

Hickford Tours Spring Saunter 2014

Borough Market

Friday 9th May 2014

"...change your hearts or you will lose your inns and you will deserve to have lost them. But when you have lost your inns drown your empty selves for you will have lost the last of England."

That quote was written by Hilaire Belloc the French-born poet, historian, and essayist around 100 years ago. I don't really know what Frenchmen know about drinking but we at Hickford Tours tend to agree with his sentiment nonetheless.

So let's make sure we don't let any pubs close down anytime soon by embarking on the latest Hickford Tours extravaganza in and around Borough Market!

Although we are venturing just across the water in Sarrf London. it'll be a more relaxed affair than the frenzied and highly successful Christmas event. The reduced number of pubs will give us a chance to take in a few drinks hither and thither and give you the chance to stock up on peanut related products as we go.

So where first? Falling out of London Bridge station let's go here...

The Southwark Tavern

22 Southwark Street London SE1 1TU



The 150 year old Southwark Tavern has a pleasingly horseshoe shaped bar and an interior that looks slightly more contemporary than the exterior would suggest. Vegetarians in the group can eat a nut roast here.

Next up, a curveball...or perhaps Einem verblffenden Curveball konnten...

Katzenjammer's HOP EXCHANGE

24 Southwark Street, London SE1 1TY



It's a German bierkeller...in Sarrf London. Lederhosen will be given out on the door although some of you may already be wearing this as part of your normal Friday night apparel.

Either way this is bound to be a bit odd. Lashings of German beer for the lads, barrels of Blue Nun for the ladies. Schnapps all round!

After that, a bit of reality...and it's only next door!

The Wheatsheaf

24 Southwark Street London SE1 1TY



The original Wheatsheaf used to sit somewhere round the corner but had to make way for the new Thameslink viaduct. It's now in a basement of the corporate hospitality venue the Hop Exchange – an impressive building which used to be the commercial centre of the Hop industry. Architecture fans should look out for the elaborate and decorative ironwork featuring designs of hops and a tableau of hop-pickers over its massive doorway.

The pub has a “modern old-school feel”. Make of that what you will.

BrewWharf

14-16 Stoney Street SE1 9AD



This bar is attached to the Vinopolis wine experience thing. It's contemporary and looks a bit shiny. Much like a group of Council workers out on the piss on a Friday night.

The Rake

14 Winchester Walk, London SE1 9AG



From the pictures it looks like a garden shed but actually it used to be a greasy spoon café. Now it's one of London premier beer hideaways and as it's so small it's likely to be very crowded. There is however a covered patio area that will shelter us for the inevitable sheets of rain...

Beer ain't cheap here so suggest we have one for the experience before we end the evening in a true classic...

The Market Porter

9 Stoney Street, London, London SE1 9AA



Iconic old school boozer on the Western edge of the market. As the market will be closed we won't have compete for space with with market shoppers who have just spent £35 on a sourdough baton and 100 grams of 19 year old Alpine air dried lightly smoked and cured Northern Italian pancetta cubes.

I suggest that the normal onslaught of Jagermeister shots be delayed to have a half of smoked chocolate porter. Well that's what I'd do anyway...

...and then it'll be time to travel back to the normal world of North London.

I hope you will have all enjoyed yourself...

Kev
Hickford Tours