

Jollyboys come to Thame November 1st 2012

Thame is a pretty Oxfordshire market town with a wide High Street stretching for a quarter of a mile. Our visit will take in hostelrys over the whole of this stretch. Thame used to be on the railway from Princes Risborough to Oxford, but is now served only by a parkway station on the edge of the nearby village of Haddenham. Thence a short 7 minutes bus ride to Thame town hall outside Coop.

For lovers of architecture Thame has a veritable galaxy of interesting buildings from timber frame to Georgian houses and a splendid Early English to Perpendicular period church. Opposite the church is The Prebendal the home until earlier this year of the late Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees.

There have been quite a few other famous residents of Thame down the ages.

Eating

Eating in Thame seems expensive even to me mains £8-9 for basic pub food. The Swan is the best bet as they had a specials board Gammon egg chips etc £6.50

For breakfast eaters

There is no Spoons in Thame. I can give you three options

1 Aylesbury - new since our visit at bottom of Market Square next to bus station.

2 On front of Baker Street station 10 minutes walk to Marylebone

3 In High Wycombe where we assembled for the Chiltern trip. This is a 10 minute walk from station. Plenty of trains to Wycombe

If you prefer to go early to Thame and are feeling flush then the Swan is open from 9:00 for breakfast at £6.50

The Thatch does sandwiches and coffee etc

Travel

If anyone is intending to use Aylesbury Spoons let me know and I will collect you in time for bus otherwise I shall join at Princes Risborough on the 9:40 from Marylebone.

There is a direct bus at 20 minute intervals the 280 from Aylesbury to Thame 24 mins to the Parkway station then 9 minutes to Thame and on to Oxford a further 55 minutes away.

Trains to Aylesbury

:57 and :27 past each hour journey time 56 mins, 5 minutes to Spoons Bell at bottom of market square from station straight up the hill across road and thru' bus tunnel to Bell.

Trains to High Wycombe

08:41 arr 09:08

Trains Wycombe and Haddenham platforms not guaranteed and are a good couple of minutes from barrier.

MYB	9:40 pl 4	10:13 pl 6
HWY	10:11	10:44
HDM	10:27	11:02

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Bus no 280 to Thame and Oxford stand 11 at Aylesbury (1 minute from Spoons) to Thame Town Hall via Thame and Haddenham Parkway. If you are feeling particularly lazy stay on bus to the next stop after the Town Hall.

The stop at Haddenham station is in front of the booking office on the down side; beware it is used by buses in both directions you need the Oxford bus.

Aylesbury	:00	:20	:40
Haddenham	:24	:44	:04
Thame	:33	:53	:13

The observant will have noticed that the 11:02 arrival at Haddenham is tight for the 11:04 bus on the recce it was arriving at the stop as I got to the top of the ramp from the platform. I suggest sending the youngest or fittest on in advance to walk briskly to the stop 50 yards allowed time 1 minute.

Return journeys

Buses from Thame 280 to Aylesbury

Thame	:43	:03	:23
Haddenham	:50	:10	:30

Return trains to Marylebone from Haddenham

14:14 14:38 15:14
15:00 15:30 16:00

Travel via Banbury

	arr	dep
New St		09:07 2A from Man calls Wolverhampton
Banbury	09:54	10:04
Bicester	10:19	10:27 same platform
Haddenham	10:39	

From Reading you could travel via Oxford and bus Stop R5 near station or go on CrossCountry to Banbury then as from Birmingham above.

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Thame Pubs.

There are only two open at 11:00 one is virtually at the bus stop and the other is at the Oxford end of High Street. I propose to use the one at the bus stop at the end so no-one has far to go for the bus.

5 minutes walk from bus stop

11:00 - 11:45 **The Thatch** - The door makes it look as if closed. Opens 10:00 Breakfast here of a bacon sandwich. Two beers Vale Wychert and Doombar usually.

<http://www.thethatchthame.co.uk>

1 minute walk further on to

11:45 - 12:25 **Six bells** - Fullers Pride, HSB, Seafarers, Bengal Lancer and a guest (from Chiltern brewery on recce) - pleasant pub with expensive food.

<http://www.sixbellsthame.co.uk>

7 minutes walk past town hall on other side of road is

12:32 - 13:15 **Swan** - Food, Rebellion with Doombar

2 minutes further at mini roundabout is

13:15 - 14:15 **Cross Keys** - best pub in Thame basic pub no food 8 real ales with no major brands including from own microbrewery.

5 minutes walk back toward town hall

14:15 - 15:00 **James Figg** - 3 real ales Purity Mad Goose, Vale Best plus Doombar and across road is Birdcage 2 real ales choose between on the day.

<http://www.thejamesfiggthame.co.uk> (They may have their new promised website running).

or across road the **Birdcage** two major brands on when I visited.

Buses to station across road from James Figg.