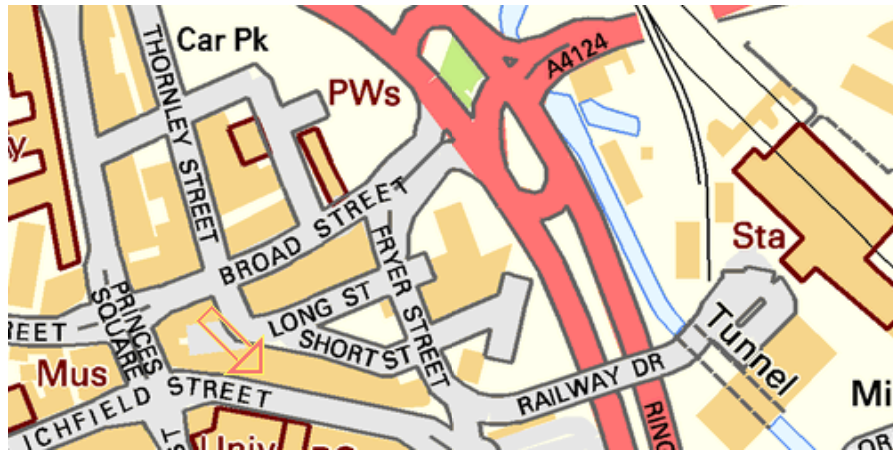


JOLLY BOYS BLACK COUNTRY CLASSICS 14 April 2011

As always we start in a JDW drinking hall, The Moon under Water, WV1 1EQ, which is but a short 10 minute walk from Wolverhampton Station past the Bus Station and straight ahead to numbers 53-55 Lichfield Street. We were last here on our Wolverhampton trip on 30 April 2009. We shall be leaving there promptly at 10.45.



I give the post code for each of the pubs we shall be visiting, together with the nearest station, so that in the event of travel disruptions, any latecomers will have the best opportunity to catch up with the main party by any combination of train, cab or bus. I shall have my mobile on – the number is **07747 035 508**

All the pubs on this trip are in the 2011 Good Beer Guide.

Our private bus, hopefully The Black Country Belle, is provided by Richard James of Black Country Themed Tours and Excursions, and will leave the Moon under Water at 10.45, to get to our First Black Country Classic for opening time. The full, all inclusive, fare is £14 per head. Bus passes will not be valid on this service.

11.00 – 11.55

[illegible]

The current building dates from the 1860s but there has been a pub on the site since at least 1835. It has been known as Ma Pardoe's since the interwar years, as its long-term landlady was Doris Clare Pardoe who

owned it until her death in 1984, when she was 85 years old. Such was its fame among the lovers of real ale, that when the pub came up for sale in 1985, a company was set up by CAMRA to purchase and run it. Although this company was short-lived, the pub and brewery survived and it is now one of only a handful of pubs in the West Midlands that still brew beer on its own premises, three of which we shall see today. As well as for its beer, the pub is also known for its décor, including a ceiling decorated with vitreous enamel tiles and a solid fuel stove in the middle of the public bar, new H&S rules requiring that it be fully guarded. The pub has been designated a Grade II listed building.

Four beers are brewed, namely Original 3.5% ABV, Dark Swan 4.2% ABV, Entire 4.4% ABV and Bumble hole 5.2% ABV

12.00 – 12.55

The Vine (Bull and Bladder)
10 Delph Road
BRIERLY HILL
DY5 2TN nearest station, Cradley Heath
 (from New Street)

Its well-known frontage emblazoned with the Shakespeare quote "Blessing of your heart: You brew good ale" has provided a warm welcome over the years for the many who have travelled to sample the Delph Brewery ale produced since 1877 by one of the last surviving family brewers in the Black Country. This is a classic unspoilt brewery tap with a number of small rooms and corridors, the front bar being staunchly original, and the larger rear bar having its own servery and leather seating. Classic good value Black Country meals are served.



Bathams have ten other tied houses, and produce three different cask ales. Best Bitter 4.3% ABV and Mild 3.5% ABV are available all year round, together with a Christmas special (XXX).

13.10 – 14.00

Beacon Hotel
127 Bilston Street
SEDGLEY DY3 1JE

nearest station Coseley



Opened originally in the 1860's behind the Beacon Hotel, Sarah Hughes bought the tower brewery in 1921 and started to brew the beer now called Dark Ruby Mild 6% ABV.

After lying idle for 30 years the brewery was reopened in 1987 by John Hughes, who continued the tradition and recipe of his grandmothers to

the present day. This is a beautifully restored Victorian tap house that has been voted local CAMRA pub of the year in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and only this February was voted one of the three runners up as the CAMRA national pub of the year. (Winner was The Harp in Chandos Place, Covent Garden, visited by the Jolly Boys "Walking in the Wild West End" in December 2009.)

In addition to the Ruby Mild, they brew Pale Amber 4.0% ABV and Sedgley Surprise 5.0% ABV

14.15 – whenever!

Great Western
Sun Street
WOLVERHAMPTON WV10 0DG



Splendidly traditional well known pub situated down a cobbled street close to the old GWR Low Level Station, also visited by the Jolly Boys in 2009. There's a smallish public bar type area at the front with a tiled floor and obvious, but sympathetic, extensions behind which make the pub look much larger and roomier than initially appears to be the case.

There is plenty of railway memorabilia, framed photos etc. throughout. Note in particular the white painted wooden fencing station roof style surround over the front bar. At the far end of the pub, accessed via a long narrow seating area, is a conservatory style dining area where there is some Wolverhampton Wanderers FC memorabilia.

On the beer front, it is a Holdens pub and the full range of their beers – Mild 3.7% ABV, Bitter 3.9% ABV, Golden Glow 4.4% ABV and Special 5.1% ABV are generally available, together with Bathams Bitter and the occasional guest. The Great Western is a GBG regular and has won numerous CAMRA awards over the years.

ENJOY!