

After ten years in property management we tend to think we've encountered most situations. The following story proves that there's always something new...

A client contacted me because guests in her apartment reported that the roof was leaking. I arranged to meet a builder on site to establish what needed to be done. I knew the job would be made tricky by the fact that the building is old and is in the centre of Carcassonne; the flat in question is on the second floor (or the third floor if you're an American!); and I thought that access to the roof may be hampered somewhat. Of course, getting the syndicate to agree to anything is usually a challenge as well.

It was quickly apparent that someone has been on the roof and disturbed and broken some of the tiles. There were two tell-tail signs. First, fairly fresh cigarette ends around some of the broken tiles. The other give-away was the sofa. On the roof.

Who? Why? Where are they from?

They must be young people. I can't imagine too many OAPs clambering up to the roof for a quick, illicit smoke.

I'm not too certain about this, but I wonder if Kenny Lynch inspired this with his record *Up On the Roof* – it was recorded as recently as 1962, so it's probably just arrived here.

The answer to the last question is almost anywhere. Numerous adjacent buildings have interconnecting roofs.

We haven't quite figured out how to remove the sofa, and at the moment we're at a complete loss as to how we can prevent it from happening again.

But it does serve as a reminder that just because your apartment is at the top of a tall building, you're still vulnerable to attack from ne'er do wells.

