

Jolly Boys to Newport

28th September 2017

We last visited Newport in 2011, since when a number of changes have led to an improvement in the availability of pubs and the range of beers provided in the city centre. I have tried to pick out some of the better ones while keeping the walking distances short with no serious uphill stretches, but, as ever, the hard part is to find venues which open at suitable times.

Leave the station by the City Centre exit and walk back towards the old station building (now Council offices). Cross Queensway at the pedestrian crossing into Cambrian Rd to find Pub no 1 on the right hand side.

The Pubs (see separate map)

1. **John Wallace Linton.** Wetherpoons, and all that that implies. Breakfast and early arrivals and I'll see you there. Leave at 11:15, turn right and cross the road to:
2. **Hogarth's Gin Palace.** Opens at 11:00 allegedly and fear not, despite the name they also serve beer! 4 hand pumps with a changing selection all around the £2 mark – having a Wetherspoons across the road does wonders to encourage competition. Leave by the High St exit at 12:05, crossing the road to :
3. **Tiny Rebel.** Opens at 12:00. Outlet for Newport's local brewery offering a wide selection with strengths ranging from Session to Damn Silly. Interesting industrial décor; take a look at the cellar on the way to the Gents downstairs. Food available, but a bit trendy so priced accordingly. Leave at 12:50, turn right and walk along High St to:
4. **The Old Murrenger House.** After the polished metal of the previous location, a welcome return to the more traditional. Sam Smiths pub with good beer and good grub all at sensible prices, so this is the recommended food stop. Leave at 14:00, turn right and walk back down High St to the junction with Bridge St, turn right and a little way along on the left is :-
5. **The Lamb.** Once suffering from a poor reputation, but new management and a couple of refurbishments later things have improved no end (not sure if the former clientele have also been refurbished – it was pretty quiet at the time of the recce). 4 handpumps which I was assured will have some interesting guest beers when we visit – the manageress made a special note of the date. Stay till home time, or if anyone fancies a change on the way back to the station :
6. **The Queens Hotel.** Further along Bridge St on the left and another Wetherspoons.

From 5 or 6 the quickest route to the station is to turn right out of Bridge St into Station St just beyond the front of the Queens and follow the road round, emerging from the canyon between the Travelodge and the Admiral Insurance offices at the pedestrian crossing opposite the station entrance. No more than 5mins walk from either.

Travel

Trains at Newport go from and to North, South, East and West at regular intervals, with a few extras in between, so JBs should be able to find something convenient :-

London Paddington - Half hourly
Bristol, thence Portsmouth or Taunton – Half hourly
Cardiff and West Wales – Half hourly
Chester and Holyhead – 2 hourly
Manchester via Crewe – Hourly
Nottingham via Birmingham NS – Hourly

Cross Country services are available by changing at Bristol Parkway (20min away on the Paddington service).

JM

August 2017