

Jolly Boys – Nottingham 22nd July 2010

Some Historical Facts

The City of Nottingham has a historically tightly drawn boundary which accounts for its relatively small population of 288,700, the wider area has a population of 667,000 and is the seventh-largest in the United Kingdom.

In Anglo-Saxon times, around 600 AD the site formed part of the Kingdom of Mercia and was known in the Brythonic language as *Tigguo Cobauc*, meaning *Place of Caves*. When it fell under the rule of a Saxon chieftain named Snot it became known as "Snotingaham"; the homestead of Snot's people (*Inga* = the people of; *Ham* = homestead). Nottingham was captured in 867 by Danish Vikings and later became one of the Five Burghs - or fortified towns - of The Danelaw.

In the 11th century Nottingham Castle was constructed on a sandstone outcrop by the River Leen. The Anglo-Saxon settlement developed into the English Borough of Nottingham and housed a Town Hall and Law Courts. A settlement also developed around the castle on the hill opposite and was the French borough supporting the Normans in the castle. Eventually, the space between was built on as the town grew and the Old Market Square became the focus of Nottingham.

During the Industrial Revolution, much of Nottingham's prosperity was founded on the textile industry; in particular, Nottingham was an internationally important centre of lace manufacture. However, the rapid and poorly planned growth left Nottingham with the reputation of having the worst slums in the British Empire outside India. Residents of these slums rioted in 1831, in protest against the Duke of Newcastle's opposition to the Reform Act 1832, setting fire to his residence, Nottingham Castle.

Some not so Historical Facts

Robin Hood.

The Tour

This tour combines tram travel with some of the better pubs along the tram line. Everything you need to know about the tram (including map when confused with the notes below) is at www.thetram.net

On arrival at Nottingham Station take the centre bridge to the tram terminus (**Station Street**). It is necessary to purchase an all day tram ticket for £3.00 as bus passes are not valid on the trams for those outside Nottinghamshire (sorry).

Take the first tram and go two stops to the **Old Market Square**.

The Joseph Else is next to the tramstop so no map has been provided. This is a standard Weatherspoons for early/breakfast.

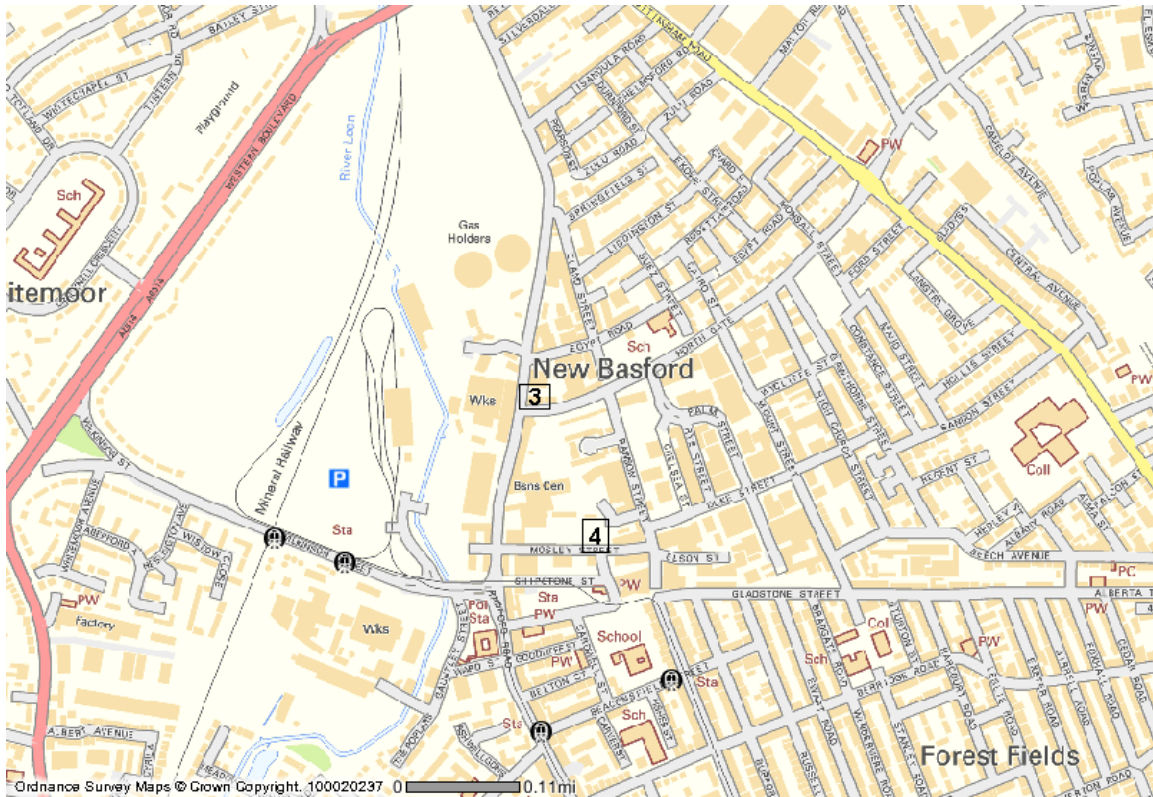
We will stay here until 11:00. We then take the tram to **David Lane**. Journey time is about 20 minutes. If you are on the 9:15 from London which arrives Nottingham at 10:59 then just stay on the tram. Then walk up David Lane (2 mins) to Pub No 1 **The Horse and Jockey** 1 Mill Street, Basford, NG6 0JW (see map 1) arriving at 11:25 (approx).

