

# Don't it just drive you *mad...*

**S**tephanie Clarke of Caversham says 'can I have a bit of water' drives herself and her mother crazy. My mother and I say the same thing so I fully agree with you. Liquid comes in cups, pints, ml etc it does not come in bits. My friend Rebecca mentioned the misuse of Pacific and specific drives her batty (well battier) it seems to be a common failing to confuse the word specific, meaning something exact, with the Pacific Ocean.

Michael How of Abingdon is mad about everything, 'the government are hell bent in attempting to dismember local families, communities and traditions. Already they have succeeded in banning fox hunting, thereby putting numerous ancillary tradesmen out of work, what next Aunt Sally because throwing that lengthy wooden pole could kill somebody? Morris dancing because one of the bells, on one of the dancers ankles could accidentally fly off and have somebody's eye out?' Although against fox hunting the rest I sympathise with, we are heading towards a nanny state; so politically correct it's becoming impossible to do anything. Having played Aunt Sally, managing to throw the stick over someone's garden or narrowly missing someone's head is all part of the fun. Michael also mentions 'the unfair situation of allowing refugees (lets not call them asylum seekers) priority over the limited local government housing stock available in preference of local families.' It is ridiculous that living on an Island, which is subsequently only so big, we let a constant stream of refugees in to the country. I understand genuine people who are fleeing terror; I do not countenance the thousands wishing to live in Britain for the free health system, council housing and the various benefits. I dread to think how over crowded we will be in ten years, not to mention the

financial implications for an already stretched NHS, housing problems etc. Does no one in the Government think of this? Recently twenty-six detained failed asylum seekers, fourteen of whom had just finished prison sentences escaped, why are we not sending them back immediately? Do we really need to go through so much bureaucracy? If they are criminals we definitely don't want them in the country. Do we not have enough crime?

Michael then brings up the current argument that's raging 'the total smoking ban in all pubs within England, Scotland and Wales, pubs that were originally designed for the local working man to have a pint, a fag and a swear.' My parents run a pub and due to the ban everyone now sits outside, as a non smoker it is not saving my lungs as to have any conversation I sit with the 90% who smoke outside. Which is fine on warm evenings, but when it's wet and cold even with new fangled "smoking areas," referring to a parasol or a wooden structure, many will opt to stay at home. The new legislation having failed to contribute anything useful has instead eradicated the atmosphere within pubs and will put some out of business with people staying at home, where they are reasonably safe from legislation and political correctness. Where, in Michael's words they can have 'a pint a fag and a swear' in peace.

The Government smoking ban seems to me a misuse of resources. If they didn't spend money on the smoking ban, the system for removing asylum seekers could be re-organised, saving taxpayers money, which could go on schools or the NHS. Equalling happier people.

Let me know your views on everything and anything,  
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