

JOLLY BOYS BACK IN THE NORTH EAST DARLINGTON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2015



Darlington with a population in 2011 of 106,000, sits on the Rivers Skerne and Tees. The Market Place shown above dates from 1183.

As we all know the first railway in the town was the Stockton and Darlington in 1825, this was followed by a connection from Croft Spa south of the town in 1829. Then in 1841 the Great North of England Railway arrived from York to link into the York and North Midland, eventually going north via the Newcastle and Darlington Junction Railway via Leamside and Pelaw to Gateshead in 1844 and Newcastle in 1848. Darlington grew as an important engineering and railway town, with it's large locomotive and carriage works and the Cleveland Bridge Engineering Co. still active today. Bridges they have built include :-

Victoria Falls 1905

King Edward VII Newcastle 1908

Middlesborough Transporter 1911

Chiswick 1933

Tamar road 1959

Forth road 1964

Severn road 1966

Humber 1981

Queen Elizabeth II 1991

THE PUBS

1. Tanners' Hall (Wetherspoons)-Opens 08.00 63-64 Skinnergate

JB Times-until 11.15

Turn left down Skinnergate and third left down Mechanics' Yard, nearly to the end. The entrance to The Quakerhouse is on the left.:-

2. Quakerhouse. Opens 11.00. 2 Mechanics Yard (off High Row). Eleven times CAMRA Town Pub of the Year and North East Pub of the Year 2013. Ten real ales, mostly northern micros on our visit.

JB Times 11.20-12.10

Return up the Yard and turn left into Skinnergate. Turn right at the road junction into Coniscliffe Road and along on the right hand side about 100 yards is :-

3. Number Twenty 2 Opens 12.00. 22 Coniscliffe Road. Up to 16 handpumps Does sandwiches, chips etc. Former Italian restaurant.

JB Times 12.15-12.45.

Turn left back along Coniscliffe Road to the road junction and go down Blackwellgate turning right into the Horse Market. On the right hand side is :-

4. Hole in the Wall, Opens 11.00, Market Place. Does Food. Pies recommended. Four real ales on our visit.

JB Times 12.50-13.20

Out of Market Place, bottom right hand corner, turn right into Feethams opposite the Town Hall. Down to the Ring Road roundabout. Cross it into Victoria Road (pub on left hand side) or go down the footpath which takes you to the pub entrance via the back way to :-

5. The Old Vic, Opens 11.00, 95A Victoria Road. An upstairs former Post Office social club.

It very much has the feel of a tired social club needing some tlc, but the beer is good, with four real ales including one brewed for the pub.

JB Times 13.30-----

Out of the building turn left down Victoria Road, 10 minute walk to the station

For those in no hurry, there is the option to follow the ring road round to Stonebridge and visit :-

6. The Glittering Star-A Sam Smith's pub.

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TRAIN TIMES

Kings Cross Dep. 07.00 07.30 08.00 08.30

Darlington Arr 09.23 10.06 10.21 11.08

Darlington Dep 14.29 14.57

Kings Cross Arr. 16.51 17.42

Manchester Picc Dep 08.41

Change at Huddersfield as the Newcastle service now runs via Man Victoria

Darlington Arr 10.41

Darlington Dep 14.39

Change at Northallerton

Manchester Picc Arr 16.44

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