

## Jolly Boys, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022



I undertook to prepare a trip to Cheam for this day, but Covid 19 has left its mark on the opening times, and facilities available, in my local pubs.

Her Majesty let me off the hook by opening the first phase of the new Elizabeth Line between Paddington and Abbey Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, so I have sought to map out a trip along that route. The main drawback is that the supply of reasonably priced real ale, or indeed, minor brewery samples, is very limited, together with late opening times. So, I have taken the liberty of changing the objective to a sightseeing tour, with a few drops of beer. We can view and enjoy the new railway, and see how our successors have managed to design and build such a major project, which attracts so much favourable publicity, at less than half the price of NHS Test and Trace.



We start in the Hamilton Hall at Liverpool Street, leaving there at 10.30 to view the subterranean areas of the new station, before joining an eastbound train for the 16 minute run to Abbey Wood, the end of the line. Since this is a



beer desert, feel free to alight early at Woolwich and skip the rapid viewing of Abbey Wood Station. (You won't be able to say that you have been on all of the line, but you will be in the pub either 11 or 16 minutes earlier!) After giving Abbey Wood station a good looking at, we return the one stop to Woolwich. Leave the station, and straight ahead you see the Guard House across the square. In the Royal Arsenal development, this Youngs pub opened in February 2016 and consists of the old Grade II listed guardhouse converted to house a bar and restaurant. Diamond Jubilee ale was £5.10 a pint.



We shall leave at 11.35 and rejoin the front end of the train to travel through Custom House to Canary Wharf, and exit via Crossrail Place. A fantastic station to view and appreciate, which is rather more than we shall with the beer. After a devious 10 minute walk, (left) we visit The Henry Addington, in Mackenzie Walk, for Nicholson's Pale Ale, brewed by St Austell, Pride, T. Taylor, Adnams Ghost Ship and Eastern Edge, Hatrick and Sharp's Doom Bar on recce. (Viewed through the window – it doesn't open until 12.00)

Leave here at 12.20 and return to the station to take a train to Whitechapel. Turn left outside the station, walk about 100 yards to The Blind Beggar, where Ronnie Kray murdered George Cornell in 1966. A venue with a high morbidity connection. Continue another 20 yards, crossing Cambridge Heath Road on the corner to the White Hart, aiming to arrive at 12.45. It claims to be a brew pub specialising in craft beers, and also giving a CAMRA discount, comes recommended by others, but not tested by me and sounds to be probably the better bet.

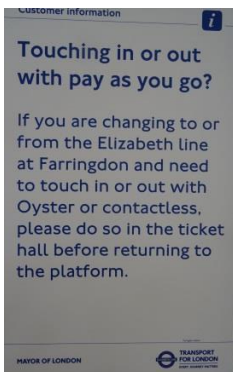


Leaving the White Hart (left) at 13.20 to take our train to Farringdon, now a major interchange station offering direct rail services to three of London's airports. Turn left outside the station, and cross Farringdon Road, the only road in the City of London. We shall have with us qualified City of London Guide, Tony Tucker, who will be glad to escort as many as who wish to visit Ye Olde Mitre at 13.45 round the corner in Ely Place, a pub dating from the 16th Century, and give you the low down on its history. Pride is £4.70, the others (Park Brewery, Brockley Brewery) at £5.50, BUT ask for 20% CAMRA discount. A local tells me that it will not be offered! Alternatively, on our right as we cross the road, is the well trodden 'spoons, Sir John Oldcastle, for a refreshingly cheap pint and lunch.



History says that for a number of us, this may be time to head off, but for those remaining, we head back downstairs down for the 8 minute westbound trip to Paddington, omitting Tottenham Court Road, since we have given this area a good bashing on the Christmas trips, and Bond Street Station is not yet open. Thanks go to a number of Jolly Boys who have offered suggestions for the Paddington finale, but having done a recce in the hot sun, and people watching on the canal towpath, I cannot help but think that The Union, a Fullers canal side bar, takes some beating. (Berkhamstead, maybe) This is accessed from the Elizabeth Line on to Platform 1 of the main station to the station footbridge, and follow the signs to the Grand Union Canal Exit at its eastern end. The Union is just a couple of minutes' walk to the left, where a pint of Tribute costs £5.20.

Bring your camera for some impressive sights!



For those travelling on an Oyster Card, we are in Zone 1 from Liverpool Street, becoming Zone 2 at Whitechapel and Zone 3 from Canary Wharf. We enter Zone 4 at Woolwich.

Note the potential issues at Farringdon, left.

Food

Although most venues offer food, a plated lunch seems to be either limited, or way outside the price range we would normally expect to pay. Food "on the hoof" looks a decent option, there being numerous food outlets at Canary Wharf, or ethnic bites in Whitechapel market. If all else fails, Sir John Oldcastle will serve up a lunch.

<https://www.theguardhousewoolwich.co.uk/>

<https://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk/restaurants/london/thehenryaddingtoncanarywharflondon#/>

<https://www.theblindbeggar.com/>

<https://www.thewhitehart.london/>

<https://www.yeoldemitreholborn.co.uk/>

<https://www.union-tavern.co.uk/>