

National Pubwatch

Newsletter



Are you the person to whom this was addressed ? or has there been a change we do not know about, if so please contact us with the change of addressee.

Second National Conference

at The John Grieve Centre,
Buckinghamshire Chilterns
University College

Our first conference took place a little over 15 months ago and if we are to believe the delegate feedback we got things almost spot on, so we are hoping that our next conference, that occurs shortly before publication of this newsletter, will be even better. If attendance numbers are anything to go by it clearly will as it was sold out within 5 weeks.

The conference comes at the start of a quite traumatic period for the licensed trade due to the transition to the new licensing procedures but with Pubwatch seen as a major and inexpensive contributor to several of the new licensing objectives we hope that the outcome of the conference will be helpful to those involved in this period of change.

Key issues coming out of the conference can be found on page 7 which is a 'stop press' of the event.

**Wondering where we are with the licensing law changes?
Want to find out what is currently happening?**

Then you need to go to:-

www.culture.gov.uk/alcho_and_entertainment/licensing_newsletter

There you will find information on the progress of the changes in licensing in the monthly newsletter produced by the Department of Culture Media and Sports.

The newsletter is called 'Countdown' and contains things such as the progress of the consultation frequently asked questions and things of interest relating to the transitional period.

The Morning Advertiser Best Pub Awards 2005

On 3rd February 2005 at the Morning Advertiser Awards the award for pubwatch social responsibility was once again keenly fought by the five finalists. Unfortunately this maybe the last time there is such an award as the sponsors Laurel, have changed ownership and the early indications are that the new owners will not follow the course of their predecessor as the organisation is now somewhat downsized. That however does not detract from the merits and achievements of those who reached the finalist stage of the competition.

As ever Aylesbury pubwatch once again appeared having made yet more advances on its past achievements also Tiverton another past finalist was once again in the running despite the recent tragic death of their champion and chairman Trevor Hulston who passed away suddenly last November. This year it was pleasing to see new candidates arriving at the finalist stage such as Bedford's 'Bedsafe' scheme, Blackpool's Licensee's forum and Monmouth Pubwatch. Whilst all the finalists had representatives at the awards dinner it was **Monmouth that walked away with the prize** leaving Aylesbury a highly recommended second place with Bedford, Blackpool and Tiverton all praised for their achievements.

For a run down of all the finalists turn to page 5

This newsletter comes to you courtesy of Yates Group PLC

News Around the Watches

Pubwatch grows

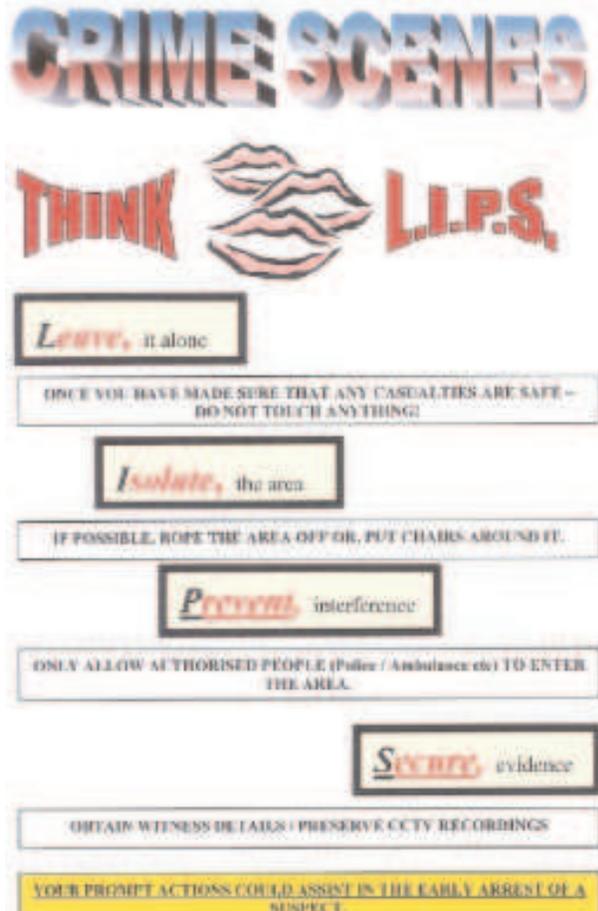
Numbers are increasing with every day as more and more areas turn to pubwatch as a means to try to impact on the unacceptable behaviour regularly to be found, caused by that minority that cannot socialise in a responsible way. Recent months have seen many new watches make contact with National Pubwatch to make use of our support and some of them are shown below.

