

Leicester - 4th July 2024

On our tour we will encounter two statues, the first is of Thomas Cook who pioneered leisure travel for the masses. His first escorted excursion was on 5 July 1841 when he used the recent extension of the Midland Counties Railway to take 485 temperance campaigners at a shilling a head from Leicester Campbell Street station to a teetotal rally in Loughborough.

Those first excursionists would be horrified to find 183 years later that *Adlerbus™* use the same railways for Jolly Boy Outings™ whose purpose is the imbibing of strong drink in dubious hostelryes.

Our second statue is of John Biggs who was a leading industrialist in the hosiery business and became MP for Leicester in 1856. He served for 7 years with his major achievement being the building of the town hall. After leaving politics, his fortunes declined and he had to sell his house and possessions to pay off debts of £10,000. After his death, his friends launched a public subscription and the response was so great that a marble statue was unveiled in Welford Place on 15 April 1873. Unfortunately, it was damaged in a collision with a tram and replaced by a bronze cast of the original in 1930.

Our route today is on the level. The walk to Wetherspoons takes just under 10 minutes but there is no obvious bus route, and any bus will still require 5 minutes of walking.

Exit the station and turn right onto London Road, go about 100 yards to the pedestrian lights, passing the statue of Thomas Cook on our right. Cross the road into Granby Street. Carry on down Granby Street for about 500 yards until the crossroads with Halford Street and Horsefair Street, a Nat West Bank on your left marks the junction. Turn left into Horsefair Street and immediately right onto Market Place Approach, going under the Leicester Market arch. Look up and ahead, the Wetherspoons is the building with the clock tower. In front is the building site for the market revamp, we take the left fork into Market Place South and follow the road around to **The Corn Exchange**.

1 The Corn Exchange 29-31 Cowgate, PE1 1LZ Wetherspoons JB Times Leave 10:55

The Corn Exchange was built in 1855 as a one-storey building but by 1860 the 'Bridge of Sighs' staircase and upper storey with clock tower had been added.

Wetherspoons has operated the pub since 2000 and on the recce the changing beers were Thornbridge's Jaipur, Vale's Black Beauty Porter and Langton's Inclined Plane & Widebeam.

Our first stop is 5 minutes away. Exit back onto Market Place South and retrace your way back to the cross roads with Granby Street. Cross Granby Street into Halford Street, i.e. go straight on passing the Nat West Bank on your RHS. Carry on down Halford Street about 200 yards to the traffic lights marking the junction with Charles Street. Turn right into Charles Street and go a short distance to the next set of traffic lights where we turn left to cross Charles Street. On reaching the other side, turn right and go to the corner where you can see our destination across the way, **The Ale Wagon**.

2 The Ale Wagon 27 Rutland Street, LE1 1RE Opens 11:00 JB Times 11:00 => 11:55

Five Hoskin's beers are usually available, Hob Bitter, No.1 Bitter, IPA, Old Navigation Ale and 3CS. There were also five changing beers, Beartown's Interception & Eclipse, Charnwood's Outfoxed & Salvation and Parish's Special Bitter.

The next leg takes less than 10 minutes. Exit back onto Charles Street and retrace your way back to the cross roads with Granby Street. Cross Granby Street into Horsefair Street, i.e. go straight on passing the Nat West Bank on your LHS. Carry on down Horsefair Street about 300 yards into Millstone Lane and onto the junction with Pocklington's Walk, a Bistro Pierre on your right marks the junction. Keep going straight on Millstone Lane and after 50 yards we reach our next stop to the left, **The Rutland & Derby**.

3 The Rutland & Derby 21 Millstone Lane, LE1 5JN Opens 12:00 JB Times 12:00 => 12:30/13:00

This pub serves two regular Everards beers, Sunchaser and Tiger with two changing beers which for the recce were Everards' own Avalon and Pheasantry's Dancing Dragonfly.

There is a small courtyard where drinks can be consumed al fresco.

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This is the official **Hot** Food stop and does Canadian/American based street food; the menu is on the final page of this missive. As we visit on American Independence Day there may be some specials? As an alternative, JB's could take advantage of the Bistro Pierre £12 lunch time special... Neither of these food offerings were tried on the recce

I propose that **Hot** food diners retain some kitty for a second drink and then join **Cold** food diners at the **Blue Boar** prior to moving onto our last stop.

The next leg takes 30 seconds. Exit back onto Millstone Lane and turn right, go 25 yards and our next stop is on the left, **The Blue Boar**.

4 **The Blue Boar** **16 Millstone Lane, LE1 5JN** **Opens 12:00** **JB Times 12:30 => 13:00**

The pub is named after the Blue Boar Inn where Richard III stayed before the Battle of Bosworth Field. This pub serves three regular beers, Blue Boar Bitter, Beowulf Finn's Hall Porter and Shiny Rocky. On the recce, the changing beers were Red Willow's Sabro Porter, Lenton Lane's Talus's SM&SH, Rowton's Full Moon, Shiny's In This World. Ashover's Turning Stone and Liquid Light's Sunshine & Shadows

This is the official **Cold** Food stop. On the recce, crusty rolls of ham & tomato or cheese & onion were available at £2.50 each; both were very generously filled. There was also an option at £5 for a half pork pie (big) served with crisps, mustard, pickle and pickled onions. All three were sampled and the crusty rolls were the option of choice, the pie was described as 'middling'.

