

## **Jollyboys WOODSTOCK (16<sup>TH</sup> May 2019)**

JBs will remember that the original WOODSTOCK plan was postponed last year as Phil Spracklen (whose idea it was) was of limited mobility following his motorbike accident and I inserted another Oxford circuit instead. So now here we go, visiting another small Oxfordshire town that “used to have” a railway station – Blenheim & Woodstock - the terminus of a 4-mile branch linking to the Oxford to Banbury line at Kidlington, financed by the Duke of Marlborough and privately run from its opening in 1890 until it was sold to the GWR in 1897 (though they had actually run the trains for him from its inception). Closed 1954 so I expect Ian to bring an earlier OS map!

As there is no longer a railway, JB's will have to transfer to road motors, from either Oxford (those travelling by GWR or XC from Paddington, Reading, Didcot, or Birmingham directions) or Oxford Parkway for those coming via Chiltern Railways. Buses from Oxford Station are **S3 (stop R5)** at xx15/45 or **500 (stop R1)** at xx05/35 BUT 500's at ss20/55 DON'T go through to Woodstock. The 500 also serves Parkway (just outside the station frontage there) at xx28/58. There is also the 7 which serves Parkway (but from a stop on the main road above the station) at xx18/48 but see more below! All stop in the centre of Woodstock at the Marlborough Arms stop and journey time is scheduled for around 40 minutes in all cases. As we found before in Oxford, there are two operators and their tickets are not interchangeable so anyone without an English bus pass should either only buy a single or note the operator and only get on one of their buses on the way back.

Those still wanting breakfast have some options if they arrive at Oxford station. There is the guy with the mobile stand just outside to the right of the station entrance who does excellent rolls with all sorts of variations of breakfast items. There is, of course, the **Four Candles** in George Street. Most 'boys know where it is but, for anyone new, come out of the station, right, then left past the bike park and across the station entrance road, then continue in that direction along Hythe Bridge Street, cross Worcester Street and continue along George Street to find the 'spoons about a third the way along on the right. Picking up a bus from there is easy as there is stop B1 opposite where you can jump on a 7 or a 500 (but, as noted above, check that the destination is Woodstock!) allowing a few minutes on the station times. For S3 service you will need to cross the road and go back a little way then turn right into the bus station at Gloucester Green (**Bay 8?**)

On arriving in Woodstock at the Marlborough Arms stop, by whichever service you use, we will congregate in the **Star (A on the plan)**, which also does breakfast (for a fiver). In view of the distances involved and the potential variety of transfers available it's likely that forming up into a smart body of men will take a while so I suggest that we plan not to leave here till 1140. (Marstons products - Directors, Eagle IPA, Bombardier, Glorious English)

Diagonally left across the road to the **Woodstock Arms (B)**. 1140 to 1210, (Greene King IPA, Old Speckled Hen, Timothy Taylor's Landlord, House of Jacob Best).

Out, right, cross the road and proceed to main road, left then cross to the opposite side (SAFELY) and down the hill to cross the River Glyme, alongside which is the **Black Prince (C)**. 1220 to 1320. (St Austell Tribute, Loddon Hullabaloo, Wye Valley Hopfather, New River Twin Springs). All the pubs do food but, for those who need sustenance, this is the suggested lunch stop of choice.

Out and left, back up the hill to the centre of town, cross to the other side (SAFELY) when convenient to reach the **Kings Arms (D)**. 1330 to 1400 or whatever, to fit with return plans. (Fullers London Pride, Gales Spring Sprinter, Dark Star Hophead).

Buses back to Oxford are from the stop across the main road .....

S3 (to main station only) at xx00/30

500 (to main station VIA Oxford Parkway too) at xx15/45

7 (to Oxford Parkway and central Oxford – ends up outside **4 Candles** so you have to walk from here to station) at xx20/50

(The **Crown (E)** only had one pump (Ruddles) when I peeped in but, as there were folk beavering away with some renovation externally, things might change over the next three weeks, so I'll peep in again on the day. Of course, if anyone feels aggrieved at missing out on their Ruddles intake, they can always nip in there for a quicky(!?!?).)

Oxford / Tourist prices, of course, so bring plenty of large notes, even if we are only planning to visit four venues!

.....Rod