Nottingham shows Panorama the other side of the coin

Many will remember the Panorama TV programme on binge drinking that focussed on the centre of Nottingham and managed to make it look like a horror story, however many local people have been at pains to put the real story including **Nottingham City's Club, Pub & Hotel Watch**. The watch numbers over 300 premises and meets every three months involving members, local police, local authority and other interested agencies and whilst very small increases have been seen in violent crime levels in the City other crimes are significantly down and in areas that have in the past had problems, reductions of a third have been seen for incidents of violence and disorder. The meeting also provides an opportunity for briefings on drugs, licensing, door supervision and other relevant subjects so that members are fully aware of what is happening and the initiatives that they can adopt to address concerns in and around their premises.

Derby lips are not for kissing

PC Clive Needham at Derby is trying to guide licensees and their staff in the right direction for that occasion when despite everybody's best efforts something goes wrong. Recently, a very serious incident occurred in a pub in Derby which resulted in someone sustaining life threatening injuries. Unfortunately, for probably the best of reasons the licensee and staff cleaned up the scene thereby destroying valuable evidence. As most are likely to experience this situation quite rarely Clive decided to try and provide a simple guide for licensees and their staff to follow if they are unfortunate enough to experience such an incident.



Barring people really bites

Things must be hotting up out there as now rarely a day goes by without at least one individual either e-mailing or calling National Pubwatch to plead for help in removing a pubwatch ban.

The sob stories can be quite touching such as 'It's been six years and I no longer drink but I cannot even take my family out to a pub for Sunday lunch' or 'I wasn't involved in the fight I was trying to break it up and anyway I was not convicted by the court'. Others are made on behalf of a third party, 'my sister only slapped the other girl because she was rude and now they won't let her into any of the club's but all of them cut little ice at this end.

The fact that these people have taken the trouble to locate us and make contact means that being barred by a pubwatch really does make an lasting impact. As ever our response is the same, the only people that can lift the ban are the pubwatch. We do on occasion offer advice on how to contact the local watch but that is where our role stops.

How to contact us

By E-mail at : National.Pubwatch@btinternet.com

By Post at: 17 Chace Avenue,
Potters Bar
Herts,
EN6 5LX

By Phone:
Malcolm Eidmans 01707 650095
(Hon. Secretary)
Bill Stone 01303 241906
(Ops support)

Recently we have had several pubwatches contact us saying that they cannot make contact with Vodafone regarding their pager Pubalert. As with all big telecom companies changes have taken place and the pubalert paging facility is now administered by a separate company:

Nationwide Paging Ltd who can be contacted on 01639 644411

A fresh approach to drink related crime in the north east.

The new Chief Constable of Northumbria whilst expressing the same concerns as most of his colleagues about drink fuelled crime is quite prepared to consider a variety of alternative methods of tackling the problem including tracking and targeting known trouble makers and using CCTV to aid his rapid response teams to respond quickly to stamp out trouble at the earliest possible time. His stance is welcomed by the local bar and club owners, let's hope that with a good working relationship both the police and the trade will be successful in making inroads into the problems and make life once more safe and enjoyable for those in the north east.

Time to take it seriously

Phil Haughton of Iconic Ltd gives us an update on 'a message in a glass'.

In January 2004 the National Pubwatch newsletter helped to launch the 'Do not drink and Drive' message in a glass campaign which has been highly successful thanks to the support of police, pubwatches, safety councils and initiative groups.

