

## **Burton-on-Trent Jolly Boys Itinerary 7th July 2022.**



### **Molson Coors Brewery Burton-on-Trent.**

The image of modern brewing carried out on a vast scale. One's mind boggles at the number of pints of lager fizzing away in those enormous containers.

Straight away eagle-eyed Jolly Boys with half-decent memories will recall that not long ago there was another one of these "somewhere-on-Trent" things and wasn't it the same bloke who did that as well? Yes it was and you will be grateful to hear that I won't be repeating all that confusing should it be "-on-Trent" or "-upon-Trent" business. So I will endeavour to use "-on" as far as possible but please forgive me if the odd "-upon" sneaks in, due to copying and pasting and all that stuff. And there's the hyphens as well - they might be there or they might not. And anyway it's probably easier to just call it Burton.

**The town of Burton on Trent** is associated worldwide with brewing and is reputed to be the brewing capital of the UK. However in recent years there has been a huge upheaval in Burton's brewing industry and, as a result of takeovers, the huge international conglomerates Molson Coors and Anheuser-Busch Inbev now dominate the town. Although they

brew nothing but lager beers (including, not surprisingly, the site in the photo above), there are other breweries such as Marstons and Burton Bridge which still produce their own traditional ales. And ironically cask Bass is still available and remains a Burton beer, although brewed by Marston's under license from InBev! We will also come across a version of Ind Coope's Burton Ale now brewed by Stuart Gates at the Gates Burton Brewery (for the story of this brewery this is a good read : <https://thebeertonian.com/2021/06/21/one-for-the-lads-ten-years-of-gates-burton-brewery/> ).

So although the relentless march of the mega-keggeries has taken over much of our brewing industry, traditional brewing still survives, and thrives, thanks to the efforts of organisations such as Camra and the many groups and individuals (the Jolly Boys being an excellent example) who have stubbornly resisted big-business logic and prefer to drink real ales. So we should drink a toast to this and to us, in each pub we visit, and long may we continue!

Burton-on-Trent is an odd place to arrive at because on emerging from the station (which is a really rubbish 60s/70s effort) there are some grand buildings to the left (on the west side of the railway line), including the Town Hall and nearby church (and also the magnificent Midland Railway Grain Warehouse No. 2), and you may think this is where the town centre is. But dear reader you would be wrong, and I am here to save you from wasting a good chunk of the precious time you have left, and my strong advice is to turn right (a direction which I have to admit doesn't initially look that promising) but eventually you will be happily walking down a long fairly straight road which may not lead you to the promised land, but will get you to the pubs you will want to visit.

This is Station St and you will pass on the left the huge Molson Coors brewery and one or two other imposing old buildings. Eventually we get to High St, turn left and not far along to the right is :

**The Lord Burton** : 154 High St,. This is our JD Wetherspoon for the day. Looks small from the outside but, like the Tardis, and as you would expect pretty large inside. Normally we would leave at 11.00. However our next pub couldn't be closer as it's next door :

**The Prince of Brewers** : 152 High St. This pub normally opens at 10, so that's fine for our 11-12 slot. However it only had 2 real ales on my visit - Pedigree and Bass. So my recommendation would be - if the 'Spoons has some good beers on (and often they do despite all the poo pooers) then anyone who wants to stay there past 11 can, but we will **leave from this pub** at 12.00. Exit left along High St and a fairly good walk will eventually lead us to our next pub, by which time High St has become Lichfield St, but no matter as on the right will be :

**The Dog** : 5 Lichfield St.. An attractive half-timbered-ey building with 3 gables. This is a Black Country Ales pub so those of you who remember our visits to the Wellington in Birmingham and the Black Country Arms in Walsall, amongst others, will know what to expect i.e. at least 12 real ales An excellent pub. Leave at 12.45. Retrace our steps back along the High St, past the 'Spoons and across Worthington Way and on the left is :

**The Crossing** : 50 High St. 4 handpumps for beers, 2 for cider. Beers available this visit were Dark Drake and Ay Up both from the Dancing Duck Brewery in Derby. Has bar snacks on a theme of scotch eggs and chip butties (sorry Peter fish fingers not mentioned) . Leave at 13.30. Exit pub and turn right along Worthington Way and right again when we meet Station St and back almost to the station. On the left set back a bit at the top of Mosley St is our last pub :

**The Roebuck** : 101 Station St. An excellent pub with a nice line-up of 8 handpumps. 5 beers were available on my visit including Gates Burton Ale (see Page 1) and Bass. The Gents WC also offers an opportunity for “sporting activity”, but I won’t go any further into that here.

Burton-on-Trent is on the main north-south line from Derby to Birmingham and is served by Cross-Country and East Midlands Trains. There are roughly 3 trains an hour in each direction.

Recce carried out on 19th May by Howard Lowndes.

