

## **Jolly Boys to Mansfield 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

The first trip to Mansfield for a number of years.

### **Railway History**

Mansfield railway station is a stop on the Robin Hood Line, a rail link connecting the town with Nottingham and Worksop. From 1964 until the opening of the line in 1995, Mansfield was, by some definitions, the largest town in Britain without a railway station - all the more remarkable because the town pioneered the railway in the East Midlands. From 1973 to 1995 the nearby station at Alfreton was named 'Alfreton and Mansfield Parkway' to encourage its use as a railhead for Mansfield. A Sunday rail service was restored to Mansfield in December 2008 - the town having been one of the largest on the rail network without one.

The town was originally the terminus of the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway, built as a horse-drawn plateway in 1819 and one of the first acquisitions of the newly formed Midland Railway. The Midland used the final section to extend its new Leen Valley line to the present station in 1849.

The Midland Railway extended its Rolleston Junction - Southwell branch to Mansfield in 1871, continued the line north of Mansfield to Worksop in 1875, opened a link from Mansfield Woodhouse to Westhouses & Blackwell in 1886, and completed another link from Pleasley through Bolsover to Barrow Hill in 1890. Mansfield had become a railway centre of some importance, but it was a Midland Railway centre.

The Midland Railway monopoly was broken by the locally promoted Mansfield Railway between Kirkby South Junction and Clipstone Junctions opened in stages between 1913 and 1916 for goods trains and in 1917 for Nottingham - Ollerton passenger trains calling at a second Mansfield passenger station. Although nominally independent, the Mansfield Railway connected with the Great Central Railway at both ends and trains were worked by the Great Central.

Thus Mansfield had two railway stations: Mansfield Town, the former Midland station on Station Road, near Belvedere Street and Mansfield Central, the former Mansfield Railway station on Great Central Road, near Ratcliffe Gate. Central station lost its scheduled passenger services at the beginning of 1956 and Town station closed to passengers in 1964 leaving Mansfield without any passenger trains until the Robin Hood line restored the service in 1995.

Taken from Wikipedia.

No trace of the Central Station exists though the site is quite near Pub No 3.

### **The Tour**

#### **Arrival at Mansfield**

Assuming you arrive from Nottingham then if you look towards the end of the platform you will see a bridge marked "Bus Station and Town Centre". Go over the bridge (do not exit the station though it is quite nicely restored) and descend the steps to the bus station. Go through the bus station to the far exit (right), cross the road and go down to the Market Square. Pub 1 is on the left. The black lines on the map show the approximate route.

Note: All pubs are in the GBG 2016.

#### **Pub No 1: Court House, Market Place NG18 1HX**

<https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/pubs/all-pubs/england/nottinghamshire/the-court-house-mansfield>



Standard Weatherspoons for earlies and breakfast.

Leave at 11.00.

### **Finding Pub 2**

From the Weatherspoons cross the market square and enter Church Street going under the railway viaduct. You will then see the Post Office on the right and a shop opposite (called China Bright on the reeve though it was closing down). There is no sign of a pub! To the right of the shop is a passage way. Go up it and you will see pub no 2.

### **Pub No 2: Old White Lion, White Lion Yard, Church Street NG18**

<http://www.white-lion-yard-mansfield.co.uk/ye-olde-white-lion-inn/>

Opens at 11.00. The bar is in a sandstone cave which is a bit gloomy. 3 real ales are available. No food. We stay here until the other pubs open at 12.00.

Leave 11.50.

Follow the map, crossing the dual carriageway, to:

### **Pub No 3: The Brown Cow, 31-33 Ratcliffe Gate, NG18 2JA**

<https://www.everards.co.uk/our-pubs/the-brown-cow-mansfield/>

Opens at 12.00. Pub modernised and serves up to 12 real ales. Does sandwiches and bar snacks. Best pub for beer on the tour.

Leave at 12.40.

Retrace steps and turn left up White Hart Street after the Post Office (and before the viaduct) to:

### **Pub No 4: Beer Shack, 46 White Hart Street, NG18 1DG**

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MNS/275/beer-shack-mansfield>

One of these new fangled micro pubs. In a shop with a small bar but room upstairs. 5 real ales available but no food (except crisps).

Leave 13:20.

