

Birmingham City Jolly Boys Itinerary 19 January 2023.

A Happy Christmas and New Year to all Jolly Boys and here's hoping that Mr Mick Grynych of the RMTW has a visit from the Ghosts of Christmas, perhaps delivering a new pay offer, so that we will all be able to meet up in the New Year.



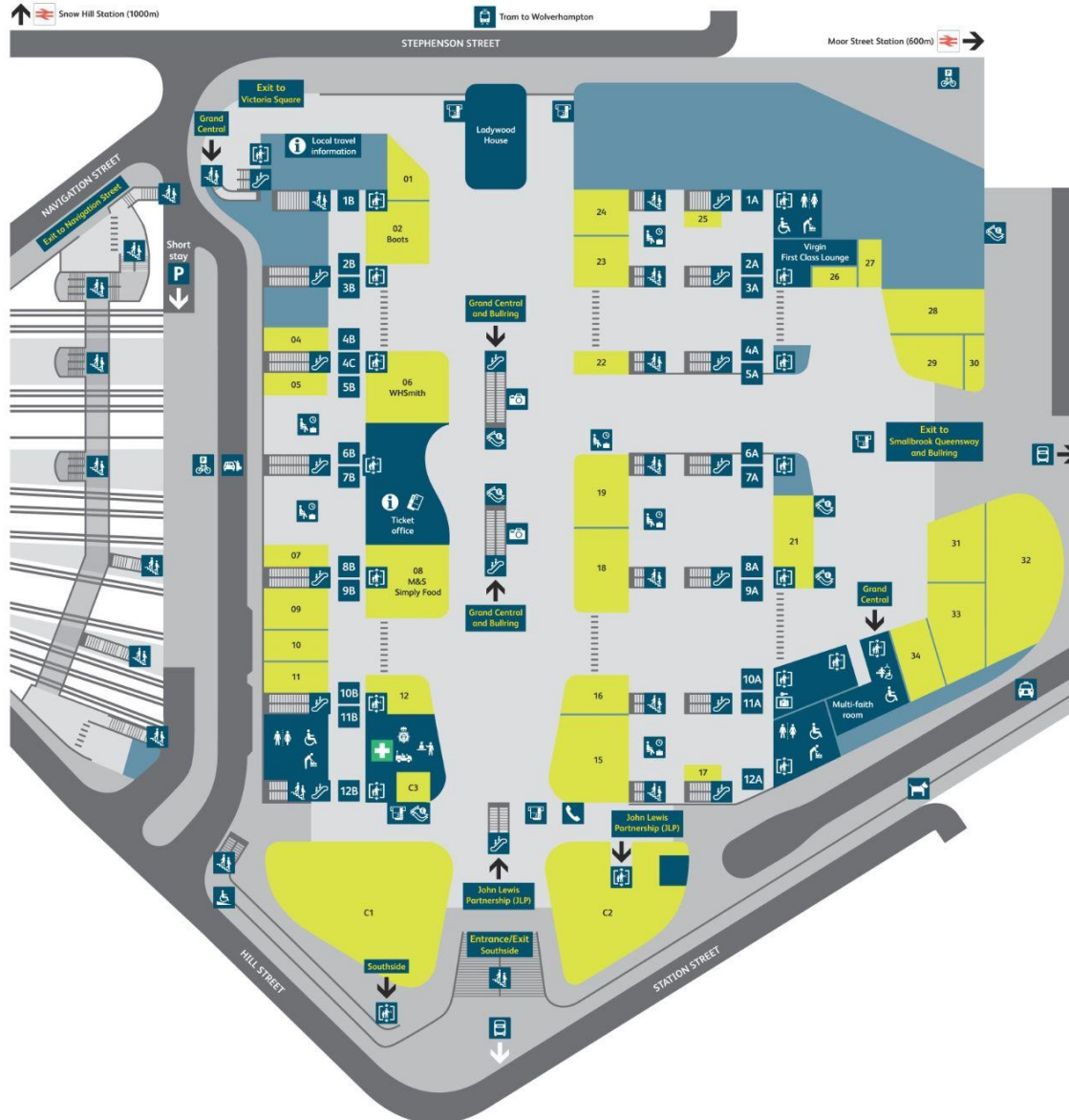
Jolly Boys with brains not too degraded by age and alcohol may have vague memories of doing a trip to Brum at about this same time last year. And you would be correct, almost to the day. Unfortunately I don't choose the date so those of you who would love to experience this city in all its midsummer glory will have to wait at least another year. Complaints could be addressed to Brian at the risk of being accused of "nitpicking".

However whereas previously we have tended to venture out to some far-flung place between some canals and railway lines, barely known to civilisation, this time we will stay in the grandeur of the city centre. And as a bonus for those of you fed-up with the same old 'Spoons I have had a word with Lord Tim Martin of Wetherspoon and he has kindly agreed to open yet another of his wonderful hostelries (photo above) near New Street station just for our trip.

As we all know anybody arriving at Birmingham New Street station is faced with the daunting task of navigating their way out of, or around (or in our case both), the rather large shopping centre that is Grand Central. Therefore in a possibly vain attempt to avoid Jolly Boys getting hopelessly lost before they have even started I have included the map below.

