

Tutbury W.I.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

February meeting 2011

Rogue traders

Mark Artherton from Derbyshire weights and measures enthralled and entertained us on Thursday with accounts of just some of the tricks rogue traders use to catch the consumer.

When you buy a bottle of spirits in a supermarket, you would be very unhappy if you paid for an expensive brand and you were given the supermarket's own brand but how do you know that the drink you buy in a pub is top quality? Mark's job is to test products and services to ensure that traders are keeping to the law. He told us cautionary tales ranging from a pub that gave short measures to the sale of cheap alcohol that nearly blinded a woman.

How important is the sell-by date? We were shown cans of beer with the date removed and a packet soup that was 12 years out of date. Mark found ham being sold 7 days after the use by date and all these things could make people very ill.



We expected tales about food but who would have thought a wooden toy could be lethal? Mark showed us a charming little abacus toy with a stand that could cut through little fingers, a spike that could cause serious damage and lead paint, which would poison a child. He has found lethal toys on sale at car boot sales, along with pirate DVDs that contain blank discs.

Mark finished by telling us about a Derbyshire scheme called "Trusted Trader". Trusted Trader has been set up to make it easier for local people to find businesses they can trust. It also promotes the many honest and reliable businesses working in the area and then list them on the council website.