

READING (EAST) – 31st March 2011

The first hostelry is a Wetherspoon's called 'The Back of Beyond', which opens at 7am for breakfast, etc. and is a 10-minute walk from the station.

Leaving Reading Station, turn left out of the exit, past the Rail/Air link coaches, and walk down the hill, and cross over the road opposite the Rising Sun. Head towards the Forbury Gardens and enter at the first gate. Walk across the Gardens towards the bronze statue called the Maiwand Lion.

It was cast and erected in 1886 as a memorial to the fallen of the 66th Berkshire Regiment in the Afghan War (1878-1880). The bronze is one of the largest in the world, but the way the legs are positioned is said to be unnatural.

Continue past the lion and head for the exit, then go through the Abbey Gate. The Gate (once an entrance to the Reading Abbey destroyed by Henry VIII) was in the past a school, and attended by Jane Austen. Bear left and walk down to the Kings Road. Turn left and the Back of Beyond is about 100 yards along on the right hand side. Leaving there at 11:00 and go to:-

- 1) 11:07 – Eldon Arms – leave at 11:45
A local CAMRA branch favourite, with a range of Wadsworth beers. The public bar is a larger room than the lounge bar. Food from 12 noon.
- 2) 11:52 – Lyndhurst Arms – leave at 12:30
Good range of beers, and draught cider. Food is pricey.
- 3) 12:40 – Copa – leave at 13:30 (retrace route thro' Abbey Gate and Forbury Gdns)
3 real ales and good food at reasonable prices
- 4) 13:37 – Corn Stores – (3 minutes from Reading Station) - leave at 14:07
Fuller's beer – Italian food available (e.g. Pizza or Pasta - £6)
- 5) 14:10 – Oakford Social Club – (1 minute from Reading Station) - leave whenever
Henry's IPA, London Pride, Marston's Pedigree – Food available