Now the 'Don't drink and Drive' glass has been joined by two more glasses, 'Zero tolerance Drugs' and 'Behave or be Barred' thanks to the efforts of Leicester city centre who allowed their logo on any prevention scheme involving or approved by police, Northampton have taken a similar step. Many police services have utilised this scheme as it is a cheap but effective last minute "right in your face" reminder that if you don't think you are in trouble (do I detect another logo appearing!)

Anyone can think up a slogan, Northampton came up with the traditional drink drive one and Leicester created the others through a brain storm session organised by PC Karen Holdridge, whilst the slogan 'Think' was the brain child of Michelle McNally in Fife. Perhaps it is time for some others to be considered, so get your pubwatch group to come up with suggestions and let National Pubwatch know so they can print some of the more innovative ones.

Stornaway's sergeant Roddy Lewis decided to get the message across early so travellers using the Caledonian MacBrayne ferries use glasses with the 'Don't Drink and Drive' slogan and the general Manager of the ferry company got involved in the delivery and distribution of the glasses to the island.

Obtaining funding to purchase slogan engraved glasses is often to be found by canvassing for sponsorship from local businesses. The average life of a glass is between 10-18 weeks so local businesses such as car dealers, estate agents and others can have their logo added to the side of the glass as well as the slogan in the bottom. This provides free advertising in an innovative way for up to 18 weeks, much cheaper than an ad in the newspapers and I suggest more likely to stick in the mind when viewed through a pint.

At the end of the day every life is precious and should not be put at risk by a drunken driver, a fool who has had too much to drink and is out of control or a drug dealer's stock, it is time to take it seriously.

If you are interested in a project with glasses in your area contact Phil Haughton on his new number

01536 205261

**National Pubwatch has a new and updated website,
to view it visit the new address :- www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk**

You can find back editions of the newsletter that are text searchable, news flashes of current issues, recently available information of interest to pubwatch and licensees and useful links to other sites with information.

d r u n k



sober

The introduction of the **Licensing Act** makes it even more important that you run your pub business responsibly. The Portman Group is **here to help you** with this. We can provide you with high quality point-of-sale information to help you and your staff **promote responsible drinking**, prevent underage sales, deal with drunkenness and discourage drink-driving.

Email mbradby@portmangroup.org.uk
or phone 020 7907 3707 for more details.

www.drinkaware.co.uk

The Morning Advertiser Awards finalists

The judges admired the tough stance taken by the new Pubwatch in **Monmouth**, the competition winners, and praised the concerted efforts of licensees in tackling acts of disorder, which have fallen dramatically as a result. The new Monmouth watch was set up two years ago to replace one run by the local Licensed Victuallers' Association, which had lost its way with only a few licensees attending meetings or enforcing bans on miscreants. Pubwatch chairman Berni Miles says: "We decided to adopt a harsh regime of zero tolerance, but everyone just laughed because they thought nothing was going to change." "Monmouth is a small town and the jungle drums were beating out that there was a new sheriff in town. Therefore, we had to go in hard and let people know that any problems of violence on or off the premises would be met with a five-year ban."

Fortuitously, the tough stance coincided with a re-organisation of the local police force, which fully supported the move. Berni says: "Soon, I was the most hated man in Monmouth. I received phone calls, letters and lots of verbal abuse, but the more people were talking about it, the more we knew it was working." And work it did. Within a few months, the watch had successfully instigated bans on some of the principal culprits spoiling Monmouth's night-time economy. Three were given indefinite bans and another half-a-dozen had an extra two years imposed because they visited licensed premises whilst banned.

Berni, who runs the Vine Tree in the centre of town, says the tough policy wouldn't have worked without the co-operation of the local community. Locals would tell Pubwatch members if they saw a banned person drinking surreptitiously in a pub in town. The Pubwatch committee could then quote chapter and verse when extending the ban. The Pubwatch's stance has resulted in a 14% reduction in alcohol-rated crime and disorder. The message has got through and has led to the Pubwatch adopting a more conciliatory approach to minor incidents. Those that are banned can appeal against the sentence and are encouraged to let their friends know how hard the ban is affecting them.

