

Drinking to Remember!

A compound found in beer hops can protect the brain against disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Neuronal cells are in limited supply over one's lifetime and especially susceptible to stress, which is thought to be one of the causes of brain related

disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Neuronal cells in the brain, spine and nerves are affected by an ingredient in beer hops known as XN, which not only fights free radicals but protects neuronal cells.

So, forget drinking to forget and remember to drink to remember.



Time to raise the price at the pumps

The three major Brewers have implemented their annual price increases.

To maintain margin you will have to increase pump prices by 13p to 16p a pint.

The usual misleading newspaper headline was "Breweries to Force up Price of a Pint by 5p". However, this is only one of the three elements in the pump price. The other two being the VAT and your normal margin.



Ale and Hearty



Cask ale growth is continuing at 4% and is often seen by pub goers as a guide to the standards of inn-keeping and quality across the board in your pub.

A new website has been launched to help you to successfully look after and sell cask ale. The site: www.caskmatters.co.uk is backed by a number of Breweries plus Cask Marque, CAMRA and the Society of Independent Brewers.

Cask Matters provides resources and advice on the best way to

promote and manage cask ales. It offers case studies, help with training and information for both experienced and new to cask Licensees.

Cask Ventilators, a very simple system which effectively acts as a hard peg when ale is not being served, will extend the life of a cask of up to five days.

This re-usable, very simple gizmo only costs around £10, but could save you much, much more in wasted stock.



With more and more customers becoming aware of allergens and intolerances, it's a sound idea to cater for them.

J J Food Service has introduced a range of gluten free chips, while Garofalo has added gluten free pasta to its range which is sold

in the UK by Continental Quattro Stagioni (CQS).

Knorr now sell gluten free gravy granules, ideal for the Sunday Yorkshire Puds, and finally, Nick Stafford's Hambleton Ales sell 4.8% ABV gluten free ale...see www.hambletonales.co.uk/gfa.

New Under 21 NI Rules

National Insurance Contribution for under 21s is to be abolished from the 6th April 2015.

This is a benefit if you employ part-time students and is in addition to the £2,000 Employer Contribution reduction which came into effect from April 2014.

From April 2015 Class II National Insurance Contributions, those you pay by monthly Direct Debit at the moment, will no longer be collected this way. They'll be gathered through the Self-Assessment System along with Tax and Class IV National Insurance.

Business Rates Discount



The Business Rates discount for premises with a rateable value of up to £50,000 has been increased from £1,000 to £1,500 from April this year.

Last year a number of Council's were slow at arranging this.

Please check your rating bills carefully and ensure that you receive the discount as soon as possible.



Auto Enrolment

During the next few months you will be receiving a letter from the Pension Regulator.

Even if you don't have a Pay as You Earn Scheme and only one or two part-time members of staff with no other job, you're still affected because all staff can request to make pension contributions. So you need to ask every one of them now if they are likely to.

The tax deductible contributions you make for your staff will not be great but the legislation must be dealt with seriously because huge fines and penalties can be involved.

Tobacco

New tobacco display laws come into effect from the 6th April 2015.

TOBACCO MUST BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL THE PURCHASE HAS BEEN MADE.

However, signs naming the cigarette brand and price can be displayed. Signage can be up to twice A4 size, indicating to customers that you have tobacco available for them.