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to let
inside**

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SAVE OUR PUBS & CLUBS
AmendTheSmokingBan.com

Calls for changes to public smoking ban



Campaigners seek ban amendments to give pubs and clubs a shot in the arm

A cross-party campaign is calling for amendments to the smoking ban to help save pubs and clubs threatened with closure.

With dozens of pubs and clubs closing every week, the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign brings together a wide range of politicians, pressure groups, think-tanks, licensees and other representatives of the hospitality industry.

The aim is to secure amendments to the comprehensive ban on smoking in licensed premises. The campaign's organisers argue that a change to the blanket ban would be fair to smokers and non-smokers and help pubs and clubs that are losing revenue, laying off staff and facing closure.

Award-winning celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson, patron of the smokers' group Forest and a leading supporter of the campaign, said: "The smoking ban has had an extraordinarily detrimental effect on pubs and clubs and you can understand why. The legislation as it stands is excessive and I



Making a stand: Antony Worrall Thompson with campaigners who believe a blanket smoking ban is unjust

would like to see it amended."

MPs from the three main parties are supporting the campaign. Greg Knight, MP for East Yorkshire, said: "I fully support this campaign. Brit-

ain's pubs and clubs are at the heart of every local community and the UK approach of banning indoor smoking everywhere is damaging the viability of many licensed premises where peo-

ple wish to smoke. Pub landlords and club committees know best what their customers want and they should be allowed to provide smoking rooms if there is a demand."

Pub closure poster unveiled outside conference

A striking new poster campaign with the slogan "52 pubs are closing each week — act now" was unveiled at the 2009 Labour conference in Brighton. The Save Our Pubs & Clubs poster, below,

was on a van patrolling the prom outside the conference centre. Beer mats and other campaign tools, including flyers featuring the same message, were given to delegates.



For more information visit: www.amendthesmokingban.com



Licensees support change to legislation

A letter signed by Antony Worrall Thompson and other licensees who support the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign has called on politicians to amend the current smoking ban. "We seek a solution that is fair to smokers, non-smokers and

staff alike. We consider it wholly unreasonable that, when up to half of our customers are regular smokers, we can make virtually no provision for them. Separate smoking rooms," it continued, "[would] improve our service without upsetting non-smokers."



Campaign to block extension grows



Japan Tobacco International supports our commitment to licensees and punters

Japan Tobacco International (JTI) has joined forces with the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign to support the Best Creative Outdoor Area award in the *Morning Advertiser's* Great British Pub Awards 2010.

Campaign director Simon Clark said: "By supporting this award we aim to show our commitment to licensees who go that extra mile to accommodate all

their customers, including smokers.

"Although we want the smoking ban amended to allow separate smoking rooms, we also want to highlight our concern that the ban could be extended to doorways and beer gardens with exclusion zones around many public buildings, including pubs and bars."

Jonathan Yajima, JTI's head of horeca and vending, said: "Our aim is to help licensees improve the profitability of their business and accommodate all their customers, including the 10.5 million adult smokers in the UK, so we are delighted to support the Great British Pub Awards and the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign."

We aim to show our commitment to licensees who go that extra mile to accommodate all their customers, including smokers

Time is right to review the smoking ban, says MP

A Conservative MP has tabled an Early Day Motion calling for a review of the smoking ban. Brian Binley, MP for Northampton South, and a supporter of the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign, said: "Many pubs and

clubs are finding it difficult dealing with the economic situation. The smoking ban has further impacted on many businesses." The EDM calls on the Government to conduct a thorough review of the impact the ban has had on Britain's pubs and

clubs. It also calls for changes to the legislation to be made on the basis of evidence, fairness and proportionality "whilst recognising the importance of pubs and clubs to the nation's social life and community well-being".

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Bands unite to amend smoking legislation

Musicians are among those hit hardest by the smoking ban, especially if it has resulted in the loss of yet another venue for live music.

In November last year a number of bands performed at a pub in north London in support of the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign.

The evening was organised

by musician, designer and photographer Dan Donovan, whose band King Kool headlined the event, below.

Afterwards Donovan said: "There are so many people who don't know about the campaign who would support it. The evening was very positive on all fronts. I hope other pubs will host similar events."



Musician calls for greater tolerance

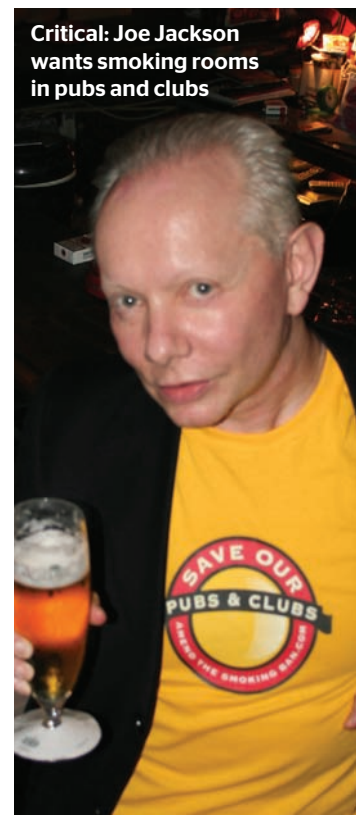
Writer and musician Joe Jackson has added his name to the Save Our Pubs & Clubs campaign. A critic of the smoking ban, Jackson said: "I don't think the Government has any business banning a legal pleasure on private property, especially when the evidence on so-called 'secondhand smoke' is so feeble."

"Nevertheless, I know from experience that the more reasonable partial bans in Germany and Spain are broadly popular because they actually provide some freedom of choice."

"Let pubs and clubs have smoking rooms, and when they're not big enough to do so let them decide their own policies. Better still, promote good ventilation and more tolerance, a dirty word to the anti-smoking zealots."

Jackson has also written to Health Secretary Andrew Lansley, giving him 10 reasons why the ban should be amended.

Critical: Joe Jackson wants smoking rooms in pubs and clubs





WWW.AMENDTHESMOKINGBAN.COM

SHERATON HOUSE, CASTLE PARK, CAMBRIDGE CB3 0AX
T: 01223 370156 E: INFO@AMENDTHESMOKINGBAN.COM

