

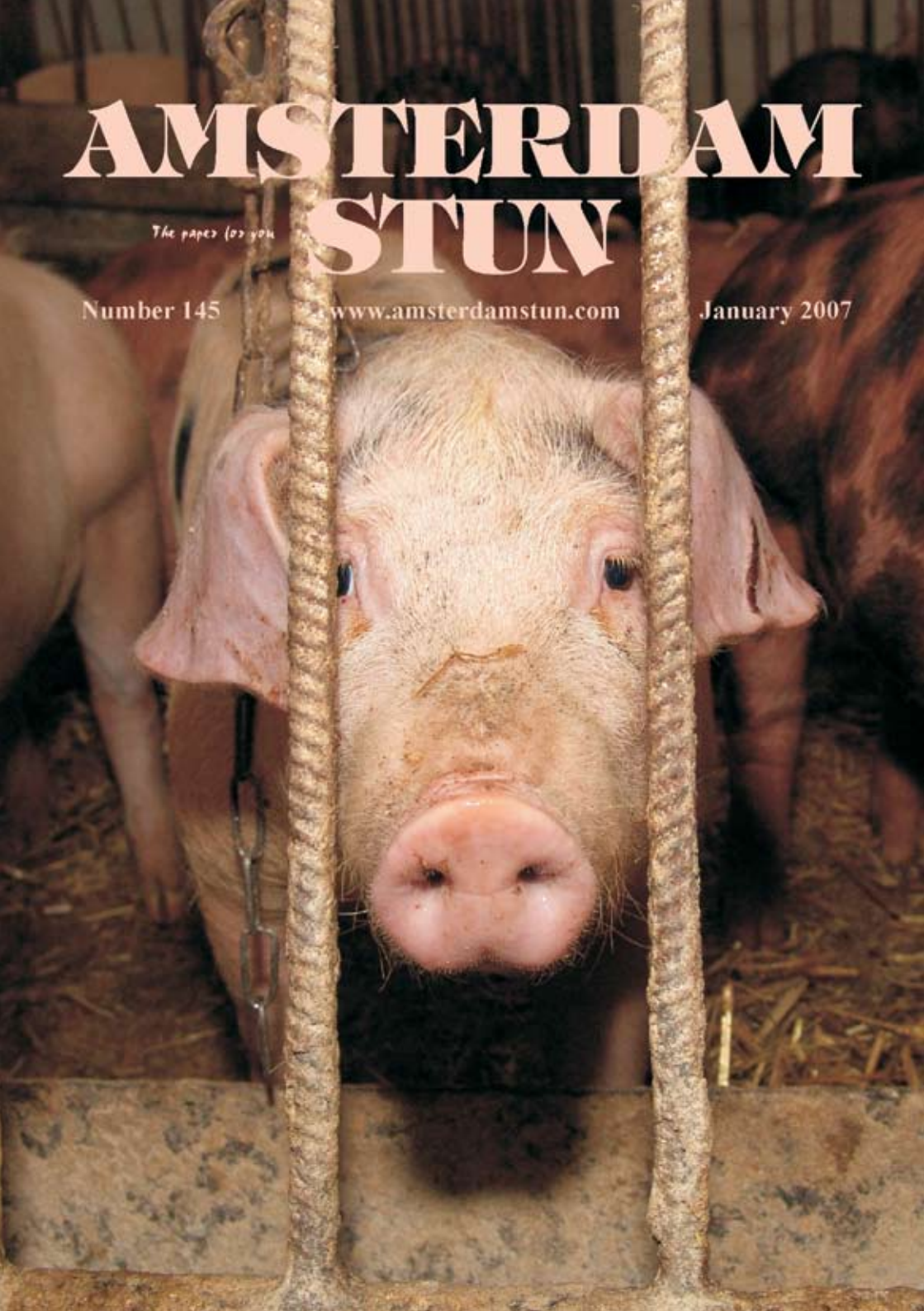
AMSTERDAM STUN

The paper for you

Number 145

www.amsterdamstun.com

January 2007



The Editor's Bit

Wow, 2007! I will have been living in this country for 20 years in a couple of months time. Looks like I'm here for good now, so I might as well start my own business. I've got plans which partly involve The Stun, but I won't go into details yet; just keep reading every month.

Although The Stun has never been known for having a strict publishing schedule, we usually came out close to the beginning of the month. But not any more. From now on, The Stun will be hitting the streets closer to the middle of the month. It's all part of the bigger plan, so trust me.

We've also made changes to the layout of our Gig-List, which will make it easier to find out who's playing on those occasions when you know what day it is, but not the date. We can also fit in more gigs, with more details and go further into the future. We hope you like it, but let us know what you think.

Dorothy doesn't want to talk about last month, but I'm glad to say she's back home and answering your letters on page 9.

We've got loads of pictures for you again this month, including six pages from around town on New Year's Eve, complete with captions (we remembered nearly all the names).

