

# A 'First' Jolly to Tewkesbury – 26 May 2016

## Bit of History

Tewkesbury is an ancient settlement at the meeting of the rivers Severn and Avon. The surrounding rivers and flood plain have prevented the old town from expanding so that its long thin profile has hardly altered since the Middle Ages. Tewkesbury presents one of the best medieval townscapes in England with its fine half-timbered Tudor buildings, overhanging upper storeys and ornately carved doorways.

The name Tewkesbury comes from Theoc, the name of a Saxon hermit who arrived in the area in the 7th century. Then it was known as Theocsbury and became Tewkesbury over the centuries.

Tewkesbury railway station was a station on the Midland Railway between Great Malvern and Evesham. It was originally opened by the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway in 1840, but was replaced in 1864 by a new station built for the Tewkesbury and Malvern Railway which closed 14 August 1961. The town is currently served by Ashchurch for Tewkesbury railway station, approximately two miles from Tewkesbury.

## What to see!!

This is a walk from one end of the town to the other, a distance of about ½ mile down the High Street, to take in the heritage of the town with frequent refreshment breaks.

Let's start at the **The Royal Hop Pole**, 94 Church Street. The local Spoons so breakfast available and early starters.

Leave at 11:30

Then it's across the road to the **The Berkeley Arms**, 8 Church Street. a Wadworths pub.

Leave at 12:05

At this point I have to confess I was unable to check out these first two attractions as we were detained for longer than expected in the White Bear!!! Have included them on the recommendations of the local population.

Next on the tour is the **Tudor House Hotel** 51 High Street 6 Hand Pumps with a good selection on offer, Suggested food stop.

Leave at 12:50

Down the road to the **White Bear**, Brendon Road. 7 Hand pumps with good variety to sample. We stayed longer than anticipated and put a lot of effort into the research of the beers on offer!! Good selection of rolls at £2.00.

Leave at 13:45

Final stop the **Nottingham Arms** back in the High Street. 4 on Hand pumps.

That's your lot for today

## How to get to Tewkesbury

The nearest station, as mentioned above, is Ashchurch on the line from Worcester to Bristol. Service is basically ever 2 hours. It's then a bus, service 41 to Cheltenham, into Tewkesbury at 01, 21 and 41 past the hour. Returns to Ashchurch at 04, 24 and 44 past the hour.

I got the bus from Gloucester, service 71 from bay C at the bus station, which is just outside the station. There is building works taking place so you need to walk around the shops at the front of the bus station to gain access. Buses depart at 09:15 09:45 10:45 and 11:45 takes around 30 minutes. Alight at Cross North at the top end of the high street. Returns at 13:23, 13:53 14:23 and 15:23. It was £5.80 return for those not decrepit enough to qualify for Bus Benefits or from across the border.

A more frequent bus service is from Cheltenham, Clarence Street at 18, 38 and 58 service 41 to Northway and 42/42a to Mitton/Priors Park at 23 and 53 past the hour. Again takes about ½ hour. These services take the Tewkesbury Road out of Cheltenham and you can get the bus from outside Tesco's which is about a mile from the station along Gloucester Road. Service 41 returns at 00, 20 and 40 past the hour. Service 42/42a returns 09 and 37 past hour.

From Worcester bus station service 363 at 09:55 gets into Tewkesbury at 10:53. The return service 15:00 but this only runs on non school days so make your own investigation into this option.

I'm sure Jolly Boys can find train times to reach Ashchurch, Gloucester, Cheltenham or Worcester from wherever.

## **Disclaimer**

Please check out train and bus times. The rail timetable changes mid May and with bus cuts common the above is what's running now, they might not be at the end of May!!!

Tewkesbury is most unusual as finding a pub that opens before mid day was not a problem, famous last words, a couple of them open at 10:00 and not just the Spoons, for a tourist town prices ranged between £2.80 and £3.50, seemed reasonable.

Will Jolly Boys please ensure they wash behind the ears on the day as they are particular on who they admit on some of the permissive.

# Rules of the Inn



**NO THIEVES, FAKIRS, ROGUES  
or TINKERS ~**

**NO SKULKING LOAFERS or  
FLEA-BITTEN TRAMPS**

NO 'SLAP an' TICKLE o' THE WENCHES  
NO BANGING o' TANKARDS on the TABLES  
NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THE KITCHEN  
NO COCKFIGHTING

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**FLINTLOCKS, CUDGELS,  
DAGGERS and SWORDS**  
*to be handed to the INNKEEPER  
for safe-keeping ~*

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Bed for the Night ... .. 1 Shilling  
Stabling for Horse... .. 4 pence

✻ 1786 ✻