Aylesbury Pubwatch was highly commended for being a model example of a very successful watch where its members never ceased to come up with more ideas and take action to safeguard the whole community. Over the past year, Aylesbury has launched a number of initiatives that demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility extends beyond licensed premises. In the summer, it set up a counselling programme for offenders and victims of domestic violence. Inspector Steve Baker, police liaison officer to the watch, says the move stemmed from a BBC television programme that featured a man beating up his girlfriend in an Aylesbury street. The male had already been barred by Aylesbury Pubwatch and led to the watch discovering that a number of other barred males were also known for domestic violence.

Other initiatives centred on raising awareness of the watch and its objectives. The cornerstone is a new website (www.aylesbury-pubwatch.org), which carries news of the watch's social responsibility activities as well as its charitable work such as providing two digital cameras to local ambulance crews so that they can relay images back to the hospital to assist in a patient's treatment. Another innovation is running a videotape in Aylesbury Police Station warning people of the consequences of anti-social behaviour. "We have a captive audience there," quips Steve. At Christmas, the message was further strengthened by a series of local radio adverts warning "Barred from one pub means barred from all".

Public protection was the focus of another three-part campaign. Last May, 100 electronic panic alarms were purchased for bar staff who had to work late or who had to walk or rely on public transport to get home. This was followed by the free distribution of 5,000 bottle covers to lessen the risk of customers' drinks being spiked. The third phase involved raising the safety of customers using taxis by discouraging them from taking unlicensed mini-cabs.

Blackpool Licensees' Forum has been addressing the issues of social disorder that exist in the resort where they have to cater for an estimated 17 million tourists who descend on the town each year, a large proportion hell bent on enjoying themselves to the full. Upwards of 70,000 revellers hit the pubs and clubs on a busy Friday or Saturday night and the sheer numbers of licensed premises inevitably throws up special problems. So it's a testament to all concerned with Blackpool's thriving leisure industry that drunken disorder rarely gets out of hand. The forum, a body of 73 town centre licensees and club operators, has played a significant role in making Blackpool a safe haven for residents and visitors alike.

The forum is not just concerned about forging strong working relationships with principal agencies such as the police, the local council and licensing magistrates. It has also established key contacts with a wide range of other bodies in its quest to establish Blackpool as a model of good practice. The forum's work goes much farther than merely controlling the town's drinking circuits. Pupils at local schools and colleges are informed about the dangers of excess alcohol and drugs and the forum has established links with bodies such as the Probation Service and the Salvation Army. It has also worked hard to assist Nightsafe establish a code of practice on drinks promotions.

The Bed:Safe scheme had restored law and order to Bedford town centre uniting licensees, door supervisors and statutory bodies in the fight to make a night out in the town centre an enjoyable experience. In many ways, Bedford epitomises what has happened to many towns around the country. Over time, trading patterns changed and from being just a market town, Bedford had been transformed into an entertainment centre for the surrounding area. More and more premises were granted licences and with them came the familiar pattern of night-time disturbances.

In March 2003, Bed:Safe was set up to deal with the problem by drawing together all the statutory agencies as well as Bedford's licensees and local brewer Charles Wells. Bed:Safe project manager Gill Anderson says the initiative was urgently required. "The town centre was like a war zone on some nights. Often, there would be mass fights in the middle of the road," explains Gill. She says one of the keys to overcoming the problems was gaining the support of licensees and door supervisors, particularly those employed at the 14 outlets on the high street, which would attract upwards of 6,000 people at the weekends.

A licensees' forum was set up to get their buy in. Another step was offering free training to door supervisors at Bedford College via training provider Licenza. Door supervisors have their own forum, which meets monthly. All premises supporting the Bed:Safe scheme were supplied with the Nite-Net radio system that has direct links with the police, the town centre management's CCTV system, and licensing compliance officers.

