



THE BEERS ON YOU...

Several British newspapers have reported that the Royal Air Force is appealing to Brits for donations to provide a can of lager or bitter for men and women flying back to the UK at the end of gruelling six-month tours.

Wing Commander Steve Chadwick started the Beers for the Boys campaign when he took over at RAF Brize Norton. Generous breweries have donated thousands of cans but the team, which runs RAF flights from Afghanistan, would like more so that all troops coming home can be offered a drink.

Wing Commander Chadwick added: "I felt it would be a nice thing to do on behalf of a grateful nation and the RAF. A can of cold beer thrust into the hand of a soldier marks the point when he knows he is going home after six months of fighting."

To donate to the campaign send a cheque, made payable to "SIF Funds, RAF Brize Norton" (with "Beer for the boys" written on the back), to Wing Cdr Chadwick at 216 Squadron, RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire OX18 3LX

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SMELL THE ROSES...

Missing home? Visit England, the official website for tourism in England, has recently launched an English-themed fragrance as part of its Enjoy Every Minute; Enjoy England campaign.

The perfume, named By George!, includes a number of quintessentially English smells, including camomile tea, a seaside garden, freshly cut grass and even subtle exhaust fumes of lawnmower petrol. There are also six single note fragrances including cucumber sandwiches, Victoria sponge, English lawn and English seaside pier.



"By George features a symphony of the nation's most evocative smells in an eminently wearable fragrance," says Amanda Smyth, spokesperson for Visit England. "The eclectic blend opens with a refreshing cup of camomile tea. The heart of the fragrance takes a journey through an English seaside garden with salty sea air notes mingling with damp earth, garden mint, carrots and beetroots and freshly cut grass. Woodland mosses and freshly cut flower stems of the compost heap sit alongside the sensual wafts of evening jasmine, whilst subtle exhaust fumes of lawnmower petrol break through the idyll."

Psychologist Nick Baylis added: "Smell is the only one of our senses directly hard-wired to our brains. Its direct contact means we get a very quick and intensive reaction."

And according to the *Daily Mirror*, By George has indeed provoked an intense reaction, with condemnation of the reported £8,500 that was spent on the project. Mark Wallace, of the Tax Payers' Alliance, told the *Daily Mirror*: "It's hard to see how the perfume will do anything at all to attract tourists. If anything, it's a sad reminder of the huge problem our country has with quangos wasting thousands of pounds of taxpayers' cash every day."

RAISE THE RED LANTERN...

This October, lanterns can be seen all over Hong Kong during the mid-Autumn festival, but back in the UK, the *Daily Telegraph* reports that Chinese lanterns are becoming a nuisance. British coastguard chiefs say the craze of releasing Chinese flying lanterns into the air is leading people to call 999 after mistaking them for rescue flares.

Considered to be good luck in Asia, the lanterns have only brought problems for the UK coastguard. When lit they can soar to over a mile in the sky and be visible for up to 20 minutes on a clear night.

The coastguard service is calling for people to notify them if they are launching Chinese lanterns along the coast at dusk after a number of false alarms have led to teams being sent out unnecessarily.

Ted Ingham of Dover coastguard, said: "Around the coast of the UK, we have received numerous reports recently of 'red flares' that have turned out to be Chinese lanterns being let off along the coast."

And the problem is not confined to Dover. A coastguard spokesman in Liverpool also addressed the issue recently. "Over the last 18 months these types of calls have become a lot more regular and we are getting 999 calls every few days, which is becoming a real problem," he said.



A TIGHT SQUEEZE...

Aspiring David Beckham types take note; *The Guardian* recently reported that Selfridges is selling a new range of tights for men dubbed "mantyhose".

The tights are made by lingerie brand Unconditional and are available in black, beige and charcoal. Priced at just £70 a pair, the mantyhose are hard wearing at 120-denier thickness.

"This winter the city's most stylish men will have a secret weapon hidden in their trousers," said David Walker-Smith, Selfridges' director of menswear and beauty. "The mantyhose are extremely versatile and we expect men to be wearing them not only as a way to as a way to give legs an extra boost of warmth on the chilliest nights, but as a true style statement."



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Warming in relations...

The Sunday Telegraph has revealed that the Prince's Charities Foundation (China) will open in Beijing on October 19. Reports say that although Prince Charles will not attend the charity's launch, a future visit is now a distinct possibility.

Relations between the Prince and Beijing have been strained since his disparaging remarks about Chinese officials at the handover of Hong Kong. In leaked diaries, written in 1997, the Prince notoriously referred to senior Chinese officials as "appalling old waxworks".

"The charity will be registered in Hong Kong and will be based in Beijing. It is part of a constructive engagement between the Prince of Wales and the Chinese," said a senior Royal aide.

Sir David Tang, who has strong links with the British royal family, and other Hong Kong businessmen have provided significant funding for the new charity. *The Sunday Telegraph* reports Tang as saying: "As an Anglophile, I am delighted by this new link in Sino-British relations, especially as it is well known that the Prince of Wales has not been close to China in the past. This is the start of a warming to the country [from the Prince] that no one can ignore. The Prince of Wales clearly wants to engage with the Chinese people."

