

JOLLYBOYS visit to ABINGDON – June 9th 2022

Recce done Monday 25/4 by Phil Spracklen & Rod Payne

We've been here before a couple of times so it should be no surprise to JB's that it is no longer Rail-connected, which means a bus ride (ENGLISH passes valid!) from either Oxford or Didcot. Every 20 minutes X2 service from Oxford outside the station. There is a list inside the station entrance which points you to the correct stop (R3?). Same service (X2), same frequency, but in the opposite direction from Didcot, just outside the station entrance to the left. Both directions deposit you in Stratton Way in Abingdon. There is, if you're lucky with timings, an alternative from/to Didcot - the 33 – it's only hourly but drops you in the High Street almost opposite Wetherspoons, and the route is slightly more interesting (maybe?).

Unfortunately, like most locations nowadays, few pubs are open before 1200 but the following outline plan takes account of that.

The Narrows - actually an ex-Post Office, but called The Narrows as that was what locals used to call the street here. Not the most salubrious 'spoons – sticky tables, sticky floor, sticky clients – and no fried eggs because of the cooking oil crisis! Three ales from the standard 'spoons gang of 4 (Abbott, Doom Bar, GK IPA, Ruddles) - plus a couple of locals from Phil's neck of the woods in the Vale on the recce - Chedlington Oxford Blue and White Horse Waylands Smithy. Till 1130ish

Across the road to one which is open - **The Grapes** - for a Betty Stoggs (No choice! So if that doesn't appeal you can stay on and cash in another Token in 'spoons and try both their guests.) Till 1200.

Out and left along the High St., which becomes Ock St, to the **Brewery Tap**, beloved of some for the photogenic quality of the bar staff on our last visit. I will leave you to decide if the lockdown has been kind to them! A bit more choice of ales here too, plus CAMRA discount! Till 1230

There is a waterside pub, **The Old Anchor**, which was closed on the recce but Phil has now contacted them and it is a no go. The location is waterside and in the midst of loads of really old and interesting buildings Pity about that.

Otherwise it is out and right and along to turn right into West St Helen's Street, then left along Lombard St to East St Helen's Street where, on the opposite side, is the **Kings Head & Bell**. Food served, though not a very inspired menu! Till 1300ish.

Out and right along to the junction where you need to go right into Bridge Street and, at some point, cross to the other side, to pass the **Broad Face** (we shall return!) and

continue to the river bridge where, on an island half way across, is the **Nags Head**. Brakspears Gravity and Oxford Gold, Loose Cannon Abingdon Bridge (fittingly) plus Tim Taylor's Landlord which seems to be ubiquitous nowadays. Food too. Interestingly, especially for the "keeper of the purse" on the day, they are CASHLESS, though they do also do CAMRA discount. Till 1345+

Out and right back to the **Broad Face** Seven Ales from far and wide. Food too, so you might want to check out their menu as you pass the first time so as to be able to make an informed choice between it and the Nags Head? Till end. (If you can drag yourself away and are headed to Didcot the 33 bus leaves from just outside at xx27, otherwise for either Didcot or Oxford you will have to walk back to Stratton Way for the every-20 minutes X2).

Travel details.

Train sort for yourself

Buses around Abingdon

X2

Didcot Stop R1 at :20, :40 and :10. 40 min journey

Return. Sop A4 Stratton Way. :11 :31 and :51

Oxford Stop R3 at :15 :35 and :55. 36 min journey

Return. Stop A2. :00 :20 and :40

An alternative with only an hourly train journey is Radley between Didcot and Oxford which has a 10 minute bus journey to Abingdon.

Oxford train at 11:06 are 11:12 or Didcot 11:04 are 11:15 for a City35 bus outside station at 11:19.

Return

Stop A3 Stratton Way :58 for train to Oxford at :15 or Didcot at :12