

Jollyboys' Oxford event (Thursday 15th September 2011)

(A Nicholson's sandwich, served between two rounds of Wetherspoon's crusty wholemeal, with a Relish of History, Politics, and Architecture)

Starting, for a change, in the **Swan & Castle**, a normal Wetherspoons, with their normal food and drink list, and the usual normal(?) clientele. So, from the station, turn right out of the station entrance and go down past the bike park to the traffic lights at the main road, turn left and cross the station entrance road, then immediately right and cross to the opposite side of St Frideswide. Make a left and walk forward, across the junction and along Park End Street, and continue forward to do a slight right bend into New Road, passing the Castle Mound and old prison on the right. You may be tempted to turn right into the castle yard here and wander among the various eateries - if you do, just keep bearing towards the left and you will eventually arrive at your destination. If you fear getting lost (and ending up in the dungeons) just continue past the County Council Offices and make a right into Castle Street where you will find the pub some 40 yards along on the right. **(till 1100)**

Then, out on to Castle St., turn right, cross to the opposite side as we need to make a right turn back on to the continuation of New Road, and follow it, curving slightly left, as it becomes Queen St.. (Beware though, as Oxford has some strange traffic rules with some of what you might think are "pedestrianised" areas being used by buses as well, including this road!). At the cross-roads turn left into Cornmarket St, where the **Crown**, a Nicholson's pub, is on the left. Brakspears Bitter & Oxford Gold, Sharp's Doom Bar, St Peter's IPA, Salopian Darwin's Origin, and Fuller's London Pride when we were there. **(1110 - 1140)**

Return back to Cornmarket St, cross over and turn right to return to the cross roads, crossing the High St to the opposite pavement and making an immediate left, to find the **Chequers**, another Nicholson's place, a little way along on your right. Brakspears Oxford Gold, Sharp's Doom Bar, Thornbridge Jaipur, Brew Dog Alice Porter, Moor Beer Northern Star, and Hopdaemon Incubus at the time of the recce.. **(1145 - 1215)**

Back out on to High St, turn right and walk to the next pedestrian crossing. Cross to the opposite side, continuing right and then make a left into Turf St., a right into Brasnose Lane, a left/right around Radcliffe Square, a left into Catte St., a right into New College Lane (under the Bridge of Sighs) and then a left into the alley that leads to the **Turf Tavern** which, despite being supposedly Greene King owned, usually has a range of as many as 10 real ales on the board, although often has a couple not available, and perhaps another two "settling". Order from the list, though, not just from what you see in front of you, as some are on pumps in the other bar - that list is also kept up-to-date with those that are temporarily unavailable so there should be no problem. **(1225 - 1315)**

(Smokers beware - the table area immediately in front of the pub is “NON” but, despite the shrill protesting shrieks of outraged tourist ladies, the tables on the raised patio, under the heated umbrellas, is the proper place to light up the noxious weed.)

Leaving to the right (opposite to the direction of our arrival) along Bath Place, then turn left on Holywell St., crossing when convenient, to the **Kings Arms**, a Young’s pub with an array of Young’s and Charles Wells’ beers plus at least one guest. **(1320-1350)**

(We went a little further along to the **White Horse** (52 Broad St) on the recce., but, despite the attractions of Timothy Taylor’s Landlord, Sharp’s Doom Bar, Hook Norton Old Hookey, Shotover Prospect and White Horse Bitter (which was excellent), it is very small and, unless we are a select band on the day, or there is a splinter group formed, we may have to be satisfied with the Young’s offering).

Out and right along Broad St., passing the macabre site of the burning at the stake of three bishops - Latimer, Cranmer and Ridley - to cross Magdelene St., then right and, beyond Tesco Metro, left into Friars Entry, to the **Far from the Madding Crowd**. Brakspears Bitter, Wychwood Cherry Picker (seasonal), Sadler’s Samurai, Williams Bros Joker IPA, Tring Brewery Little Miss Muffit, Oakham Endless Summer, plus a couple of interesting guest ciders when we visited. **(1400 - 1430)**

Back out turn right to return to Magdelene St.. Depending on the fortitude of the participants we could then go left along to the **Lamb & Flag**, or the **Eagle & Child** in St Giles. However, we need to leave some for next time so it is suggested that it may be more expedient at this juncture to turn right and then right again into George St. so that everyone is aimed towards the station, and those that wish to can then dodge into Wetherspoon’s **Four Candles** for a final top-up/drain-down on the opposite side of the street, before wending our various ways home.

All the pubs serve food, of various quality and price (not necessarily related), so no specific recommendation is made.