

ADVICE and tips for dealing with 'rogue traders' was given to Kyrle Probus members at their recent meeting by Paul Di Lucia, Trading Standards enforcement officer with Herefordshire Council.

Paul advised householders to beware of cold callers, whether on the telephone or on the doorstep. Cold callers who offer to do building work, gardening or driveways were quite likely to be rogue traders, he said.

Anyone could go on a course for a day and then set up in business and call themselves an expert, he said. One should get at least three quotes for a job, preferably from workmen who have been recommended.

He said that house alarm scams were currently going on in Herefordshire. There had been one cold caller who had spent four to five hours trying to get a householder to sign up to have an alarm fitted. These cold callers also keep dropping the price for a job in order to get someone to sign up and that in itself was illegal, he said, as it was not the true price.

Another piece of advice Paul had was not to worry too much about the guarantee time on a purchase. If something you've bought goes wrong just out of the guarantee period, you should still be covered by your normal consumer rights.

As well as the talks at Kyrle Probus' bi-monthly meetings, the club's social events have been taking place. Last month a group of members, wives and guests enjoyed a lunch served up to them by the catering students at the Herefordshire and Ludlow College.

It would appear that many of the club's social events involve eating, for last week, members and their wives took lunch at the Royal Hotel in Ross before moving next door to the Phoenix Theatre to enjoy a matinee showing of the film 'Untouchable.'

This is a French film with English subtitles, based on a true story full of humour and pathos, about a wealthy Paris quadriplegic who employs a black, male carer from the other side of the tracks and strikes up a warm and lasting friendship with him. It was roundly acclaimed by the Probus group as an excellent choice for the cinema visit.