There are some 'shelf' seats outside the pub.

The next leg takes 5 minutes. On leaving, turn left to go back to the junction with Pocklington's Walk, Bistro Pierre will now be in front of you. Turn right into Pocklington's Walk and go about 150 yards until the road starts to bend to the right where we can see the statue of John Biggs. At this point cross the road to enable us to carry on in a straightish line by going down New Walk which is a tree lined pedestrian way. After about 100 yards we enter an open space with a large building on the right, turn off to the right into King Street. In 100 yards, on our left-hand side is our final pub, **The King's Head**.

5 **The King's Head** **36 King St, LE1 6RL** **Opens 12:00** **JB Times 13:05 =>**

This pub serves four regular beers, Black Country BFG, Fireside, Pig on the Wall and Sharp's Atlantic. On the recce, there was also Shiny's Affinity, Fownd's King Korvak porter, Timelord's XX, Lister's Golden Retriever, Langton's Harborough IPA and Green Duck's Blonde.

This pub also serves filled rolls but none were sampled on the recce.

At the back of the pub is a small courtyard with a couple of tables but if you ascend a flight of steps then there is a pleasant, good sized seating area.

From The King's Head allow at **least 15 minutes** to get to the station because of crossing the main road in front of the station. On the recce, the pedestrian lights were on green and it only took 10 minutes. Leave the pub by the alley at the rear and turn right to bring us back onto New Walk. After around 250 yards we pass an open area called Museum Square on our right, followed by the New Walk Museum. Once the museum is passed, turn left to drop gently down towards the station with the dual carriageway on our right. After about 200 yards there are 3 sets of pedestrian lights on our right to cross the dual carriageway and then the main road in front of the station.

The Rutland & Derby Street Food Collective

BEER Bitings.

Chicken or Cauliflower Wings 'v' £7.50

Choose from; dry rubbed " barbecue & spring onion " buffalo & blue cheese " chilli, garlic, sesame & honey 'emperor style'

BARBECUE PORK Ribs with bread & butter pickles £8.00

popcorn chicken £7.50

Choose from; dry rubbed " barbecue & spring onion " buffalo & blue cheese " chilli, garlic, sesame & honey 'emperor style'

LOADED Waffle FRIES 'v' buffalo mayonnaise, spring onions & veggie parmesan £5.75

Deep fried MAC & CHEESE BITINGS 'v' sweet chilli sauce £6.50

Poutine.

Inspired by 1950's Canadian dish of french fries, cheese curds & brown gravy, these bowls of flavour have become legendary on the streets of Leicester

Classic poutine £10 'v'

our take on classic poutine, crispy skin-on French fries, mozzarella curds, red wine & veal jus, spring onions & parsley

The Italian Job £12

oregano seasoned skin-on fries, shredded mozzarella, beef bolognese ragu, pesto mayo & parmesan cheese

RFC POUTINE £12 'VEA'

montréal seasoned skin-on fries, shredded mozzarella, southern style gravy, rutland fried chicken, spring onion & fresh herbs

KAISERWURST POUTINE £12 'VEA'

skin-on French fries, southern style gravy, shredded jack cheese, frankfurter, bacon bits, beer braised onions & pickles

Brisket poutine £13

crispy skin-on French fries, slow cooked beef brisket, red Leicester, red wine & veal jus, pancetta, parsley, sweet & sour red onions

TRUFFLE LOVER £9 'v'

black truffle infused skin-on French fries, garlic butter, veggie parmesan & spring onions

Hand-pressed Burgers & Franks.

There's nothing secret about our burger recipe; simply minced rump & chuck steak from trusted midlands farms with a pinch of seasoning & as for our franks?! Well, that's a secret but they are 100% pork & award winning! add fries +£3

Classic Cheeseburger £13 'vA'

lettuce, pickles, SFC sauce, smoked bacon & sharp cheddar

Proper Dog £11.00 'VeA'

frankfurter, beer braised onions, franks mustard & ketchup

The Cod Father £12.00

whitby battered cod, SFC sauce, lettuce & pickles

Green Chilli Burger £13 'VA'

lettuce, bell pepper & jalapeno cheddar, pickles, jalapenos & sweet & sour red onions

Buffalo chicken burger £13 'vA' I

lettuce, jalapeños, buffalo glaze & sharp cheddar

Plant-Based Barbecue classic £13 'VE'

Redefine Meatā patty, lettuce, pickles, vegan applewood cheese & barbecue sauce

The Dachshund Dog £11 'VeA'

frankfurter, sauerkraut, pickles, sweet mustard & crispy onions

'v' denotes vegetarian • 've' denotes vegan • '++a means adaptable' / all dishes may contain traces of nuts. All our food is ethically sourced, all our meat & eggs are free range & we always use British & farm assured produce when in season. We recognise the importance of accurate allergen information & as our food is produced by real chefs in our own kitchen this data can change daily, so if you have a specific concern please ask a member of the team, although it's sadly impossible for us to guarantee any dish is 100% allergen free. The Street Food Collective is part of the independent Beautiful Pubs Collective, guests are our reason for being & you are definitely not a number, so if we get it wrong please tell us & if we get it right please tell TripAdvisor, Google, Facebook & Instagram. Any tips you leave will go directly to the team that cooked & served you.