No Premiership Predictions League update this month, but all our regular bits are, so enjoy your Stun.

Andy

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'**The Amsterdam Stun**' is published by:

Andy Reeves & Elly Roomer

J.v. Arteveldestraat 18-3

1061 CL Amsterdam

Tel. 020-6826470 Fax: 0842-114 347

Mobile: 06-28 712 646

e-mail: info@amsterdamstun.com

<http://www.amsterdamstun.com>


If you would like to contribute a story or even a regular column, don't be shy: we're all amateurs doing our best here.

The following people also contributed to this edition of **The Amsterdam Stun**:

- Dorothy Braithwaitshire-Llyons
- Frank Weston
- Jane Byers
- Lin Sargent
- Rush

Cover photo by Grizska Niewiadomski

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1018 AJ Amsterdam



Rachel, Susan and Nathalie were behind the bar in the Stone's Café on New Year's Eve.

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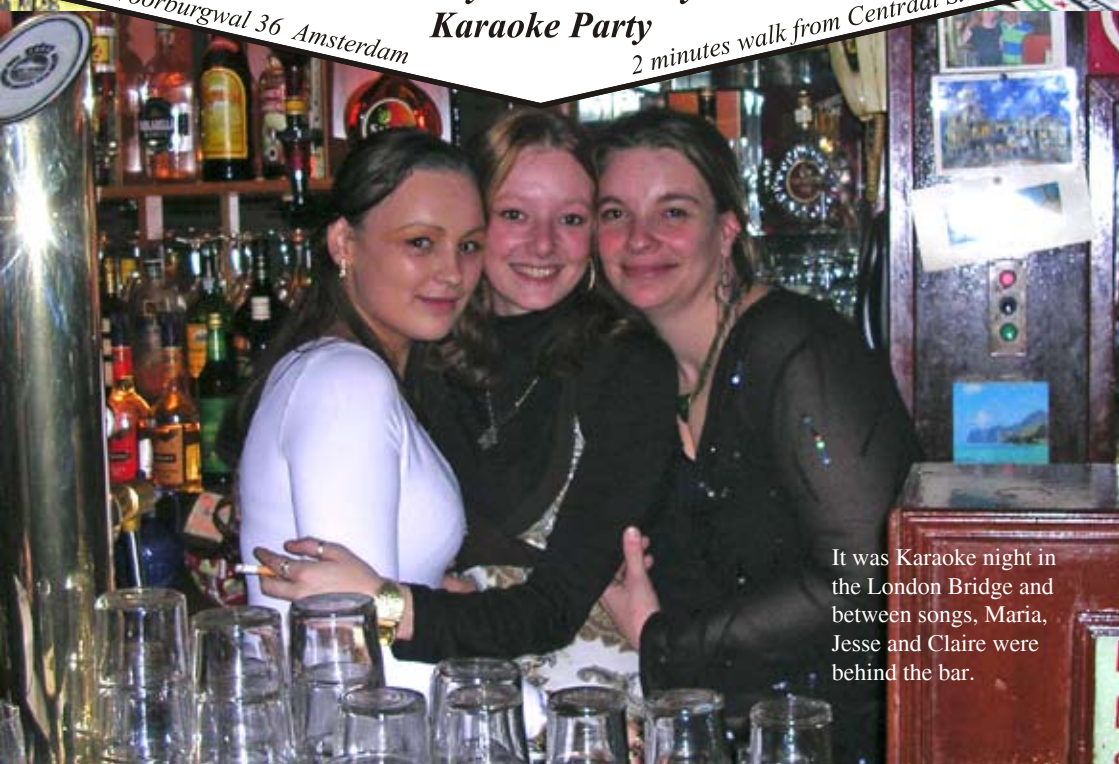
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It was Karaoke night in the London Bridge and between songs, Maria, Jesse and Claire were behind the bar.

TALES FROM THE

Thank you for all the Christmas+New Year cards (email&snailmail), a healthy & prosperous Year of the pig to all of you!

Happy Birthday Ceesje, Piet, Johan, Micky, Paul, Tom, Patrick, Stan, Caitlin, Jan-Willem, Hailey, Aaron, Jordan, Rob, Patricia, Eamon, Willy, Crystal, John, David, Tam, Pasja, Aislinn, Hannah, Jill, Richard, Eddy, Romme, Nico, Angelica, Joanna, Olav, Jel, Kerstin, Karen, Denson, Robbie, Dean, Aimee & Shannon, Neil, Ahmed, Jane, Nathalie, Lin, Seamus, Rocco, Val, Jennie, Max, Marsh, Anne-Mary, Phil, Tony, Mike, Tracy, Gray, Danny, Russ, Kealan, Rosa, Jim, Janet, Muria,

Happy Anniversary Mandy & Doug, Sharon & Henk, Monique & Willem, Cathy & Chick, Suchada & John.

Congratulations also go to Suchada & John with the birth of Fenella. Arabella always wanted a little sister to play with!



