

## Jollyboys' Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July Kennet Valley



We last visited Newbury in 2012, but all the venues this time, apart from the spoons, are new for JBs. After a few hours in Newbury we can go along the valley to Woolhampton to end the day or if the weather is wet we can stay in Newbury. All the 'facilities' are within 5 minutes walk from the station.

Newbury station was opened on 21 December 1847 as part of the Berks and Hants Railway to Hungerford. Newbury was an important junction on the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway (DN&SR), the first section of which opened between Didcot and Newbury in 1881. The route to Winchester was then opened in 1885 but it was not until 1891 that a route to Southampton was completed. In 1898 the Lambourn Valley Railway (LVR) was opened which ran from the west of the station to Lambourn, north-west of Newbury. Trains to Lambourn started from the bay on the north platform at its western end now part of the car park.

Arriving at Newbury station most people will do so from the Reading direction so will need to cross over the footbridge to exit on the "up" side and turn right. This is Cheap Street which you should follow as it bears sharply left and continues towards the town centre and into the Market Place for the **Hatchet**, about 400 yards, a regular Wetherspoons, preferable to the Diamond Tap which is the first Spoons you will pass. Eight beers on when we were there including a good selection of local brews (strangely nothing from the 'available soon' range) plus their normal food list, including breakfast! **(Till 11:00)**

**Don't forget your vouchers for the spoons also the next 3 pubs offer discounts for Camra members so bring yours cards as well!!!**

From the Hatchet back out on to the Market Place, turn left and cross the square for the **Catherine Wheel** (opens 11:00) about 20 Yards. 6 hand pumps included Wild Weather, Fuggle Dee Dum, UBU, Hopback, plus a Mild. They also do a good range of Pies!!!. **Leave at 11:45**

Turn Right from the Catherine Wheel and cross road back towards the station, 50 yards on the left is the King Charles (KC as it's known). Opens 11:30  
6 Handpumps



Food is also available **Leave at 12:35**

Out of the KC turn right and cross road, follow road round to the left past Bus Station and across access road to the council buildings. The Cow and Cask in Inches Yard is on the left, just over 100 yards. This is a Micro pub with 3 beers usually available. No food. **Leave by 13:05** and back to Newbury station.

To get a 'flavor' of the Kennet Valley we can get the 13:13 train to Reading alighting at Midgham at 13:24. Exit station and across back over the line 50 yards down the road is the Rowbarge with a good selection of at least 6 local beers.

The station at Woolhampton was opened on 21 December 1847, it was originally named Woolhampton but on 1 March 1873 was renamed Midgham. The name Midgham was used in preference to Woolhampton in order to avoid possible confusion with the Wolverhampton, the GWR having reached Wolverhampton in 1854. The station was subsequently renamed twice: on 2 November 1964 it became Midgham Halt but on 5 May 1969 it reverted to Midgham.↓

**OR**

If it's wet we can continue the day in Newbury with a visit to the Newbury which is about 50 yards from the Cow and Cask. Range of West Berks beers available. Food available.

Through trains from Paddington are at xx.18 mins and take around 50 - 55 mins. From Reading the departure times are xx.12, which is an all stations stopper (arrives at xx.44) or 48 which is the 'fast' from Padd. If you are travelling from or through Basingstoke a bus is available every hour and departs from outside the station at xx.43 and arrives Newbury xx.27. This saves getting the train into Reading and back out again. If you do use this way then leave the bus station and turn right and follow road round to the left. The Market Place is straight on about 50 yards.

Trains back from Newbury are at 13:52 14:03 for Reading and Padd, 14:13 (stopping service to Reading) 14:56 for Reading and Padd. Buses to Basingstoke are at xx.43, arrives Basingstoke station at xx.27. From Midgham the train back to Reading is at 14:24 or a bus service to Reading is also available with buses at xx.28 or xx.58 takes about 40 mins