



Donald Sprigg

Gardening in nude: man to face trial

A NATURIST who loves doing his gardening in the nude is to stand trial accused of "insulting behaviour" after complaints from neighbours who saw him naked.

Donald Sprigg, 62, of City Bank View, Cirencester, yesterday denied three charges brought under the Public Order Act, alleging his nude digging and weeding caused "harassment, alarm or distress".

His solicitor, Mohammed Iqbal, told Cheltenham Magistrates' Court: "He was initially arrested for indecent exposure.

"He maintains he is a practising nudist and he does this in his own back garden.

"The neighbours who have complained are 150 metres away. They have taken pictures of him

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in his garden and they say he is acting in an indecent manner. He says that he always checks first and only goes into his garden naked when he knows his near neighbours are away. He says he has acted lawfully at all times and taken reasonable care to ensure no one would see him and be offended by his actions."

Later, Mr Iqbal added: "The people who have complained were watching him from a balcony 150 metres away.

"He says they must have a very good lens to be able to film him from that distance.

"What he doesn't understand is why they did not tell him he was offending them rather than just call the police.

"He says he cannot tell from 150 metres away whether they are in or out and he is surprised they are able to see whether he is clothed or

not from that distance away." Mr Sprigg firmly denied that he was doing anything indecent on the three occasions when the neighbours saw him, added Mr Iqbal.

Mr Sprigg, balding with short, white hair, wore a short-sleeved white shirt, dark blue tie and dark trousers as he pleaded not guilty to the three identical charges dated first between January 1 and 31, then between March 1 and 15 and finally on March 20.

The charges all allege that he used "threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby".

The prosecution said it would be calling two witnesses at the trial next month. Mr Iqbal said there would be one defence witness.

He was bailed to stand trial on June 20.