Amy still has a few weeks to go before becoming a mum, but Gabriel told us "it" will be born in January. We'll let you know!

And I seem to remember someone else is pregnant, but I can't remember who? Any of you lot any idea?

Sarah was over for the holidays, to celebrate Christmas & New Year with her brother Alex

& lots of old friends. Her brother just moved into a new house, five minutes away on the bike, so she visited us on one of the days we stayed in.

She came over suffering with a bit of the flu (didn't give it to us, thankfully), so she didn't go out to party every day. We didn't have the flu, but we also stayed in most days (getting old, I'm afraid!). We will just have to make up for lost time when she's back, in March.



But here we are in town with Hazel (who hasn't had a drink in 16 months! Well done.) and Daisy, Alex's girlfriend. Alex was there as well, but he didn't want his photo in the Stun.

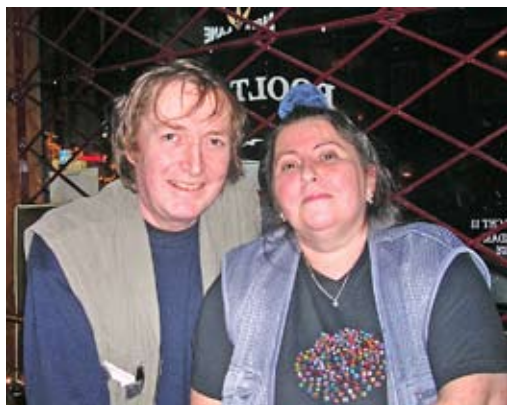
Also a good photo opportunity was when Max gave me & some other females, Dina & Kelly, these wonderful feline masks. We had



GUTTER

to try them on immediately, of course, and while parading round I lost track of my purple woolly hat. Well, actually, I have no idea when I misplaced it, or where, so if you see me looking & searching in dark corners next time I'm in town, I'm looking for my headgear.

Another photo that had to go in was Andy & I celebrating not only the New Year, but our 12th anniversary as well. Can't exactly remember who took it (Andy's thinks Vicky, and he's most probably right), but thank you, it's nice.



So we were out on Christmas Eve, the day Sarah arrived. We were out till late. Stayed in Christmas Day, & the day after. Went out on the 27th, when we met up with Hazel, Alex, Daisy & Sarah. It was late again. Stayed in



on 28th, went out on 29th for a drink with the printers who make sure you get the Amsterdam Stun every month, Jan-Willem & Victor from the Finishing Touch. Their partners Kirstin & Fred were there as well, and it was the first time we saw the four of them together, so we just had to have a picture. We also ran into Helen, who used to run Helen van Troje, but gave it up when she became pregnant. Now she helps her partner Jaap with his catering service, but we'll tell you more about that later.

I went home early that night, but Andy went all over the place to take photo's everywhere.

30th We stayed in, but Sarah came over and we had lots of wine and stuff, and it was very late when we hit the sack. But we were out on New Year's Eve, and we had a great time!

And don't forget to send your Valentine message to the Amsterdam Stun, so we can surprise your love in the next issue!

Elly

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WARMOESSTRAAT

CENTRUM

Casey was ready for his night shift in the Old Quarter a lot earlier than usual on New Year's Eve; the last bus from Purmerend left about 8 o'clock.



Langer lost his passport, so Amy (ex-Co-cos) delayed her departure from Amsterdam to keep him company in the Sláinte.



Sean and Kristian from Melbourne were in town for Christmas, enjoying themselves in the Stone's Cafes, but went to London for New Year.



Jill's giving up smoking; she was down to 2 a day, but slipped a bit when she went back to work in Buster's. By the time you read this, she's an ex-smoker, hopefully.

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WELCOME

When you ask almost anybody what they think about Molly Malone's Irish Pub, they'll either say they love the place or they don't know where it is. Well, for those of you in the latter category, it's just a couple of minutes walk from Centraal Station, on a canal behind the St. Nicholas church and less than 50 metres from the Zeedijk.

Now you know where it is, why do people in the know love the place?

It could be the friendly bar and kitchen staff: Jonathan, Tom, Christian and Daniel were there when we took this picture.



Maybe it's the great food? They've got something that will appeal to everybody, from a cheese roll to an Irish T-bone steak. They also serve a traditional Sunday roast (chicken, lamb or beef) with all the trimmings every day of the week and no reservations are necessary.

Pub games? Amongst other things, they've got giant versions of Jenga and Connect 4 to keep you entertained.

Wanted: Friendly, intelligent Irish girl (people skills a must) to work part-time in Molly Malone's for a minimum of a year. Walk in interviews Monday to Thursday between 3pm & 8pm. Apply Molly Malone's, O. Z. Kolk 9,



Or there's the regular live music. When Darren Byrne played there recently, he spotted Alex Boag from "These Animal Men" in the bar, who then joined him on stage.

