

## JOLLY BOYS TOUR OF CARSHALTON 4 JUNE 2015

### GETTING THERE

From Victoria (28 mins) 00.17 & 00.47 Plats 9-12, EPSOM train, **NOT** via Norbury. (Plat 15 at Clapham Jct 7 mins later)

From St P Intl (43 mins) 08.44, 09.16, then 00.18 & 00.48, SUTTON via Mitcham Jcn, **NOT** via Wimbledon

### TRAINS HOME

To Victoria (28 mins) 00.02 & 00.32

To St P Intl (43 mins) 00.11 & 00.41

**Allow at least 5 minutes from The Railway Tavern to the Up Platform**



6a The Railway Tavern



14.05 - end

2 The Sun



11.00 - 11.50

5 The Hope



13.00 - 14.00

1 The Racehorse



10.00 - 10.55

For breakfast and earlies



Buses 407 & X26 from Wellesley Road, Croydon

3 The Woodman



12.00 - 12.30

4 The Greyhound



12.35 - 12.50

6b The Windsor Castle



14.05 - end



154 Bus



Carshalton Beeches Station  
500 yards (uphill) or 154 bus  
(two stops) for trains to  
West Croydon [6 per hour]

Carshalton is a suburb of London within the London Borough of Sutton. Part of Surrey until 1965, it is located 10 miles from Charing Cross, and is famed for one of the two



sources of the River Wandle being in Carshalton Ponds in the centre of the village.

The Wandle is a tributary of the Thames, joining it at

Wandsworth (gettit?), the home of the now defunct Young's Ram Brewery. Carshalton is also well known for its lavender fields, above.

Carshalton consists of a number of neighbourhoods, but the main focal point, Carshalton Village, a pub lover's paradise, is visually scenic and picturesque and is the part we will be visiting. At its centre are the two adjoining ponds, which are overlooked by the Grade II listed All Saints Church on the south side, and the Victorian Grove Park on the north side. The Grade II listed Honeywood Museum sits on the west side, just a few yards from the water.



Carshalton lacks a Wetherspoons, but here we have John and Maura in **The Racehorse** to thank, and to help us out. On leaving the station, turn right down to West

Street, turn left and head to the newly refurbished Racehorse on the right, passing a most important port of call, *en route*, The Hope. John has agreed to open at **10.00**, and will have a bacon bap or sandwich with a coffee available for £3.00, and the bar open. We agreed that he should not attempt a JDW breakfast at £2.99, even on a saucer! In view of this, I hope that you will forgo visiting a JDW elsewhere before you join us.

However, should you be joining us at our second venue, The Sun, leave the station to the left, into North Street and turn right. The Sun is on your left.

We leave at **10.55** to walk to **The Sun**, where Jo and Cal will be opening early especially for us at 11.00. The Sun is now a boutique-style pub that sells a number of well-kept and unusual (for London) beers, and has a reputation for serving fine food. Leaving there at **11.50**, we cross Mill Lane and walk through Grove Park, crossing The River Wandle, and head for **The Woodman** wine bar, arriving at about 12.00.

The Manager, Michael, generally has two guest beers, and is ably assisted by Neal Zarkovitch, former landlord of The Railway in Cheam (February 2011). We leave here at **12.30** and head across the front of All Saints Church to **The Greyhound** ahead of us. This is included principally because it is a fine looking building in a super location – it is a former Youngs pub, now a hotel, selling the usual Bedford Ales.

After a (very) quick one, around **12.50** we cut back across the road, past the Honeywood Museum and along Festival Walk past the grounds of the Ecology Centre, towards the Grade II\* listed early 18th century Water Tower (or Bagnio as it was known at the time) built primarily to house a water driven pump supplying water to Carshalton House (now St Philomena's School) and the fountains in its gardens. It was planned as a multi-purpose building, and also contains an orangery, a saloon and a bathroom which retains original Delft tiles, pictured here. In West Street we turn right, back past The Racehorse to **The Hope**, the highlight of the tour. Basic lunches (£5.50) have a superb reputation and this pub is the recommended food stop. The choice and quality of the beers is outstanding.



The Hope has won CAMRA Sutton Pub of the Year 2009 and 2010, CAMRA Croydon & Sutton Pub of the Year 2012, 13 and 14 and CAMRA Greater London Pub of the Year 2012 and 2013. Also, Greater London 'Runner-Up' for 2014 and one of four finalists in the National Pub of The Year, only being beaten by The Swan with Two Necks in Pendleton, because The Hope could not boast an eminent politician as one of its regulars not importuning young men.

In 2010 there was an imminent danger of the pub closing and becoming a licensed Indian Restaurant, but after some quick negotiation by a group of customers, were given the option of buying the lease and operating the pub.

A company "48 West Limited" was formed by 32 investors to pursue this possibility and in February 2010 the company signed forms to become the tenant on a 20 year free of all tie lease from Punch Taverns. They bought the fixtures and fittings, stock etc. from the holding company that operated the pub and continue to make substantial investments in the building, the stock, the staff and generally the future. One of the thirty two investors is our own irregular attendee, Terry Biddle.

After lunch at around **14.00**, we have a choice – some may wish to stay on, but those returning to London may wish to visit **The Railway Tavern**, a Fullers "real local" pub with much railway memorabilia. Turn right out of The Hope, under the railway bridge, and right into Camden Road to the pub. There are the usual Fullers beers, and occasionally a guest.

Although this pub is only about 20 yards from the up platform as the crow flies, do allow at least 5 minutes to catch your train.

For those who are returning southwards via Croydon, you may wish to visit, instead, **The Windsor Castle**, which is the usual watering hole for the Croydon & Sutton CAMRA Branch, and then make your weary way up the hill, or catch a 154 bus the two stops to Carshalton Beeches Station for trains to Croydon.