

The British Isles



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Historic Society

Heritage, History, Traditions & Customs

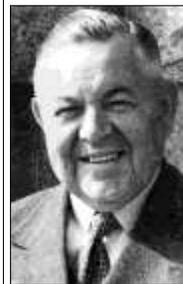
02-21c Dates in History



the city until 1939. The building cost \$2.3 million to build – \$1.1 million over budget—but due to the Great Depression it was sold to the Guinness family of Ireland for only \$900,000.

There was an observation deck, but during the depression in the 1930s the 25-cent admission price proved unaffordable for most. Currently, there are no public galleries in the building.

(Editors Note: I had just turned 16 and just got a drivers license. The family then thought we would drive from Edmonton to Vancouver for a holiday. The observation deck on the top floor in the Marine Building was on my first ever visit to Vancouver.)



Joseph William Hobbs was born in **Newbury UK** in 1881. Hobbs was trained as an engineer and emigrated to Canada before World War One. He moved to Alberta and undertook a career in ranching before moving to Vancouver BC. He was one of the most colourful characters to serve with the Royal Canadian Navy.



The Marine Building

is a skyscraper located at 355 Burrard Street in Downtown Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada near the Financial District. The building was conceived by Lt. Commander J.W. Hobbs, who recognized that the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914 would greatly increase Vancouver's importance as a commercial port, and decided that the city needed a grand, iconic building,

Completed in 1930, at the time of its opening it was the city's tallest skyscraper and it is one of the most iconic buildings in Vancouver and listed among the best Art Deco buildings in the world. It owes its name to the plethora of fine marine-themed ornaments that decorate it. Because of its iconic architecture and luscious interior decorations, the building has been chosen as the setting of a number of film and television productions. The Marine Building is considered one of Vancouver's most identifiable buildings. It opened on October 7, 1930, and at 22 floors high, was the tallest skyscraper in



RMS Tayleur was a full-rigged iron clipper ship chartered by the White Star Line. She was large, fast and technically advanced. She ran aground off Lambay Island and sank on her maiden voyage in 1854. Of more than 650 aboard, only 280 survived. She has been described as "the first Titanic".

Tayleur was designed by William Rennie of Liverpool and built at the Charles Tayleur foundry at Warrington for owners Charles Moore & Company of Mooresfort lattan, Co Tipperary. She was launched in Warrington on the River Mersey on 4 October 1853 - it had taken just six months to build her. She was 230 feet in length with a 40-foot beam and displaced 1,750 tons, while 4,000 tons of cargo could be carried in holds 28 feet deep below three decks. She was named after Charles Tayleur, founder of the Vulcan Engineering Works, Bank Quay, Warrington.

The new ship was chartered by White Star to serve the booming Australian trade routes, as transport to and from the colony was in high demand due to the discovery of gold there.

Tayleur left Liverpool on 19 January 1854, on her maiden voyage, for Melbourne, Australia, with a complement of 652 passengers and crew. She was mastered by 29-year-old Captain John Noble. During the inquiry, it was determined that her crew of 71 had only 37 trained seamen amongst them, and of these, ten could not speak English. It was reported in newspaper accounts that many of the crew were seeking free passage to Australia. Most of the crew were able to survive.

Her compasses did not work properly because of the iron hull. The crew believed that they were sailing south through the Irish Sea but were actually travelling west towards Ireland. On 21 January 1854, within 48 hours of sailing, Tayleur found herself in a fog and a storm, heading straight for the island of

Lambay. The rudder was undersized for her tonnage, so that she was unable to tack around the island. The rigging was also faulty; the ropes had not been properly stretched, so that they became slack, making it nearly impossible to control the sails. Despite dropping both anchors as soon as rocks were sighted, she ran aground on the east coast of Lambay Island, about five miles from Dublin Bay.

Tayleur has been compared with RMS Titanic. They shared similarities in their separate times. Both were RMS ships and White Star Liners (although these were different companies), and both went down on their maiden voyages. Inadequate or faulty equipment contributed to both disasters (faulty compasses and rigging for the Tayleur, and lack of binoculars and life boats for the Titanic).



