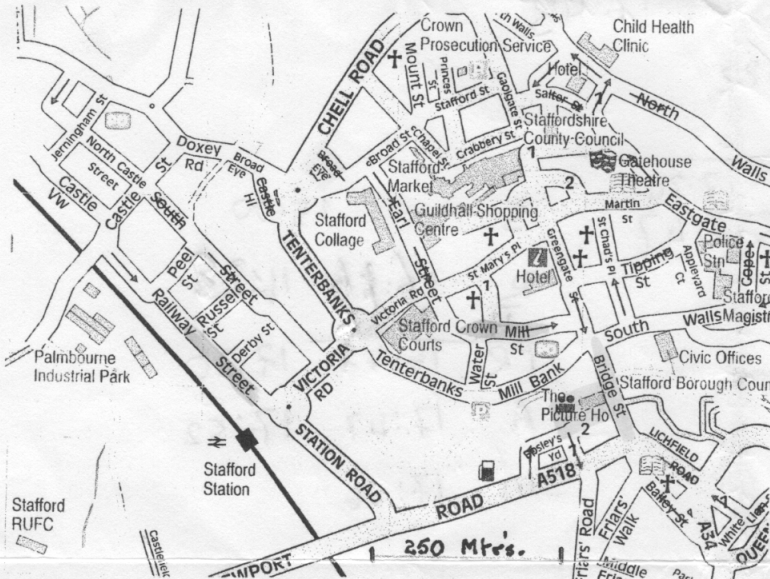


✓ 60 JOLLY BOYS OUTING: STAFFORD: AUGUST 19TH 2004.

Tour pages taken from CAMRA book 50 More Great Pub Crawls.
The Railway (4) has confirmed it does not open weekdays until 17.00hrs.
Pubs (3) - (5) are in the G.B.G. 2004 Edition.
Pub (1) opens at 10.00hrs for 'breakies' also 'alcoholic' beverages.
All Pubs provide lunch time food/snacks.



THIS IS A BUSTLING COUNTY TOWN with loads of history and plenty to see. The town was mentioned in the Domesday Book and it suffered in the Civil War when its castle and town walls were destroyed. The Georgian Shire Hall in the Market Place is now an art gallery and the four-storeyed High House in Mill Street claims to be the largest timber-framed house in England. Izzak Walton the author of *The Complete Angler* was born here and there is a bust of him in the parish church and Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who was the town's MP for 16 years, lived in what is now the post office. For those who arrive by train the Stafford Arms is a welcoming sight. In this crawl we will maintain a tradition of starting elsewhere and leaving the best until last.

From the station walk right along Station Road, turning left into Newport Road then taking the left turn into Bridge Street - the main shopping street - and on the left and difficult to miss is the **Picture House** (1). This is a very large Wetherspoon pub in a converted cinema that is really well done. It is a Grade II listed building. There are three floor levels with the entrance area reserved for non-smokers.



A cinema screen has been retained behind the bar. It sells **Banks's Original, Boddingtons Bitter, Courage Directors, Greene King Abbot, Shepherd Neame Spitfire**, guest beers and **Lichfield cider**. The pub is open all day and food is served well into the evenings. Despite its size it can get crowded at weekends. The pub is next to the river and has an extensive terrace.

Go left along Bridge Street and turn into Mill Street (not Mill Bank) and on the right is the **Bird-in-Hand** (2), a four-roomed town-centre pub built in the 1920s by the now closed, local Joules Brewery. There is a quiet snug, a large, comfortable lounge, a games room and a public bar. It is popular with students but attracts a very catholic range of customers. It sells **Courage Best Bitter and Directors, John Smith's Bitter and Worthington's Bitter**. It opens all day and lunches are served.

Turn right and right into Earl Street and at the top in Broad Eye (the Inner Ring Road) is the **Lamb** (3) a former street-corner local which has been extensively refurbished by Punch Taverns that acquired it in 1999. It serves **Banks's Original, Draught Bass, Everards Tiger** and occasional guest beers through the hand pumps. It is a bright, airy, welcoming hostelry, offering good value food. The pub is opposite Stafford's famous windmill. It serves lunches all week but evening meals up to 8 pm from Mondays to Thursdays only.

Cross the ring road and continue along Broad Eye until you reach Castle Street. Go along here and the **Railway** (4) is on the right. The inn and the surrounding terraced housing date from about 1837 when the Grand Junction railway reached Stafford. It is the best example in the town of a Victorian street-corner local and what changes have been made have been done sensitively. It sells **Draught Bass, Greene King Abbot, Tetley Bitter** and a guest ale. It only opens in the evenings except at weekends when there are lunchtime sessions.

Continue along Castle Street and turn into Railway Street for the short walk to the **Stafford Arms** (5) opposite the station. This was formerly a Titanic tied house and although it is now owned by Punch Taverns the beer link remains. **Titanic Best Bitter** and **White Star** and several guest beers are on sale and one of the guests can often be from **Titanic** with others from mainly small independent breweries. It has by far the best range of beers in Stafford and also sells traditional cider. The pub has accommodation (01785 253313) and serves good value meals both at lunchtimes and in the evenings during the week and it also does Sunday lunches. It opens all day except on Sunday afternoons. It was Stafford and Stone branch of CAMRA's Pub of the Decade for the 1990s.

STN. To (1) = 600mtrs
10.00 - 11.30 hrs

(1) to (2) = 300mtrs
11.35 - 12.15 hrs

(2) to (3) = 350mtrs
12.20 - 13.10 hrs

(3) to (5) = 400mtrs
13.20 - UNTIL ?

(5) to STN = 150mtrs