

BBMC 2012 recommended watering holes

There are so many pubs in Brighton and Hove that you could go to one every day for a whole year and still not have visited them all. The British Beard and Moustache Championships' Beverage Sub-committee has made an in-depth study and assessment of all the nearby watering holes and has come up with a few recommendations. All these pubs are reasonably close to the Corn Exchange, most very close, and one or two within a stone's throw.

The Evening Star

Unique Selling Point: just 2-minutes walk from Brighton station

Address: 55/56 Surrey Street, BN1 3PB

Brewery: Dark Star Brewing Company

Distance from venue: 10-minute walk

Atmosphere: small, pine 'and sawdust', crammed when busy, friendly. Clientele are beer fanciers of every stripe

Staff: friendly, helpful, knowledgeable

Beers: good range of their absolutely superb beers. Try the rauchbeer

Scotches: Saw a Talisker lurking

Grub: cheap and uncommonly good French sticks and whatnot

Bogs: fair

Further info: <http://www.darkstarpubs.co.uk/>

The Lord Nelson

USP: 2-minute walk from station

Address: 36 Trafalgar Street, BN1 4ED

Distance from venue: 8-minute walk

Brewery: Harveys of Lewes

Atmosphere: good old-fashioned pub

Staff: friendly but slightly adrift sometimes

Beers: well-kept Harveys and some other stuff

Scotches: usual selection. Not bad

Grub: Good roasts and pub grub-type grub

Bogs: not fantastic

Further info: http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/35/3593/Lord_Nelson/Brighton

The Colonnade

USP: very fancy and atmospheric theatre pub

Address: 10 New Road, BN1 1UF

Distance from venue: 2-minute walk

Atmosphere: stunning fancy interior with swags, drapes, dangly-doods, the lot! Bit pricey, but worth it for the atmosphere. Fills up during intervals of theatre shows next door at Theatre Royal. Then empties again

Staff: friendly

Beers: Harveys best and various other stuff

Scotches: the usual

Grub: dunno

Bogs: down steep stairs. Pretty good

Further info: <http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/21/21592/Colonnade/Brighton>

112 Church Street

USP: closest pub – spitting distance. Golden Handbag Award winner

Address: 112 Church Street, BN1 1UD

Distance from venue: 8-second walk (opposite)

Atmosphere: long thin pub/bar, not large. Especially gay-friendly

Staff: translucent

Beers: hmm

Scotches: usual

Grub: won prizes for Sunday lunch

Bogs: dunno

Further info: <http://www.112churchstreet.co.uk/>

The Waggon and Horses

USP: incredibly close

Address: 109 Church Street, BN1 1UD

Distance from venue: 12-second walk (almost opposite)

Atmosphere: friendly drinkers pub

Staff: cheerful

Beers: good variety of very drinkable stuff

Scotches: usual

Grub: pub grub

Bogs: not bad

Further info: http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/35/3576/Waggon_and_Horses/Brighton

The Mash Tun

USP: very close

Address: 1 Church Street, BN1 1UE

Distance from venue: 1-minute's walk

Atmosphere: very busy and loud

Staff: hmmm

Beers: hmmm

Scotches: hmmm

Grub: dunno

Bogs: OK

Further info: http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/20/20723/Mash_Tun/Brighton

Mrs Fitzherberts

USP: very close

Address: 25 New Road, BN1 1UG

Distance from venue: 1-minute's walk (next door to The Mash Tun)

Atmosphere: lovely tiny pub with low ceilings and a wonky wood floor

Staff: tattooed, young and friendly

Beers: Harveys and a variety of other good stuff

Scotches: usual

Grub: looks very nicely done, though not actually tested by us

Bogs: fair

Further info: <http://www.qype.co.uk/place/105020-Mrs-Fitzherberts-Brighton>

The Basketmakers Arms

USP: bloody good all-round boozier. Best Scotch selection

Address: 12 Gloucester Road, BN1 4AD

Distance from venue: 5-minute walk

Brewery: Fuller's

Atmosphere: truly wonderful steamy, busy, cosy pub with pipe-tobacco tins nailed all over the walls. Nice people

Staff: friendly, knowledgeable

Beers: Fuller's range, including Gale's. Plus guest ales

Scotches: Best selection in town. Got everything

Grub: Vast portions of gastro-pub-type grub

Bogs: indifferent

Further info: <http://www.thebasketmakersarms.co.uk/>

The Craft Beer Co

USP: vast choice of beers

Address: 22/23 Upper North Street, BN1 3FG

Distance from venue: 10-minute walk

Atmosphere: young, busy, trendy, young, friendly, young

Staff: beer enthusiasts with broad, if not deep, knowledge

Beers: nine cask ales changing daily, 21 keg taps with 'craft beer' from the world's finest breweries. 200 different bottles at any one time, many in fridges

Scotches: novelty over quality

Grub: moustache-branded crisps and dead fancy pork pies, Scotch eggs, and that's it. Excellent!

Bogs: untested but it's a new pub so probably in good nick

Further info: <http://thecraftbeerco.com/>