

**“ PPP ”**

**People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

## **24-hour licensing laws have failed to curb the binge-drinking culture**

Cabinet Minister, Hazel Blears admits: We can't curb the binge-drinkers. People still wanted to get drunk and 'push the limits of danger'...24-hour licensing laws have failed to curb the binge-drinking culture.

It was the first Government admission that the Licensing Act has failed in its stated aim of ushering in a civilised 'cafe society'. It came as police leave was cancelled in preparation for a New Year's Eve of unprecedented mayhem.

**Meanwhile in North Wales, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd hires night club bouncers to help deal with violence in it's A&E department. The scheme** was jointly funded (by you, the tax payer) from Hospital, Police, local council and fire service funds.

**Inspector Rolly Schwarz of North Wales police said that "in the past Police Officers dealing with violence could keep rival groups apart only for trouble to flare again at the Hospital".**

**Assistant Chief Constable Ian Shannon said "North Wales Police dealt with 777 incidents, an increase of 17% on the previous New Year and the Ambulance Service responded to 240 calls, many of them related to assaults. We also made 183 arrests on 31<sup>st</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January.**

Mrs Blears, the Labour Party chairman, exploded the predictions of Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell, that switching to round-the-clock opening would usher in a relaxed Continental-style of drinking, free from trouble.

Her remarks also bring into question Government assertions that the change has not caused problems.

Anecdotal evidence from police and medics suggests that, rather than a reduction in town centre chaos, there is now more than ever.

Mrs Blears admitted: 'I don't know whether we'll ever get to be in a European drinking culture, where you go out and have a single glass of wine.

**This story courtesy of the Daily Mail at ...**

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**The PPP comments.....All sources of sense and reason, (including the PPP) AND particularly all sections of the medical profession predicted the outcome. So why did they go ahead with the changes to the licensing laws and where do OUR elected representatives from all the parties in North Wales stand on this issue !?**