

SOX BRISTOL PUB CRAWL

Saturday 24th September 2016

A merry band of SOX members travelled to Bristol for a Bristol beer crawl organised a few months earlier.



Our first stop was the **Kings Head**, 60 Victoria Street BS1 6DE. This small pub dates from around 1660 and is identified by CAMRA as having a nationally important historic interior including a tramcar snug at the rear. Lodden "Hullabaloo" 4.2% Castle Rock's "HPA", Doombar and Sharp's "Atlantic" on offer with a mixture of locals and us.

Our second stop was **Cornubia**, 142 Temple Street BS1 6EN. Visually striking pub with knowledgeable bar-keeper Walls adorned with massive collection of pump clips. Pub also features a real fire and two fish tanks with an unusual array of fish and turtles. Eight real ales on offer including their own "Make it So" brew. Also available Phesentry's "Dark Ale", Dorchester Brewery Co "Tom Brown's" and "Yachtsman", Salamander "Plebeians' Porter "and "Fairer than that" plus Janet's Jungle Juice (Cider).



Our third pub was the tourist stop **Llandoger Trow** King Street BS1 4ER. Daniel Defoe met Alexander Selkirk, his inspiration for Robinson Crusoe, here and it was Robert Louis Stevenson's inspiration for the Admiral Benbow in Treasure Island. The pub had three real ales on, including Sharps "Atlantic" and Butcombe Bitter but most in our party agreed that it wasn't as impressive as the **Cornubia**.

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A short walk to our next stop **Famous Royal Navy Volunteer** 17-18 King Street BS1 4EF. The beers available are shown on the wooden boards to the right of the bar, with the eight cask ales at the far right hand side of the boards. Some of our party took a meal break at this pub. This pub had a selection of wooden notice boards near the bar with listings for each beer. The range was the most extensive of the crawl including Siren's Proteus IPA 6.9%, Atom's "Dark Matter" stout 4.5%, London beer Factory's "Strawberries and Cream" fruit beer 4.% and Alphabet's "Charlie Don Sure" 3.5% wheat beer.

We took a stop at nearby three brothers burgers a bar/restaurant moored on a boat called Spyglass on the nearby River Avon. Smokey Bro Dog and Cheeseburgers alongside halves of Magic Rock "Dark Arts" refreshed us for the final pubs on the tour.



O u r next stop was the White **Lion Quay Head** BS1 1EB. This pub was well known to us before the tour and was a quirky addition for those not familiar with it. The interior consists of one small room with a small but well stocked bar. Some of our male group made use of the feature in the corner of the pub. This is a cast iron spiral staircase which was taken from a local jail. It's probably one of the only pubs in Britain that requires the gents to navigate these narrow stairs down to the toilets, which can make a trip to the loo "interesting". The White Lion is a tied Wickwar Wessex pub. Beers on offer included "Bob" an

Amber AI 4.0% and "Falling Star" their premium golden ale 4.2%

Our next stop was the popular local's pub **Bank Tavern** 8 John Street BS1 2HR. Rumour is that locals are happy if the pub receives bad reviews because they can keep it for themselves. Box Steam Brewery, Incognito and Tunnel Vision on offer during our visit, and friendly directions from a local pointed us to our final stop



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Our final stop was the **Volunteer Tavern**, 9 New Street BS2 9DX. Close to the city centre shops, and dating from 1670 and listed, it reopened in 2011 after being closed for six months. Exmoor's "Silver Stallion", Blindman's "Buff", Bristol Beer Factory's "Milk Stout", Gloucester Brewery's "Session IPA" and Plain Ales "Arty Farty" all on offer which we supped in their heated outdoor covered garden before catching the train back to Oxfordshire.