

**Seventeen STOCKPORT – THREE GOOD REAL ALE PUBS.**

This makes a good early evening stroll for those who like REAL BEER. The three are all very different but sell quality beer in interesting surroundings.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here there are many trains that stop at Stockport.

*Option:- turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.*

Alight at Stockport. At the bottom of the platform steps turn left. Go up the station approach road.

At the top opposite the former Bluebell Hotel turn right.

A few yards along cross the road to The Olde Vic on the corner of Chatham Street. *It doesn't look promising from the outside but this pub sells a good selection of hand pumped beers from small breweries. It has two cosy rooms and a beer garden.*

Continue down the hill along King Street West. Cross a road and walk between the Comfortable Gill and the bus depot.

At the circle you will see just to the right The Crown backed by the railway viaduct.

*The Crown is an interesting looking pub with an attractive old décor outside and within. The pub sells a range of hand pumped beers from microbreweries. On my visit the list was restricted to sixteen and the ones I sampled were excellent. Do take a look at the beer garden for a marvellous view of the viaduct.*

Outside The Crown turn left along Chestergate under the viaduct.

*Notice it is constructed like two viaducts about 3 or 4 millimetres apart- presumably widened at some stage.*

Cross Wellington Road and go to the right of the shopping centre along the continuation of Chestergate.

On your left you will see a black and white building dating from 1580. This is 'The Three Shires.' *Unfortunately this real ale, food, and music pub closed recently!*

Continue along Chestergate and turn right into Little Underbank. On your right just before the bridge is The Queen's Vaults.

*It's a tiny gem – do go in! There are three tiny wood panelled rooms, and downstairs the smallest urinal imaginable! This former wine cellar still has* 29

*all the (defunct) tasting taps at the bar but now sells excellent Sam Smith's beers.*

On leaving the Queen's Vaults turn right and go right up the steps to St Petersgate. Follow this ahead to the main road (Wellington Road). Turn left a short distance then cross Wellington Road and go up Station Road which winds back to Stockport railway station.

CLASSIFICATION: EASY, MEDIUM LENGTH,  
REAL ALES, FINE PUBS, GOOD FOOD, CIVIL  
ENGINEERING,  
RAIL FARE – category one

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 109 Manchester A-Z