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Tayleur



JOHN MACKAY, assistant ship's surgeon; fl. 1785–87 was the first non native to live in BC – in Nootka on Vancouver Island.

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mackay_john_4E.html



Captain James Cook FRS

Born: November 7, 1728, **Marton-in-Cleveland, United Kingdom** was a British explorer, navigator, cartographer, and captain in the British Royal Navy, famous for his three voyages in the Pacific and

Australia in particular. 1778 Great Britain's explorer, Captain James Cook, reached Nootka Sound and became the first white man to set foot on British Columbian soil.



The Hill of Tara

(Irish: Teamhair or Cnoc na Teamhrach) is a hill and ancient ceremonial and burial site

near Skryne in County Meath, Ireland. According to tradition, it was the inauguration place and seat of the High Kings of Ireland, and it also appears in Irish mythology. Tara consists of numerous monuments and earthworks—from the Neolithic to the Iron Age—including a passage tomb (the "Mound of the Hostages"), burial mounds, round enclosures, a standing stone (believed to be the Lia Fáil or "Stone of Destiny"), and a ceremonial avenue. There is also a church and graveyard on the hill. Tara is part of a larger ancient landscape and Tara itself is a protected national monument under the care of The Office of Public Works, an agency of the Irish Government.



James Augustine

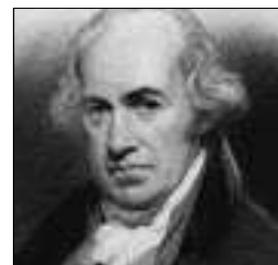
Aloysius Joyce, (1882-1941)

Born: February 2, 1882 **Rathgar, Ireland**. His works include; Dubliners, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses, and

Finegan's Wake. Joyce was an Irish novelist, short story writer, poet, teacher, and literary critic. He contributed to the modernist avant-garde movement and is regarded as one of the most influential and important writers of the 20th century. [Wikipedia](#)

1.) James Watt (Scottish Inventor, Born: January 19, 1736, **Greenock, Scotland**) is sometimes said to be the inventor of this machine. This is not actually the case, although he was responsible for developing it. What is this invention?

- a. Chocolate fountain
- b. Steam engine
- c. MRI Scanner
- d. Submarine



Elizabeth Blackwell

was a **British** physician, notable as the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States, and the first woman on the Medical Register of the

General Medical Council.

The first female physician in the U.S., Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) was born near **Bristol, England**. As a girl, her family moved to New York State. She was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, in 1849. She then established a hospital in New York City run by an all-female staff. She was also active in training women to be nurses for service in the American Civil War.

The O'Keefe Ranch

is a historic ranch in the Okanagan region of British Columbia, Canada on the Canadian National Railway, just northwest of Vernon. The



ranch was founded in 1867 by Cornelius O'Keefe. Cornelius O'Keefe was born on July 26, 1838 near Fallowfield, Ontario. His father, Michael O'Keefe (ca. 1783-1864) was an Irish immigrant from **Kilworth, County Cork**. O'Keefe Ranch has retained several original buildings from the 19th century, many of which are open to the public from May until October for self-guided tours. They are decorated as they would have been during the 19th century.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O'Keefe_Ranch

May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks.

May your heart be as light as a song.

**May each day bring you bright, happy hours
that stay with you all the year long.**



Vincent Christopher Barry was born in **Sunday's Well, Cork Ireland**. He was the youngest of 11 children. (1908–1975) was a scientist

and researcher from Ireland. He is known for leading the team which developed the anti-leprosy drug clofazimine. In 1943, Barry returned to Dublin to work for the Medical Research Council. Barry worked with The Leprosy Mission in Zimbabwe and India to develop drugs against tuberculosis and leprosy. He led a team of scientists at Trinity College, Dublin to discover the anti-leprosy drug clofazimine. Barry and his team were awarded the 1980 UNESCO Science Prize for their work.



Mount Robson was named after Colin Robertson, who worked for both the North West Company and the Hudson's

Bay Company at various times in the early 19th century, though there was confusion over the name as many assumed it to have been named for John Robson, an early premier of British Columbia.

