

**Please note as this Jolly is in the week before Easter the date is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April and NOT the Thursday.**

### **The Midland Metro – getting there :**

Since the Metro Meander in 2008 the Metro has extended from Snow Hill to New Street station, or Grand Central as it has been rebranded, the tram terminus is now right outside the station in Stephenson St. As most Jolly Boys will travel through New Street I would suggest getting the tram from there to Bilston rather than the train to Wolverhampton and then the tram. The cost will be the same as the cheapest way to travel is the DaySaver ticket which at time of writing is £5 (as far as I know there are no Privs/Concessions).

Journey time is 35 mins, not bad considering there are over 20 stations, and you get to enjoy street running through the high-rise canyons to Snow Hill and after that along the old GWR line to Wolverhampton Low Level.

For JBs who have not seen the “new” New Street above platform level it will certainly be an eye-opener. To get to the correct exit for the trams go through the ticket barriers (there are several sets of these depending on which platform you come off) and head for the huge new central hall with the strangely-shaped skylights. Then orientate yourself so that the large Grand Central sign is in front of you with John Lewis behind, and walk past the escalators on your left to the Exit doors. The tram terminus is just over the road. The service interval is about every 8 mins.

For those arriving by train at Wolverhampton, exit along station approach and take the left fork over the ring road, past Sainsburys and to the left of the Costa past the bus station entrance to Pipers Row. Left along here, beware the numerous roadworks which are apparently for the trams to run to the station. At Bilston Street turn right and you will see the existing tram terminus, St Georges, just up the street. About 7-8 mins walk. Bilston is the 4<sup>th</sup> stop and takes 10 mins. Again the DaySaver at £5 is the cheapest option.

### **Bilston :**

First recorded mention in AD 985 at about the same time as Wolverhampton. Mainly a rural market town until the industrial revolution resulted in coal and steel production as well as the canal and railway links. Best known for the huge British Steel Corporation Plant which closed in 1979 with the loss of 2000 jobs and covered a large area to the west of the town centre.

### **The Pubs :**

#### **1. The Sir Henry Newbolt -Wetherspoons 45-47 High St.**

Exit Metro station and turn left along the (not very pretty) High Street about 7-8 mins walk. Pub on the right. I think this is a good Wetherspoons considering the location and each time I have been they have had a good range of beers, which on the last visit were from Moorhouses, Backyard, Exmoor, Dukeries and Green Jack Lowestoft. Depending on what happens with Pub 2 our 1<sup>st</sup> round might have to be here.

JB times until about 11.10.

**2.The Trumpet** – Opens at 12.00 normally but the nice lady behind the bar made a note of our visit and they will hopefully open at 11.00 on the day. I'll give them a ring the day before as a reminder. A Holdens pub with Golden Glow and Black Country Bitter, Mild and Special. Unfortunately no Guest ales. As this pub is just across the street from the JDW then if it's open we go there and if not stay where we are. The Trumpet is quite a nice local, lots of musical items on walls and ceiling including a lot of, you guessed it, trumpets.

JB times 11.10-11.50

**3.The Metro Cafe** - 46 Church Street. Return to the Metro station and a few doors past on the right. This is a small café bar with a good selection of real ales, including Wye Valley HPA, Ossett Gold & Purity Bunny Hop and 3 craft beers. Food is available including on our visit Steak & Ale Pie, Chicken Tikka & Rice, Shepherds Pie and something called Grey Peas & Bacon, obviously a local delicacy.

JB times 12.00 - 12.45

The 2008 visit to Bilston included the Olde White Rose which was listed as having 12 cask ales and a recommended eating pub and was in the 2008 GBG. Sadly all this is no longer the case. Hardly anybody in and only 2 real ales sums up my recent visits.

Exit Metro Café and left back to the station. Take the next tram to Wolves journey time 10 mins. From the Terminus cross Market St and follow Dudley St around to the right and along the pedestrianised street past all your favourite shops. Finally across Lichfield St with St Peters Church ahead to the right, and before that on the left :

**4. The Lych Gate Tavern** – 44 Queen Square. All the Black Country Brewery beers plus guests on last visit included Shelford Plum Porter, Sadlers Mud City stout, Mallinsons Stadium Pale, Big Hand Telekinesis and Upton Furlong. An excellent pub. Also does snack menu.

JB times 13.15 - 13.45

Back to Lichfield St and left towards the station. Jolly Boys with earlier trains can leave at this point while the others can take the subway under the station, which is to the left of the station entrance by the BTP building, and at the subway exit head to the right, past the old GWR Low Level station on the left to :

**5. The Great Western** – Corn Hill. A brilliant pub full of railway memorabilia and atmosphere. All the Holden range plus guests, on my last visit Castle Rock Screech Owl IPA, Derventio Cleopatra Amber & Millstone True Grit. Sometimes has Bathams (fingers crossed). Also does good food. Check later trains as you may not want to leave.

JB times 13.55-end.

Then retrace steps back to the (High Level) station.