Rather than listen to me, maybe it would be easier to go there yourself and find out what makes Molly Malone's so special.

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Daily



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Oudezijds Kolk 9, Amsterdam tel. 020-6241150
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Dear Dorothy

Dear Readers and fan club member,

It has been brought to my attention that some of you have been steaming the postage stamps off yer old letters and re-using them to write to this page.

In future all letters thus addressed will be marked with a black spot. There will be a few other new regulations for 2007, in keeping with the 21st century. I don't wanna see no more urgent requests for my advice written on the back of a beer mat or fag packet. And proper gramma and spellin as well. You can e-mail direct at dorothy.dunshaggin@gmail.com or use a proper envelope with the new postage rates. Remember this is a free service, so the donations are welcome.

Dear Dorothy,

I'm worried about my son. He has run up an enormous debt with his mobile phones. He's chatting or texting all of the time, I have no control, I've made him get a job, but his wages are not nearly enough to cover the costs of his mobile. If I confiscate his phone, he just gets another one. What's the answer? He's going to be nine on his next birthday and I'm dreading what the future holds.

A worried mother.
Amsterdam

Dear WM,

Why not have a party for his friends on his birthday, have them form a kids club - they can meet every night, and won't need their mobiles. This should save all of you parents around 25 euros a week each.

Dorothy.

Dear Dorothy,

How does a girl get to meet an eligible bachelor these days? I've tried a dating agency; that was a waste of money. I'd like a relationship but don't know where to meet a man without spending hundreds of euros at an agency.

Gloria
Amsterdam.

Dear Gloria,

Ingenuity! You live in Amsterdam, which is a crowded city. Put a classified advert in the Stun - it's free - for a flat to rent. State you want a single man, specify age, habits etc. Then you can choose one in the leisure of your own home.

Good luck,
Dorothy.

Dear Dorothy,

Are Werewolves real? I once read that there was a possibility that these creatures do exist. Like vampires, what do we do if we meet one? I don't have any holy water at hand, and where I am staying they took away my silver bullets when I first arrived.

Please help me.
Arthur IV of Breton.
Friern Barnet Home for
the Mentally challenged
Nth. Finchley

Dear Arthur,

You have nothing to fear from Werewolves, they cannot enter the UK without being chipped. A Dutch vet cannot fill in werewolf on the certificate for rabies that comes with the chip. So no worries there. Thank goodness for Dutch bureaucracy.

Dorothy.

MUSIC NEWS &



Mark Mysterious is off to India for a couple of months, so Friday the 19th will be the last chance to see him playing “from the soul” in Finnegan’s Rainbow. He told us that when he gets back in April, he should be forming a band with Jur (solo guitar) and Mick (cello) called Baker’s Treat.

Former Kim & the Cueballs guitarist Robin de Ruiter, who used to be a regular in the Waterhole and the Shamrock, went to Thailand over five years ago and he’s still there! He sent us a message, and this picture, to let us know that the hot weather, cold beer and lots of work will keep him there for a long time.



Ernan’s Karaoke show will be back in the London Bridge (N.Z. Voorburgwal 36) on Friday the 26th January, starting around 8 pm. There’s a good chance you’ll be able to catch barmaids Claire and Jesse singing a song, but don’t let that put you off; everybody has a great time.



If you can’t wait that long to sing a song, The End (Nieuwebrugsteeg 32) have karaoke every night and they stay open late! The staying open late might have had something to do with me getting up to sing. If you missed me singing, you’ll have to wait a long time before I do it again; I’ll stick to writing about it.



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WHAT'S ON

The Stun is always keen to promote live music in Amsterdam, so starting this Sunday, the 21st January, we'll be presenting the weekly S(t)unday Afternoon Jam in collaboration with The End. All musicians are welcome; if you want, you can bring your whole band and play a couple of your own numbers. Who knows, Gabriel might even book you for a paid gig! We'll be there taking pictures for the next Stun and if you've got any gigs coming up around Amsterdam, let us know and we'll put them in our gig-list. If you want to know more or have questions about the equipment available in The End, call Gabriel on 06-490 488 39. The Jam starts at 4 pm and if you don't know where The End is, see the map on the back cover.

Of course, you don't have to go on stage to have a good time. Why not drop in to listen to some music; who knows what surprises will be in store in The End? Make it a Sunday afternoon out on the town: Molly Malone's is just around the corner if you fancy a Sunday Roast before getting into the music and drinking.

Since we mentioned the Jam last month, they're springing up everywhere. In the Waterhole, Theo the Mosquito is hosting the Sunday Matinée, starting at 2 pm.



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Café de Prop in Noord will be having a jam session, starting at 5 pm every last Sunday of the month, which will be good news for everybody who lives on the other side of the IJ. We haven't been to de Prop yet, but it's run by Ria and Marco, who used to have the Amstelstroom, so we'll get on the ferry and pay them a visit soon.

