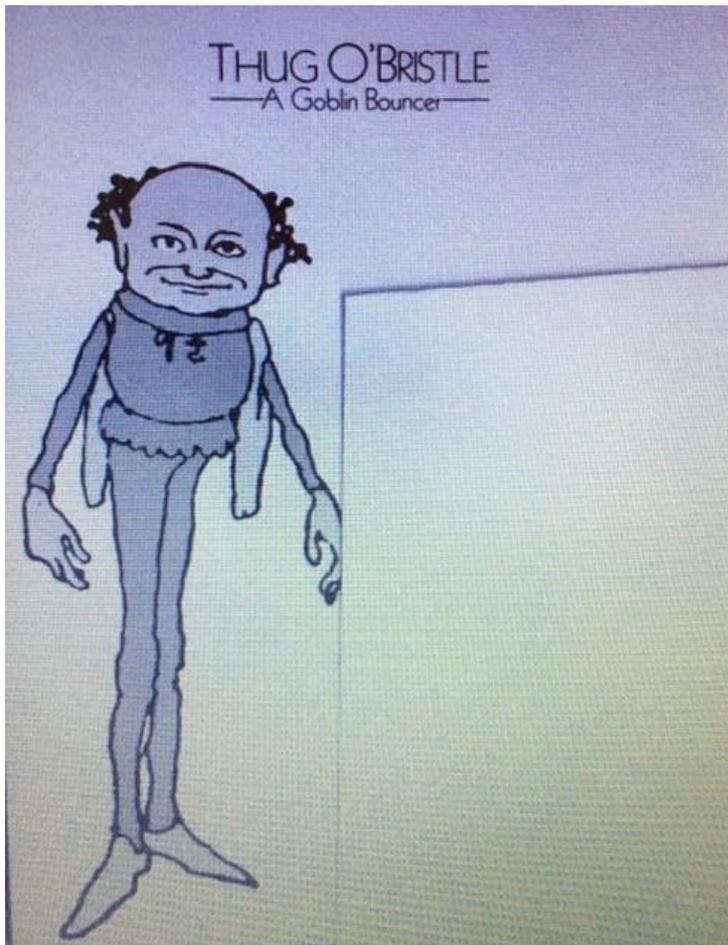


AN INTERVIEW WITH THUG O'BRISTLE



Our reporter for the Weekend Telegraph Supplement has a no-holds barred discussion with Thug O'Bristle, the top barman at the A-List pub, the Pig and Boar.

"So, Mr.O'Bristle...."

"You can't call me that."

"Why not?"

"Mr O'Bristle is my father's name."

"Yes, of course. Sorry,"

"So, I'm not him, am I? You can call me Thug, cos that's my name."

This interview has started on the wrong foot. Mr. O'Bristle seems a little tetchy.

"So, Thug, you are a Goblin Bouncer at the A-List Pub, The Pig and Boar.

How did you wind up in a book about Goblins?"

"There you go again, perpetuating stories about us Goblins. You journalists are all the same."

"But you are a Goblin."

"That's not important, is it. That's concentrating on racial stereotypes. It was that man wot done it"

"Who?"

"That Spike Milligan, wot wrote the book. He said we was gonna be famous"

"You are famous. It was very popular."

"But only as Goblins, not as real people. I was expecting to be in a book by Byron or Keats Or even John Betjeman."

"You're a pub Bouncer, Thug, why would they write about you?"

"Cos I know them all. They've all been in here, you know, and they've all felt the end of my dandelion club.'

"A dandelion club?"

"Yeah and if they get funny with the barmaid I touch them with a tinsel star and ask them to leave."

"What if they won't go?"

"Then I grab him by the collar and make a red mark on his sleeve.'

"That seems highly unlikely, Thug."

He leans forwards closer to me, menacingly.

"What do you know, eh?"

He sees a figure approaching and says cheerily,

"Good evening Mister Byron. Has the red mark on your sleeve gone yet?"

They link arms and walk into the Pig and Boar together.

A most unusual man, Mister Thug O"Bristle