Colin Robertson (July 27, 1783 – February 4, 1842) was an early fur trader and political figure. He was born in **Perth, Scotland** in 1783. He originally apprenticed in Scotland as a hand weaver but later travelled to New York City where he found work in a grocery store. By 1803, he had joined the North West Company, leaving it in 1809. Robertson then travelled to England, where he became a merchant at Liverpool. In 1814, he returned to Canada in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, leading an expedition to re-establish the company in the area around Lake Athabasca.

Robson Street, Vancouver named after John Robson: 9th Premier of British Columbia Born: 14 March 1824 Perth, Ontario, Upper Canada, Died: 29 June 1892 (aged 68) London, England

2.) William Murdoch (Scottish Engineer, Born: August 21, 1754, **Lugar, Cummock, Ayrshire**) has several inventions to his credit. This one may be one of his more obscure achievements. What is it?

- a. Waterproof paint
- b. Street lights
- c. Electric oven
- d. Post-it notes



Skara Brae /'skærə 'breɪ/ is a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skail on the west coast of Mainland, the

largest island in the Orkney archipelago of **Scotland**. Consisting of eight clustered houses, it was occupied from roughly 3180 BC to about 2500 BC and is Europe's most complete Neolithic village. Skara Brae gained UNESCO World Heritage Site status as one of four sites making up "The Heart of Neolithic Orkney". Older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids, it has been called the "Scottish Pompeii" because of its excellent preservation.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skara_Brae

TRIVIA:

The Wild Atlantic Way, a stunning drive that stretches all the way from the cliffs around County Donegal, in the far north of Ireland, all the way down to the beaches of County Cork, is the 'longest defined coastal driving route in the world'.

The 2,500 km route passes through nine counties and three provinces,

The Shamrock is recognised around the world as a symbol of Ireland and all things Irish. But the harp is actually the official National Symbol of Ireland. You can see the real harp on which the symbol is based in the Trinity College library, which dates back to the fifteenth century.



Britannia Mines

Dr. A. Forbes - the Discoverer of Britannia's Copper

Dr. Forbes is credited with the discovery of copper at Britannia in 1888. The story of the discovery however includes another prospector and a buck. A document prepared by the Museum gives some background on the **Scottish** physician/pro prospector and the mineral discovery that became Britannia.

J W D Moodie - Britannia's Autocrat

In 1911 Mr. Moodie came to Britannia with one task - make the mine profitable. The Museum gives an introduction to the man that revamped Britannia, providing the foundation for it to grow into the largest copper producer in the British Empire. John Wedderburn Dunbar Moodie (October 7, 1797 – October 22, 1869) was a Scottish-born army officer, farmer, civil servant and writer in early Canada. The son of Major James Moodie, he was born in **Melsetter** in the Orkney Islands.



February 8, 1587 - **Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots**, was beheaded at Fotheringhay, England, after 19 years as a prisoner of Queen Elizabeth I. She became entangled

in the complex political events surrounding the Protestant Reformation in England and was charged with complicity in a plot to assassinate Elizabeth.

May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

3.) Charles Mackintosh, Scottish Chemist (Born: December 29, 1766, **Glasgow, Scotland**) came up with an invention that was first used on an Arctic expedition in the early 19th century. Any ideas what this one is?



Irish Horse Breeds,

Remains found at Lough Gur, County Limerick, and Newgrange, County Meath, indicate that the Irish had domesticated horses before 2000 B.C.

Ireland is the largest producer of thoroughbreds in Europe. Irish breeders have a well-earned reputation for producing tough, durable and sound horses that go on to perform at the highest level all over the world. A temperate climate and calcium rich soil provide ideal conditions for developing young stock.

So in Ireland they have a native breed which is unique among all the world's horse breeds in its genetic composition and in its genetic affinity with the thoroughbred. Our Connemara and Irish Draught breeds come from a horse population that were raced and used in sport for millennia.

The Irish Sport Horse, or Irish Hunter, is an Irish breed of warmblood sporting horse, used mostly for dressage, eventing and show-jumping. It was bred from 1923 by cross-breeding of Irish Draught and Thoroughbred stock.

