

## Jolly Boys visit to Ledbury 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

### Cultural Notes

Ledbury is a [borough](#) whose origins date to around 690 AD. In the [Domesday Book](#) it was recorded as Liedeberge. It may take its name from the [River Leadon](#) on which it stands. [Old English](#) *burg* (fortified or defended site) has been added to the [river](#) name. As a town it was created on a bishop's manor, probably, like [Leominster](#), [Bromyard](#) and [Ross-on-Wye](#), in the episcopate of Bishop [Richard de Capella](#) (1121-1127). It returned members to [Parliament](#) in the reign of [Edward I](#).

The *Feathers Hotel* was a famous 16th century [drovers' inn](#).

The [Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal](#), which opened from Gloucester as far as here in 1798, passed through the lower part of the town with wharves at Bye Street and at what is now the Ross Road near the Full Pitcher public house. After closing in 1885, part of the Ledbury-to-Gloucester section of the canal was used by the [Great Western Railway](#) for the [Ledbury and Gloucester Railway](#). The original line of the canal northwards towards Hereford can still be seen, where it went underneath the Ledbury-to-Hereford railway. When the Gloucester railway closed in 1964 as a result of the [Beeching](#) cuts it became overgrown, but the route through Ledbury then was used as a footpath. In 1997 a 1.6 miles (2.6 km) section from the bypass / Ross Road roundabout to the railway station was upgraded to a 2 m (6.6 ft) wide path with a surface of compacted limestone chippings that could be utilised by cyclists and wheelchair-users. This included creating several access points, thinning out but retaining many of the trees that had grown since the 1960s and reopening the [skew bridge](#) across the A438 Hereford Road. Unfortunately the proposed bridge to take the Town Trail (as it is now known) across the B4214 Bromyard Road into the station yard was never built. The Trail ends at the Hereford/Bromyard road junction.

*For the interest of Ian Osbourne and any other folksie type*, it is home to the Silurian Border Morrismen. There are a number of singing groups, including the Choral Society and the Community Choir, the latter with over 60 members.

In 2000, Ledbury formed a twinning association with the [Swedish](#) town of [Strömstad](#). Since then, several cultural and sporting exchanges have taken place between the two: the junior football club, Ledbury Swifts makes an annual trip there.

The real interesting bits. There are no Weatherspoons in Ledbury so suggest for early birds stopping off at Worcester Foregate Street and visit The Postal Order on the corner of Foregate Street and Pierpoint Street.

### Ledbury

Come out of the station down the ramp and continue walking towards the town centre; which is about a 10 minute walk.

The Horseshoe Inn is on the left hand side of High Street. Out of the Horseshoe turn left and continue along High Street until the corner of Church Street, up Church Street the Prince of Wales is 20 yards on the Left. Out of the Prince of Wales turn right, back to the corner of High Street, turn right up High Street to the Seven stars, which is on the right hand side about 20 yards from corner. Out of the Seven Stars turn left back to corner of Church Street, cross over High Street to Bye Street. The Brewery Inn is about 50 yards on the right hand side.

Pub 1 or 5, dependant on arrival times of individuals  
Horseshoe Inn, High Street - Opening 11:30  
Beers: Butty Bach and HPA  
Food: Pizza and Tapas

Pub 2  
Prince of Wales, Church Street - Opening 11:00  
Beers: Courage, Butcombe, HPA, Ledbury Park, Otter, Hobsons, Butty Bach and Youngs London Stout.  
Food : Typical Pub Grub

Pub 3  
Seven Stars, High Street - Opening 11:00  
Beers: Pardoes and Marstons  
Food: Excellent food - wide menu - great fish and chips and they make excellent in house burgers, can also recommend Ham and Leek pie. Caters for vegetarians.

Pub 4  
Brewery Inn, Bye Street - Opening 11:00  
Beers: Banks and Marstons

Of the list of pubs The Prince of Wales is a true real ale lover's pub and the landlord is dedicated to the cause.

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### Train Times

London Paddington	07:36
Gloucester	09:29 change for 09:37 to Worcester F.S
Worcester Foregate Street	10:17 change for 10:32 to Ledbury
Ledbury	10:57

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London Paddington	08:22 via Reading, Oxford, Worcester S.Hill and F.S.
Ledbury	11:57

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London Euston	08: 03 or 09:03
Birmingham	09: 27 or 10:27 change for 09: 49 or 10:49 to Ledbury
Ledbury	10:57 or 11:57

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Birmingham	08:49 09:49 10:49
Ledbury	09:57 10:57 11:57

All Birmingham to Ledbury via Worcester Foregate Street.