

Reading – 4th September 2014

The cultural aspects of Reading have been fully covered in previous visits. So, moving on, due to 95% of the pubs in the Reading area not opening until 12 noon (some 4pm!), we will remain mostly in the town centre visiting three new pubs.

1. The Monks Retreat, Friar Street. A Wetherspoons pub well known to the Jolly Boys serving the usual selection of ales and, of course, breakfast. Leaving at 11:10 we will walk for 3.5 minutes to:-
 2. The Pitcher and Piano, Friar Street. An up market pub (best behaviour please) selling 2 changing real ales. Also a good selection of food. Leaving at 11:50 take a 7 minute stroll to:-
 3. The Allied Arms, 57, St Mary's Butts. A quaint old pub serving 5 ales and 2 cloudy ciders. No food available! Leaving at 12:45 take an amble of 5 minutes to:-
 4. Sweeney and Todd, 10, Castle Street. This unique establishment serves 4 real ales. It looks like a pie shop from the outside, but walk through the shop and the pub is at the back! It is owned by Vickers, traditional butchers, who also supply the meat for the pies. They are baked on the premises and the huge range contains diverse ingredients, such as duck and cherry, steak and oysters, ham and stilton, game, chicken and chorizo, to name but a few. If the back is too full, there is ample room downstairs, where there are various nooks and crannies to sit in. I would suggest lunch be taken here. Leaving at 1:45 a well deserved constitutional of 8 minutes to:-
 5. The Nags Head, 5, Russell Street. Although visited before, the array of 12 real ales makes this a worthwhile trip. They only do rolls and small pies, if there are any left.
- From here you have a choice depending on when you wish to head for home. (A revisit to pub No. 2 is an option, only 4 mins to station)
6. The Ale House, Broad Street. It is 10 minutes walk away, but only 5 minutes from Reading Station. A range of 8 real ales, but no food.
 7. The Oakford Social Club, opposite Rail/Air bus stop. It is 12 minutes walk away, but only 2 minutes from the Station. 1 or 2 ales available.