

# British pub finds smoking ban loophole: report

## 英酒吧鑽禁菸法漏洞

The landlady of a British pub has **exploited** a **loophole** in the country's smoking ban by opening a "smoking research center" where drinkers can light up legally, reports said last week.

Locals at the Cutting Edge pub in Barnsley, northern England, must fill in a **questionnaire** on their smoking habits to satisfy legal requirements before sitting down for a drink and a cigarette in the center.

England and Wales introduced a ban on smoking in enclosed public places in 2007, contributing to **tumbling** beer sales which have forced over 2,000 pubs to close in the last year, according to the British Beer And Pub Association.

The Cutting Edge's landlady Kerry Fenton opened the center, which is a separate room in her pub, five days ago.

"It's given business a **shot in the arm** and it's all in the name of research, legal and above board," she told the *Sun* newspaper. "I'm a non-smoker but I believe in the freedom of the individual."

The loophole in the law was discovered by pub regular James Martin, a 40-year-old printer. The local council told the paper it intended to enforce the smoking ban at the pub. (AFP)



上週有報導指出，英國一間酒吧的女老闆鑽該國禁菸法的漏洞，在酒吧內開設「吸菸研究中心」，讓酒客在那裡合法地吞雲吐霧。

為了符合法律規定，英格蘭北部巴恩斯里「前衛酒吧」的顧客必須先在中心內填寫一張關於抽菸習慣的問卷，才可以坐下來小酌、抽菸。

英國啤酒與酒吧協會表示，英格蘭和威爾斯二〇〇七年頒布了室內公共場所禁菸令後，去年就有兩千多家酒吧因啤酒銷售直落而被迫關門大吉。

前衛酒吧的女老闆凱莉·芬頓五天前在酒吧裡增設了這間「研究中心」包廂。

她對《太陽報》表示：「這讓生意起死回生，這完全是為了研究，合法又光明正大。我自己不吸菸，但我尊重其他人的自由。」

這個法律漏洞是常上該酒吧的四十歲印刷工人詹姆士·馬丁發現的。當地議會對該報表示，他們打算對這間酒吧強制執行禁菸令。

(法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

WARNING: Smoking can damage your health.  
警告：吸菸有害健康

Top: Confiscated cigarettes are seen before being destroyed during a campaign against fake tobacco products in Changzhi, Shanxi Province, China, on March 12, 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

Left: A Thai man smokes a cigarette as he walks past a banner outside a pub in Bangkok, Thailand, on Feb. 11, 2008. PHOTO: EPA/NARONG SANGNAK

上圖：三月十二日在中國山西省長治市一場反假菸活動中，被沒收的香菸將被全數銷毀。照片：路透社  
左圖：二〇〇八年二月十一日，泰國一名抽著菸的男子行經曼谷某酒吧外的禁菸廣告橫幅。照片：歐新社/NARONG SANGNAK

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **exploit** / kspl t/ v.  
利用 (li4 yong4)

例：Ian is a generous person, but I think his friends exploit him.  
(易安為人大方，但我覺得他的朋友在利用他。)

2. **loophole** / lup,hol/ n.  
法律漏洞 (fa3 lu4 lou4 dong4)

例：Motorists have found a loophole in the new car registration law.  
(駕駛人已發現新行車執照的法規漏洞。)

3. **questionnaire** /kw s n r/ n.  
問卷 (wen4 juan4)

例：All attendees to the conference were asked to fill in a questionnaire before leaving.  
(所有與會者離開前都被要求填寫一張問卷。)

4. **tumble** / t mbl/ v.  
暴跌 (bao4 die2)

例：House prices have tumbled in the last few months.  
(房價從幾個月前開始暴跌。)

### IDIOM POINT 重要片語

a shot in the arm  
強心針，鼓勵因素

A shot in the arm is something that has the effect of improving or reviving something that is failing. In the article, the pub was doing badly, but business has increased since they introduced the smoking policy.

Examples: "The government's decision to lower taxes was a shot in the arm to local businesses," or "Foreign investment in ship building might be a shot in the arm, but it isn't a long-term solution."

「a shot in the arm」就是可改善或促使某件正在走下坡的事情復甦之事。文章中提到，這間酒吧本來經營慘淡，但自從增設吸菸研究中心後生意就變好了。

例如：「政府減稅的決定對當地企業是一大福音」，或是「外資挹注造船業可能是一大利多，但卻不是長期解決之道」。

### OUT LOUD 對話練習

Dylan: Don't you think it's a bad idea to let people smoke in your restaurant? It's illegal you know.

Kasper: Don't worry about it. I'll be fine.

Dylan: A lot of restaurant owners have already been prosecuted. How can you be so sure they won't prosecute you?

Kasper: I went to the same school as the local health inspector. He's an old friend.

Dylan: Ah, the old school tie comes in useful again.

Kasper: That's right. It's good to have friends in high places.

狄倫：你不認為讓人在餐廳吸菸是個壞主意嗎？你知道這是違法的。

凱斯帕：別擔心啦，我不會有事的。

狄倫：很多餐廳業主都已經被起訴了。你怎麼這麼確定你不會被起訴？

凱斯帕：我和本地的衛生督導讀同一間學校，他是我的老朋友。

狄倫：噢，同校的老交情又派上用場啦。

凱斯帕：沒錯，有個達官顯貴的朋友還真不賴。

the old school tie  
同校掛

The old school tie refers to the habit of giving jobs to or doing favors for people who went to the same school. The expression originates in Britain, where many schools have a tie with a unique color and design.

「the old school tie」指的是錄用和你同校的人或是給他們方便。這個片語源自英國，當地許多學校都有自己獨特顏色或設計的領帶。