

PROSIT!

England may have been suffering from a drought - but over in Munich they don't care where the water goes if it doesn't get into the beer. There's nothing wrong with this year's brew - so the annual Munich Beer Festival is more festive and more beery than ever. All the big guns are present; in fact, all Munich is present - and half Bavaria, too.

Merely to look at all that beer would be more than flesh and blood can stand - so it's time for the serious business of the day. Oh, and in case you didn't understand the title - "Prosit" is German for "Cheers". That's all the German we're going to teach you today, because to get a real grasp you need to absorb it from a very early age.

Quite what this has to do with beer it's hard to say; probably another of those things where you have to start at a very early age to get a really adequate grasp of the subject. Or would you rather be a fish? Or maybe, on the other hand, a goose? No, that's rather too warm. And to be quite honest, there's no future in it.

That should make your mouth water right through the big picture. But you're one up on this lot; at least you'll be able to see it.