

Jolly Boys Lichfield 21 Feb 2019

Following an auspicious beginning in Stafford last year we are now proceeding on a tour of the Trent Valley and arriving in Lichfield on the way to Tamworth where we are due in July. Lichfield is one of those places, and we probably all know a few, that is quite small in population but is a city because it has a cathedral. So I did a Google and it turns out it is one of eight "civil parishes with city status" in England, along with Chichester, Hereford, Ely, Ripon, Salisbury, Truro and Wells. I wonder if the Jolly Boys have done all of these? I would think that Ripon and Wells would be difficult due to not being on the railway and Truro as it's probably not feasible in a day, but I am sure somebody will put me right. Anyway on with Lichfield. The recce was done on 24th Jan, again with Brian.

Most Jolly Boys will probably arrive at Trent Valley station which is on the WCML but is about a mile from the City centre. There is a rail connection every 30 mins to the better-situated station, Lichfield City which is much closer to the centre, from platform 3. This platform crosses above the WCML lines and requires a climb up some steps or use of the lift. Timings are hh.20 and hh.50, return hh.02 and hh.32. The trip to Lichfield City station takes all of 3 minutes!

On exiting City station cross the road and walk through the bus station to the far end and left into Castle Dyke. to the right is the theatre, an attractive modern building, and at the end go right along Wade St. Through the shopping arcade and left down Bakers Lane, right along Bore Street which becomes Tamworth St and not far on the right is The Acorn. This is the JD Wetherspoons and not a bad one either.

Leave at 11.00 Across the street just to the right is the Beerbohm. This has 4 ales and 2 ciders on handpump as well as Belgian & German beers on draft or bottled and is a fairly small pub/cafe type place, although all Jolly Boys should squeeze in. Has 4 real ales. The micropub next door used to open at 12 last year but annoyingly not until 4pm now. Leave at 11.30.

Right into Conduit St and across a small square with a statue of Dr Samuel Johnson and the house he was born in, now a museum, is on the next corner. Our next pub is The Kings Head in Bird St however I have been thinking that some Jolly Boys may not have been here before and may want to have a quick look at the cathedral, so what could happen is at this point is that anybody wishing to see the cathedral can continue up Conduit St, left along the cathedral close and left back down Bird St. Those giving the cathedral a miss can saunter down Market St and right into Bird St. and both groups could reunite at the Kings Head. It is a traditional market town pub, maybe an old coaching inn, and is a Marstons place offering 4 of their real ales and maybe a guest or two. Leave 12.15. The Brewhouse and Kitchen at the bottom of Bird St is next and is also our food-stop, and as well as a good menu is also a brewpub, having 4 of their own real ales of varying types on our visit. Good beers too. Leave at 13.00.

Back up Bird St, left into Sandford St and on the right is the Horse & Jockey. This has 6 real ales and is a very pleasant "local" sort of pub. Leave at 13.30.

Back into Market St for our final pub The Angel Inn. This is a Joules pub and has 6 real ales, 4 of their own and 2 guest. Allow 5-10 mins for the return walk to the station along Bird St and St Johns St. There are some interesting old buildings on the way including a row of what look like old almshouses having prominent external chimney stacks facing the main road as their main architectural feature which looks quite odd.

Return trains :

Run hh.13 from Trent Valley direct to Euston. West Midlands Trains (or whatever).

Run hh.17 from Trent Valley to Stafford (and onward to Crewe) connecting with Virgin hh.45 to Euston.

4 trains an hour run from City to Birmingham NS at hh.16, hh.24, hh.46 and hh.54. But the journey can take as much as 37 mins and have up to 10 stops, but good for a sleep though.

Cheers (and hope to see many of you in Birmingham on Thursday)
Howard

