

Jolly Boys – Swindon – Wootton Bassett Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

### **Royal Wootton Bassett.**

The town was granted [royal patronage](#) in March 2011 by [Elizabeth II](#) in recognition of its role in the early 21st century [military funeral repatriations](#), which passed through the town. This honour was officially conferred in a ceremony on 16 October 2011 – the first [royal patronage](#) to be conferred upon a town (as distinguished from a borough or county) since 1909.

### **Railways**

Royal Wootton Bassett has no railway station, although it has been served in the past by [three railway stations](#). The first station to serve the town was Wootton Bassett Road, opened by the [Great Western Railway](#) (GWR) in 1840 some distance from the town (sometimes referred to as Hay Lane), when the Great Western Main Line from [London Paddington](#) reached the town. After just a year, with the completion of the [Box Tunnel](#) allowing the line to reach [Bristol Temple Meads](#), this was replaced by the closer Wootton Bassett railway station. In 1903, after the new South Wales branch opened, the station was demolished and rebuilt as Wootton Bassett Junction at the junction of the two lines. [British Railways](#) closed that station in 1965. There have been on-going attempts to re-open a station in the early 21st century. Commuters wishing to use train services would have to travel to Swindon or Chippenham for regular services to London and the West Country.

### **The Tour**

We will be visiting only 3 pubs in Wootton Bassett but they are worth the visit. For early birds suggest that breakfast can be procured in The Grove (Weatherspoons) in Swindon before catching bus to Wootton Bassett.

The 55 bus runs from Swindon Bus Station every 20 minutes at 10, 30 and 50 minutes past the hour. It is a 21 minute journey to Wootton Bassett High Street.

### **Wootton Bassett**

Pub 1 The Crown Hotel, High Street, Wootton Bassett. Opens at 11:00 hours

2 ales on visit – Moles and Spitfire. The Crown is situated next to the bus stop on arrival.

Pub 2 The Five Bells, Wood Street, Wootton Bassett Opens at 12:00 hours.

6 ales on visit – Black Sheep, Adnams, Jail Ale, Timothy Taylor, London Pride and Marston's Pedigree. Also on pump Old Rosie Cider.

Pub 3 The Angel, High Street, Wootton Bassett

5 ales on visit – Wye Valley HPA, Cotswold Lion, Old Hookey, Wadworth 6X and Wadworth Henry's.

Times are flexible as only 3 pubs to visit. Pubs 2 and 3 look best for food and are reasonably priced.