

Kent Rendering... Run!

I don't know what it is, but as a homeowner, I have had bad luck with Bexley-based tradesmen. Only Sidcup's own Robbie Alexander of (tongue-twister alert!) Plumbpride gets my endorsement - you will not go wrong by calling him for help with your boiler. Who were the no-good ones? There was a Sidcup-based Ian asked to look at a leaking tap, who gave a ridiculous quote - declined - and left after breaking the tap completely, water streaming on the floor. There was Sidcup's Affix Windows, asked to replace the front door and restore a bricked-in fanlight. The latter turned out to be an insurmountable problem; months passed before I pulled the plug, and had the job efficiently done by Swift Home Improvements of Greenhithe. There was a flooring specialist Jamie from Abbey Wood, who was asked to buy a batch of reassuringly expensive wooden flooring, and instead bought the cheapest thing on offer at B&Q - and was promptly given the boot. Here, I had to make a court claim to get my money back - and got it but lost the case, as the judge just did not accept that £20 psqm stuff was inferior to £50 psqm stuff. (There's a difference between an economist and a lawyer for you!) Finally, there was the Bexleyheath-based Kent Rendering and Repointing, run by a Mr Daniel Denham. Again, I had to sue, and actually won the case - but it did not do me any good.

Mr Denham is a renderer, and was hired to re-render the facade of Castle Tony. The job took... four months, during which Mr Denham's staff did perhaps a week's worth of work, and blamed British weather, logistical difficulties and (a classic!) dental pain for the routine delays. In retrospect, it seems plausible that Mr Denham used Project Tony as "filler" for when his workers could not work on their higher-priority jobs. When the job was finally finished... it wasn't good, and Mr Denham, when he arrived for an inspection, told his people to redo it. This made him look trustworthy, and, along with the desire to just get it over with, led me to the catastrophic mistake of handing over money when the job was not 100% done. Mr Denham was supposed to arrive for a final inspection - "I will raise my concerns then", i figured - and the area would be cleaned once the scaffolding has gone down.

Guess what - Mr Denham never showed up again, and the promised cleaning never happened. Then the gutter, replaced by KRR, developed a leak just above the entrance, and a poorly attached downpipe came off altogether. Emails to Mr Denham went unanswered. I went ahead and made a small-court claim.

He ignored it, all the way through the deadline. I requested a court judgment - and then Mr Denham called the court and, quite incredibly to me, was allowed to submit a defence after the deadline. The defence consisted of (paraphrasing) "@tonyofsidcup is a bad person". I shrugged and paid £500 for a surveyor report documenting the defects in KRR's work. The report confirmed the obvious cosmetic issues, and found a new, more serious one: Denham and Co. did not correctly render under the window, risking the render breaking.

Many months passed, and finally the hearing date came, in December 2023. A small-claims case can be resolved without a hearing, but Mr Denham insisted on one - so naturally, he did not show up. I won the case, and was awarded £2,300. I emailed Mr Denham, providing my bank details. "The company owes £98,000. I will put you on the list", came the reply. I could not resist responding "Good riddance to Kent Rendering and Repointing", and got an angry but unremarkable response.

The response to my (required by law) chase for payment, on Jan 7, was remarkable alright. "I will have some people personally deliver it to you and your family", Mr Denham wrote. I read the email and went straight to Bromley Police Station, where a receptionist tried to avoid recording a case - "Why do you think it's a threat?" - but, after I promised to make a complaint, relented, and I got a case number. A couple of days later, a police officer from Bexleyheath gave me a call and asked me what I wanted him to do. "Talk to the guy, so that he does not do anything stupid". "This is exactly my plan and as much as we can do at this point", the officer said, "If the man bothers you again, give us a call, and we will bring him to the police station".

I opted not to contact Mr Denham again. As a creditor, I can force his company into compulsory bankruptcy, but this requires a just-under-£3,000 payment which is unlikely to be recouped. Kent Rendering and Repointing does have large debts, and Google reviews where people complain about stolen deposits... but Mr Dehnam is now operating as Kent Repointing and Rendering. If Kent Rendering and Repointing were compulsory-liquidated, a simple name tweak like this would be illegal, but as Kent Rendering and Repointing lingers on, Kent Repointing and Rendering is free to operate. What if someone paid £3,000 to liquidate KRR v1? It's plausible that the official receiver would take exception to Mr Denham's actions and could even disqualify him from becoming a director again - but I am sure that Mr Denham would find a way around it, making his dad or girlfriend the director. Complain to Trading Standards? What Trading Standards? The Bexley council closed that shop long ago. (Though maybe the Kent council hasn't).

So, watch out: a shady Bexleyheath businessman is roaming Southeast, undeterred by the law. If any of your friends or family are looking for a renderer, send them this link and tell them to stay away from a Mr Daniel Denham or any permutation of "kent", "rendering" and "repointing".