

## **Jollyboys BRADFORD-ON-AVON event (Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017)**

The centre of the town grew up around the ford across the river Avon, hence the origin of the town's name ("Broad-Ford"). This was supplemented in Norman times by the stone bridge that still stands today. The Norman side is upstream, and has pointed arches; the newer downstream side has curved arches. The river provided power for the many wool mills that gave the town its wealth, and these prospered until the English woollen industry shifted its centre of power to Yorkshire (Boo!, Ed.) in the late 19th century. The last local mill closed in 1905. There are several notable buildings in and around the town centre. Many of the old textile factories have been converted into modern flats and apartments; however, few of the buildings are still used today in their original roles. One of the few is **The Swan** a public house and hotel set in the centre of town; the building is 17th century and retains many original features, in particular the stone flag floors. Records show that there has been a public house on the same site since the 1500s.

Unfortunately, once again, there is no local Wetherspoons so Jollyboys need to make a choice of filling up earlier on their journey (Bath?) or taking breakfast in the **Lock Inn Cafe** – open from 0830 (Phil sampled a full Boatman's Breakfast on the recce and wolfed it down fairly rapidly, including fried potatoes AND fried bread, so it is recommended).

There seems to be something unusual going on in that only some pubs on "this" side of the river open at 1100 and all the ones t'other side at 1200 so, on arrival, if you leave the station from the main entrance (arrival side from Bath direction) you need to curve right and then turn right round the corner, past the **Three Horseshoes** to which we shall return later, on to Frome Road and walk back over the railway bridge and continue along (good 10 minutes stroll) to the **Lock Inn Cafe** (Bath Ales "Gem", and St. Austell Trelawney on at recce time). Do not confuse this so-called cafe with the **Canal Tavern** immediately next door which, we understand, also doesn't open till 1200. Suggested drinking times are 1100 to 1130 (eating earlier to suit).

Turn left back along Frome Road and retrace your steps but, this time, go in to the **Three Horseshoes** (Bunce's/Stonehenge "Sign of Spring" (a fetching green colour but Tim is still with us!!), local Kettlesmith Brewing "Faultline", plus Otter "Amber"). 1145 to 1215,

Turn left again to continue along what is now St Margaret's Street and over the Town Bridge. A little further on, on the left, you will see the back entrance to the **Swan**, mentioned in the overview above. Enter up the back steps. Greene King stuff - Old Speckled Hen, IPA and another product own-labelled as "Swan Best Bitter". 1225 to 1250

Exit through the front door on to Market Street where, immediately opposite, you will find the **Dandy Lion**. The liquids here are primarily Wadworth's (6X, IPA, Golden Ale) plus St Austell Tribute. 1250 – 1330 (LUNCHES SERVED – including Faggots, Peas & Mash).

Out and left, then left again through the mini-pedestrian-only area - the Shambles - and left back on the main drag to the **Bunch of Grapes** (Merrie City (Wakefield!) "Atlantic Hop", and Butcombe Original on hand pumps plus – though it may be anathema to the traditionalists – four dispensed via gas technology – Thornbridge "Jaipur", Oakham's "Tiki Blonde" and "Green Devil", plus Bristol Beer Factory "Independence".) 1340 – END (LUNCHES SERVED)

### **Trains :-**

2086 - Bristol TM 0935, Bath 1007, Bradford on Avon 1023 (connects 0830 ex PAD)

1F09 - Newport 0942, Bristol TM 1022, Bath 1036, Bradford on Avon 1047 (0900 PAD)

Folk from the Wild West may, of course, come from the opposite direction, via Westbury and Trowbridge, if they wish!