The Irish Draught horse is the national horse breed of Ireland which developed primarily for farm use. Today, they are especially popular for crossing with Thoroughbreds and warmbloods, producing the popular Irish Sport Horses which excel at the highest levels of events and show jumping.



[Wikipedia.](#)

- a. Compass
- b. Snow plough
- c. Dried rations
- d. Waterproof coat





The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)

The regiment originated on 3 September 1912 when the 88th Regiment, Victoria Fusiliers, was authorized. When the 16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion, CEF, was created in 1914, it drew on soldiers from four separate regiments – the 50th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders of Canada) in Victoria, the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in Vancouver, the 79th Regiment (Cameron Highlanders of Canada) in Winnipeg, and the 91st Canadian Highlanders (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) in Hamilton. The desire was to not perpetuate specific regimental identities and so the new battalion was simply referred to as "Canadian Scottish".

The regiment went on to earn 17 battle honours, including one for the liberation of Wagenborgen, a Dutch village; this last honour was not awarded until the 1990s.

The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)

Originated 3 September 1912 in Victoria, British Columbia as the 88th Regiment (Victoria Fusiliers)

The 50th Regiment "Highlanders"

Originated 15 August 1913 in Vancouver, British Columbia as an "8 company Highland Regiment of Infantry"

66th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA

Originated 1 August 1930 in Nanaimo, British Columbia as the 2nd Battalion, The Canadian Scottish Regiment

62nd Anti-Tank Battery (Self-Propelled), RCA

Originated 2 February 1920 in Duncan, British Columbia as the 62nd Field Battery (Howitzer), CFA

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Canadian_Scottish_Regiment_\(Princess_Mary\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Canadian_Scottish_Regiment_(Princess_Mary))

4.) **Robert William Thomson**, Scottish Engineer (born June 29, 1822, **Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Scotland**) invented another of the world's most commonly used items. Which is it?

- a. Hovercraft
- b. Hydraulic suspension
- c. Pneumatic tyres
- d. Car upholstery



Charles Robert Darwin

FRS FRGS FLS FZS Author and naturalist Charles Darwin Born: February 12, 1809, **The Mount House, Shrewsbury, United Kingdom** (1809-1882) Best known for his work Origin of the Species

concerning the theory of evolution. was an English naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his contributions to the science of evolution. His proposition that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors is now widely accepted, and considered a foundational concept in science. [Wikipedia](#)



The Royal Cork Yacht Club

founded in 1720, is widely recognised as the world's oldest yacht club. The club plays host to

Cork Week, Ireland's largest and most prestigious sailing event. It is held every two years and attracts boats and sailors from around the world. There is still a very strong tradition of sailing in many of these coastal towns, and you can either hire small sailing boats for your own use or sign up to sailing courses in towns such as Schull and Baltimore.

**Lang may yer lum reek!
May you live long and stay well.**

Scottish Saying



February 6, 1952 - King George VI of England died. Upon his death, his daughter Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Her actual coronation took place on June 2, 1953.



The Old Hastings Mill Store Museum

Built in 1865, the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum is Vancouver's oldest building, the last left standing after the Great Vancouver Fire of 1886.

Hastings Mill was a sawmill on the south shore of Burrard Inlet and was the first commercial operation around which the settlement that would become Vancouver developed in British Columbia, Canada. Founded in 1865 by Edward Stamp, the sawmill operated until its closure in 1928.

Edward Stamp (Born 1814, Alnwick in **Northumberland, England, United Kingdom**) was an English mariner and entrepreneur who contributed to the early economic development of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Stamp served as the captain of a steam transport in the Crimean War in 1854.



ROB ROY: Immortalised in written word and on the silver screen, Rob Roy is to many a 'Scottish Robin Hood'. Born Rob Roy MacGregor on the northern shores of **Loch Katrine** in 1671, during his life he was a soldier, a clan leader, a castle raider, an outlaw and ultimately a folk hero.