And finally, something else that involves a Sunday afternoon: The In Players, Amsterdam's oldest English language theatre company, will be presenting their latest production "Wake Me When It's Summer", a play by Mike Williams, in the Crea Theater from the 15th to 18th of February. Tickets cost €14 and for reservations, call 020 525 1400 or e-mail in.players.amsterdam@gmail.com. See www.inplayers.org for more details.

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STUN GIG-LIST

Monday

Weekly

21:00, **The End**, Karaoke,
22:00, **Bourbon Street**, Latin Jam with Gregorio,
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Acoustic session with Peter Lavell,
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Magic Sem's Jam,
22nd January
21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio guest: Yanif Nachun,
29th January
21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio guest: Pablo de Haas,
5th February
21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio,
12th February
21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio,

Tuesday

Weekly

21:00, **The End**, Karaoke,
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Rory's Open Mike,
23rd January
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Blues session with Marcel Scherpenzeel,
30th January
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Marcel Scherpenzeel session,
6th February
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Blues session,
13th February
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Back to the Roots with Laurens Joensen, €5

Wednesday

Weekly

21:00, **The End**, Karaoke,
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Real Jam,
24th January
21:00, **Volta**, Reggae Jam,
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Gene Taylor, *Pianist from The Blasters & Fabulous Thunderbirds*
22:00, **Old Nickel**, Etienne Boucher,
31st January
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Punk Night on Wednesday, *various bands* €5
22:00, **Old Nickel**, Etienne Boucher,
7th February
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Band Stand with Nico,
22:00, **Old Nickel**, Etienne Boucher,
14th February
22:00, **Old Nickel**, Etienne Boucher,

Thursday

Weekly

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Marcos Gomesz,
21:00, **The End**, Karaoke,
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Blues Session with Rahim,
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Gus Genser's Rock Jam,
18th January
21:00, **Volta**, Hardcore/Punk Night, *with Raw Power, Scheisse Minelli, The Shining* €5
25th January
21:00, **Volta**, Punkrock Night, *with Keys, Snatchin' Jenny* €5
1st February
21:00, **Volta**, Progressive Blues/Rock Night, *with Leslie Grows, Thomas Bekhuis* Experience €5
8th February
21:00, **Volta**, Butcherbaby's, Dusty Blond, €5

15th February

20:15, **Crea Theater**, The InPlayers Presents:
Wake Me When It's Summer, *a play by Mike Williams* €14

Friday

Weekly

21:00, **The End**, Karaoke,

19th January

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Daniël & Marieke,

21:00, **Finnegan's Rainbow**, Mark

Mysterious plays from the soul,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Kalif Wailing Walter,

BluesRock from Chicago, toured with Lonnie Mack €5

22:00, **Volta**, FFF: Tripl-x,

23:00, **The Waterhole**, One Night Stan,

26th January

20:00, **London Bridge**, Karaoke Party,

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Stan & Chaja,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Goesting, *Roots & Americana* €5

22:00, **Volta**, FFF: Daring Dance Dimensions,

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Cindy Peress Band,

2nd February

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, A Band Named Ca\$h,

Tribute to the man in black €5

22:00, **Volta**, FFF:,

9th February

22:00, **Molly Malones**, Paul Hennessy,

16th February

20:15, **Crea Theater**, The InPlayers Presents:
Wake Me When It's Summer, *a play by Mike Williams* €14

23:00, **The Waterhole**, EP4B

Saturday

Weekly

21:00, **The End**, Karaoke,

20th January

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Marieke & Daniël,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Pep, *Ladies band with balls + Kamargonga* €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Rife,

27th January

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Yellow Dogs,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, The Souldiers, *First Class Soul* €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, The Wendies,

3rd February

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, The Shakes (cancelled),

10th February

22:00, **Molly Malones**, Paul Hennessy,

17th February

14:00 & 20:15, **Crea Theater**, The InPlayers Presents:
Wake Me When It's Summer, *a play by Mike Williams* €14

22:00, **Molly Malones**, Darren Byrne,

Sunday

Weekly

14:00, **The Waterhole**, Matinée Jam with Theo de Mosquito,

16:00, **The End**, S(t)unday Afternoon Jam,

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Acoustic session with Yanko,

22:30, **The Waterhole**, Ladies Nite with Joyce & Baukje,

28th January

17:00, **Café de Prop**, Sunday Jam in Noord with Ron,

18th February

14:00, **Crea Theater**, The InPlayers Presents:
Wake Me When It's Summer, *a play by Mike Williams* €14

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ROUND



Is it really a year since Sarah and Alan became the proud parents of Kealan? I'm sure they'll be celebrating in the Old Highlander.



Jackie and Rick asked us to wish all their friends around the world a happy new year, because the Stun goes everywhere.



Dan and Jeroen kept Mosquito drummer Martin's better half, Wietje, company while the band were on stage in the Waterhole.



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THE BARS

Geordie is a regular in the Newcastle: He always drops in to see Beth and Andy when he visits from Geordieland.



