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# National Pubwatch

## Newsletter



This edition  
comes to you  
courtesy of the  
British Institute  
of Innkeeping



## 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our sixth annual conference will be held on Tuesday 10th February 2009 at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Please note your diary and tell colleagues within both you organisation and the partner agencies with whom you work.

This Conference will also be supported by the British Institute of Innkeeping and we will again be utilising the skills of the MOPA Theatre Group on a range of topical issues.

To book early, either Email or write to us for an application form or download direct from our website [www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk](http://www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk) and forward it to us.

## NORWICH PUBWATCH SCHEME TO EXPAND

Norwich's pubs, clubs, restaurants and take-aways are being urged to team up as a Pubwatch to share ideas, discuss on-going issues and find ways to reduce anti-social behaviour amongst drinkers. The Norwich Licensing Forum, which includes venues in the city centre, has been deemed such a success that its membership is to be extended to all licensed outlets in the city.

The Forum's newly installed chairman, Kevin Grantham, said, "It is intended that the Forum will be relevant to all licensees in the Norwich area, not just the city centre, and the boundaries have been extended to include all licensees within the outer ring road area. It means that we could have a possible membership of 700".

**If you are not the person to whom this was addressed or no longer wish to receive newsletters please let us know, one it saves money and two reduces unnecessary work. Our contact information is on page 2.**

We all have concerns about the level of under-age drinking and its associated crime and anti-social behaviour. The BII, through its Awarding Body (BIIAB), has developed the Level 1 Certificate in Alcohol Awareness to raise awareness of issues linked to alcohol consumption by young people. This qualification, for young people aged 13-16 years and young adults, aims to increase the learner's knowledge of the facts about and effects of alcohol and what constitutes sensible drinking.

It is accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and can be the first step on the ladder to a wider range of qualifications, particularly if a young person is interested in a career in the hospitality sector. The efforts made by members of the licensed trade and Pubwatch in reducing the level of crime and disorder in and around their licensed premises are also acknowledged within its content.

Currently this nationally recognised qualification is being delivered in over one hundred schools within their PSHE curriculum. It is also available for other candidates as a stand-alone qualification. Further information can be found at [www.schoolsproject.co.uk](http://www.schoolsproject.co.uk) or [www.bii.org/caa](http://www.bii.org/caa)

## **OSWESTRY'S YOUNG PUB WITH NO BEER**

A trial run for a Dry Bar is an innovative attempt by Oswestry Youth Café to encourage young people into the old Queens Building on Saturday evenings. The idea to create a pub like experience came about because a rising number of under 18's are hanging around the town centre at weekends.

Oswestry Youth Café opened in June. The pool table and table soccer will remain within the saloon bar and other items introduced to make the evening as near to the pub experience as possible. One young volunteer has even offered to be a pot man.

The project came about because workers from the Youth Café attend the local Young People and Alcohol Project. The project has completed an analysis of

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### **How to contact us**

**By E-mail at :** [admin@nationalpubwatch.org.uk](mailto:admin@nationalpubwatch.org.uk)

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*Please note the change of Email address and contact person above.*

*Continued from Page 2* questionnaires completed by 200 young people and it identified being bored and having nothing to do as a driver for drinking Alcohol. Cafe chairman, Matt Hudson, said, "We like to be reactive to the needs of our young community. Fortunately, our staff and volunteers are willing to give up their Saturdays to see if this is what young people want. We will be serving regular drinks cocktails and fruit punch like many of Oswestry's pubs on Saturday. The difference for us will be that there will be no alcohol."

Members of Oswestry Pubwatch heard about the pilot project and hope young people support it. They have offered support by providing beer mats, towels and ice buckets. For further information contact Bridie or Jo at the Café on 01691 656559 or email [ozyouthcafe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ozyouthcafe@hotmail.co.uk)

## HEALTH MINISTER AND LIVERPOOL PUBWATCH

Liverpool Chamber of Commerce's Pubwatch Manager, Joe Curran, met Health Minister, Alan Johnson, in the summer as the MP visited this city. The pair discussed some of the issues facing Liverpool's licensees, including the difficulties being created for them through the sale of excessively cheap alcohol by supermarkets. Joe Curran said, "Many people are now choosing to stay at home and get drunk excessively before going into town and causing problems. This creates potentially dangerous situations for bar staff, who then have to deal with the consequences of persons in such a condition when they arrive on premises".

Amongst the initiatives also discussed was their Stop Abuse Campaign with the North West Ambulance Service addresses the problem of ambulance staff being assaulted by those intoxicated or under the influence of substances was also mentioned. This involves Pubwatch members banning anyone who assaults or abuses a crew member when dealt with in or near their premises. Joe said, "There has been a considerable reduction in the reports of these assaults and we are looking to expand the campaign across the north-west".

## HOSPITAL DRUNKS FACE PUB BAN

Drunks who abuse hospital staff could find themselves banned from every pub in Chorley under new proposals being considered. Licensees have joined forces with the police and Chorley Hospital in a bid to stamp out verbal abuse and bad behaviour from patients who are under the influence of alcohol.

Under the scheme, revellers who are admitted to the A&E Departments will be banned from all 22 Pubwatch premises in Chorley if they behave badly. The plans are expected to be introduced later this year.

Peter Verhaege, chairman of this Pubwatch, said, "It is aimed at people who have been drinking in town centre venues and need hospital treatment on their night out. If they turn on hospital staff and become violent or

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*Continued from Page 3* threatening then they could be banned from all town centre pubs. We want to make it clear as a community that we will take strict action against them. I believe it would be a good deterrent”.

