

SPBW WEEKEND 2026 LONDON AND BEYOND

Friday October 9th

From 5pm until 7pm - meet in **Sir John Oldcastle** Wetherspoon.

Usual Wetherspoons food offerings, plus a good number of ales.

29–35 Farringdon Road, Farringdon, EC1M 3JF

(Farringdon station is close. Or Chancery Lane Tube).

7pm Exit Sir John Oldcastle onto Greville Street. Turn right. Cross Hatton Garden past the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit (famously robbed in 2015)

Continue onto Leather Lane. Turn Right. Head for **Craft Beer Company** at 82 Leather Lane. 16 ales available.

Very nice upstairs room with more space. Formerly a Greene King pub when Leather Lane was still proper market with fruit and veg, inexpensive clothes, childrens toys at Christmas and surrounded by Italian formica cafes (this area is in Little Italy). Now, sadly, given over to so-called street food, corrugated Citroen vans selling coffee, stalls selling nothing but olives etc.

8pm head back to Hatton Garden on the same route. Turn right. On the other side of the road is a lamppost with a bishops hat on the top. Head down the alley to **Ye Olde Mitre**. SPBW pub for monthly NEC meetings. Site of a woodfest. A Fullers pub but always has a good selection of ales. Sometimes has a beer from the wood. Busier than it used to be because of the internet. There has been a pub here since 1546. A cherry tree in the corner of the front bar marks the border of land belonging to the Bishop of Ely and Sir Christopher Hatton.

9pm head back onto Hatton Garden. Turn left and head towards Holborn Circus. Cross to the other side of High Holborn. Turn right and head towards Fetter Lane. Turn into Fetter Lane and head for **The Wild Swan**, (99 Fetter Lane EC4A 1BT) a newish Thornbridge pub with their ales on handpump.

There used to be a pub on the site called the White Swan which was demolished. Nearby was the former Printers Devil pub used by Daily Mirror staff when their building was at Holborn Circus.

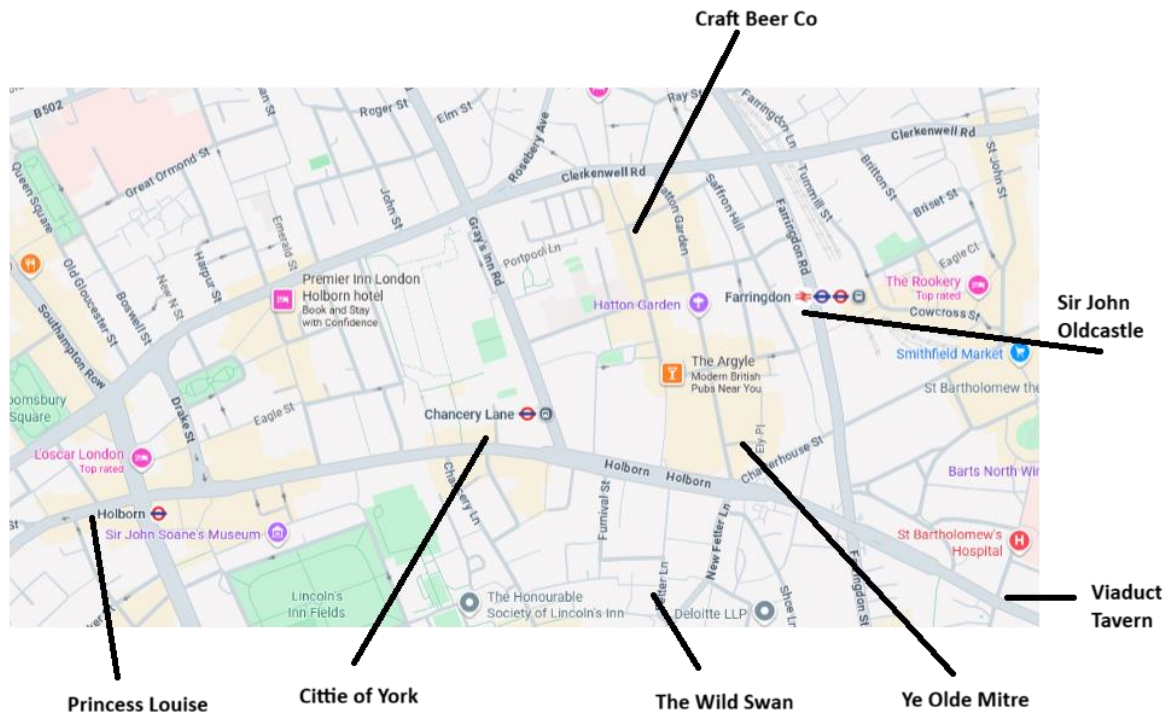
10pm Having visited four core pubs in close proximity, members have a choice. There a couple of Sam Smiths pubs - **Cittie of York** and **Princess Louise** which are notable for their unique architecture. They only offer the one Sam Smiths ale though. Princess Louise is close to Holborn Tube station. The Cittie of York is close by on High Holborn at 22 High Holborn WC1V 6BS.

