolete.

Thanks all

Mark

