INDEPENDENT

Woman who set up rape scenes convicted

By Lesley Richardson, Press Association

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A woman who set up rape scenes before telling police she had been sexually assaulted was found guilty of perverting the course of justice, police said today.

Gail Sherwood told officers she was dragged off to woods by a man with a weapon who then raped her as she returned to her car from walking her dogs on April 25 2008.

On June 1 2008 she said she was hit over the head and taken in her car to a remote spot where she was raped.

She was found naked from the waist down on one occasion with gaffer tape over her mouth and her hands tied behind her.

A police helicopter also found her half-naked behind a fence on another occasion.
The 52-year-old told detectives a stalker was harassing her and then blamed a motorist after they were involved in a minor car crash.

He was arrested on suspicion of harassment but released without charge after being held for 20 hours.

Sherwood, of Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucestershire, was caught after police set up a security camera outside her house.

The mother of two initially admitted making up the harassment and stalking claims after her arrest but she denied three charges of perverting the course of justice at Bristol Crown Court.

A jury today found her guilty of all three counts and she is due to be sentenced on March 4, police said.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Shorrock said outside court: "Gloucestershire Constabulary take all reports of sexual assaults very seriously and following Ms Sherwood's allegations an in-depth and thorough investigation was launched.

"Ms Sherwood has wasted significant police time and resources with these false allegations but what is most upsetting is the way a false claim such as this completely undermines those people whose lives have been devastated by genuine crimes of this nature.

"We are pleased that justice has been done but most importantly we want to reassure genuine victims that each case is treated in a sensitive manner by specially trained officers.

"We work in close partnership with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and would like to encourage victims to report their experience to ensure they are given support and that everything possible is done to bring offenders to justice."

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/woman-who-set-up-rape-scenes-convicted-1897747.html

Gail Sherwood jailed for false rape claims

04/03/2010

2 counts in relation to false allegations of rape and 1 count in relation to the manufactured arrest of a member of the public who she stated had been stalking her.

The CPS and Gloucestershire Constabulary worked closely together to bring this long and complex investigation to trial and successful conviction.

CPS District Crown Prosecutor Rachael Scott said: "We will continue to bring prosecutions for Attempting to Pervert the Course of Justice in cases of false allegations of rape.

"Genuine rape victims need to know that we take their complaints extremely seriously and every attempt will be made to reveal evidence to support them.

"This case was not only brought to protect the integrity of rape victims but also to demonstrate the devastating effects false allegations can have.

"Prior to making false rape allegations, Miss Sherwood caused the arrest of a totally innocent man who was driving through Stroud. This man was in police custody for nearly 24 hours. Although we cannot name him here, we thank him for assisting the prosecution in giving evidence against Miss Sherwood as the ordeal has been very traumatic for him and his family."

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Shorrock said: "We feel the sentence given to Ms Sherwood is appropriate and reflects the offences committed. Gloucestershire Constabulary take all reports of sexual assaults very seriously and following Ms Sherwood's allegations an in-depth and thorough investigation was launched.

"Ms Sherwood has wasted significant police time and resources with these false allegations but what is most upsetting is the way a false claim such as this completely undermines those people whose lives have been devastated by genuine crimes of this nature.

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Ends

http://www.cps.gov.uk/southwest/cps_southwest_news/gail_sherwood_jailed_for_false_rape_claims/