Caroline celebrated her birthday with her "family", Werner and Teine, in the Flying Dutchman.



Here's Sláinte barman Björn, with regulars Phillippe and Langer.



Jamie (a.k.a. the Spanish Guy) said he had a great time at the Coco's Outback staff party, but he can't remember what time he left.



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BEHIND BARS ON

Our New Year's Eve pub-crawl began in Susie's Saloon, where Rhodi, Mara, Signe and Ireen were behind the bar.



It took a while to get Marlene, Paul and Anka together for a photo in the Old Quarter.

Next door in Rick's, Jim was in charge of the fireworks outside, while Mina and Charon sparkled inside.



Gabriel and Jan were ready for anything and everything in The End.



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NEW YEAR'S EVE

It was packed in the Stone's coffeeshop, but Lisette and Cora were on fine form; service with a smile and they still found time to pose for a picture.



We couldn't pass Buster's without dropping in to wish Berber a Happy New Year.



Midnight was still a couple of hours away, but Beth and Amber were raising a glass or two for the New Year in the Newcastle Pub.

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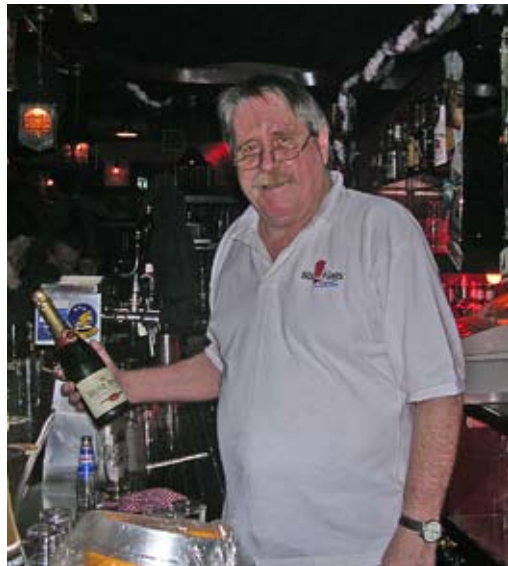
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MORE NEW YEAR'S

We went to the Flying Dutchman to see in the New Year amongst friends and because we knew Willie would have a few bottles of Champagne on ice.



Much later, we paid the Blarney Stone a visit, to see Carol and Jasmin, amongst others.



The Wonder Bar had an all-nighter, so that was our next stop. Achmed and Alon joined Sharifa and Pamela behind the bar when the camera came out.



Last stop of the night was the London Bridge; close to the night-bus stop and they had an all-night licence. Claire, Amber and Will were only a couple of hours away from finishing for the night.

EVE WORKERS

We didn't go into the Sláinte, but we did have a chat with Luuk on the door.



Nico was on toilet duty in the Old Quarter.

Never a dull moment for Raymond, Simina and Don in the Old Quarter kitchen.



Two sick dudes, Kevin and Dennis, took care of the music in the Wonder Bar, just like they do every Friday or Saturday.



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Open every weekend for a wild dance party until at least 3:00am, with live DJ's & VJ's scheduled at least twice a month. With big screen TV, artistic decoration and friendly staff

Nieuwendijk 3

IN THE BARS ON

New Year's Eve wouldn't be the same without seeing Liam; he's partly responsible for me and Elly getting together 12 years ago, so when we saw him in Susie's Saloon with Hendrick, we had to get a photo.



Dave and Gary were over with some of their friends on one of their regular visits from England, propping up the bar in Buster's.



Here are some more of them; Jeff, Andy and the other Dave in the Flying Dutchman with Jill, Klaas and, oh, it's me, Andy. Elly must have taken this one.



(Another) Klaas and Sheila spent Christmas in America, where they now live, but came back to Amsterdam for the New Year.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE



Fabiana and Leyla from Italy experienced their first New Year in Amsterdam on Dam Square, then dropped into the Flying Dutchman on their way to the station, where they had to get a train to Leiden, where Leyla lives.



Paddy, Brian and Fiona were still going strong in the Blarney Stone.

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Chilling out in the Wonder Bar.



Willie and Paul didn't have to go far when the Flying Dutchman closed at 3 am. The London Bridge was open all night.



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IN MALOE MELO

Saturday night in Maloe Melo and The Healers were belting out some Blues.



Everybody loves Willy, including Jos, who makes the Maloe Melo website.



Patrick's always around, but it's been a while since we last saw Margriet in The Stun.



Healers singer Thomas Buck-Nasty signed Jur's book after the show.

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Murphy's Other Laws

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

JOKES

With our Guest Jokers: Rush & Lin

An old but still ruggedly handsome Sergeant Major found himself at a gala event hosted by a local liberal arts college. There was no shortage of extremely young, idealistic ladies in attendance, one of whom approached the Sergeant Major for conversation. "Excuse me, Sergeant Major, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?"

"Negative, ma'am. Just serious by nature."

