

## **Jollyboys PORTSMOUTH – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

More dedication to the cause – a day at the seaside (yesterday). Hissing down in Southampton but the rain was easing by the time we got to Pompey, and it got better as the day wore on. Hopefully that will be similar on 26/10.

It'll be a game of two halves. Detrain at **Portsmouth & Southsea** station. Out and left back under the railway to pass the Guildhall on the right (famous for Blitz pictures similar to those of St Pauls) and ahead on the right is the chosen (only!) 'spoons – the **Isambard Kingdom Brunel**. You might wonder why he's noted here in Southern Railway territory. He was born here as his (French) father was working for the Admiralty, having designed some new equipment for making blocks (think block & tackle) for the thousands of miles of rope and rigging that festooned ships of the day.

First drink here then move out, left and left to get to the **Fleet** (opens 1130), one block back – corner of Spring Gardens, only 2 pumps but St Austell Proper Job and Wychwood Gold yesterday. Out and back the way we came but make a right round in front of the 'spoons and continue along Guildhall Walk to the **Brewhouse & Kitchen** on your right. Four of their own ales brewed on site.

From here we head left back towards the station but, at the risk of upsetting the purists, some may wish to cross to the other side to the **Dockyard** which is a "Craft Ale" outlet with such as Punk IPA, Neck Oil, etc. There is another pub close by which might be worth sending a scout to on the day but, from our visit, seems to not just be resting on its laurels but letting them moulder into a compost heap – the **Royal Standard**, aka **Ruby's**. It used to be a renowned buzzing place but had only one ale on the three pumps. Clientele looked like 'spoons rejects! We'll see.

Now we'll move on – back to the station and pick up whatever is the next train to **Portsmouth Harbour** (It's not far but let the train take the strain), Out and right and walk down to the Hard, with HMS Warrior on your left. This area used to have lots of pubs, mostly selling Brickwoods, of course, but what the Luftwaffe left standing has been largely erased by developers. However, across the road facing you is a little pub/bar/coffee shop – **The Lady Hamilton** – with one (or maybe two) ales from Urban Island brewery, but be careful of the roads here as buses, taxis, bikes and all can come at you from multiple directions, including behind!.

Out and right to the **Ship Anson**. Greene King ownership but, as well as Abbott, IPA, and Old Speckled Hen, they also had Landlord, Old Peculiar and Tribute on 6 pumps yesterday. Two other pubs here – **Keppel's Head** and the **Ship & Castle** -both have Keg/Lager fonts only so I have excluded them.

All the pubs do food of some sort.

When we call it a day, retrace steps to the station and best of luck with strikes, working to Rule, jumpers, washouts or overhanging vegetation. We only had two of those to contend with on our trip to the seaside and it all resolved itself in our favour!