**Prolific bicycle thief becomes the first man in Britain to be given a LIFE-TIME ban from riding a bike – or even going within four metres of one**

* **John Liddicoat, 47, jailed for three-and-half-years for bike thefts**
* **Given a life-time ban from riding a bike or going within four metres of one**
* **Has 48 convictions for 142 offences, including numerous thefts of bikes**
* **Judge said he had 'appalling record' and 'you have not learnt your lesson'**

By [THOMAS BURROWS FOR MAILONLINE](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Thomas+Burrows+for+MailOnline)

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Bike ban: John Liddicoat, 47, (pictured) has been jailed for three-and-a-half-years and banned for life from riding a bike after a spate of bike thefts

A prolific bicycle has become the first man in Britain to receive a life-time ban from riding a bike - or even venturing within four metres of one.

John Liddicoat, 47, a heroin addict, has been jailed for three-and-half-years after his latest stealing spree.

He will be hauled back to court after his release if he is spotted near a bike rack or on a bicycle - and faces five years in prison if he breaches the order.

Plymouth Crown Court heard he has 48 convictions for 142 offences, including numerous thefts of bicycles and several burglaries.

Judge Ian Lawrie said: 'He has a tendency to take anything which is not bolted down. You have an appalling record, you are incapable of behaving yourself and you have not learnt your lesson.'

Liddicoat, of no fixed address, appeared over the videolink from Exeter Prison to admit his latest burglary on December 18.

Piers Norsworthy, for the prosecution, said he targeted a garage attached to a house in Plymouth, Devon.

Mr Norsworthy said the garage door was locked but someone used a tool to force the lock.

The court heard a partial match to the defendant's DNA was found in the garage and he admitted the offence in police interview.

He explained how the owner said Liddicoat had also stolen 20 bottles of wine she was saving for Christmas.

Judge Lawrie said that courts had tried every alternative to prison, but each of those sentences had failed.

**Questions:** The passage above is an article in the English online version of the *Daily Mail*. Analyse the layout, language of the headlines in bold, the structure of report (i.e. chronological/Inverted pyramid etc)’, elements of spoken discourse including use and function of direct speech.