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# Some things to spot around the Christmas Steps Arts Quarter: Christmas Steps

- A There's a fire plaque on the front of Ahh Toots. In the C18th & C19th, only buildings that paid their private insurance & displayed a metal plaque would be attended by the fire service in emergencies!
- B Street art: Eye mosaic by Beau Stanton up on the side of Ahh Toots.
- C There's a tiny lighthouse on no.4 (opposite 20th Century Flicks). The building was once home to "The Lighthouse" champagne bar in the 80's.
- D There's two carved stone figures on the front of no.5 that were removed from the now demolished Merchant Venture's Hall on Marsh Street. (no-one knows why they ended up here!)
- E There's an alternative blue plaque by I Am Acrylic about famous former C19th resident Carlos Trower, known as "The African Blondin". A High-Rope Performer, Abolitionist and Philanthropist. Plus more info in their window.
- F Listen out for people fondly reminiscing about the former joke shop!

## **Lower Park Row**

- G Street art: high above Militaria is a little pink bird and a DREK tag.
- H Spot the "Cafe Wall Illusion" tiles on the wall of 808 cafe & bar. The illusion is that the green and cream tiles, although perfectly straight and parallel, appear to be sloping long wedges from certain angles. There's a blue plaque for Professor Richard Gregory who discovered the illusion.

#### St Michael's Hill & Horfield Road

- $\rm I$  Street art: there's one of Cheba's interstellar galaxy walls on the side of the building just past The Mount Without as you go up the hill.
- J Blue plaque above Easy Runner for Sir Michael Redgrave, born here.

#### **Colston Street**

- K The bollards outside no.68 (Geneva Stop) & no.76 (Bangshanky) were installed in the 80's after the former post office (at no.68) was ram-raided!
- L Street art: in the mid 90's Banksy painted a rat holding a CCTV camera on the wall of a jewellers half way up Colston Street....it didn't last long because the owner was paranoid that he was being called a rat and marked out as a grass, so it got painted over immediately!
- $\mbox{\rm M}$  The legendary 90's record shop The Purple Penguin used to be in the basement of no.70.
- N There's a beautiful ghost sign "Warlow Smith & Ironmonger" above Bloom & Curll. (best seen from Perry Road)

### **Upper Maudlin Street**

- O Street art: Above no.22 (Milliner's Guild) there's Inc Wel's "Still Sane" and Silent Hobo's piece featuring C18th Bristol poet Thomas Chatterton. And some lovely peacocks by Lucas Antics.
- P Find the Gromit sculpture sitting outside the Bristol Children's Hospital (painted by artist Susan Webber). And see the huge "Lollypop Be-Bop" sculpture by artist Andrew Smith, which is lit up at night.