The Princess Louise is a bit further along High Holborn - 206 High Holborn WC1V 7EP.

Alternatively there is **The Viaduct Tavern** in the opposite direction. It specialises in gin, but has several ales. It is on the site on Newgate prison. Rooms below are claimed to be former cells. 126 Newgate Street EC1A 7AA
Closest Tube is St Pauls.

There is also the option to head up Grays Inn Road to **The Calthorpe Arms**, where the Tony Little competition was held for many years. Now under new ownership. Six handpumps, many of them Harveys.
252 Grays Inn Road WC1X 8JR.

Or members can choose to remain at one of the four core pubs on the tour.



Saturday October 10th

Historic Kingston upon Thames -London travel zone 6

Kingston rail station is on a loop line from London Waterloo. Quickest journey is via Wimbledon and takes 28 minutes. Via Richmond & Twickenham it takes 48 minutes.

Alternatively a fast train to Surbiton (with one stop at Clapham Junction) takes 17 minutes. Buses opposite Surbiton station, by Waitrose, 71, 281,465 etc all go to Kingston. Takes about 7 minutes. Get off at Eden street (E3).

<https://www.turnerink.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Kingston-First-Pocket-Guide.pdf>

12:00 Meet at **Kings Tun** Wetherspoon. From Kingston station front exit , cross the main road towards Cappadocia Turkish restaurant. Bear left into Clarence Street. The Rotunda is on the other side of the road. A minute down the road on the right is The Kings Tun. It is a large pub with an outside area and upstairs. There should be plenty of tables for those who want to eat. (From Eden Street bus stop bear right, away from the pedestrian zone towards the one way traffic in Clarence Street. It is a 3 minute walk).

13:00 Leave Kings Tun. Bear right down Clarence Road which turns right into the main shopping street. This is pedestrianised. Head towards Bentall Centre. Opposite is Church Street. Head down here and keep right and you emerge in Market Place. At the bottom far side is **The Druids Head**. This a 17th century coaching inn with a variety of ales. They also offer food. Jerome K Jerome of ' Three men in a boat' drank here and carved his initials upstairs.

14:00 Turn right out of the pub and The Guildhall is a short distance from the end of the market. This contains the Coronation stone, for the first king of all England - Athelstan. Kingston is on the border of Wessex and Mercia. It was the 1100th anniversary of his coronation last year. Ralph Thompson may give a brief overview of Athelstan, as he was part of the reenactment nearby. Cross over the Clattern bridge over the Hogsmill tributary to The Thames. It is one of the oldest intact bridge structures in the country.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation_Stone,_Kingston_upon_Thames

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clattern_Bridge

Head towards riverside turn left and arrive at the riverside entry of **The Ram**. This offers various ales and food with a riverside terrace. It is the oldest site of a pub in Kingston. There used to be a brewery now demolished nextdoor (Frickers Eagle brewery subsequently taken over by Hodgsons). Six hand pumps.

<https://www.theramkingston.com/>

We do pass **WeBrew** nextdoor -a new Windsor and Eton establishment offering a couple of ales. It has Guardsman and Knight of the Garter on hand pump. So if you prefer these to the offerings in the Ram, We are seconds away.

On the riverfront towards Kingston Bridge there is also The Gazebo - a Sam Smiths pub. However this has no real ale. Closer to the Bridge is **The Bishop**, a large modern Youngs pub. If there is a demand we could visit The Bishop. The riverfront is quite a popular and pleasant stroll anyway. We do have extra time as Park Brewery is no longer on the itinerary.

I am inclined to spend more time by the riverside. It is a pleasant place to be with 3 close ale pubs plus Druids Head a minute away. Crossing Kingston bridge to Hampton Wick offers more pubs - but is a diversion.

So :-

At either 15:00 or 16:00 -Exit the front entrance of The Ram bear left. Turn into Kingston Hall Road which leads into Wheatfield. Cross over at the traffic lights and head into Fairfield. **The Albion** is a Big Smoke pub at 45 Fairfield Road KT1 2PY. It has a very wide range of ales. Food available. Big Smoke is the next closest brewery to Kingston after Park. (So we can enjoy their beers in comfort without having to head to Esher).

Or (my preference) visit The Bishop and proceed to The Albion from there, doubling back towards the Ram.

16:30 or 17:30 Exit The Albion.

Turn left towards Fairfield East to cross over towards Canbury Park. Turn right. Continue until the end of the road. Turn left. Then right again into Park Road. Turn left and continue up into New Road. A twelve minute walk.

