

National Pubs Week

Characterful & Historic Pubs of Peterborough Walking Tour

B) Oundle Road to City Centre

7.30 to 8.00 **Botolph Arms**, 465 Oundle Road, **Orton Longueville** - converted from two farm cottages, it was a country residence for some years and it became a pub in late 1980s - it has plenty of character having retained a multi-roomed layout and is illuminated at night - front door leads into a bare wood floor hallway with staircase to private quarters, one low small round table, two chairs, cigarette machine and a small bar / entrance to the servery on the right - at the far end are new quarry tiles and a small antique settle and a narrow table - on the left of the hallway are two small no-smoking dining rooms which are separated by a doorway and curtains - front one has a carpet and wood burning stove - rear one has bare wood floor and an antique settle

On the right of the hallway there is a low doorway to the main bar - this small room has bare floorboards, a large dresser, an old stone fireplace with a log fire and lots of logs in the side niches, new half panelling and some comfy armchairs - a doorway on the right leads to an opened-up room with a quarry tiled floor - at the rear is a L-shaped high-backed settle, long oblong table and a new winged settle and an antique settle - there is a brick and stone fireplace with a hood and a log fire, a small niche with fitted seating, two machines and shutters on the windows - a wide doorway on the right leads to another small area with new quarry tiled floor, new cast iron and wood surround fireplace (used ?), a machine, TV (sports) and piped music

Open from 11.30 to 11 - food is available from 12 to 2.30 (3 Sun); 7 to 9.30 Tues to Thu (10 Fri, Sat) - Managers: David & Brenda Raffetty (Samuel Smiths) - 01733 234170 - *Real ale: Samuel Smiths Old Brewery Bitter 'from the wood' at a remarkable £1.33 a pint*

8.20 to 8.50 **Boys Head**, Oundle Road, Woodston - rebuilt behind the old pub in 1956 in inter-war style and set back from the road - it retains most of its original layout and fittings and is therefore a rare example of a 1950's intact pub in the UK - corner entrance leads to a hallway with the original off-license intact (but no longer used) - also ladies toilet to the left, gents to the right which retain a lot of original fittings - the front Lounge is carpeted with new large tiles near the bar - has square pannelled walls to picture frame height all around, (new) stone fireplace, original curved bar and original bar back - upholstered original fixed bench seating and an organ on a raised floor - this room is regularly used by local bands for practising such as Christian Band, Bongo Band etc.

The rear Bar has half ribbed panelling, a new quarry tiled floor, original fixed bench seating brick fireplace painted black, trophy cabinet above, just shelves for a bar back, machine, TV-on. On the rear left is a former loggia accessed via a door from the bar - this is an outside but covered type of patio formed of columns and arches, three in the case of the Boys Head - these have been bricked-up to form a small separate room which is now used as a no-smoking dining room - opens for breakfast at 9.30 - £3 for an all day breakfast - Tenant Stuart Short (Penant Inns) - open 11 to 11 - 01733 565021 - *Real ales: two beers such as Adnams Best Bitter*

9.00 to 9.30 **Palmerston Arms**, 82 Oundle Rd, Woodston - an unspoilt small two roomed pub totally free of any modern pub features where all the real ale is fetched from the cellar. This **Grade II Listed** Building dating from 1595. was transformed by new licensees, Irving and Paula Patterson in 1996 when they removed the music & machines, uncovered the quarry tiled floor in the small public bar and increased the range of real ales

The small public bar on the right has a quarry tiled floor, a brick fireplace which is not used at present, a Georgian settle, a black wooden screen by the door and some fixed seating. There is a large collection of water jugs hanging from the ceiling and a Nuttalls Mintos Dart Mat, but no dartboard ! There are some interesting items of breweriana including a Warwicks Newark Ales wall plaque, and the three legged cast iron tables have girls heads carved on them.

The slightly larger lounge on the left looks as if it was two rooms in the past and has a screen, or baffle by the door, carpet and a brick fireplace at the front which is not used at present. The seating includes settle, pew, armchairs and a settee. At least 78 malt whiskies are available as well as a wide selection of bottled beers, mostly bottle conditioned including some Belgian ones. There is no keg or smooth beers and no 'draught' lager is sold. The only food sold is large quantities of the local Frank's pork pies currently at £1. Has no piped music, no TV, no machines and no pool - Under 35's are not encouraged and please note that entry is likely to be restricted to regulars at weekends.

Owners: Irvine & Paula Patterson - Open: Mon-Sat 12-11 (Closed Bank Holiday Mondays) - Sun 12-10.30 - Tel: 01733 565865 - *Real ales: Batemans XB, Hop Back Summer Lightening and up to 12 guest beers including a mild, At least one cask cider is sold*

9.40 to 10.10 **Coalheavers Arms**, Park St - revitalised small back-street pub with no music, no TV, no machines, no pool, no food - just (good) conversation and good beer - the essential ingredients for a British pub - an opened-up pub in three small areas - at the front is a small polished floorboard area with cushioned benches and a big oblong table - the area in front of the bar has new flagstones, bar stools, cushioned benches in an alcove around two small oblong tables and an air extractor - a doorway leads to another small area with new flagstone floor, more bar stools, cushioned benches and the odd table

Only food is pork scratchings, crisps and nuts - Mon to Thu 12 to 3; 5 to 11; Fri, Sat 12 to 11; Sun 12 to 3; 6 to 11 - 01733 565664 - *Real ales: has up to eight including Milton Brewery's Minotaur (a mild), Jupiter, Pegasus, Babylon (a stout) and other small brewery beers such as Oakham, Tring, Springhead etc. and a good range of Belgian bottled beers and Cassells Cider on handpump -*

10.20 to 11.00 **Charters**, Town Bridge - a former Dutch Grain Barge built 1907, it moored in Peterborough, was converted into a pub & restaurant and opened in Sept. 1991 - another example of the diverse styles of pubs in Peterborough - on the ground / sevel level is a bare boarded bar which is 'tardis-like' and attracts a wide range of customers - on the first floor is a oriental restaurant 'East' selling a wide range of Thai, Chinese etc. dishes- the garden is very popular in summer being a welcome retreat from the hustle of the shopping centres - restricted entry applies when Peterborough United are playing at London Road; and on Fri, Sat evenings when live bands are playing there is an admission charge of £3 (or £4) from 9.30 - Open 12 to 11 (1.30am Fri, Sat); 12 to 10.30 Sun - 01733 315700 - *Real ales: Draught Bass, Everards Tiger, Fullers London Pride, Oakham JHB, other Oakham beers and guest beers*