

The Jolly Boys – Visit to GREENWICH - Thurs 20th Feb. 2020

The trip is actually to the Royal Borough of Greenwich which was established in 1965 and is home to many interesting and ‘tourist’ attracting features. It is hoped that we shall largely miss being engulfed by the masses, but if not I will enlighten you with some facts :

Greenwich is home to the Royal Observatory, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich Park, the famous ‘Meridian’ timeline, and the Cutty Sark former tea clipper (built 1869, seriously fire-damaged in 2007 and restored / re-opened in 2012). Of more recent times, it houses in its northern peninsula, both the O2 centre and the Emirates Air Line (Thames Cable Car). Older interesting items include the Thames Foot Tunnel, Greenwich Market and the University.

Of interest to the JB’s in particular, is the Meantime Brewery (largest ‘craft’ brewery in London) which was founded in 1999 by Alastair Hook but eventually sold on to Asahi Breweries of Japan in Oct. 2106. Good beer, but can be expensive – where stocked !

Travel Hints

Greenwich can be reached principally by either SE rail from London Bridge and Cannon Street stations, and also by some Thameslink Services from St Pancras, etc. There are two stations, Greenwich (outward journey) and Maze Hill (return). There is also the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) which links with the LUL Jubilee Line at Canary Wharf as well as the Metropolitan / District lines at other locations. A river boat service also exists, but unless you have a London Councils issued ‘Freedom Pass’ then this is an expensive option and not particularly speedy either.

Enough of the chat, now for the pubs :

1. The Gate Clock (Wetherspoons), 210 Creek Road, SE10 9RB

This is the suggested ‘breakfast’ stop for those arriving on “empty”. Suggest using either Greenwich (Network Rail) or Cutty Sark (DLR). Leave at 10.55hrs. Turn left and proceed along Creek Road and into a small arcade and then onto Greenwich Church Street and left towards The Cutty Sark (actual ship). You will see to the right :
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2. Gypsy Moth, 60 Greenwich Church Street, SE10 9BL (Opens at 10.00 hrs)

This is a Mitchells & Butlers pub, with 1 regular and 3 guest beers. Leave at 11.35 hrs. On exiting, turn left and left again into College Approach where you will find : –

3. The Admiral Hardy, 7 College Approach, SE10 9HY

Owned locally by Greenwich Hospital, this pub has two ‘regular’ beers – West Berkshire “Good Old Boy” and Sambrooks “Wandle” were noted. Possibly one guest also.

Leave at 12.10 hrs. On exiting onto Greenwich Church Street, turn left and proceed forward and towards DLR Cutty Sark station – look for blue ‘roundel’ signage. Take

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southbound DLR (12.14 or 12.19 - Lewisham) service to Greenwich – 1 min. journey. Then interchange to take the eastbound “rail” service (12.27) to Maze Hill – next stop. This second journey about 3 mins. This concludes the first half of this trip – Greenwich central. We now enter the second phase where we shall encounter the ‘proper’ pubs and not those regularly frequented by tourists, etc.

On leaving the train, use the footbridge and exit on the ‘upside’ and proceed towards Maze Hill. Cross the road and enter Park Vista. Continue for about 5 mins and on the right you will find :-

4. The Plume of Feathers, 19 Park Vista, SE10 9LZ

Another pub not owned by a big ‘pubco’ group. Has Adnams & Harveys Best as regular beers and up to 2 changing guests. One for the enthusiast here ! Not the official lunch stop, but does food – sandwiches reasonable, but ‘mains’ pricey. Leave at 13.05 hrs.

Turn left along Park Vista and then left into Greenwich Park Street and proceed to the main road. Cross the main road and take second left into Lassell Street. Then take the third right (Banning Street) and proceed towards the junction with Pelton Road, where you will be opposite :-

5. The Pelton Arms, 23 – 25 Pelton Road, SE10 9PQ (*suggested LUNCH STOP*)

Owned by the STAR group, this pub boasts 10 handpumps with 6 changing ‘guests’ amongst them ! Food selection seems quite good and OK pricewise. Suggest an hour here. Leave at 14.15 hrs.

Turn left and proceed down Pelton Road to reach the main road. Cross over and turn right, then left into Colomb Street and proceed forward to the junction with Woodland Park Road, where you will find :-

6. The Vanbrugh, 91 Colomb Street, SE10 9EZ

Owned by Greenwich Parkside Ents. and has at least 4 rarer beers on the pumps. Another hostelry for the serious enthusiast !

Leave when ready for Maze Hill Station and follow Woodland Park Road westwards, look for Maze Hill Pottery (workshop) and then left into the station footpath to the downside. Along the platform and up and over the footbridge for the “London” trains.

Thameslink services, typically at 14 and 44 mins past each hour.

Other South-Eastern services for London Bridge and Cannon Street - typically 04, 24, 34 and 54 mins.