

## The Oxford Pub Guide (to be used sparingly!)

### The Kings Arms 🍺🍺🍺

Broad Street, Oxford



- One of the most traditional pubs in Oxford.
- Complete cross section of Oxford people, all still crossing the welcome mat first put out by Thomas Franklin in 1607 when it opened.
- Back bar was reputed to possess more brains per square inch than any other bar in the world. Until it became a mixed bar in the mid-sixties!!
- Despite competition from no fewer than 20 inns in Broad St during the first 100 years of its existence, the KA soon became Oxford's premier public house.
- Spot the picture of the Queen Mum with handbag in one hand and a pint of Young's Best Bitter in the other!

### The Turf Tavern 🍺🍺🍺

Bath Place, Oxford



- One of Oxford's best known pubs, and the hardest to find, The Turf Tavern is built beneath the walls of New College and against the last remaining section of the old city wall.
- The pub dates back to the 13th century making it one of Oxford's oldest pubs, and it serves a huge range of traditional real ales.
- The pub is well known for its role in the "Inspector Morse" television series.

### The White Horse



52 Broad St, Oxford



- An early Tudor building
- You step down into a long, narrow and dimly lit pub where photographs of Oxford events line the walls (can you spot Sam?).
- Well known for attracting some of the University's more eccentric characters - including Bevis.

### The Eagle and Child



49 St Giles St, Oxford



- Known to locals as the 'Bird and Baby', this famous pub is one of Oxford's oldest (350 years old)
- It acted as the lodgings of the Chancellor of the Exchequer during the English Civil War (1642 - 49), when Oxford was the Royalist capital.
- More recently, it was the celebrated meeting place of famous authors. The writers C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and C. Williams formed their own literary group called the Inklings. This infamous drinking club used to meet in the back room (the "Rabbit Room") every Tuesday morning from 1939-1962 for lively debates on philosophy, literature, art and theology (and...latest pulls, footy results and..).
- See if you can spot photos of the Inklings on a plaque next to bar and their signatures on a framed note over the fireplace!
- Apparently C.S.Lewis used to keep his slippers behind the bar as he felt so at home there.
- Nowadays you are most likely to find Chris and Bevis propping up the bar.

### The Lamb and Flag 🍺🍺🍺



- There has been a tavern called the Lamb in St Giles since medieval times. The Lamb moved to its present location in 1617 and became the Lamb and Flag, although parts of the building are older. The name the 'Lamb and Flag' comes from the symbol of St. John the Baptist, to whom St John's College, next to the pub, is dedicated.
- The Lamb and Flag, formerly a coaching inn dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, is over 500 years old and has the tiny rooms and oak beamed ceilings to prove it.
- It is surrounded by and owned by St John's College

- Like the Eagle and Child opposite, the Lamb and Flag also has a literary claim to fame. Thomas Hardy is supposed to have written parts of his novel *Jude the Obscure* at the pub and indeed the obscure tavern in a rough place referred to near the end of the book is none other than the Lamb and Flag itself.
- Allegedly Tolkien and C.S. Lewis used to frequent this bar too.
- The pub is very popular with students, especially after seminars on Thursday and Friday evenings when the conversation can be frighteningly intellectual.
- Chris (of Jesus Bar) ran this pub for about 10 years.

### **The Bear** 🍺🍺🍺

Alfred Street

- Located between Christ Church and Oriel Colleges, the Bear tends to be well frequented by students - especially of the rugby playing, beer drinking type.
- Famous in Oxford for its underwhelming collection of about five thousand ties which hang in glass cases from the walls and ceilings.
- Reputedly built over a bear pit in 1242, the pub is one of the oldest in Oxford.
- Not the kind of pub you are going to be able to go to on a Friday night, unless you, like the pub, are very small.

### **The Bookbinders Arms** 🍺🍺🍺

17/18 Victor St, Jericho

- This is the only pub in the country with this name (apparently).
- Most of Jericho was created to house workers at the Oxford University Press - hence the name bookbinders.

### **The Head of the River** 🍺🍺🍺

St Aldates

- Located on the river - perfect for a drink if the weather improves.