Charles John Huffam Dickens FRSA was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. Charles Dickens born February 7, 1812, **Landport, Portsmouth, United Kingdom.** (1812-1870) He examined social inequalities through his works including; David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, and Nicholas Nickleby. In 1843, he wrote A Christmas Carol in just a few weeks, an enormously popular work even today.



Thomas More (1478-1535) was born on February 7, 1478, **Milk Street, London.** He was a lawyer, scholar, and held the title Lord Chancellor of England. As a devout Catholic, he refused to acknowledge the divorce of King Henry VIII from Queen Catherine, thereby refusing to acknowledge the King's religious supremacy. He was charged with treason, found guilty and beheaded in 1535, with his head then displayed from Tower Bridge. Four hundred years later, in 1935, he was canonized by Pope Pius XI.

**May your heart be light and happy,
may your smile be big and wide, and
may your pockets always have a coin or two inside!**

Irish Saying

5.) Dugald Clerk, (Born: 31 March 1854, **Glasgow, Scotland**), was knighted for his work in war time rather than his invention of what?

- a. Combine Harvester
- b. Hover mower
- c. Gas fridge
- d. Two-stroke engine





Celtic Shipyards

(7520 Balaclava Street, in Southlands) is the last industrial site in

Vancouver that retains

buildings from the historic ship repair industry that supported the fishing industry – historically one of the city’s greatest economic drivers.

The site itself is very historically significant.

Celtic Cannery, the first fish-packing plant in Vancouver, was built by the Welch Bros. and opened in 1897 on the Fraser River. In 1902, BC Packers purchased Celtic Island and Deering Island to form Celtic Shipyards. By 1926 the site was converted to a shipyard to repair and construct B.C. Packers’ fishing vessels.

Celtic continued to provide moorage and ship maintenance service throughout the 20th century. In 1950 the Celtic Cannery building and numerous fishing boats burned down in a waterfront fire.

Today, the Celtic Shipyards Covered Ways, Carpenter Shop and Machine Shop (circa 1926-1930s) remain intact.

B.C.P. 41 (I)

In 1927-1932 she was owned by Packers

Steamship Co. Ltd., Vancouver BC. In 1938 she was purchased and commissioned into Royal Canadian Navy as a Canadian Naval Training Vessel. In 1946 she was renamed as the Santa Rosa.



Jane Austen, Author (December

16, 1775 – July 18, 1817 Perhaps one of

the first modern-era feminists, Jane

Austen’s literary work is still lauded

around the world today. Known for her six major

novels - Pride and Prejudice being the stand-out -

Austen’s plots often explore a woman’s social

standing, marriage and economic security.



Stanley Park Pavilion

In the 1930’s, the Stanley Park Pavilion was known as the place

to be seen among Vancouver locals. Dressed in their Sunday best, families would gather on the Pavilion lawn and socialize with friends and watch performances at the popular bandstand, the Malkin Bowl.

From its modest beginning as a concession stand in 1911 (making it the oldest building still standing in the park), the Pavilion was transformed into a charming banqueting facility that even hosted Queen Elizabeth II during her 1959 visit to Vancouver. Designed by Otto Moberg, it is now listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register as a Class A heritage building and boasts all of its original charm and history. Its old world charisma is obvious with original wood detailing throughout, stone fireplaces and the glistening chandeliers in the turn of the century Lord Stanley Ballroom.

From having hosted royalty to celebrities such as actor and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Stanley Park Pavilion continues to create unforgettable memories for all of her guests ... and truly is one of Vancouver’s hidden gems.



Answers, Scottish Inventors Quiz:

1. Steam Engine
2. Gas street lights
3. Waterproof (Fabrics) Coat
4. Pneumatic Tyres
5. Two Stroke Engine

Our Readers Get The Last Word!

2021-01-31 9:53 AM

Dear Steve

I do so enjoy your newsletter, thank you so much for sending it to me. You must devote a lot of your life to making something as brilliant as this.

Would you allow us to put it on the Royal Society of St George website each time you produce one? I know that it would be very well received and enjoyed, and it would certainly get shared!

