# Portrait of J.K. Rowling removed from Exeter pub due to vandalism



The Chevalier Inn, a notable Wetherspoon pub located on Fore Street in the city centre of Exeter, has recently seen the removal of a portrait of Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling. The photograph, which had graced the walls of the establishment for many years, had celebrated Rowling's connection to the city through her tenure as a student at the University of Exeter during the 1980s. She pursued studies in French and classics, and although urban myths have been debunked, suggesting certain Exeter locales inspired elements of her famous Harry Potter series, Rowling's association with Exeter remains a point of local pride.

Regular patrons of The Chevalier Inn might have noted the absence of Rowling's portrait, which until recently held a visible place among portraits of other famed individuals such as Charles Dickens, Tommy Cooper, and Sir Francis Drake. Wetherspoon confirmed the picture’s removal followed acts of vandalism, with plans to replace it soon.

Eddie Gershon, spokesperson for Wetherspoon, publicly addressed the issue: "The picture was removed as it was unfortunately vandalised. Wetherspoon will replace it with the same or similar picture of JK Rowling as soon as possible." The incident has left many wondering why Rowling's image was specifically targeted among the numerous images of illustrious personalities.

Though widely celebrated for her literary accomplishments, J.K. Rowling has also been a divisive figure in recent years due to her public comments on transgender issues. Since 2020, she has been outspoken about her views on trans activism, citing concerns about its implications for free speech, women's safety, and the legal definition of sex versus gender identity. These statements have led to significant backlash and accusations of transphobia, which Rowling vehemently denies.

Wetherspoon’s decision to replace the portrait underscores the ongoing recognition of Rowling's connection to Exeter, despite the controversies surrounding her. The pub's patrons and local residents await the new portrait, reflecting Rowling's enduring influence and the city's recognition of her as one of its notable former inhabitants.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)