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Tulchan



98 The Seven Stars *Holborn, London*

Found in the shadow of the Royal Courts of Justice, lawyers have been propping up the bar here for more than 400 years. Inside, you'll find wood floors, a sagging ceiling, a stropky black cat on the bar sporting a white neck ruff (a nod to the legal profession), simple but brilliant food and an eccentric landlady called Roxy Beaujolais. Understandably popular, the bar fills up quickly post-work but drinkers can take their pint of Adnams (£3.20) and paper bag of macadamia nuts out under the lavish hanging baskets. **CT-B**



Open Mon-Fri 11am-11pm, Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-10.30pm - Food Mon-Fri 12-9.45pm, Sat-Sun 1-9pm - 53-54 Carey Street, WC2A 2JB - 020-7242 8521



100 Robert Raikes's House *Gloucester*

It's taken two years and around £4.5m, but the former timber-framed home of Robert Raikes, founder of the Sunday school movement, is now open for business. The building's history has been beautifully preserved; pictures and articles about Raikes line the walls and a quick

read will tell you all about the first Sunday schools held in the walled courtyard here. This is a Samuel Smith's pub serving value pints (Old Brewery Bitter and Pale Ale) and traditional pub grub.



Open Mon-Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-10.30pm - Food Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm, 6-8.30pm, Sun 12-3pm - Children welcome until 9pm - Samuel Smith - 36-38 Southgate Street, GL1 2DR - 01452 526685

99 Ye Old White Harte *Kingston upon Hull, East Yorkshire*

Never underestimate the effect a decision made in a pub can have. In 1642, "the plot" took place in The White Harte's appropriately named "plotting parlour", above the back bar. The clandestine discussions (no doubt over a few of the excellent single malts) are believed to have triggered the English civil war. Nowadays, you can enjoy fresh food at reasonable prices (mains £5.75) in the much-loved courtyard, which is festooned with award-winning hanging baskets. **CT-B**



Open Mon-Fri 11am-midnight, Sat 11am-12.30am, Sun 12-11.30pm - Food 11.30am-3.30pm - Children in restaurant only - Dogs in the beer garden - Scottish Courage - 25 Silver Street, HU1 1JG - 01482 326363, yeoldewhiteharte.co.uk

Recommended pub guides and websites

The AA Pub Guide 2009 (AA Publishing, £14.99) More than 2,000 of the AA's favourites.

The Good Pub Guide 2009, edited by Alisdair Aird and Fiona Stapley (Ebury Press, £15.99) No pictures, but more than 5,000 bars, inns, hotels and pubs.

The Good Beer Guide, edited by Roger Protz (Camra Books, £14.99) The best places to drink real ale, with an index of beers and independent breweries.

Eating out in pubs 2009 (Michelin, £14.99) The gourmants that award the stars recommend the best pubs for food.

Good Pub Food, by Susan Nowak and Jill Adam (Camra, £14.99) Reviews of more than 500 pubs that sell real ale and decent grub.

A Man Walks into a Pub, by Pete Brown (Pan Books, £7.99) Part monumental pub crawl, part sociable history of beer.

The Local: A History of the English Pub, by Paul Jennings (The History Press, £20) How drinking dens have evolved over the past few hundred years.

Pubs and Inns of England and Wales (Alastair Sawday Special Places to Stay), edited by David Hancock (Alastair Sawdays, £14.99) The best boutique inns, tried and tested.

camra.org.uk

News, festival listings, awards, books and more from the champions of real ale.

beerintheevening.com Candid pub reviews from locals and visitors.

homesteadbb.free-online.co.uk Once upon a pint: pubs and their literary connections.

timeout.com/london/bars/ Reviews, features and recommendations written by the people who know London best.