

JOLLY BOYS CHEAM 17 FEBRUARY 2011

Cheam is a large suburban village close to Sutton in the London Borough of Sutton, and is located close to the southern boundary between Greater London and Surrey. It is divided into two main areas: North Cheam and Cheam Village. North Cheam includes more retail shops and supermarkets, whilst Cheam Village and the south of Cheam are more residential.

It is the home of a number of BBC comedians, namely Nicholas Smith (Are you being served?) Windsor Davies (It ain't half hot, Mum) and famously, Sir Harry Secombe.

There is no such place as 23 Railway Cuttings, or East Cheam, and Tony Hancock did NOT live in Cheam!

However, we do have five drinking places in the village, three of which are in the GBG 2011.

There is no Wetherspoons for "earlies" or breakfast in Cheam, so we start our trip in Sutton, sometimes known as Slutton, or just Su'on.

Take an Epsom, Dorking or Horsham train from either Platform 9, 10, 11 or 12 from VICTORIA. All stop at Clapham Junction, Platform 15. Trains to these same destinations via West Croydon are OK, but slower, and a Horsham train via East Croydon is a definite No No.

Victoria dep	08.19	08.47	09.01	09.17	09.31	09.47
Sutton arr	08.50	09.19	09.28	09.48	09.58	10.19

All pick up at Clapham Junction 7 minutes after Victoria
All stop at Cheam 3 minutes after Sutton

FCC operates from St Pancras International (dep 08.44, 09.16, 09.48, 10.18) to Sutton, which lies on a loop. The best down services are those above which are direct via Streatham and then via Mitcham Eastfields. If you get one of the others heading for Tooting and Wimbledon after Streatham, you will have time to learn a language before you get to Sutton!

Connections from Milton Keynes and Watford Junction are available direct to Clapham Junction. A nominal 30 minute service is also available from Wimbledon to Sutton by FCC at 08.39, 08.55, and then at 00.17 and 00.47 past the hour.

At Sutton, turn right out of the station down the High Street, cross the westbound one way system (100 yards), then the eastbound (75 yards) and arrive at the newly named Trinity Square, the trinity being the three Ws, Wilkinsons, Waterstones and Wetherspoons, (The Moon on the Hill) at 5-9 Hill Road, SM1 1DZ.

We shall leave here in time for either the 10.49 or the 10.59 down Southern train from Platform 2 to Cheam (3 minutes), and cross under the subway to "The Railway" at 32 Station Way SM3 8SQ, to arrive at about 11.00. You can get a bus (151 and 213) which is a shorter walk in Sutton, but longer in Cheam!



Neal Zarcovich of The Railway has only this year achieved GBG status, and will be opening at 11.00 for us. Courage Best and Directors are always on, together with three guest beers. Jim Hedge has selected some Surrey beers for the guests for our trip; the others will be "pot luck". No meals, but very simple home-made cheese, ham or liver sausage rolls (baked across the road) available.

I have an early photograph showing The Railway displaying its tie to the Style & Winch Maidstone Brewery.

At 12.00 we move on into The Broadway, paying homage to the piece of land in front of Lloyds Bank where the Cheam Brewery once stood (closed in 1911, and demolished in 1921), and passing the 16th century Old Cottage (relocated to accommodate the 1921 road widening) to The Claret (GBG) at 33 The Broadway SM3 8BL. This is a wine bar run in tandem with The Claret Free House we visited at Addiscombe on the Croydon Tramlink tour in November 2008.



At my recce, there were Welton's Ashes to Ashes, Palmers 200 Premium, Ascot Posh Pooch and Master Brew. Average beer price is £2.70. Sandwiches are available at £2.65. Jeff has undertaken to provide "an interesting beer" for our visit.

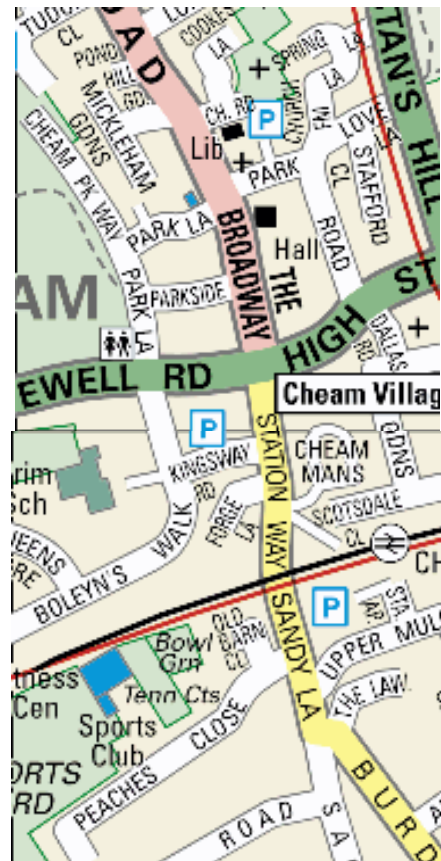
At 12.45 ish we shall press on, passing historic Whitehall, built in about 1500, and the library, to the Prince of Wales (GBG) at 28 Malden Road, SM3 8QF. Pilgrim Progress of Reigate is the house bitter, with others rotating – the ubiquitous Doom Bar being very popular, together with GK IPA. Good home cooked meals are served at about £8, but there is a selected menu offering two meals for £8.



We then have a choice - personally, I would like to return to The Railway at 14.00, but others may wish to drop in at Ye Olde Red Lion at 17 Park Road SM3 8QB for half an hour or so, a truly historic pub with a fine timber interior and low beams, the main part of the building dating back nearly 400 years. The original well-head is still preserved on the forecourt. Also, it would have been Memory Lane for Jim, as he had a few in here whilst waiting for the Keep/Jackson wedding back in 1968.



Current reports are not entirely positive regarding the staff or the beer selection. Sadly, it is a PubCo managed pub, with a menu and staff to match, but my Harvey's Sussex Best at £2.65 was OK. London Pride and Youngs (Ordinary) Bitter are also available.



Trains return from Cheam to Victoria, calling at Sutton, Clapham Junction and Victoria at 18 and 49 past the hour, all stations to Victoria at 26 and 56, and direct West Croydon trains at 11 past the hour, with connections at Sutton for St Pancras (8 and 38 past the hour) and for West Croydon off most trains. Trains to Milton Keynes leave Platform 16 at Clapham Junction at 39 mins past the hour.

BON VOYAGE, MES AMIS!