

Deja vu

I feel that Theale is a non-starter as when I got there on November 13th there is nothing open until 12:00 and apart from missing out on a Wadsworth pub the other offerings were nothing special so this READING plan comes in useful yet again; thanks Phil.

Leave the station by the main entrance. Walk ahead up Station Road to the cross-roads. Across pedestrian crossing, left and along to the Monks Retreat (1). It used to be a 'spoons and has tried to replicate the formula. They have certainly retained the clientele! Included as it saves walking the length of the central area twice AND they do breakfast, though anyone looking for up-market items like Eggs Benedict will have to make other arrangements – the offering here is strictly “fry-up”. Till 1115

Out, turn right then bear right into the Market Place and continue till it meets Broad Street. Turn right, the Ale House (2) is immediately on your right. Till 1155

Out, right, and along Broad Street to the cross-roads where you turn left into St Mary's Butts. Continue down to the Allied Arms (3) on the left. Till 1240

Out and across to the other side of the road. Continue to the junction and turn right into Caste Street. Along on the right is Sweeney Todds (4). Their speciality (nay, their only offering!) - a variety of Pies, with chips, etc., are filling. Till 1310

Things might get controversial here! We propose to cross the road directly opposite to Brewdog (5). We'll make whatever accommodation is necessary on the day if there is a mutiny by those who reject their “Craft Beer” products. They do food – based mainly around Burgers and Chicken Wings. . Till 1340

Out, right and retrace our steps (using defined crossings) back up St Mary's Butts and continue along West Street. Anyone with an interest in Victorian Architecture should spot the interesting West Street Hall on the left hand side of the road. Where West Street ends, go briefly right, cross carefully, then left to continue down the left side of Greyfriars Road. At the end, on the left is The Greyfriar (6).. Till 1430

Out, across the road and continue up Station Hill to catch trains home or, for those still thirsty, AND if there's any kitty left, we can drop into the Three Guineas (7).

NB.

A. Both Allied Arms and Brewdog are “Cashless” so, whoever holds the kitty will have to be happy with dealing with that.

B. For those wanting lunch, if the pies at Sweeney Todds or the offering at Brewdog are inappropriate then I suggest the Hope Tap (8) ('spoons) in Friar Street – you all know their menu. This option obviously also applies for breakfast, in which case follow the map and make your own way back along to meet us at the Ale House around 1120.