

The Unforgettable Pubs of Brighton: A Literary and Historical Perspective by David Muggleton



Brighton Pubs by David Muggleton

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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A Literary Pub Crawl

Brighton's pubs have long been a magnet for writers, poets, and bohemians. In the 19th century, the city was a popular destination for literary figures such as Oscar Wilde, Rudyard Kipling, and H.G. Wells. These writers found inspiration in the pubs' lively atmosphere and colorful characters. Today, many of these pubs still retain their literary charm, and visitors can enjoy a pint while soaking up the history.

One of the most famous literary pubs in Brighton is the **Seven Stars**. This pub was a favorite haunt of Oscar Wilde, and it is said that he wrote some of his most famous works here. The Seven Stars is also known for its association with the Bloomsbury Group, a group of intellectuals and artists who were active in the early 20th century. Members of the Bloomsbury

Group, such as Virginia Woolf and Lytton Strachey, often met at the Seven Stars to discuss art, literature, and politics.

Another popular literary pub in Brighton is the **Hanbury Arms**. This pub was a favorite haunt of Rudyard Kipling, and it is said that he wrote some of his most famous stories here. The Hanbury Arms is also known for its association with the Pre-Raphaelites, a group of artists who were active in the mid-19th century. Members of the Pre-Raphaelites, such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Morris, often met at the Hanbury Arms to discuss art and literature.

A Historical Hideaway

Brighton's pubs have also played a significant role in the city's history. In the 18th century, Brighton was a popular destination for smugglers, and many pubs were used as meeting places for smugglers and their clients. Today, many of these pubs still retain their smuggling heritage, and visitors can enjoy a pint while learning about the city's smuggling past.

One of the most famous smuggling pubs in Brighton is the **Smugglers' Inn**. This pub is said to have been built on the site of an old smugglers' hideout, and it is said that smugglers used the pub's cellars to store their contraband. The Smugglers' Inn is also known for its association with the Brighton Town Crier, a town official who was responsible for announcing important news and events. The Town Crier would often use the Smugglers' Inn as his headquarters, and he would often announce his news from the pub's balcony.

Another popular historical pub in Brighton is the **Old Ship**. This pub is said to have been built on the site of an old ship, and it is said that the pub's timbers were taken from the ship's hull. The Old Ship is also known for its

association with the Battle of Trafalgar, a naval battle that took place in 1805. Admiral Lord Nelson, who commanded the British fleet at Trafalgar, is said to have visited the Old Ship before the battle, and he is said to have drunk a pint of ale in the pub's bar.

A Cultural Institution

Brighton's pubs are more than just places to drink and socialize. They are also cultural institutions that play an important role in the city's community. Pubs are often used as venues for live music, poetry readings, and other cultural events. They are also often used as meeting places for local groups and organizations.

One of the most popular cultural pubs in Brighton is the **Komedia**. This pub is known for its live music and comedy nights. The Komedia has hosted many famous musicians and comedians over the years, including Ed Sheeran, Dave Chappelle, and Amy Schumer. The pub is also known for its association with the Brighton Fringe Festival, a month-long arts festival that takes place every year in May.

Another popular cultural pub in Brighton is the **Duke of York's Picturehouse**. This pub is known for its independent films and live music. The Duke of York's Picturehouse has hosted many famous films over the years, including "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "The Blair Witch Project." The pub is also known for its association with the Brighton Film Festival, a film festival that takes place every year in September.

Brighton's pubs are a unique and unforgettable part of the city's culture. They are places where people can go to drink, socialize, and learn about the city's history and literature. Whether you are a local or a visitor, be sure

to visit some of Brighton's pubs and experience their unique atmosphere for yourself.

About the Author

David Muggleton is a professor of sociology at the University of Brighton. He is the author of several books on British pub culture, including "The Pub: A Cultural History" and "The Sociology of the Pub." Muggleton is a regular contributor to the BBC and The Guardian, and he has appeared on numerous television and radio programs to discuss pub culture.



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