

Jollyboys visit to Worcester – August 4th 2022

Like many places, Covid and changing work-life patterns have had their impact on the pub scene since we were last in the Faithful City – and not much for the better! Some pubs closed and boarded up, some opening at 1600 daily, most at 1200, and those open earlier seemingly each populated by half a dozen individuals each staring into their Lager, John Smiths Extra Smooth or similar – a Cask desert!

However, *nil desperandum*, as Horace said, as the ‘spoons (“**Postal Order**”)” next to Foregate Street Station is open! So we will gather there and, subject to any democratically decided changes to this itinerary, set off about 1130, crossing the road and turning left and heading towards the city centre (initially). Two blocks along we turn Right into Angel Street and pass, on our right, the sad sight of the closed “Cricketers”, to dive into the adjacent “**Horn & (s)Trumpet**” which the bar lady assured me will have a couple of Real Ale options on on the day.

We then leave at 1200 and head across the road, make a slight Right, then Left through Angel Place, to turn Left up Broad Street to the Cross and continue on eastwards down St Swithin’s Street and then Mealcheapen Street to the Cornmarket where we turn Right into New Street. We may have to make some choices here, depending on a quick look inside the options but there are a couple of pubs here – “**King Charles’ House**” (Craddock’s Brewery – does food), and “**The Pheasant**”.

Depending on the level of enthusiasm for the offerings hereabouts, when we leave continue along New Street to, at the Junction with Pump Street, the “**Eagle Vaults**”, which does food, with, I was told(!), a 20% discount on a Thursday! This place had four pumps “on” when I was there on Friday last week but, on the Tuesday, only one. So..... if the cupboard is bare I will trip-trap along what is now Friar Street to check out the “**Cardinal’s Hat**” and adjust the plan as appropriate.

Time should now be ticking on so we go up Pump Street, Left into the High Street, then Right down Fish Street to the “**Farrier’s Arms**” – which also does food.

Finally, for those with a more catholic taste in beers (and an insatiable thirst), we will leave and go back to the High Street, make a left, then another left into Copenhagen Street to find the “**Oil Basin Brew House**” and/or, next door, the “**TripelB Belgian Beer Cafe**”, though I doubt the kitty can afford this latter location!

Railway-wise, remember that Foregate Street Station is, effectively, two parallel single line stations, the South (old Down) side serving anything going to or from the other Worcester Station (Shrub Hill), and the North (old Up) side for any services that don’t touch Shrub Hill (primarily West Midlands services to/from Birmingham).