

Weston Brew for Westminster



Dr Mike & Mrs Carmela Kellaway Marriott, Mr Paul Davey, John Penrose MP (at pump), Duncan Davis, Mrs Dorinda Davey



Behind-the-scenes work from John Penrose has brought a new beer to the Strangers Bar in the House of Commons.

The MP has arranged for the local beer, Pitchfork, brewed by RCH Breweries in Hewish, to be served in the heart of Parliament.

John welcomed directors of RCH Breweries and representatives from the local branches of the Campaign for Real Ale to Westminster to mark the occasion.

John said: "It was great to pull a pint of Pitchfork in Parliament. Who knows, I might even get David Cameron and Tony Blair together over a pint of Pitchfork. Then we could rightly say that the Strangers Bar has seen it all.

"When I discovered that the Strangers Bar would take guest beers I thought it was about time they had a taste of heaven from Somerset.

"Pitchfork is a real treat. I'm delighted that we will be bringing civilisation to Westminster. Who knows, it might even improve some of the debates."

Fast Link For Worle Station

High-speed trains will be stopping at Worle Station by the end of the year, according to local MP John Penrose.

The announcement that First Great Western will introduce the stop was made during a meeting between Mr Penrose and First Severn & Solent.

The length of the trains means that First will introduce 'partial door opening' to allow high speed trains to stop at Worle station for the first time.

John said: "This is a very welcome movement. The platform at Worle Station isn't long enough for High Speed Trains, but it's no worse than stations like Nailsea and Yatton and they manage fine.

"At the moment, commuters at Worle have to put up with a very limited service while High Speed Trains sweep past with plenty of empty seats. Although this development has been

'on the cards' at Worle for a while, I was delighted to get it finally confirmed."

Mr Penrose added: "If we are going to beat gridlock and take some of the strain off our local roads and village communities then the rail network needs to perform.

"I have been lobbying for the development of Worle station as a local transport hub, including a fast link to Bristol. But that mustn't be used as an excuse to cut services into Weston's main station.

"There are already 20,000+ local people working outside the constituency every day. The rail service must give all travellers, particularly Weston's many daily commuters, a viable alternative to the car."



Innocent Children's DNA Stored

The practice of keeping innocent children's DNA data on police record needs to be urgently reviewed, says John Penrose.

DNA is automatically taken by police and retained whenever someone is arrested, even if they are never cautioned, charged or convicted of an offence. Information is held on both the National DNA database and Avon and Somerset Police computer system

John has been asking questions in Parliament. He commented:

"I am particularly concerned about the retention of children's DNA. What happens if computer hackers steal the information and use it for identity theft? Or if someone gains access to



Over 1200 local innocent children are on the DNA database

the information and tries to sell it illegally? The consequences could be horrific.

"There are now more than 24,000 children, who have not been convicted of a crime, whose DNA profiles are held on the database. When I raised the issue in Parliament, I discovered that at least 1,200 of those are from the Avon and Somerset area.

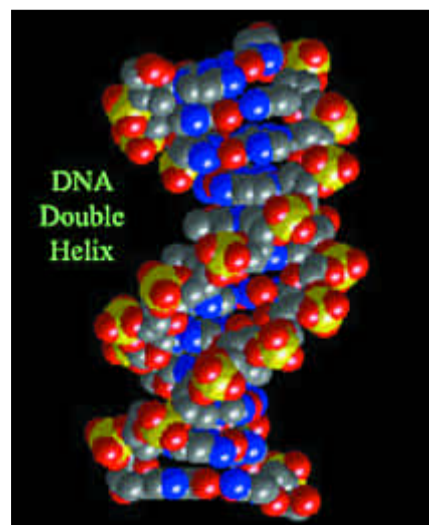
"In addition there are over 9,000 samples from innocent people who volunteered to be tested so they could be eliminated from a police investigation

"Volunteers providing these samples

must give written consent. Their data can't then ever be removed from the database. This is contrary to standard practice in medical science. In Scotland, volunteer consent can be withdrawn."

John added "How many innocent people know that either they or their children's DNA has been retained? How many even know that they have the right to ask for its removal?"

"I have been questioning the Home Office about the guidelines and the security around their retention. I want to ensure innocent people always have the right to remove their genetic information from the database."



John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round