

Stockport Jolly Boys Itinerary 11 May 2023.

A part of English brewing history the Robinsons brewery in Stockport, due to move elsewhere in the next 2 years.



The brewery is on Lower Hillgate Street, only a few minutes walk from our Wetherspoons, the Calvert Court, if any of you want to take a look while it's still there.

I have to admit that "Robbos" has never been one of my favourite pints over the years, although strangely in some pubs it always seemed to be a lot better than in others. Anyway our trip to Stockport will enable Jolly Boys to sample this beer before production is moved to a new "facility" in a place called Bredbury, a few miles to the east along the M60. As usually happens in these cases they will claim it is the "same beer", but since the taste of a beer depends a lot on the water being used and their current supply is from a well underneath the existing brewery, then this is open to question. Anyway time will tell.

Stockport :

This is a large industrial town to the south of Manchester. It is not a Port, as we nowadays understand the word, and never has been as the River Mersey is not navigable at this point, but

according to Wiki (that font of all knowledge or at least most of mine), in older days the word Port was used for a kind of settlement in the middle of an Estate, or something like that. People from Stockport are known as Stopfordians, which refers back to the historic derivation of its name, at one time it was called Stopford. My first view of it would have been from a train on the way to Manchester probably in the early 60's crossing the huge viaduct, most of Stockport being down below. To the west side were masses of factories, mills and terraced streets. There were huge chimneys in profusion, and I remember one or two of them seemed so close to the viaduct you could almost touch them as you went by. This was awe-inspiring stuff, but needless to say most of those factories, chimneys and houses are history and now you mainly see light industrial units and the M60 motorway. Oh and the famous Co-Op Bank blue pyramid is still there in the distance but I believe it no longer houses the Co-Op bank. The town centre is on the east side. I seem to remember back then much of it had already been demolished to make way for the obligatory 60's/70's new shopping centre which you see today. Of course to get these views you would have to be travelling between Stockport and Manchester. Those arriving from the South will have to be content with what you see from ground level.

For a bit of historical stuff this is some info from the 2017 JB's itinerary :
The market area was the centre of the Saxon and Norman town. There was a cross in the square which leads up to St Mary's Parish Church. The square originally had half timbered thatched houses on the side. Later in the Georgian period most were faced with brick and some rebuilt. One that remains is the mediaeval merchant's house restored in 2004, parts of which date back to 1460. This is open to the public and has a rare 17 th Century cage newel staircase, mostly destroyed by fire in 1995 but now carefully restored with the original black oak contrasting with the new timber.
Historical notes – Stockport Pub Guide.

The Pubs :

On arrival at the station descend to the underpass, perhaps after pausing to watch a jet or two passing very low and very noisily over the station on the way to land at Manchester Airport a few miles away. Head for the main exit in the direction of platform 0, although you can exit the station on the other side and if you insist on doing this you will go wrong straight away, and I will wonder what I am doing this for.
Assuming the correct exit has been chosen walk down Station Road, noting the open spaces and glassy modern buildings (believe me it wasn't like this a few years ago) until it meets Wellington Road. This is the A6 road to Manchester and is busy, so cross with care and take the first right St. Petersgate. Pass the Petersgate Tap on the right (which we will visit later) and a few yards further along is our JD Wetherspoon :

The Calvert's Court : 13 St Petersgate, Stockport. This is a "modern" 'Spoons so nothing of much interest here. Depart at the traditional 11am.

Head right along St Petersgate and we will come to a bridge which crosses a little street at roof-top level and it looks like something out of Harry Potter, but sadly it isn't Diagon Alley and there are no wizarding shops. It is in reality Little Underbank, and down there on the left we see our next pub -

The Queens Head : 12 Little Underbank. Hopefully opens at 11. Descend the stone steps to the alley. A Sam Smiths pub so Sam Smiths beer is what you get. But as we know it's cheap and therefore kitty-friendly and any JB's wanting an extra beer will not be discouraged. Has a wonderful traditional interior and behind the bar are 2 "ranges" each with 13 brass taps which I am told were for dispensing wine. It's also pretty small so may be a bit of a squeeze, but if not enough space inside, I hope it's not raining outside. However being near Manchester the chances are..... Also under the stairs is a single urinal which is a bit of an attraction (and a bit of a squeeze). It's usually kept locked but if the bar staff are in a good mood they will open the door so you can have a look (but do not actually use, as other facilities are available these days). Leave 12.00. Back up the steps to St Petersgate then continue along what has now become Market Place, as further along is the Market Hall on the right and just opposite is the Stockport Produce Hall. Both these have food and drink places and are worth a wander around and there are also 2 pubs :

The Bulls Head : 2 Market Place, another traditional Robinsons pub, and also the **Bakers Vaults** : which had half a dozen real ales, including Titanic Plum Porter, and I'm usually up for one of those.

