

Jolly Boys Outing – Shrewsbury

Tuesday – 12th. April 2022

The handsome County town of Shropshire stands on a horseshoe bend of the River Severn where ten bridges cross it. It dates from Roman times and has a great history. In the 5th. and 6th. Centuries it was the seat of the Welsh Princes of Powys and later became part of the Kingdom of Mercia. Shrewsbury Castle was built in 1083 and rebuilt by Edward I in the 13th. Century and it is now home of the Shropshire Regiment Museum. It was a strategic stronghold on the Welsh border.

The 11th. Century Abbey survived the Dissolution and is remains a parish church to this day. Shrewsbury public school was founded in 1552 by Edward VI - Sir Philip Sidney and Charles Darwin were both scholars there. During the English Civil War both Charles I and Prince Rupert established their headquarters there for short periods. The town claims 660 listed buildings, many of them half timbered. The medieval street pattern remains including the shuts and passages that weave their way through the town centre.

There are 90 pubs in Shrewsbury of which 30 are within the river loop. Before leaving the station, which is on one of the ten bridges, turn around on the forecourt to look up at the castle and back at the station which celebrated its 150th. Anniversary in 1998. The station started with only two floors, surprisingly the top two, with the ground floor being added later.

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The Pubs

1. **Montgomery's Tower**, Lower Claremont Bank, SY1 1RT. Exit the Station on the left side, cross the street at the traffic lights (don't go left up the hill), join the main road (Smithfield Road) walk past the bus station, Salopian Bar and at the end, just past the Shrewsbury Hotel (Wetherspoons), cross Bridge St at the traffic lights and go left and then right. You are on Lower Claremont Bank and Monty's is the large modern building on your right. Wetherspoons usual fare start point today to meet Howard our native guide for the day. Leave 1115
2. Exit Monty's retrace steps to Bridge St, turn right toward the Market/Clock Tower (ugly "modern" buildings that replaced the perfectly good equivalents built in 1596 in an outburst of planning mania in 1965). At the end turn left and walk along Shoplatch and up Pride Hill. Turn right into Butcher Row and on the left is **The Bull**, 7, Butcher Row, SY1 1UW. Opens 1100. Marstons had 4 real ales on including Wainwright. Leave 1145. This part of Shrewsbury has a lot of narrow, winding little streets which are collectively known as "shutts" although I don't think any of them have that term in their names (but I'm not sure as I have'nt been down them all!). Exit Bull to left then into St Alkmunds, with the spire of St Alkmunds church towering splendidly on the right. Past Prince Rupert Hotel and left into the narrow Church St and on your left is :
3. **Loggerheads**, an olde grade II listed building with its 4 room original layout retained. Another Marston's pub. Leave 1230. To see the second of Shrewsbury's famous twin spires, St. Mary's church, exit right to the end of Church St and St Mary's is just across the road. Otherwise exit left and back on to St Alkmunds, left around the back of the church and on to High St. Then left into Belmont and 1st left into Milk St and into a narrow passage on the left that leads to :
4. **The Old Post Office**, 1 Milk St., SY1 1SZ. A large brick built early Georgian town centre pub dating from the late 16th. Century the last of 5 pubs on the 50 yards long Milk St. Also Marstons can you see a theme developing here. Food stop. Leave about 1345. Exit and back on to High St, left until you get to Pride Hill Anyone leaving early can go up Pride Hill, thro the town centre and down the other side to the station. Otherwise take the narrow passage almost opposite to the left of Lloyds Bank, which leads to Rousehill (Wilkos is up the steps on the right). Down Rousehill to the main road and on the left corner is the
5. **Salopian Bar**, Smithfield Road, SY1 1PW. Good range of beers unfortunately not Marstons (Brian is getting a bit sarcastic by now). Didn't recce but it has been updated since last Jolly Boy trip (actually an extension to the right where a little farm shop used to be). Stay as long as you like. Short walk to the station.