

Yes it's... Kev's Christmas Soho Pub Crawl!!!!

This year the first annual Kev's Christmas Pub crawl will be held in Soho on the 14th December 2012 ~~7th December 2012~~ ~~30th November 2012~~... next year sometime!!! Anyway that's not necessarily important, the intention is that we will have a drink and a crawl at some point. And here is where we are going.

6 hand selected pubs chosen for their quality of ambience, ale, bar snacks, dry white wine, Bacardi, vodka and strong lager. Based loosely around the environs of Soho we'll take on the sights, sounds and unique smells that Central London has to offer.

So let's go!

Pub Number 1 – The Argyll Arms, 18 Argyll Street W1F 7TP



Not strictly Soho but it's close to Oxford Circus and therefore a good starting point after a hot journey on the London Underground. It's also a good opportunity to get the smell of stale urine out of your nostrils.

It's a lovely looking and busy pub with several snug areas which means you can avoid people you don't want to talk to. There's been a pub on this site since 1740 so try not to wreck it.

Suggested snack: Plain crisps.

Random reviews from the internet:

"...Sumptuous cut and etched glass and mirrors abound - a sheer delight! The welcome was warm and efficient and the ale is very well kept – bonus"

"When you're in this location you don't have to try too hard. And the Argyll doesn't".

Pub Number 2 – The Old Coffee House - 49 Beak St, London, W1F 9SB



Situated in Beak Street it used to be an actual Coffee House which catered for London's 18th century literary circles! You can probably still buy a mochafrappachinno here but why would you do that? Have a pint instead and look at the signed picture of American rock band Kiss which adorns one of the walls. The outside decor of the pub is brown which makes it look as if we've stepped into 1972.

Suggested snack: Bacon fries.

Random reviews from the internet:

"...angry, surly barman who accused my friend of not saying 'thank you' as he delivered two half pints which were two fingers short of full".

"The décor is lively and there is a lovely atmosphere about the place".

Pub Number 3 – The Crown, 64 Brewer Street, W1F 9TP



Despite its name there are no longer any breweries on Brewer Street.

However, the Crown is a fine looking traditional pub in Brewer Street on the edge of the old “lively” part of Soho. (Lively in the sense of the old 1970’s Met Police Vice squad lively).

Anyway this pub has some real history as it stands on the site of the old Hickford rooms where the precocious 9 year old Mozart once played (not with Jimmy Savile thankfully) his knockout tunes of the day. I’m not making this up, this is true. It also has pink interior walls.

The Crown is also next to Mark’s Bar which is owned and run by 2 Michelin starred chef Mark Hix. As such they will not welcome a large group of Council workers. They have a sign on the door which confirms this.

Suggested snack: Dry roasted peanuts .

Random reviews from the internet:

“Some may not like the climb up the narrow Wooden Stairs to the Toilets.”

“Excellent and friendly service”

“Full of tourists coming in for that real English experience with not an Englishman or Englishwoman in sight.”

Pub Number 4 - Nellie Dean of Soho, 89 Dean Street, W1D 3SU



A Grade II listed building named after Nellie Dean who used to play left back for Brentford in the late 1960’s. I may have made that bit up. Actually it used to be called the Dolphin but the name was changed due to all dolphins being barred following an incident with some tuna unfriendly fishing nets. Also made some of that up, not all. It’s not really important, you might be losing concentration by this point in any case.

Suggested snack: Onion rings (may contain onion) .

Random reviews from the internet:

“If you want to stand on the pavement outside to drink, you have to have your pint in a plastic glass”

“The Nellie Dean's standout feature is a vertiginous stairway”

Pub Number 5 – The Dog & Duck, 18 Bateman St, W1D 3AJ



A small old pub which probably can't hold many people. It'll be like being on the tube but you're allowed to drink. The stale smell of urine should not be as bad depending how close you are to the gents.

George Orwell used to get in here but I believe he had little to do with the ornate mosaic on the wall which depicts dogs and ducks.

Suggested snack: ~~Roast dog or duck~~ Scampi fries (does not contain scampi).

Random reviews from the internet:

"My mate tried the one called "Vicious" and it really was horrible, but that is what you get for drinking something called that. Good pub, well worth a visit"

"Not a great place to take a wife or girlfriend or either for senior citizens"

"Cracking little Soho pub and one of my favourites"

Pub Number 6 – De Hems, 11 Macclesfield Street, W1D 3AJ



It's Dutch and they serve Oranjeboom. It's a lager not a tune. A great selection of continental ales that will send anyone not already imbued with the spirit of Christmas \ Easter over the edge into

an abyss of oblivion. They used to have a signed Dennis Bergkamp Dutch shirt on the wall and used to play thumping Dutch hard house tunes (whatever that is). They may still do, we'll have to see. Funky upstairs bar too.

Suggested snacks: Pickled herring (will definitely contain fish), VLAMMETJES, SAMBALLETJES or for the more adventurous try the BITTERBALLEN with some PATATJE OORLOG

Random reviews from the internet:

"If this is a Dutch experience, it's akin to having a massive whitey on cheap hash and then catching a roaring STD round the back of Centraal Station"

"the gents toilets downstairs was foul with the ammoniac stench of stale urine, and the door was moist with the same. It's the first time I've ever washed my hands "before" going to the loo"

"I was looking forward to a plate of Frikadellen, but settled for a burger. I wish I hadn't; my stomach has been upset all afternoon and I've just enjoyed an episode of diarrhoea."

"I like De Hems"

And on that bombshell that's it. As you can see, this event is a vehicle for drinking. Eating is optional and will cut down the pubs we can get into. I advise bringing some form of packed lunch and perhaps a Wagon Wheel chocolate biscuit.

The pubs above are a good guide but if we see something interesting then detours can be made although I have the final say. Although the unity of the group is important stragglers and lightweights will be left behind. Good natured and humorous rowdiness is encouraged. Bad natured and surly aggressive behaviour will be dealt with by a severe Chinese burn.

After we get to the last pub any responsibility on my part will end and you're on your own. If you're in any doubt please consult your solicitor before taking part in this event or even bring them along if you're extra worried. Consent forms from appropriate adults will need to be obtained before you attend.

Good drinking!

Kev x