Proceed up White Hart Street and cross road to:

### **Pub No 5: Railway Inn, 9 Station Street, NG18 1EF**

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MNS/107/railway-inn-mansfield>

Characterful multi roomed pub that serves 4 real ales. This is the main food stop so some people may wish to get there earlier. Does wide range of pub foods and specials which seem popular with the locals.

Stay until you want to go home. The station is only a couple of minutes away.

### **To Mansfield from London**



The quickest way is to go from St Pancras to Nottingham and change for Mansfield. There is an alternate via Kings Cross and Grantham to Nottingham and if you have a lot of time there is an alternate via Kings Cross, Retford and Worksop to Mansfield. There is no bus alternative via Newark.

#### Via Nottingham

St Pancras d	07:29	08:29
Nottingham a	09:18	10:18
Nottingham d	09:26	10:26
Mansfield a	09:57	10:57

#### Via Grantham

Kings Cross d	07:35	08:35
Grantham a	08:39	09:39
Grantham d	08:55	09:58
Nottingham a	09:26	10:35
Nottingham d	09:55	10:55
Mansfield a	10:27	11:27

#### Via Worksop

KX d 07:35 Doncaster a 09:12 Doncaster d 09:25 Retford a 09:38 Retford d 10:01 Worksop a 10:12 Worksop d 10:38 Mansfield a 11:10. A journey time of 3h 35m compared to 2h 28m via Nottingham.

#### Return Journeys

Nothing via Grantham but again a much longer alternative via Retford.

#### Via Nottingham

Mansfield d	13:40	14:10	14:40	15:10
Nottingham a	14:15	14:43	15:15	15:43
Nottingham d	14:32	15:05	15:32	16:05
St Pancras a	16:14	16:56	17:15	17:56

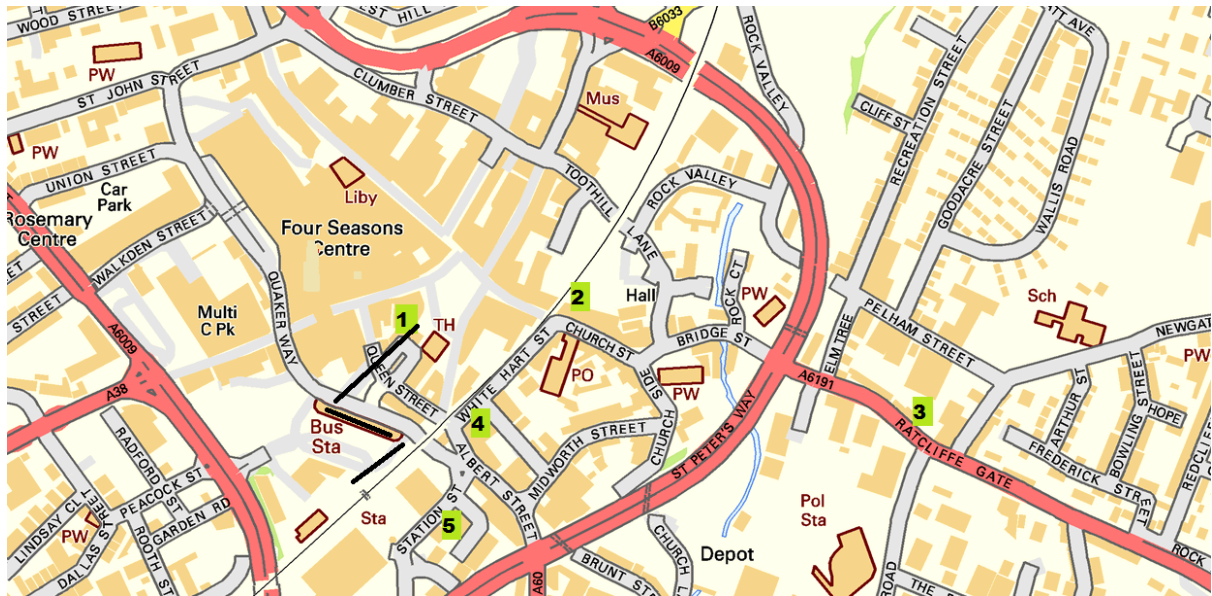
#### Via Retford

Mansfield d	13:57	14:57
Worksop a	14:33	15:33
Worksop d	15:15	16:15



Retford a	15:25	16:25
Retford d	16:19	16:41
Kings Cross a	17:45	18:27





Numbers relate to pub numbers above.