Park Tavern 19 New Road KT2 6AP.

Family-owned free house near Kingston Gate to Richmond Park. Usually has four ales on. CAMRA Kingston pub of the year 2025

20:00 Exit Park Tavern. Head along Elm Road into York Road towards the Willoughby.

20:10 **The Willoughby Arms** - 47 Willoughby Road, KT2 6LN . Home to Kingston SPBW. Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and the Yardbirds rehearsed upstairs in the 60's. The pub is free of tie and all beers tend to be sourced from small breweries. A sports pub with a big screen and signed football shirts on the wall. Legendary landlord Rick Robinson has been here for decades.

On leaving The Willoughby there are several routes to Kingston station. The Wych Elm, a Fullers pub, is nearby. Other routes pass the bus garage which will take people to Surbiton station if they want a faster train to Waterloo.

Sunday October 11th

Deptford/Greenwich (London Travel Zone 3)

UNESCO World Heritage Site

12:00 Assemble at **Old Kings Head** 45-49 Borough High Street SE1 1NA (In an alley close to London Bridge Station)
Traditional pub unaffected by trendy Borough Market. Ales in good condition and food. Reasonable prices.

12:50 Leave pub to catch 13:05 train to Deptford (journey time 5 minutes) Exit Deptford station. Walk up Deptford High Street. Cross Evelyn Street into Watergate. Prince Street is next on the left.

Dog and Bell 116 Prince Street London SE8 3JD

Local CAMRA pub of the year 2023, 2024 & 2025. Lots of ales ! Food too.
<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/dog-bell-deptford-158798>

14:10 Walk back to Deptford Station to catch 14:25 train to Westcombe Park(3rd stop)
Walk onto Woolwich Road. Three minutes to

River Ale House. 131 Woolwich Road SE10 0RJ

Greenwich's only micro pub. SPBW London pub of the year 2019 *. Good selection of reasonably priced ales. Pizza available.

Expanding tourist map of Greenwich:-

<https://www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/ideas-and-inspiration/visitor-guide/greenwich-maps>

15:30 Leave River Ale House. Cross the road. Catch a 177 bus. Get off at the National Maritime Museum.

You now have options - you can walk down Park Row to our next pub the **Trafalgar Tavern** in Park Row. We leave there at 5pm.

As you are in the heart of Greenwich, you can visit the National Maritime Museum for free, or Queens House (also free - but tickets need to be booked online in advance)
<https://www.rmg.co.uk/queens-house>. The museums close at 5pm. So you have over an hour for a look around. You can also visit the park which holds the National Observatory, or the Cutty Sark or Greenwich Market close by. Or just cross the road and walk down Park Row to The Trafalgar Tavern.

(If there is a demand - A separate group may WALK to the Trafalgar Tavern.

15:30 Turn right out River Ale House and head to

Pelton Arms 23-25 Pelton Road(corner site) SE10 9PQ

Named for a colliery in Chester le Street. Lots of ales but may be busy.

Head down Pelton Road onto the river front

Cutty Sark 4-6 Ballast Quay SE10 9 PD

Grade11 listed Youngs pub on three levels

16:00 Arrive at Trafalgar Tavern having continued along the waterfront past various drinking establishments.)

Trafalgar Tavern - Park Row Greenwich SE10 9NW

Another grade 11 listed building, bedecked in union flags, good river views, Adnams, Wantsum beers, touristy.

17:00 Walk up Park Row away from the river. Cross main road. Turn left into Park Vista
Plume and Feathers 19 Park Vista SE10 9LZ. Established in 1691. Oldest pub in Greenwich. Four ales Harveys Sussex, Adnams plus two others.

18:00 Walk back along Park Vista onto main Romney Road. Turn left. Keep going into the High Road. (Or catch 177 bus again for a short distance). Turn left up Royal Hill.

Richard the First 52-54 Royal Hill SE10 8RT. A very large Youngs pub. We will have the group meal here.

<https://www.richardthefirst.co.uk/>

20:00 Head down Royal Hill. Cross the road to Greenwich station and catch a train to Waterloo East. Leave station and head round the back to

Kings Arms 25 Roupell Steet SE1 8TB.

<https://thekingsarmslondon.co.uk/>

The Hole in The Wall 5 Mepham Street SE1 8SQ is near Waterloo station under the arches. Trains rumble overhead. Basic, but a variety of ales and handy if waiting for a train.

There is a map included. Those who have indicated they are attending will get an email a few days before. It would help if they could print their own copies.

If there are late changes I will notify. For example, Park Brewery on the Saturday crawl just went into voluntary liquidation. So, sadly, it no longer features.

Regards
ChessingtonPete