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Pensioner's relief as he is cleared of rape charges

A RELIEVED pensioner praised the jury as he was cleared of repeatedly raping and sexually abusing a young woman.

Robert Dowman, 81, was acquitted at Basildon Crown Court today of five counts of rape and one count of indecent assault.

After the verdict was announced Dowman stood up and blew kisses at the jurors as he told them: "God bless you all."

Dowman, of Gainsborough Avenue, Tilbury, gave evidence at his trial and denied the allegations, which were said to have taken place between 1997 and 2005.

He admitted he had not had sexual relations with his wife "Queenie" for more than 40 years but said he was not interested in any other woman.

Dowman also insisted if he had ever abused the alleged victim she would have told someone sooner and he believed her mother was behind the false claims.

The alleged victim also gave evidence and maintained she was telling the truth and said she hadn't reported the abuse earlier because she was "too ashamed and frightened" and because Dowman had "threatened" her.

http://www.chelmsfordweeklynews.co.uk/news/3670227.Pensioner_s_relief_as_he_is_cleared_of_rape_charges/