Continued on page 7

Training for door supervisors and it's implications for the licensee

Unless you been asleep for the last 9 months or in the office doing your paperwork! You will be aware that the SIA (Security Industry Authority) has stepped up to the challenge of regulating the security industry. In practical terms this has meant that there has been a national licensing scheme introduced. No longer do door staff have to process a new application for a license when they were called to work in the neighbouring borough or county (which was often the case under the previous schemes). Now, aside from the fact that those with existing staff will have probably noticed that they been complaining about the initial costs (up to around £400 in some cases), using the opportunity to make overtures about wage increases and of course the fact that the licensing system has been stretched to almost breaking point processing all these applications let us look at what the training means to the licensee.

I spoke to several on a course the other day and they were well aware of the training and several agreed that it was a good thing with one commenting that "they are trained to deal with conflict and violence and everything" sort of... previously I have worked for training companies who under the old system had been delivering 'hands on' training in first aid, the use of fire extinguishers and managing violence. This is now no longer the case. Whilst there is knowledge based training, there is no practical skills training, the key message to the door staff is to consult with the licensee and establish what the local policy is. The first question this begs is, is there a local policy? Maybe, maybe not. I can see a door supervisor turning up and the seasoned manager or manageress saying "right.. in event of trouble call me straight away, I will deal with it, don't grab hold of anyone!" and then on their night off when the new less experienced deputy is in attendance they may be having the same conversation with the new member of the door team saying "ok you guys (and girls) you know what you're doing, so if there are any problems I trust you to deal with them". Reflect on this in light of the fact that there have been two recent legal rulings where licensed venue operators have been found vicariously liable for the violent actions of door staff. Cases that will doubtless result in payouts running into tens of thousands of pounds. So the moral of the story is perhaps use this opportunity to revisit or establish a clear procedure on such matters and formally brief/train your door staff on arrival. Actually get them to sign on the dotted line that says I understand what I am expected to do in event of incident and/or I will adhere to these guidelines.

Another potential implication that may effect some operators is the fact that some of them will no doubt have conditions placed on their licenses if they begin to operate until 12 or 1 o'clock. Such conditions could stipulate that they must have registered door supervisors on site. This will be enough to have hundreds of area business managers up and down the country choking on their beer. What? Cost? Expenditure!! In this instance it may be necessary for one or more of the management team to undertake the training and licensing for themselves. Either way operators and managers will be needing to look closely at what they need to do next to avoid being caught out.

For any information or advice and/or conflict management training for staff, licensees and accredited training for door supervisors please contact Lee Hollins on 079033 64595 or 01904 492 442. He operates as an independent security consultant and operates a registered training centre.

Editors comment: From 11th April all Areas of the UK will be covered by the new scheme meaning only properly licensed door supervisors can be employed. Whilst some allowances are being made for applicants in London who have applied and are waiting for their licences you can expect enforcement visits in the coming months. Remember there are very significant penalties for employing unlicensed staff and you could have to close your premises!! The operation reported below indicates there are a lot of problems out there and more such operations can be expected around the country.

Remember it might possibly place your transitional licence application in jeopardy if your premises are not employing properly licensed staff on the door.

Operation Badge

A multi-agency operation involving the Security Industry Authority (SIA), Avon & Somerset Constabulary, HM Immigration Service and local authority officials - targeted licensed premises in Bristol over the weekend of 2nd & 3rd of April. The Operation was run to ensure that only trained, qualified, SIA licensed door staff are employed in the city's pubs, clubs and bars. 80 licensed premises were visited and 250 door supervisors checked. 75 warning letters were issued; 2 door supervisors were removed from the doors and accepted a police caution; 1 illegal immigrant was arrested and 12 other immigration offences are being investigated.

David Porter, SIA Head of Investigation for the South West said: "The multi-agency approach identified a large number of unlicensed door staff working at venues across the City of Bristol, with the majority of them either having left it too late to apply or having failed to apply through their own deliberate inaction or neglect. I am appalled that venue operators continue to use unlicensed door staff at their venues."

Inspector Mike Cox, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, said: "Door staff play an important role in protecting the safety of people in their premises and we value the close working relationship we have with many of them. They are often dealing with people who are vulnerable or become violent due to drink, and for this reason it is essential that they are security checked and properly trained. Ultimately, door staff who are continuing to work without having applied for a licence, as well as those employing them, are committing an offence. If they haven't co-operated then they risk having their premises closed down."

