

Jolly Boys Outing - Oldham - Thursday 5th. December 2013

Oldham is a large town in Greater Manchester, England. It lies amid the Pennines on elevated ground between the rivers Irk and Medlock, 5.3 miles (8.5 km) south-southeast of Rochdale, and 6.9 miles (11.1 km) northeast of the city of Manchester. Oldham is surrounded by several smaller towns that together form the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham, of which Oldham is the administrative centre.

Historically in Lancashire, and with little early history to speak of, Oldham rose to prominence during the 19th century as an international centre of textile manufacture. It was a boomtown of the Industrial Revolution, and among the first ever industrialised towns, rapidly becoming "one of the most important centres of cotton and textile industries in England". At its zenith, it was the most productive cotton spinning mill town in the world, producing more cotton than France and Germany combined. Oldham's textile industry began to fall into decline during the mid-20th century, and its last mill closed in 1998.

The demise of textile processing in Oldham depressed the local economy. Today Oldham is a predominantly residential town, and a centre for further education and the performing arts. It is, however, still distinguished architecturally by the surviving cotton mills and other buildings associated with that industry. The town's population of 103,544 lives in an area of around 26 square miles (67 km²).

Getting There

Tram - the fare is £3.70 (Off peak return after 0930), catch the tram at Market St. straight down from Piccadilly (can't miss the stop it is a large island platform in the middle of the road) catch the tram to Rochdale go to Mumps Metro link which is just off the map. There is quite a bit of walking on this trip and some fairly steep climbs so be warned. I have included Wetherspoons at Oldham if anybody wants to try it, but because we have had to re jig the whole trip owing to pubs not opening when we were led to believe it may be better to go Manchester and County (Wetherspoons) in Piccadilly before you go to Oldham.

The Pubs

1. **Up Steps Inn**, 17 28, High St., OL13AJ. Wetherspoons. (See above)
2. **Royal Oak Hotel**, 178, Union St., OL1 1EN. (400 yards from Mumps Metrolink). 1100. GBG 2014. A Robinson's heritage pub. 1100 - 1145.
3. Bank Top Tavern, Kings Square, OL8 1ES. not shown on attached map but it is about 100 yards opposite Whittles. You can see it from Whittles. We don't know how good this is as we didn't do it on the recce. 1200. John Willy Lees. 1200 - 1245
4. **Whittles**, 27, King St., OL8 1DP. 1200. Had Phoenix Arizona and 3 Theakston's. 1245 - 1315.

5. **Ashton Arms**, 28 - 30 Clegg St. (rear of town square), OL1 1PL. 1130. GBG 2014, beer range varies. Food. 1330 until end.

Information is a bit sparse on the pubs as not all are in GBG.

