

Ludlow Jolly Boys 1 August 2024

Ludlow is a town in the west of England situated between Shrewsbury (30 miles) and Hereford (23 miles) and about 50 miles west of Birmingham. It has an imposing castle founded about 1073 and one of a number built around the same time along the Welsh Marches to secure this part of England from frequent incursions from Wales. The town grew from this time as an important regional trading centre, and as you can imagine there is lots of history to be seen. The railway arrived in 1852 and is on the line from Shrewsbury to Hereford.

Itinerary :

Leave the station and turn left up Station Drive and right along Upper Galdeford. we pass The Queens on the left and head for the town centre along Tower St. Cross Old St and proceed along King St then right into Church St just before the Ludlow museum. Where Church St meets the open area for Ludlow market there is a right turn into Quality Square and at the far end of this is **The Olde Bakehouse**. As there is no J D Wetherspoon in Ludlow, and requiring a place for breakfast this will have to do. It has a breakfast menu and has draught real ales although only one was available on my visit. There is also a cafe called **Aragons** nearby in the same courtyard which I didn't visit but might be an alternative.

Leave at 11.00 Back along High St and along Castle Square toward the castle and left down Mill St. On the right is the **Blue Boar**. (52 Mill St). This opens at 11 and had 4 ales on tap Black Sheep, Wye Valley HPA, Hobsons Town Crier and Three Tuns (from nearby Bishop's Castle). Leave at 11.30.

Retrace our steps back past the market and right into Market St. Cross Broad St and into Valentines Walk. This leads into Pepper Lane and at the end on the left is the **Old Street Tavern** (4 Old St). Opens at 12. Has 4 handpumps but only 2 ales were on for my visit, Wye Valley HPA (seems fairly widespread in Ludlow pubs) and an excellent beer called Chimay Shelter (see what they did there!) from the Bristol Beer Factory. Leave at 12.10.

Just around the corner is **Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern** (43/44 Bull Ring). An impressive black & white half timbered building, possibly 14th century. Has 6 handpumps with 3 being used on the reece, HPA, Butty Bach (both Wye Valley) and Three Tuns. This is also our food stop for those wanting a meal. Leave at 13.15.

Back toward the station. Just past the station off Station Drive and running alongside the railway is an old goods shed, which is our final destination, **The Ludlow Brewing Co**.

This excellent establishment not only calls itself a brewery, it is one! Opens 11.00. It usually has 6 real ales on offer and these can be sampled from an upstairs balcony which affords an excellent view of the railway back towards the station. Yes you can even watch the train depart that you've just missed! But don't worry there'll be another in an hour and this place won't run out of beer.

Recce carried out by Howard Lowndes on Thursday 20th June 2024.

