

JOLLY BOYS' VISIT TO CHESTERFIELD – THURSDAY 1ST APRIL 2010

HISTORY

Chesterfield in Derbyshire, England, with its crooked spire, is Derbyshire's second largest town. It is surrounded by some of the loveliest and unspoilt countryside in the county. It is built over a Roman site which is also on top of an Iron Age fort. The Romans probably settled here because the area is so rich in natural minerals like coal, lead and tin.

In Domesday, the town was known as Cestrefeld meaning open field, and its early prosperity was largely a result of its role as a market town, which served the whole of the north east of Derbyshire. The market still remains an important part of the town's economy.

The 19th century saw Chesterfield developing rapidly into an industrial centre, especially with the coming of the railway. It was George Stevenson who supervised the construction of the Midland Line through the town, as he had done earlier with other Derbyshire towns.

Nearby is a part of the town known as the Shambles which originally dates back to the 12th century. The shamble's narrow streets are both quaint and home to good shops, tea rooms and an interesting timber framed pub called the Royal Oak. A sign outside, records the fact that a pub has been sited here since 1772 and before that a rest house for 'the knights templar, a band of crusaders'.

It is also the home of the world's best football club (probably).

TRAINS

London St Pancras d	0755	0825	0855		0925	0955
Derby d	0928	1018	1028	1044	1118	1128
Chesterfield a	0946	1036	1046	1102	1136	1146

Crewe d	0807	0907	1007
Derby a	0924	1024	1124

Chesterfield d	1339	1406	1439	1447	1539
Derby a	1359	1425	1459	1516	1559
London St Pancras a	1534		1634	1707	1733

Derby d	1440	1540	1640
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Crewe a	1559	1659	1759
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THE PUBS

No on Map	Name/Address	Times (Approx)	Notes
1	Spa Lane Vaults 34 St Marys Gate S41 7TH	Early to 11:15	Standard Weatherspoons for early birds
2	The Rutland 23 Stephenson Place S40 1XL	11:20 to 12:00	8 real ales plus food. Had a real fire on the day I went
3	The Royal Oak The Shambles S40 1PX	12:10 to 13:00	5+ real ales plus food (mainly hot dishes). Specialises in local microbrewery Brampton Ales. Sister pub of the Rutland.
4	The Market 95 New Square S40 1AH	13:05 to 13:50	5 real ales plus food (baguettes etc plus hot dishes)
5	The Portland Hotel* West Bars S40 1AY	13:55 to end	Weatherspoons pub but is in 2010 GBG. 5 real ales plus usual food.

To get to the Spa Lane Vaults go up the hill and over the pedestrian bridge (which is over the ring road). Carry on past the Theatre and Museum. Bear left and carry on with the Crooked Spire on your right. About 5 minutes walk.

The station is about 15 minutes walk from the Portland. There is only a very irregular bus service from the town centre to the station.

* There is a railway connection with the Portland Hotel. It was built as the Railway Hotel for the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway whose terminus was just across the road (long disappeared). The railway is famous for the fact it reached neither Lancashire nor the East Coast!

