

Jolly Boys Do Battle Again : Tuesday 27th March 2018

The Jolly Boys second visit to Battle. Nothing much has changed since last year's visit except the pubs. The Kings Head shut down for 2 or 3 weeks and has reopened with a new "team" running it. Now it doesn't open until 12.00 and has two beers, Harveys Sussex Bitter and Adnams Ghostship. With little choice you can always try the local lager "Curious Brew" which is very good. The other change is at the Senlac Inn which again, like the Kings Head, has changed lessee. At the last visit to the Senlac it was beerless and empty of customers! Fortunately the Bull has agreed to open at 10.30 and hopefully will offer breakfast baps for anyone who wants a stomach coating before the commencement of serious drinking. Another significant change is the opening of Battle Brewery, unfortunately the brewery tap is only open Wednesday – Saturday: had we been visiting on the Thursday it might have been worth a trip by taxi to visit. "Battlebrewery.co.uk" For completeness we will call in at the Abbey Hotel this time for our Sheps ration. (It will make a change from Harveys and Adnams supplied by Enterprise.)

The Cultural Bit :-

The Battle of Hastings took place here in 1066 and the spot where Harold got "it" in the eye is marked inside the Abbey ruins. So you can't see the site unless you pay vast sums of money to the miserable, greedy, unhelpful English Heritage. You can however see the sight of Harold's demise if you believe Time Teams' investigation results: it is the mini roundabout outside the Chequers!

The Abbey was built 1066 - 1095 and was "in use" until its dissolution in 1538 by which time the Abbot only had 15 monks left!

The town of Battle grew up around the abbey and the oldest building other than the Abbey and St Mary's church (1100 – 1200) is the Pilgrims Rest on the Abbey Green, re-built in 1420. Other notable buildings in the High Street are the Almonry, the Deanery and the Bull (1600 – 1750).

The November 5th celebrations are, along with Rye, the biggest after Lewes attracting about 10,000 visitors. The Battel Bonfire Boyes originate from 1646, parading the oldest guy in the world.

Some things now closed or disappeared from Battle – Gas Works, cinema, bus garage, post office, brewery (Baily Bros.), some pubs and the market.

For those into modern pop groups Keene originate from the Battle Area and you can walk the "Keene trail" visiting sites in the town referred to in their songs. (Your grandchildren might be interested). **Pubs which have Gone** :- The Wellington Inn, 41 High Street. The George, 23 High Street. The 1066 (ex. Star Inn), 11 High Street.

Getting to Battle :-

Charing Cross	dep	08.18			09.45		
Waterloo East	dep	08.21			09.48		
Cannon Street	dep		08.40	09.14			
London Bridge	dep	08.27	08.42	09.18	09.53		
Tonbridge	dep	09.00	09.26	09.49	10.30		
Battle	dep	09.54	10.06	10.42	11.04	14.04	14.42
Hastings	dep					14.19	14.59

There is a bus (No 305) which leaves from the stop at the top of the station approach road at 10.04 (other side of the road to the Senlac): this will take you to the Abbey Green (arr 10.11) or on to the library (10.13) which cuts out the uphill walking.

Getting Away :-

Hastings	dep	09.47	10.31						
Battle	Dep	10.04	10.34	14.07	14.44				
Tonbridge	arr			14.48	15.18				
London Bridge	arr			15.25	15.56				
Cannon Street	dep								
Waterloo East	arr			15.30	16.01				
Charing Cross	arr			15.35	16.05				

See separate sheet for map with approximate pub locations

Should anyone require a breakfast other than what may be available at the Bull there are several cafes in town doing cooked breakfasts. If you walk up toward the 1066 statue at the top of the town there are good “greasy spoon” cafes near the Market Square

The Pubs :-

NB The first pub visited today will be No 2 in the list.

<u>No on Map</u>	<u>Hostelry</u>	<u>Beers When Last Visited</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Pub Opening Times</u>	<u>Approx Jolly Boy Times</u>
2.	The Bull 27 High Street	Harveys Sussex Best, Old Dairy Top Bull and 1 or if lucky 2 guests.	This pub was in the GBG for 2016. Food is available hopefully including bacon butties from the off.	11.00 – 23.00	10.30 – 12.00
1.	Olde Kings Head 37 Mount Street	Harveys Sussex Best & Adnams Ghost Ship.	An Enterprise Inn. 16 mins walk from Station. Just reopened with new landlord after brief closure.	12.00 – 23.00	12.05 – 12.35
3.	The Abbey Hotel 84 High Street		A Shepheard Neame owned pub/hotel. Does food.	12.00 – 23.30	12.40 – 13.10

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4.	The Chequers Lower Lake	Harveys Sussex Best, Adnams Ghostship but sadly no Longman.	Another Enterprise Inn. Good for food.	12.00 – 23.00	13.20 – 14.00
5.	The Senlac Station Road		Owned by Enterprise Inns. Used to be called the Railway Hotel.	12.00 – 23.00	14.10 –