Tiverton pubwatch had initiated an ingenious idea of letting miscreants sign a contract committing them to act responsibly in the future in return of lessening the time they were banned for pubs and clubs. Mike Sais believes the scheme is unique to Mid Devon. He explains: "When someone is banned, unless the person is also convicted, you couldn't get a photograph. Under our scheme, the person is given the chance of having a one-year ban reduced to six months if we are given a passport-size photograph and he, or she, signs the agreement."

Under the agreement, wrongdoers state that they have freely provided the photo and also pledge not to become involved in any anti-social behaviour. Over the past year, the watch has sent out invitations to apply for an ABC to a dozen offenders and seven have signed up to the agreement. Mike comments: "You have got to give these kids a carrot. Nine times out of 10, it is a case of educating them how to behave and letting them know what behaviour is acceptable and what is not."

An added incentive for people not to fall foul of Pubwatch is that it is all embracing. It covers all on-and-off licensed premises and even taxi firms. Therefore, any one banned will have to travel outside of a 350-mile area, and at great expense, to buy a drink.

Stop press: Conference 2005

The conference went ahead with a capacity audience and a substantial press and TV presence that will result in a resume of the conference being shown on the Sky Pub channel at some future date so for those who were not able to obtain a place, will be able to see some of what went on via the Pub Channel if they have access to it.

As with all best laid plans the day did not go entirely smoothly as time was very short for the speakers and regrettably Professor John Grieve was unable to attend through illness however he did send a welcome to the delegates that was delivered by a colleague and sought to encourage them in their contribution to community safety.

The tenor of the day was set by our first speaker, John McNamara, Chief Executive of the BII, who stressed the need to actively work towards achieving a smooth period of transition and make effective use of the opportunities to work in partnership to achieve this. He drew attention to some of the key areas of concern and expressed a hope that a sensible and practical approach by all concerned would result in a positive outcome. Whilst acknowledging the trade and public concern with the phenomena of 'binge drinking' he made the point that it is not as new as the press would have us think by referring to a quote from William of Malmesbury, "Drinking in particular, is a universal practice. Many will drink until they are sick....." made in the 11th Century.

Chief Inspector Adrian Judd, representing the Association of Chief Police Officers, followed and emphasised their key concerns again the costs in money and resources caused by alcohol related crime and comparing past decades of licensing with the current and the new and emerging problems. ACPO are seeking a holistic approach to resolving the problems which includes, informed planning and licensing decisions, improved sentencing policies, cultural change on excess drinking and acceptance by the trade of their responsibilities.

This latter point was strongly emphasised by a subsequent speaker, Mark Jones, Chief Executive of Yates Group, who provided an insight to the social responsibility programme now operating within his sites. He also produced some quite disturbing statistics gathered from Yates Group premises with regard to attempts by underage people to obtain drink and attempts by drunks to obtain drink in the estate. Staff use till keys to record such attempts identifying over 2,000 per week underage attempts and over 500 by drunks in an estate of 130+ high street premises. (Proving due diligence over proof of age is often quite difficult, recording actions such as these are perhaps one way to do just that.)

Chief Inspector Patricia Foy, of the Home Office Policing Standards Unit, re-iterated many of these points as being confirmed by the result from a number of enforcement campaigns last year. She also supported the comments of Mark Jones with regard to underage sales indicating the preliminary results of a recent selective enforcement campaign showed that there was an increasing higher number of underage sales found in test purchase activities, now approaching 70% as opposed to 30% in past campaigns.

National Pubwatch Committee member, Paul Wotton, delivered a presentation on the practical issues of identifying drug use in premises and Phil Garside JP, another Committee member, made an impassioned plea to the delegates not to forget applications for Exclusion Orders and ASBO's as sentencing and preventative tools, providing delegates with some suggestions on how to practically address the issue.

The morning's events were concluded by a lively presentation from Jeremy Allen, of Popplestone & Allen Licensing Solicitors, who highlighted the problems likely to be experienced in the transitional period and emphasised the need for care and detailed research in relation to applications for licenses under the new legislation. He provided an insight into what constituted embedded and grandfather rights as well as a clarification on some of the interpretations and expectations during the transitional period.