Depart from whichever of the above we happen to be in at 1pm. At the rear of the Market Hall is Millgate follow this to the left and at the roundabout on the left is :

The Arden Arms : 23 Millgate. This is the traditional Stockport food stop but can be busy with other people doing just that, so a pre-order arrangement might be an idea. A copy of the menu is attached with phone number so JB's wanting a meal there can organise this for themselves. Leave 1.45pm. While the foodies are stuffing themselves, the hardcore drinkers could adjourn to our final pub which is on the way back to the station :

The Petersgate Tap –19A St Petersgate, Stockport. Opens 12. This usually has 6 real ales on handpump with a good choice, and also two or three craft beers on keg. Leave whenever.

For those desperate souls who need another drink betwixt here and the station there is **The Wellington**, which is on the main road (the A6) on the left, just past Station Road, but I haven't been in it, so don't blame me if it's no good.

Recce carried out on 23rd March by Howard Lowndes.



March

Soup of the Day Cup £3.75/Bowl £5.95

**Chilled Dressed Morecambe Bay Crab & Atlantic Prawn, Salad Garnish,
Brown Bread & Butter £7.25**

**Indian Spiced Chicken Skewer, Mango Chutney Topping,
Rocket & Tomato Salad £7.25**

**Oven Roasted Mini Feta & Spinach Samosas Served with Mixed Salad
& Mango Chutney £7.25**

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**Seared 8oz Sirloin Steak Served with Rustic Chips, Rocket & Tomato Salad
& A Jug of Cracked Black Peppercorn Sauce £16.95**

**Pan Fried Fillet of Sea Bass, Sauteed Seasonal Greens & New Potatoes,
Basil Oil Finish £13.95**

**Jamaican Beef & Vegetable Stew, Sweet Potato & Mint Mash,
Sour Cream Topping £13.95**

**Cajun Beef Burger, Red Onion Marmalade, Melted Cheese, Lime & Coriander
Mayo on a Soft Sourdough Bun with Rustic Chips £12.95**

**Deep Fried Fillet of Cornish Cod, Rustic Chips, Mushy Peas or Salad
Bread & Butter £8.50/£12.95**

**Individual Cheese & Onion Pie, Rustic Chips, Salad or Roast Tomatoes £11.25
Thai Style Green Vegetable Curry, Mango & Coriander Rice
Warm Naan Bread £11.95**

Chocolate Sponge Served with Cream, Ice Cream or Custard £6.75



Ginger Sponge Served with Cream, Ice Cream or Custard £6.75

Treacle Sponge Served with Cream, Ice Cream or Custard £6.75

**Blackcurrant & Prosecco Cheesecake Served with Fruit Coulis,
Vanilla Ice Cream £6.75**

Cheese & Biscuits £7.75/£11.25

23 Millgate, Stockport, SK1 2LX. 0161 480 2185

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Food allergens & intolerances: before ordering drinks or food, please speak with a member of staff about your requirements



Homemade Soup of the Day

Please ask what we have made today.

Bowl **£5.95**

Cup **£3.75**

Sandwiches

Served on white or brown bread with your choice of either coleslaw or olives

Mature Cheddar Cheese and Pickle **£5.50**

Brie & Grape **£5.50**

Tuna mayo and lettuce **£5.50**

Roast Turkey, Stuffing and Cranberry **£5.75**

Roast Ham with Mustard Mayo **£5.75**

Roast Beef with Mustard Mayo **£5.95**

Atlantic Prawn in Marie Rose Sauce **£6.75**

Sandwich Combo

Add a portion of our soup of the day or chips to any of our hot or cold sandwiches

Bowl of soup **£4.25**

Cup of soup **£2.75**

Cup of chips **£2.95**

Hot Sandwiches

Served on a ciabatta bread with your choice of coleslaw or olives

BLT **£7.25**

Melted Brie, Cranberry and Rocket **£7.25**

Tuna and Cheese Melt **£7.25**

Tomato, Mozzarella, Rocket & Pesto **£7.25**

Honey Roast Ham & Cheddar Melt **£7.50**

Crispy Bacon, Cranberry and Brie **£7.50**

Cajun Spiced Chicken and Minted Mayo **£8.25**

Hot Roast Beef, Tomato, Fried Onions and Mustard Mayo **£8.25**

Specials

Please see our chalkboards or ask a staff member about today's specials

Sunday roast

Every Sunday we cook a roast meal with all the trimmings. Please ask what the meat is this week.
£10.50

Side Orders & Nibbles

Garlic Ciabatta **£3.50**

Garlic Ciabatta with cheese **£3.75**

Bowl of chips **£3.75**

Chips with garlic mayo **£3.95**

Side order of mixed salad **£3.95**

Spiced Olives **£2.75**

Sweet chilli dipping sauce **£1.50**

BBQ dipping sauce **£1.50**

Arden Salad Plates

A generous plate of salad vegetables & dressed mixed leaves accompanied by one of the following

Sliced Cajun Chicken Breast, Roast Ham, Roast Turkey, Roast Beef, Tuna Mayo, Atlantic Prawns, Brie or Mature Cheddar Cheese **£9.95**

Hot Drinks

Espresso **£2.05**

Americano **£2.85**

Cappuccino **£3.15**



Latte **£3.15**

Hot Chocolate **£3.50**

Pot of tea **£2.50**

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