

JOLLY BOYS FIRST VISIT TO ROTHERHAM
THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2017
(Recce-22.8.17)



The Chantry Chapel

Rotherham's history goes back to the iron age, which is very apt since its development was founded on iron and coal. The quality of the local iron ore resulted in the spread of vast iron and steelworks and even today there are one or two still operating (Aldwarke and Sheffield Forgemasters). Steel Peech and Tozer's huge, one mile long, steelworks at Templeborough is now partly a museum (Magna) and a small part is still a strip mill. Despite all this heavy industry it has a 15th century Chantry Chapel (one of only 4 bridge chapels surviving in the country-one of the other three is in Wakefield!). Having been a jail, then a tobacconist's shop, it was restored in 1923 to a place of worship. They were serving communion on the day of the recce but I demured on the basis of the wine not mixing with the beer! There is also a splendid minster church which dominates the whole town. A large part of the centre has been pedestrianised.

The first railway arrived in 1838 at Rotherham Westgate in the centre of the town, as the Rotherham and Sheffield Railway to Sheffield Wicker station. The North Midland, which bypassed Sheffield running direct to Chesterfield via Beighton, then opened another station on the route to Leeds at Masborough in 1840. In 1871 the South Yorkshire Railway by now part of the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (GC from 1897) opened a station at Rotherham Central on its line from Mexborough to Sheffield Victoria. The only one left open is Rotherham Central. This station closed in 1966 but was re-opened slightly further north in 1987. All that remains of the line to Westgate is the section from Holmes Jn. to C.F. Booth's scrapyard. The rest closed in 1952.

THE PUBS

1. The Rhinoceros-35-37 Bridgegate, S60 1PL The usual 'Spoons offerings. Named after the Rockingham Ware Rhinoceros Vase housed in a local museum.

JB Times until 10.59

-2-

2. The Angel-6 Bridgegate, S60 1PQ. Opens-11.00 On the opposite side of the street a bit further back towards the station. Two local real ales-Blonde Bear and Stones Golden on the recce.

JB Times 11.00-11.30

3. Bluecoat-The Crofts S60 2DJ, Wetherspoons, former charity school opened in 1776. Five times winner of local CAMRA pub of the year As the other pubs do not do food this will be the lunch stop. Turn right out of the Angel back along Bridgegate, left in front of the minster and fork right at the road junction into Wellgate, go up the road to Quarry Hill a lane on the right leading to a steep hill up a narrow stone flagged path. At the top and ahead of you will be the Bluecoat.

JB Times 11.45-12.30

4. New York Tavern-84 Westgate S60 1BD, Opens 12.00. Refurbished by Chantry Brewery in 2013 and sells 6 of their beers. Rotherham United memorabilia on the walls. From the Bluecoat, carry on past the Town Hall on the right, cross the road (Moorgate Street) go left and first right down Wilfred Street to Westgate at the bottom turn left past the now closed Wellington Inn and ahead is the New York Tavern.

JB Times 12.40-13.10

5. Cutlers Arms-29 Westgate S60 1BQ. Opens 12.00 Another Chantry Brewery pub re-opened in 2014. Built 1907 and retains its fine Art Nouveau decor. 10 real ales including the Chantry range. Exit the New York and return along Westgate. The pub is on the left opposite the bottom of Wilfred Street.

JB Times 13.15-13.45.

6. The Bridge Inn-1 Greasbrough Road S60 1RB. Opens 12.00. Serves Old Mill Brewery (Snaith) ales among others. Stands beside the bridge over the River Don very near the station. Turn left out of the Cutlers Arms, walk along Westgate past the site of Westgate Station now a 60's Royal Mail building and fork left into Corporation Street, past the Minster on your right and turn left past the Chantry Chapel on your right and over the Don. The pub is on your right.

JB Times 14.00- -----

TRAINS

In view of the fact there is only an hourly service which calls all stations the following are the options.

Northbound

St Pancras	Dep 07.58 08.26	or Kings Cross	Dep 08.06 08.30
Sheffield	Arr 09.58 10.41	Doncaster	Arr 09.42 10.10
Sheffield	Dep 10.14 11.14	Doncaster	Dep 09.50 10.50
Rotherham Central	Arr 10.27 11.27	Meadowhall	Arr 10.10 11.10
		Meadowhall	Dep 10.21 11.21
		Rotherham C.	Arr 10.27 11.27

-3 -

Southbound

Rotherham Central	Dep 13.45 14.45
Sheffield	Arr 14.02 15.02
Sheffield	Dep 14.29 15.29
St. Pancras	Arr 16.32 17.29

Return via Doncaster is not an option as there is no connection at Meadowhall to return north.

This is because the hourly service from and to Doncaster is non stop between Doncaster and Meadowhall.

In the event of Northern RMT drivers being on strike over driver operated doors, there is a limited stop bus number X78 between Sheffield Interchange and Rotherham Interchange approx. every 15 minutes and it takes about 35 minutes.

Ian Osborne 5.9.2017