The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said, "It looks like you have seen a lot of action."

"Yes, ma'am, a lot of action."

The young lady, tiring of trying to start up a conversation, said, "You know, you should lighten up a little. Relax and enjoy yourself." The Sergeant Major just stared at her in his serious manner. Finally, the young lady said, "You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when was the last time you had sex?"

"1955, ma'am."

"Well, there you are. You really need to chill out and quit taking everything so seriously? I mean, no sex since 1955?" Feeling charitable and a little bit drunk, she took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to "relax" him several times. Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, "Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955!" The Sergeant Major, glancing at his watch, said in his matter-of-fact voice, "I hope not, it's only 2130 now."

While checking the church storeroom, the pastor discovered several unopened cases of Bibles, so on Sunday, he asked for three volunteers to sell them for \$10 each to raise money for the church. Jack, Paul, and Louie all volunteered for the task.

The minister knew that Jack and Paul were capable of selling, but he had serious doubts about Louie, who stuttered badly. Because he didn't want to discourage Louie, the minister decided to let him try anyway, so all three went away with their cars stacked with Bibles.

The following Sunday, the minister asked Jack, "Well, Jack, how did you make out selling our Bibles last week?" Handing him an envelope, Jack replied, "Using my sales prowess, I sold 20 Bibles, and here's the \$200 I collected for the church." "Fine job, Jack!" the minister said, "You are indeed a fine salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Turning to Paul, he said, "And Paul, how many Bibles did you sell last week?"

Paul confidently replied, "I am a professional salesman. I sold 28 Bibles for the church, and here's the \$280 I collected." The minister responded, "That's absolutely splendid, Paul. You are truly a professional salesman and the church is also indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any Bibles last week?" Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope. The minister opened it and counted the contents. "Louie, there's \$3,200 in here! Are you saying you sold 320 Bibles in just one week?" Louie just nodded.

"That's impossible!" Jack and Paul said in unison. "We're professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many Bibles as we could."

"Yes, it does seem unlikely," the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed this, Louie."

Louie shrugged. "I-I-I do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-for sh-sh-sure," he stammered. "A-a-all I-I-I s-s-said wa-wa-was 'W-w-would y-y-you l-l-like t-t-to b-b-buy th-th-this b-b-Bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-bucks o-o-or wo-wo-would yo-yo-you j-j-just l-l-like m-m-me t-t-to st-stand h-h-here and r-r-read it t-t-to y-y-you?'"

BEING FRANK ON FOOTBALL

Jose Mourinho is one of those people we all sort of love to hate. He sometimes appears arrogant and conceited and yet there is another side to the man, which makes him both intriguing and enchanting, and his charisma is admired by all sexes, if not always for the same reasons. Whether you love him or loathe him, one thing is absolutely certain and that is without him, the Premiership, as we know it, would be missing one of its most vital components. In a nutshell that is precisely it. Brian Clough had it and so too did Shanks, but these people are few and far between in the game these days and perhaps that is why when they go absent without leave, we are left with a huge hole to fill. In the case of Chelsea and Jose, it is bewildering trying to decipher just what he has done to make his position almost untenable. The club is having the best time in its history and everything this man has brought to the club has been worth its weight in gold and yet gold, or rather money, is apparently the reason why the oil-rich Russian billionaire of a chairman that runs the club is of the view that enough is enough. Jose is understandably philosophical on the subject and intimates that whether he is here today and gone tomorrow matters not a lot. "I am still a young manager, but I am old in football. Next week I will be 44, so I have lived in football for 44 years, so what's another day in the life of Chelsea football club? When I say the club is more important than me, I mean the future of the club is more important than me. The press have said many things. Some of these things have been ridiculous and fantasy and some things have been closer to the truth. I do not care what people think or say. They must make their own minds

up. I have seen so many things in football since I was a kid that nothing surprises me anymore. In football you cannot be 100 % categorical." I think any discerning football fan cannot help but admire the man. He is very much his own boss and this perhaps does not sit well with the hierarchy of football. Mark my words, if Chelsea push him out, they are making a very big mistake and even the players are rallying behind him now. Club captain John Terry suggests he is ready to lead a player's revolt and he says he has the support of at least a dozen of the first team squad. Terry said emphatically, "We don't want Jose to go and this is putting unnecessary pressure on all of us just now. We are very loyal towards him and if it takes five or six senior players to tell them so, then that is what we will do." Brave words indeed and calculated I suspect to make the board think twice. For the sake of football, I hope they do.