Birmingham New Street

Station map



Services and facilities

Accessible toilets		Mobility assistance	
Baby change		Parking	
British Transport Police		Photo Booth	
Buses		Platform numbers	
Cash point		Ramp	
Changing place		Stairs	
Cycle park		Station reception	
Dogpend		Taxis	
Drop off point		Telephones	
Fast ticket machine		Tickets	
First aid		Toilets	
Information		Waiting room	
Left luggage		Train / Light Rail	
Lift			

Food, drink and shopping

All Bar One	32	M&S Simply food	08
Benuugo	25 31	Mi Casa Burritos	09
Boots	02	Moleskine	22
Carnden Food Co.	04	Oliver Bonas	29
Costa	05	Paper & Script	30
Delice de France	01	Pasty Shop	11
Doddle	27	Pret A Manger	19
Five Guys	33	Starbucks	12
Funky Pigeon	10	The Body Shop	24
HEMA	15	Upper Crust	07 17
Hotel Chocolat	26	Wasabi	18
Joe's Coffee House	34	WHSmith	06
JOY	23	Kiko Milano	16
Leon	21	Coming soon	28

Coming soon	C1
Coming soon	C2
Coming soon	C3

If you need help please speak to one of our staff or call our helpline on

03457 11 41 41

networkrail.co.uk/birmingham-new-street-station

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Working for you.

Itinerary :

The main thing to remember is after ascending from the platform level go to the central open area, which I think is called an Atrium, with the glass ceiling and shops head for the exit **opposite** to the huge Grand Central sign just below the ceiling and at the bottom of the map. This is the Station St exit which used to be where John Lewis was (but alas John Lewis is no more) and is on the south side of Grand Central. On the right hand side just before the exit (the area designated by C1 on the map) is

The London and North Western : New Street, Birmingham B2 5RE (see photo above). This is our JD Wetherspoon for the day and, as promised, it is a **NEW** one which I believe only opened on the 21st November. Being all shiny and clean Jolly Boys are advised not to turn up in wellies or muddy shoes (although what anyone would have been doing to get their shoes muddy on the way to Birmingham I don't know). Anyway as the name implies it has a railway, and specifically LNWR theme suitable for the location. Unfortunately on the recce it was not open and there was a note on the door going on about technical problems. Hopefully these will have been resolved by January 19th.

Leave at the usual 11.00 and retrace steps back to the Atrium and this time head straight for the Metro exit. Cross Stephenson St (avoiding trams and other traffic) and up Lower Temple St. past the Shakespeare to New St. Turn right and then left up Cannon St. On the left is

The Windsor : 33 Cannon St, Birmingham B2 5SN. Opens 10. I have included this mainly because I don't think Jolly Boys have done it before. There are 5 handpumps but on the recce only one was being used (for Timothy Taylors) so if this is still the case we will "make our excuses", like the old News of the World reporters, and leave. Of course this would mess up any serious attempt at timing but these pubs are all fairly close together so anyone joining late should be able to find us in one of them fairly easily.

Continue up Cannon St. turn left at the top and emerge on to Temple Row by the glass tower block which is the AXA building. Along Temple Row and left down Bennetts Hill to :

The Wellington – 37 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5SN. Opens 10. Numerous real ales. Most Jolly Boys will know and love this pub. Leave at 12, retrace steps back to Temple Row, then turn right down Temple St. On the left is :

The Head of Steam – 37 Temple St, Birmingham B2 5DP. Opens 12. About 10 handpumps. I don't know how long this pub has been open, maybe about 5 years. so it's possible some Jolly Boys haven't been to it before. Although of course it's fairly similar to the other Head of Steam pubs dotted around the country and most of us will have been in at least one. Return down Temple St. to New St. go right and towards the end of New St, on the left is the famous red door squeezed between Greggs and a Vaping shop which is the entrance to :

The Post Office Vaults - 84 New St, Birmingham B2 4BA. Opens 12. Entrance from New St is down a flight of stairs. but if you don't want to negotiate these carry on to the end of New St to where it meets Pinfold St., turn sharp left and there is a rear entrance from Pinfold St which is on the level.

If another pub is required on the way back to the train there is always :

The Shakespeare : Lower Temple St, Birmingham B2 4JD. I think this is now a Nicholson's pub. Olde Worlde look outside but I used to think it wasn't up to much inside. Maybe it's better now.

Also a recent addition is a small place called **Digbrews Clubhouse Bar** at the end of **Piccadilly Arcade** nearest to the station. It isn't a real ale place but does brew its own craft beers, and a quick half of a strong one sets you up nicely for the long train journey back home!

I am not aware of any major problems like engineering work likely to affect New St. or Moor St. on the 19th, unless it's another strike in which case see below - but be sure to check out your journey, as I'm sure all Jolly Boys will.

P.S regarding possible industrial action affecting the 19th : there seems to be every chance that this will continue on various dates in January so if this happens on the 19th I see no reason why we should not be able to defer the trip until the following Thursday the 26th provided this date is not also affected. If this happens Jolly Boys will be informed by Email, so keep your eyes on your phone, laptop or whatever. If this method of communication fails we will investigate the use of carrier pigeons (although this is highly unlikely).

Recce carried out on 1st December by Howard Lowndes.