This is a Castle Rock pub www.castlerockbrewery.co.uk but is a little run down. It has 2 advantages, firstly it opens at 11.00am (unlike all the others) and it gives the longest tram ride. 4 real ales when I visited and some food (but I recommend you wait until later). Leave here at 11:50.



Then we can either walk down Lincoln Street (10 minutes) or catch a tram for one stop from David Lane to **Basford** and walk for 2 minutes to the **Fox and Crown** Church Street, Old Basford, NG6 0GA (No 2 on the map above) arriving at about 12:00 when it opens. This is the brewery pub for the Alcazar Brewery www.alcazarbrewery.co.uk and stocks a range of their ales plus the odd guest. For food there is an extensive range of authentic Thai dishes in a price range about £4-5. I had Beef in Oyster Sauce which arrived in about 10 minutes.

Walk back to Basford tram stop and catch tram to **Wilkinson Street** (one stop). It is then a 5-10 minute walk (passing the old Shipstones Brewery) to pub 3 **The Horse and Groom** 462 Radford Road, Basford, NG7 7EA www.horseandgroombasford.com (no 3 on map below) arriving about 12:55. This boasts 9 real ales including London Pride and Deuchars IPA as permanent beers. Food is a range of baguettes, melts and wraps.

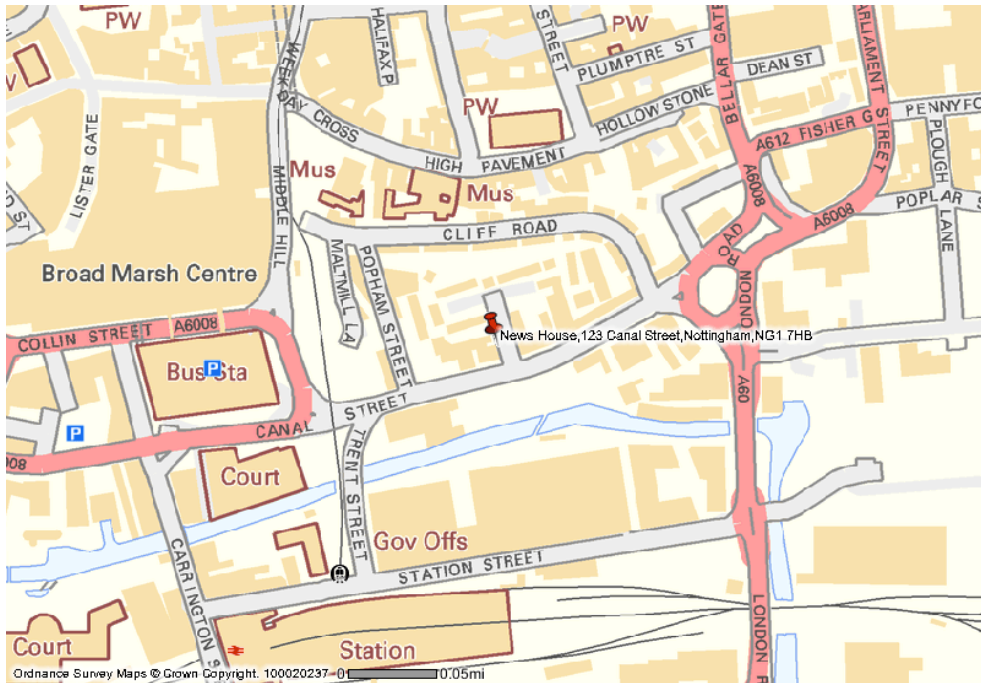


There is then a choice to be made (democracy in action!). Either we stay here until people decide to go back to the station and home or we visit a pub near the station. If we leave then we will depart at 14.00 (approx)

Either way there is a choice of trams. Either catch a tram from **Shipstone Street** (just outside the Lion Inn) back to **Wilkinson Street** and then a tram from **Wilkinson Street** to **Station Street** or walk about 5 minutes to **Radford Road** and catch the tram direct to

Station Street. The reason for the choice is that the tram has a split around this area so it is single track one-way routes. The journey time back is about 15 minutes.

The final pub (if we choose to go there) is **The Newshouse** 123 Canal Street, Nottingham, NG1 7HB (see map below) 5 minutes walk arriving about 14:25 (approx). This is also a Casle Rock pub (see link above). It won Nottingham Camra pub of the year in 2009 and is in the top 6 in 2010. 4 real ales at the time of visit but little food (rolls if any left). If anyone is very keen it has a bar billiards table!



Direct Trains to/from London

London StP d 08:15 08:30 09:15
Nottingham a 09:59 10:26 10:59

Nottingham d 14:02 14:28 15:02 15:28
London St P a 16:01 16:13 17:00 17:20

There are others via Kings Cross if keen.

The options from other parts of the county are far too many for me to document. I'm sure you will find your way!