In the Premiership, Manchester United continue to go from strength to strength and with a strike force that seemingly gets stronger by the day. The short term deployment of Henrik Larsson has been a shrewd move by the wily old fox and although at 35 there is little chance of an extension to his loan deal and he fully expects to return to Sweden in the spring to resume his playing career over there, he will still have the appetite to give it his all playing for the Red Devils. His debut was a feast for the eyes and with Solskjaer re-discovering his form of old, it will take an almighty surge of adrenalin from Chelsea to stop them in their tracks. The men from Stamford Bridge are getting their act together, as the 4-0 drubbing of Wigan last Saturday will confirm, but if United keep winning, then it will all be in vain in the

end and that is why it would be football insanity of the highest order to replace Mourinho now. Arsenal, in fact, are the team on fire at present; in just four days last week, they knocked the mighty reds out of two cup competitions, 1-3 and 3-6, at Anfield of all places! The last time Liverpool lost at home by six goals to three was in 1914 and although both teams fielded a lot of youth players, the Arsenal young guns were in a totally different league! Julio Baptista scored four and he was ably assisted by Song Billong and Jeremie Aliadiere. Watch out for these names, because this is one of the main reasons why Thierry Henry signed a new long-term contract, such was his faith in the promise of youth.

Going down this season from the top flight would appear to be Watford and Charlton and I have a feeling they will be joined by Wigan Athletic. Alan Curbishly has the guile to keep West Ham up, but it might become a real dog-fight, such is the intensity of the battle down in the drowning not waving quarter. It is hard to say who will come up, but I think Birmingham. Southampton and WBA are the likely contenders.

We had an unofficial visit by Ipswich Town to Amsterdam last week, apparently, and although they had two days off prior to their FA cup game with Chester, the manager and the board were far from impressed! Alan Lee, Chris Casement, Gary Roberts. Billy Clarke. Gavin Williams. Darryl Knights and Scott Barron were all given a severe dressing down when they returned to the fold and perhaps the abysmal draw away to Chester that almost ended in a shock defeat had something to do with it. The club felt that the trip, that was taken without permission, was highly inappropriate, but I would argue that the action of the board was perhaps more inappropriate, because why does everyone assume they got up to something a little naughty? I have faith in these boys and if Alan Lee, - being the most senior of the clan at twenty seven, wants to take them on a cultural



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visit of Amsterdam, then why not! I mean, football is just another art form and there are over 500 hundred museums in the City to visit and it is just not possible to see them all in just 48 hours. I feel sure they would have taken a look at the Van Gogh or Anne Frank House and even perhaps the Rijksmuseum? They may have also visited the Cannabis, Torture and sex museums too, but so do we all... don't we? Oh well, the point is that it is just not possible to get to see them all in two days and perhaps the club have heeded my advice on the subject. Their manager, Jim Magilton, remarked later "Those involved have been made very aware that I expect better from them in the future." Make it a week next time lads!

P.S. Anyone spotted the lads in town? If you know more, mail me at your wonderful gossip-free Stun: The paper that boldly goes where only Tarzan has been before!

Frank

frank@amsterdamstun.com

IN THE BACK



Skip was doing his first shift in the Waterhole after the Christmas break.



It was Jelle's first day in the Waterhole, but Floor, Kees and Frank looked after him.

Singh is off to India for 5 weeks, but with Pauline and Reduan around, the service will still be great in Kamasutra.



Frankie has been offered huge amounts for the original of his autographed Stones picture; he'll never part with it, but Joop and everybody else in De Pul got to see a copy.



Enda said we missed a good staff party in Coco's Outback last Monday. He tried to get us some pictures, but it was too short notice



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Indian Restaurant



Here's Walter, in the Newcastle with Sairey, who's just arrived from Minnesota to spend three months "Studying" in Amsterdam.



Gavin looked like he'd recovered from the party in Coco's Outback.

Maile was keeping the groupies at bay when Darren Byrne played in Molly Malones. She might not be able to make it when he comes back in February, but she'll be keeping an eye on him via the Stun



HELP

Whether you live in Amsterdam or are just visiting, we hope you don't need to make use of this list. But just in case...

Police/Ambulance/Fire (Emergency only) 112

Police HQ - Elandsgracht 020-559 91 11

Reporting minor crimes 0900 - 88 44

Kruispost, O.Z.Voorburgwal 129, 020-624 90 31

Central Doctors Service 020-592 34 34

Pharmacies (Out of hours) 020-694 87 09

VD Clinic, Groenburgwal 44, 020-555 58 22

Juridisch Loket (Legal Aid) 0900 - 8020

Emergency Vet 020-694 47 66

Dierenambulance 020-626 21 21

Australian Embassy 070-310 82 00

British Consulate 020-676 43 43

Canadian Embassy 070-361 41 11

French Consulate 020-624 83 46

German Consulate 020-673 62 45

Irish Embassy 070-363 09 93

Italian Consulate 020-624 00 43

New Zealand Embassy 070-346 93 24

South African Embassy 070-392 45 01

U.S. Consulate 020-575 53 09

The following should be more useful

Public Transport Info 0900 - 9292

Taxi 9550 0900 - 9550

TCA Taxi 020-677 77 77

Night-Shops

(Close around midnight)

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Dolf's Willemsstraat 79

Sterk De Clerqstraat 1-7

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