A spokesperson for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said, “Preliminary discussions have taken place on this issue but nothing has been agreed at this stage”. Iris Smith, chair of Licensing at Chorley Borough Council said, “Pubwatch work proactively with the Council and Licensing Department. There is no excuse for people turning on hospital staff. Anything that acts as a deterrent is to be welcomed”.

**Editor’s Note:** The Liverpool and Chorley articles show a developing trend of Pubwatch members being asked to consider banning people for acts committed in A & E departments. Members should be clear as to exactly why they are banning someone from their scheme and the involvement of public authorities in the process. A decision to ban someone for assaulting a paramedic whilst treating a customer in a pub appears entirely consistent with a licensee’s long established Common Law power to exclude someone from their premises.

However it is always good practice to ensure that your decision making process is jealously guarded and that information on which you base your decisions is from first hand knowledge of the incident provided by a Pubwatch member or their staff. If you decide to ban someone for an incident on which you rely on information obtained from the hospital or police it might be construed that you were operating as an extension of that public authority. This means that you would be subject to the Human Rights legislation.

## [HULL PUBWATCH RELAUNCHED](#)

An award-winning licensee is breathing new life into his community by pursuing a Pubwatch Scheme purely for traditional pubs. Chris Saddington, who runs Hull’s 2007 Best Bar None Pub of the Year - Durty Nelly’s - wants to ensure the area is attractive to locals and tourists alike.

The licensee is keen to combat negative press that has focused on drinking in the city. He believes that renewed interest in traditional pubs, helped by the Publican’s Proud of Pubs Week, meant the time was right for a specialised Pubwatch. “Traditional pubs have their own generic problems - just as bars or clubs do - so it makes sense to group together,” he said. “As much as Best Bar None does a fantastic job and has made real ground here, there’s always more that can be done. This is about a group of people with shared interests and of a similar age looking after their local area.” The scheme currently has 15 pubs on board.

Hull’s previous Pubwatch disbanded some months ago when the chairman

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Continued from Page 4 stepped down, and Chris was happy to take the lead after 'thrashing the idea out' with PC Gary Parker, a licensing officer for Humberside Police. PC Walker said: "The area is about to be massively developed and Chris has anticipated the effect this will have and quite rightly wants to get a Pubwatch in place prior to the development. Putting it in perspective, we have two parallel streets, one is a high street the other has bars with capacity for up to 800. There are proper pubs with hand pumps - ones your grandfather would recognise - scattered about between these and they often do not have the security staff that the 'fun bars' can afford".

## USEFUL ADVICE ON FIRE SAFETY

Since the smoking ban came into force last summer, smokers have got used to going outside for a cigarette – but this has increased the risk of fire to licensed premises.

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has the following advice for licensees:

- \* Take particular care if smokers congregate near street grilles above the cellar area. Lit cigarette butts could be dropped through the grilles into the cellar space leading to a fire.
- \* If your cellar has a street grille above, consider installing a smoke detector.
- \* Keep outside areas clear of dead leaves etc – it doesn't take much for a discarded cigarette butt to ignite dry materials such as garden waste or litter.
- \* Make sure that bins provided for cigarette butts are emptied regularly.

For further fire safety advice, visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Editor's Note:** Whilst our Committee Members are not aware of specific incidents, this information is shared with you for your information.

## NATIONAL PUBWATCH POSTERS

The following posters are available to members only and can be downloaded from our website [www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk](http://www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk)



**DON'T GET BARRED**  
ANYBODY USING OR DEALING DRUGS OR CAUSING TROUBLE IN THESE PREMISES WILL BE BARRED FROM **ALL**

THE PREMISES DISPLAYING THIS SIGN



**Don't get barred**



Anyone causing trouble, using or dealing in drugs in these premises will be **BANNED** from all the premises displaying this sign



## BEST BAR NONE

Pubwatch and Best Bar None make a perfect partnership - that is the message coming through from existing Best Bar None schemes. Best Bar None (BBN), the recognised award scheme supported by the Home Office, pub/club trade, police and local authorities is aimed at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises. There are now over 88 schemes running across the country. It is seen as one of the most important recent initiatives to tackling alcohol related crime and disorder in town centres and when coupled with its local Pubwatch can be even more powerful.

Many schemes use the Pubwatch as a vehicle to communicate with the wider licensed trade in their areas as PubWatches already have a positive relationship with the police and local licensing authority. Doncaster Best Bar None is one example. They have been running a successful Best Bar None scheme for three years and use an already scheduled PubWatch meeting as a platform to launch the annual scheme ensuring that it is able to communicate with a large and varied group of licensees.

Pubwatch can also be used as a way of generating interest for a scheme. Birmingham Best Bar None has been launched for this first time this year. Its coordinator Ann Hyland said, "The entry to the scheme was promoted via Pubwatch meetings and also in individual meetings with licensees. It was stressed that the scheme is a collaborative process between the Taskforce and the licensed premises. It is an opportunity for positive relations to be established and reinforced."

BBN schemes build on the positive work already undertaken by the pub and club trade. Experience suggests that Best Bar None has had a positive impact; from a reduction in alcohol related crime, better relationships between the police/local authorities and licensees and the positive promotion of a safer night time economy.

A local Pubwatch can get involved with Best Bar None as follows:

- \* Work closely with your local scheme to generate interest amongst your membership
- \* Offer one of your meetings as the launch for the local scheme
- \* If your local authority isn't currently involved in a Best Bar None scheme point them in the direction of the national Best Bar None website [www.bestbarnone.com](http://www.bestbarnone.com) to get more information about getting involved.