

### Jollyboys' Newbury event ( Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012)

(This is a jaunt from one 'spoons to another by a circuitous route so, if the weather is awful or the motivation is lacking, there is the option to just shuffle the few yards between them and cash in more CAMRA vouchers! Newbury has, throughout it's history, been invaded, pillaged, sacked and upset by everyone from the Romans, via Saxons, Danes, Normans, Roundheads, American GIs, and Greenham Common women, to Swampy and his mates protesting the A34 by-pass, so a Jollyboys' event is unlikely to raise an eyebrow!)

Through trains from Paddington at xx18 take around 55 mins. From Reading the departure times are xx12, an all stations stopper (arrives at xx44), or xx48 which is the 'fast' from Paddington (arrives at xx12).

Arriving at Newbury station most people will do so from the Reading direction so will need to cross over the footbridge to exit on the "up" side and turn right. This is Cheap Street which you should follow as it bears sharply left and continues towards the town centre, crossing carefully to the right hand side and walking forward to find the **Diamond Tap** at No 54 - (Lloyds No1 - aka Wetherspoons), with their normal food and drink list, including, of course, breakfast! **(till 1115)**

Then, back out on to Cheap St., turn right, and walk forward, crossing Bear Lane into the Market Place, continuing past **The Hatchet Inn** (Wetherspoons) at No. 12, to which we will return later (unless? - see above!). Directly ahead is the **Hogs Head**, (actually on Wharf Street) which overlooks the River Kennet / Kennet & Avon Canal at the back; serves food (main dishes priced between £7 & 9, with some special 2 for 1 offers) from 10am. Beers were London Pride, Hobgoblin, Bombardier, plus both West Berks Brewery and Ringwood seasonal offerings when we visited. **(1120 - 1205)**

On leaving turn right and continue along to bear right over Town Bridge over the canal/river (very briefly Bridge Street, becoming Northbrook Street) and continue along on the left-hand side, crossing West Street to the **Monument** (No 57 Northbrook Street) - a curious little place with no frills and no food but serving two very local products, one each from West Berkshire Brewery at Frilsham and Butts at Shefford. Which brews they happen to be may be a bit of a lottery on the day but they had on the "standards" from both brewers when we visited - Good Old Boy and Traditional respectively. **(1215 - 1245)**

Back out on to Northbrook Street, turn right and walk back along on the right to make a right into West Street, continuing along to a junction where West Street actually makes a sharp turn to the left. On the corner is the **Lion** (a real corner pub and there aren't many of them left) - Wadworth's beer only but 6X, Henry's, Swordfish, and Old Timer on when we were there. They also normally do food from noon onwards but, as the recce took place between Christmas and New Year, no food was on so unable to pass comment. **(1250 - 1320)**

Leaving there we turn to the left and continue along West Street till we reach the Junction with Northcroft Lane, where we turn left and walk (quickly, with heads bowed?) past the **Temperance Hall** to return to Northbrook Street where we turn right and then right again down the alley to the front door of the **Lock, Stock & Barrel**, a Fullers pub with most of their range (Pride, ESB, Disco, and Bengal Lancer when we visited) plus a variable local guest - ours was Butts Jet Black, of which we were promptly offered a welcome taster by the barman. Food from noon with main courses in the £9 to 10 bracket. **(1330-1400)**

Out and right back over the bridge, then left and right into the Market Place and back to the **Hatchet** on the left, a regular Wetherspoons which we passed earlier. Eight pulls all with beer on when we were there, including Deuchers, Loddon Hopbit, Cairngorm Wildcat and Hydes Winter Fuggles on the four we stood in front of. Despite the latter being a Manc beer and Phil wearing a Liverpool FC scarf we were not ejected (unlike the **Ice House** in Camden, but that's another story!). There is, of course, a variety of food available. **(1405 - time)**

Dedicated to the cause we did try three other pubs in the vain hope of finding further variety but all had only one pump on. To be fair one did have two, but they both dispensed the same beer (Arkells 2B) so not much choice there!

The observant amongst you will have remembered the way back to the station but, if not, it is out and left then back across Bear Lane and follow Cheap Street along, bearing to the right to come back to the "up" platform entrance, hopefully adequately watered and pleased to have visited Newbury. Trains are at 1413 & 1513 (stoppers from the Bay (platform 3)), or 1455 and 1553 through to London.

You will also have noticed the Sainsbury's supermarket just across the way from the Station where excellent cooked chicken can be purchased for the very reasonable price of £4.39!!!! (says Tim - well, it's his bonus at stake!)