

Croydon Circular Tour 4th August 2016

Croydon, famous for celebrating Guy Fawkes Night early in 2011, is a town with a bit of an identity problem. St Georges Walk shopping centre [1964] running down from the ex Nestlé building [opposite the Fairfield Halls], was plagued by strong winds generated by the tower whilst the open plan Whitgift Shopping centre [1968/70] was almost completely remodelled in 1990 and roofed in. Alders [went bust but trading to 2012 just] was the anchor store one end with M&S the other.

Opposite side of North End, the rambling Kennards was demolished and Debenhams and later House of Fraser appeared in the new Centrale shopping centre. A bit of a drag through but improved when the Tram stop was introduced giving a back entrance.

Massive redevelopment is planned not only on the St Georges Walk and Whitgift sites but is taking place between Wellesley Road and the Station with a new entrance via the footbridge. Hope it all works out!



Exit East Croydon from the main southern end and either walk or take any tram one stop down to the **George**, one of the earliest 'Spoons set in what was once a Waring & Gillow furniture shop, about 60 yards back before the stop. If arriving at West Croydon come out of the main exit off the bridge, turn left cross the tram line and walk down the pedestrianised North End to turn up George Street. [See below for other travel options. We get free travel on the Trams but if challenged show a Staff Travel Card which does not have to be dated.]



Suggest depart at 10 45 turn right and then left along the High Street and on to the **Spread Eagle** at the corner of Katharine Street and High Street. To the left of the pub in Katherine Street the Town Hall Library etc is on the site of what was once Central Croydon Station. This is a Fullers pub which had at the time of our visit, 4 session beers [about £3.28 with CAMRA discount] plus HSB and ESB.



This had 5 out of 6 on Bitter & Twisted and have another local one £3.33 with Camera back to the tram stop at either Beckenham 2 only). *These may be* have omitted the **Dog**



Leave at 11.30 to cross the High Street diagonally to **Green Dragon** including Hobgoblin, Hellhouse, Hopspur by Redemption. We hope to put on specially for the trip. [about discount]. Leave at 12.15 to walk George Street and take a tram for Junction or Elmers End (Routes 1 and *head-coded for WEST CROYDON*. We **and Bull** as it is rubbish now.

The tram ride to Addiscombe (approx. 15 mins) will take us to the **Claret Free House** which is a few paces to the left along the main road. At the time of the visit they had Palmers traditional best, Goddards Squirrel, Bridestones Smoked Porter, Stroud Brewery Budding Pale ale and Whitstable Winkle Picker and Kentish Reserve. Average price about £3.40 per pint. Leave at around 13.10 and return to Addiscombe tramstop.

Trams (Routes 1 or 4) to Elmers End are at 7 / 8 min intervals, the journey taking 8 minutes.

Elmers End is our final destination and where we will find the **Elm Tree**. Exit the station via the booking hall, up the steps to the road bridge and turn right down to the traffic lights and cross to the left down Croydon Road— 5 minutes walk. This is the suggested lunch stop [Abstract from the Menu attached.] . A Green King Pub which had Green King IPA, Harveys Sussex and Sadler's IPA, [3 out of 4 pumps]. At £3.80 and no discount.



Finally returning from the **Elm Tree**, debriefing at the old favourite the **Porter and Sorter** in Station Road East alongside East Croydon Station from 14 45 say. Trams from Elmers End [12 minute journey] , A Marston's pub that advertises 5 pumps but not checked out.

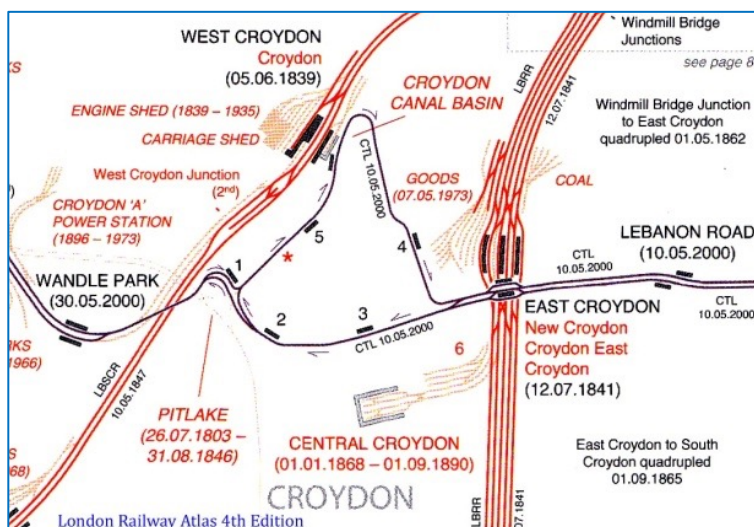
Umpteen ways of getting to East Croydon

Note if the Southern "emergency" timetable is still in use please check if there are alterations. Note the trains to and from Elmers End are Southeastern and not affected

Obviously via Victoria with whatever is going next— 15 and 20 minutes journey time

From London Bridge 9.10, 9.25, 9.37, 9.42, 9.50 between 15 and 20 minutes journey time

Thameslink direct from St Pancras 8.48, 9.04, 9.24 and 9.40. About 44 minutes and you get a trip through the new Blackfriars Station.



To **Elmers End** and then tram to George Street:

From Cannon Street 8.59 and 9.30 and Charing Cross 8.44 and 9.15, 30 minute journey, tram 15 minutes.

To Return from **Elmers End**:

London Bridge/Cannon Street trains at 29 and 59 [31 minutes to Cannon Street]

Waterloo East/Charing Cross trains at 17 and 47 [32 minutes to Charing Cross]

There are two local customs that JB's should be aware of:

It is usual to thank the driver of your train and shake hands with the Station Supervisor on exiting
It is customary to tip the tour guides, the 2 10 at Brighton the next day or the following race will be appreciated. Derek & Alan

