

'Three Men Conversing'

By John Ward

(Inspired by Edward Bird's painting)

Bill: "Ay, up, lads, you been in here long?"

Sam: "No, Bill. Just a few minutes. We woz waitin' for you, wasn't we, Jim?"

Jim: "That's right. Waitin' for you, Bill."

Bill: "Don't give me that. You've already got a half empty jug, Jim."

Sam: "That's your problem, Bill. Your jugs are always half empty, never half full. That's negative thinkin', Bill. You need to think positive, like."

Bill: "I'll think more positive when one of yous gets off your backside and gets me an ale in."

Jim: "Alright, What you 'aving then?"

Bill: "You mean they've got a choice in for us. That'd be a change."

Sam: "No, don't be daft. Only the same old gut rot they always serve. Oh, Betsy did say they've got a cider in. She said it's good. Put a sheep's leg in the cask and it'll strip it to the bone in two days."

Jim: "You must be joking. If you get that Betsy into your bed, you'll be stripped to the bone in less time than that."

Sam: "Betsy! Two more Jugs of gut rot over here please."

Bill: "Did you hear what that posh bloke in the saloon bar was sayin'?"

Sam: "I never listen to posh blokes, they talk a load of old tosh."

Bill: "It may be tosh but it was worryin'."

Sam: "What could possibly worry you? When you've had five pints your only worry is if you're goin' to stand up ever again."

Jim: "What was he sayin' then, Bill?"

Bill: "He was tellin' anyone who would listen that there is some sort of plague going to get us all."

Sam: "A plague? They only have those in the Bible. Was he carrying one of those boards saying; 'THE END IS NIGH'"

Bill: "No, he was serious. Said we'd all be told to stay in our rooms for six months."

Jim: "Did this toff say who he was?"

Bill: "No, but someone called him Boris."

Jim: "He'll be lucky to live through the night talking like that in here."

350 words