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Joanna Cadman

Chairman, Royal Society of St George

www.rssg.org.uk



Editors Note: thank you for your comments and support. Stay safe and stay healthy

2021-02-05 10:12 AM

Many thanks Steve, just going to post it on our website.

Have a great weekend, keep safe and well.

Best wishes

“Liz” Elizabeth Margaret Lloyd

General Secretary, The Royal Society of St. George

Editors Note: additional British Isles Historic Society newsletters available at:

<https://rssg.org.uk/branches/overseas/americas/canada/>

2021-02-05 9:37 AM

Dear Steve

Interesting bacon notes

As a butchers son cured my own from Belly Pork with fine and course salt, brown sugar, black pepper, bay leave, rosemary and salt peter. It looks like your Canadian bacon I cure it for a week then let it dry. Very tasty but not too salty

Enjoy your newsletters.

Yours, Keith Lang

Wigan, United Kingdom

Friday, January 29, 2021 7:40 PM

Hi Steve

Thanks for the information I have sent a copy of the pension details to all my expat friends

Could you kindly advise me the website to obtain copies of the British Isles newsletter

Thanks

Ken Andrews

2021-02-05 11:43 PM

Glad to see steak and kidney pie included.

How about featuring liver and onions - with bacon, mushrooms, red peppers - to die for. We have found the best liver is from a young Alberta moose !

Also jugged hare with onions, bacon, spices, red wine and red current jelly.

This was the traditional family dish, in Hertfordshire, for very special occasions. The kids got to pick the shot gun pellets out of the thighs.

I am enjoying your newsletter - tremendous effort and dedication.

Tim Hawkings.

Editors Note: I have included all of John's emails this time in the newsletter. John Hickson was very active in the British Canadian Social Club on Vancouver Island until the virus stopped meetings for the interim. John has been very supportive and informative and I wish to share his comments with the readers.

2021-01-31 12:09 PM

Steve,

As you can see I have been sending your newsletter to my British friends on Vancouver Island, Alberta and the UK. They find it interesting with the foody things and the news, albeit mostly BC related. A lot of people are interested however.

Some may be contacting you. I hope this doesn't become a too big a job for you as a result. Thanks for doing this, but is it costing you money to do this, for which we should pay you?

Cheers, John

2021-01-31 2:04 PM

Steve,

I am on your mailing list but several friends weren't after our British club closed down due to lack of numbers. But we were meeting for lunch once a month, before the stricter Covid regs came in. I was just checking that it was ok to forward your newsletter, and spread the gospel, so to speak.

They are adding First Nation names to the streets in Duncan. Many of the current street names are named after WWI events. Lest we forget, eh? They are Anglicised words of the First nations phonetic sounds, as the First nations didn't have an alphabet as such.

That's one ok thing I thought Pierre Trudeau did, to make French and English Canada's only official languages. That way it stops every ethnic peoples having their language represented, at least

on Federal notices and causing chaos.

Of course much of Duncan is on First nations lands. Unlike the Prairie provinces, BC didn't have official treaties with the natives. The BC government just stuck them on whatever land they deem appropriate at the time. That's why BC is playing catch up now!

During Covid, I'm reading Simon Winchester's book on The Last Outposts of the British Empire. The places he visited like Ascension Island; Tristan de Chuna: St Helena; etc. Makes for interesting reading about British Heritage, good and not so good.

Slainte, John

2021-02-05 2:14 PM

Thanks Steve, Great newsletters.

You mention that there are no distinct Canadian foods, that could be claimed as Canadian. I suggest that Pemmican, a Cree "Trail food mix" adopted by Les Voyageurs, and Poutine, a dish of French fries, gravy and cheese, originating in Quebec, could be considered distinct Canadian foods!! Albeit, different types of Pemmican, with different names were used by other North American tribes.

I was glad to see the photo of the Trip to Jerusalem Inn in Nottingham, which I frequented during my student days at Nottingham University. It was originally a hole, cave, in the rocks under the castle, still is in part, and dates from 1040, or before and was where the Knights would assemble before going on a the crusades!

I wonder if in a later newsletter a write up of British style pubs in BC could be an interesting item. May take a few volumes??

Thanks

John Hickson