

# KENT MESSENGER

## **World Health Organisation is wrong on booze**

11.9.08

Another death knell sounds for our local publicans after the World Health Organisation published a report recommending a price hike on alcohol to combat anti-social behaviour. I am not so sure this is the way to tackle this.

The report claims that their recommendation is also to reduce the health risks to youngsters who are binge drinking.

I do believe publicans should be very responsible in checking the identity and age of drinkers but the main problems are with clubs, off-licences and supermarkets who offer cheap booze and fail to check ID.

It's also the fault of some parents as they allow their children to drink and not enough of them are asking where their children are or who they are hanging around with.

The number of kids you see staggering around on a Friday and Saturday night is quite disgraceful but further penalising our diminishing local hostelrys will not help. With wages falling and unemployment rising here, please do not take away the pleasures of the majority who do enjoy a pint responsibly. I was horrified to see the beautiful Cock Inn at Luddesdowne virtually empty the other night - and it is not the only one.