The Crown Tavern

Map Popup Summary

The Crown Tavern is a historic pub located on Clerkenwell Green, with a history dating back to at least the 18th century. Situated in an area long associated with radicalism and political agitation, the pub is noted for its connection to a claimed meeting between Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin in 1905, though this historical event is disputed. The building itself features original Victorian interior elements, including etched glass and panelling. It was also used as a filming location for a scene in the 2006 film, *Notes on a Scandal*, starring Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett. The Crown Tavern stands as a physical landmark on Clerkenwell Green, which has historically been a focal point for social and political gatherings.

Information Sheet

The Crown Tavern, situated at 43 Clerkenwell Green, is a public house with historical links to the surrounding area's legacy of political and social activism. While a pub has stood on or near this site since the 17th century, the current building is believed to date from the 18th century with later Victorian-era modifications. The building at 43 Clerkenwell Green and the adjacent property at 55 Clerkenwell Close were once part of the same establishment before being separated.

Clerkenwell Green has a long history as a gathering place for political rallies and demonstrations, a tradition that includes events such as the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, Anti-Corn Law meetings in the 1830s, and Chartist conventions. This history of radicalism is a significant aspect of the area's identity and provides context for the Crown Tavern's notable associations.

The pub is most widely known for a disputed claim that it was the location where Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin first met. While some sources assert this meeting took place in 1905 during a period when Lenin was living in the area and publishing the Bolshevik newspaper *Iskra* at nearby 37a Clerkenwell Green, other accounts place their first meeting in Finland. Regardless of the factual accuracy, the story is part of the pub's established narrative and reflects the Green's historical importance to socialist and communist movements.

Architecturally, the pub is a Grade II listed building, with much of its interior retaining original Victorian features, including wood panelling and etched glass. The space was also used as a filming location for a scene in the 2006 British film *Notes on a Scandal*. The pub today functions as a modern establishment while maintaining its historic facade and interior character.

Disclaimer

This content was generated by an AI tool for demonstration purposes and should be independently verified before any further use.

Sources for Further Research

1. The Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell - Know Your London
   This blog post provides a historical overview of the pub and its connections to Clerkenwell Green. It references earlier historical records and the building's architectural history.
   https://knowyourlondon.wordpress.com/2022/03/25/crown-tavern-clerkenwell/
2. Clerkenwell Green - Layers of London
   This resource details the long history of Clerkenwell Green as a centre for radical politics, mentioning various demonstrations and the location's significance to figures like Lenin. It contextualises the Crown Tavern's history within the broader history of the area.
   https://www.layersoflondon.org/map/records/clerkenwell-green/gallery/1
3. Clerkenwell Green | British History Online
   This academic source from the Survey of London provides an in-depth, factual history of Clerkenwell Green, including its evolution and association with political movements. It is a reliable source for verifying historical claims about the area.
   https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-press/browse-books/survey-of-london-volume-46-south-and-east-of-clerkenwell-green/chapter-3-clerkenwell-green
4. The Crown Tavern (pub) - Wikipedia
   The Wikipedia entry for The Crown Tavern offers a concise summary of the pub's history, its Grade II listing, and its notable cultural and historical associations.
   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Crown_Tavern_(pub)