The afternoon provided the opportunity for delegates to attend two out of four workshops dealing with, 'Legal obligations', 'Forming a pubwatch', 'Partnership with Local Authorities' and 'Whole town Schemes'. After a rather hectic day the event was closed with some well chosen and thoughtful words on the part of Assistant Chief Constable Mick Page, of Thames Valley Police who once again stressed that if we are to resolve some of the problems faced in our communities as a result of consuming drink we have to work together to prevent it rather than waiting to deal with the inevitable.

Although we have yet to review the evaluation of the day and identify the key issues and possible ways forward some clear points came out of the day:

Licencees must do some careful research and consideration of their existing rights before submitting their applications for the new premises licences and they need to ensure that all the relevant documentation is available in the prescribed formats if their application is to be dealt with quickly and in time.

There is a need for licencees, pubwatches, police and local authorities to open and maintain good communication during not only this transitional period but for the foreseeable future as well.

There is a definite need for pubwatches to be inclusive of all premises that sell alcohol wherever possible.

When incidents take place licencees and pubwatches must press for the issue of an exclusion order if court proceedings ensue.

To avoid action for alleged breaches of human rights it is essential that police officers and local authority officers do not hold any pubwatch office or participate in **decisions** on how a watch is operated.

There will undoubtedly be more things found as we work through the evaluations and we will endeavour to get them circulated either by our website or the next edition of the newsletter.

Under age drinking

When National Pubwatch undertook its initial survey of pubwatches and their problems some seven years ago one of the issues was underage drinking. Despite numerous campaigns, the use of various proof of age cards and some premises demanding either a driving licence or passport to prove age the problem remains with us. A recent enforcement campaign in some areas involving test purchases by under age persons has revealed this to be a spiralling problem greater than was found in the national enforcement campaigns at the end of last year. This endorses the research being done within Yates Group on the subject.

Whilst the recent introduction of £80 fixed penalty tickets for staff who serve under age individuals has yet to make itself felt it is clearly likely to lead to a lot of bar staff receiving £80 penalties. As such staff tend to be on the lower wage rates it looks as if there might be an even greater turnover of bar staff in the industry in the near future. Turnover of staff brings training costs as well as potential vulnerability to the premises as they learn their way through the intricacies of working behind the bar. The only way forward is to encourage all staff to demand some proof of age from anyone considered to be under 21 and to decline to serve them without confirmation of their age proved from documentation or personal knowledge. Without taking such a course a defence to the allegation cannot be used, it would also be good practice to maintain some record of the instances of refused service. One to defend an allegation that no procedures are in place and secondly to start to show whether or not the problem is reducing. Many Off Licence premises already follow such a practice which was mentioned in a previous newsletter (*Edition 11 page 8*).

Premises that do not introduce adequate training on this issue for their staff and clearly supported policies over proof of age before purchase are likely to end up with disillusioned staff, if any are left, and a real problem over any variations to their premises licence (when they come into force) and possibly a review of the licence with a view to the imposition of conditions.

One way forward might be to discuss the issue at the next Pubwatch meeting with your local police officer, the Trading Standards officer and Local Authority licensing officer which might just lead to the implementation of an acceptable policy to all parties being introduced in the area.

At this time 'doing nothing' is not an option, as both society in general and the politicians in particular are becoming very disillusioned with the licensed trade and it's apparent inability or unwillingness, in their eyes, to abide by the rules about underage drinking. No matter how unfair this view might seem it is widely held and the trade in general has to take positive steps to tackle the issue and then demonstrate what is being done and hopefully force others to then accept their responsibilities over the issue. If you are successful we might see them raise the fixed penalty fine for trying to purchase a drink whilst under 18 to a greater penalty than for those who actually serve the drink, thereby discouraging those under age from even trying to buy a drink.

At the conference the speaker from the Home Office indicated that the Government intends to carry out further selective enforcement campaigns this year so try to make sure that you do not become one of the next campaigns statistics.