



THE HICKFORD TOURS 2015

HOLBORN AND BLOOMSBURY CHRISTMAS 6!

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

Welcome to another Hickford Christmas Tour...and look at what you missed if you've not been on a Hickford Christmas Tour before!

Highlights of Previous Xmas Tours:

2014 – Shepherds Market: A group of Dutch women took pictures of the chest areas of the female members of the group under the pretence they were amazed by their Christmas Jumpers! Later inspection of the Dutch website www.dutchnicechest.com found this to be untrue.

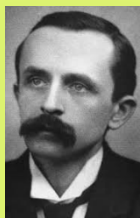
2013 – Brick Lane: Beigals! And the meltdown of certain members of the party after only 9 pubs!

2012 – Soho: It was held in February!

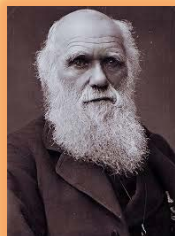
Sounds great doesn't it! And 2015 will be just the same!

And where are we going this year? Well we're going to Holborn! And Bloomsbury! In 1086 this area had vineyards and woods big enough to keep 100 pigs! This coming Friday 11th December it will have the addition of upwards of 10 Council workers!

Famous people used to live in Bloomsbury and some of them live here still. Look!!!!



Ricky Gervais



Bob Marley

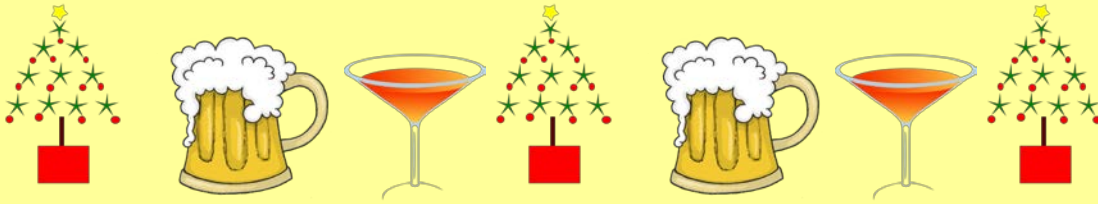


Charles Darwin



J. M. Barrie

So what are we going to do when we arrive at Holborn station? We're going into six pubs, drink a stack of beer, wines & spirits then come back again!



Here's some "facts" about the pubs we're going into – some of them are true, some are not. It's up to you whether you believe me or not

Where first....?

The Holborn Whippet **25-29 Sicilian Ave, London WC1A 2QH**



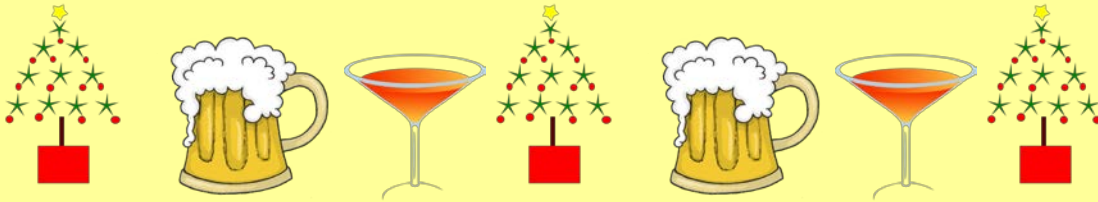
Situated at the end of an architecturally pleasing collonade is the Holborn Whippet. Named after the hobby of a group of Northern migrants from Wakefield who, in the late 1950's, raced their small dogs up and down Southampton Row. The practice was halted after the increasing number of canine fatalities played havoc with the flow of traffic.

Suggested Drink intake: 1-2

The Swan **7 Cosmo Pl, London WC1N 3AP**



A quick trot up Southampton Row following the ghosts of whippets past, turn into the wonderfully named Cosmo Place and you'll find the superior ale house that is the Swan.



The Swan is named after the inventor of the Swan Vesta Safety Match - Archibald Vesta. (Do not confuse him with Archibald Vesta of Swansea who was responsible for the development of freeze dried curries in boxes).

Keen pipe smoker Archibald, who lived in a grand townhouse in nearby Russell Square, died mysteriously in a house fire in 1907.

Suggested Drink intake: 2

The next pub is not the fabulously named Queens Larder (which is next to the Swan) but this one just past Great Ormond Street Hospital

The Perseverance

63 Lamb's Conduit St, London WC1N 3NB



This used to be a superb pub called the Sun which had a massive selection of beer. Back in the late 1980's (when I was 38) it used to be full of Civil Servants drinking their heads off into oblivion trying to forget they worked for central government. I once had an interview for the Civil Service in nearby Kingsway. I was refused. To this day will I never wear a bowler hat.

Suggested drink intake: 1



The Lamb

94 Lamb's Conduit St, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 3LZ



A gem. Old school in the best way...

"This beautifully preserved, Grade II listed Victorian pub still has the etched glass snob screens in place above the bar. These frosted glass snob screens were popular in the 1890s and hid the customer from the publican when they ordered their drinks, but the hinges still allowed the the bar staff to check on the customers without disturbing their privacy."

Handy so the bar staff can't see our faces as they begin to melt.

Suggested Drink intake: 2

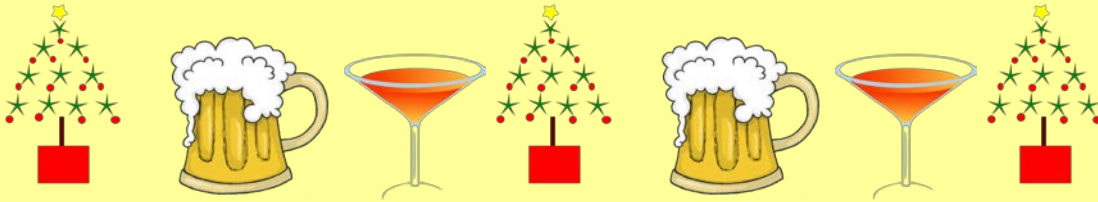
Old Red Lion

72 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS



There are many pubs called Red lion or Old Red Lion up and down the country. Mainly they are named in honour of Richard I "the Lionheart", King of England from 1189-1199. Feted in this country as a hero Richard actually spent most of his life in France fighting the locals. His tragic death at the age of 32 was in fact the first known instance of a nut allergy fatality when he choked on a Snickers bar. Mind you the Snickers bar was attached to a dirty big arrow fired from a French crossbolt.

Suggested Drink Intake: Standard boozier, perhaps we should partake of rapid fire shottage in here... Or halves of stout for the ladies.



The Ship
12 Gate St, London WC2A 3HP



If you didn't know this was here you'd never find it. Tucked behind Holborn station we're back where we started. Cosy little pub, should be full of drunk Council workers...

The interior of this building was renovated with debris salvaged from the WW2 German warship "The Admiral Graf Spee", which was scuttled in the bay of Montevideo after the infamous 1939 Battle of the River Plate. Now that might just be a true fact...then again...

So now we're at the end! Have a safe journey home...Hickford Tours festively washes it hands of you!

K xx