

Jolly Boys Visit to Bristol
6th August 2009

On this visit to Bristol we will be exploring pubs in the area around Bristol Harbour.

The Floating Harbour, which is part of the river Avon, is so called as the water level remains constant and is not affected by the state of the tide of the river. It was the original Port of Bristol but as ships and cargo increased in size, it has now largely been replaced by docks at Avonmouth and Portbury at the mouth of the river Avon.

The area is now mostly a tourist attraction with museums, art galleries and nightclubs. Former workshops have now largely been converted or replaced by cultural venues as well as fashionable apartment blocks.

Museum ships are permanently berthed here. These include I.K. Brunel's SS Great Britain, which was the first iron-hulled and propeller driven ocean liner and a replica of the Matthew in which John Cabot sailed to North America in 1497.

From our first port of call to Pub 2. our walk will take us close to Explore @ Bristol which was previously the site of Canons Marsh Goods Depot. The shed was opened in 1906 and was one of the first reinforced concrete buildings in the Country. It measured 540 ft. x 133 ft. and could hold 97 wagons. It finally closed in 1965. Further along on the opposite side of the harbour, on selective weekends during the summer months, the Industrial Museum run tourist trains along the short length of harbour-side track. This is part of all that remains of the Harbour Railway that opened in 1872 and closed in 1964.

Itinerary

For any early birds the Knights Templar, a Wetherspoon, is just a short walk from Temple Meads Station entrance.

We start with a short journey by bus. Take the 8, 8a or 9 service which leave every 7 or 10 minutes from the top of TM

Approach road with a journey time of 13 minutes. Get off in the City Centre opposite the Hippodrome Theatre. (As on previous visit). "Shank's-pony" should take 20-25 minutes.

If you arrive in time, as an alternative, you could take a Water Taxi from the landing stage near the station to the City Centre. It leaves at 10.10 am., (The next one is 40 mins. later) and is scheduled to take 20 mins.

Pubs	Suggested timings	Beers	Food
1. V-Shed (Wetherspoon) The Waterfront Canons Road BS1 5UH Tel. 0117 952 9950	? – 11.20	Various	Usual Menu
2. Bag O Nails (GBG) 141 St Georges Road BS1 5UW Tel 07717846560	11.30 - 12.15	6 Real Ales	Bar food Sandwiches/Pies etc.
3. Grain Barge (GBG) Mardyke Wharf Hotwells Road Hotwells BS8 4RU Tel 0117 929 9347	12.20 – 13.00	3 Bristol Ales 1 Guest	12.00-14.30
Take the Ferry across the Harbour from Capricorn Quay to SS Great Britain (25p). If not in position attract the ferryman with a wave.			
4. Orchard Inn (GBG) 12 Hanover Place BS1 6XT Tel 0117 926 2678	13.25 - 14.10	3 Real ales (4 Ciders!)	12.00-1430
5. Cottage Inn Baltic Wharf BS1 6XG Tel 0117 921 5256	14.15 - ?	2 Butcombe 2 Guests	12.00- onwards

Return Bus – 500 Service from Mardyke Ferry Road Terminus - 10, 30 and 50 mins. past the hour. The journey time to the bottom of Temple Meads Station Approach is 6 minutes. Diamond travel passes accepted. Walking time 30 to 35 minutes.