

Thursday 12 January

RAILWAY 51

Toton Lane
Hucknall
Old Market Square
Toton Lane

Tram fare £4.70

Hannah was with us as she was recording a BBC podcast in the morning and our wife is better than hers', then we decided to have an afternoon trip out. We took both cars across to Toton park and ride and trammed in to Nottingham. The girls got out in the centre to head to Waterstone's, I continued up to Hucknall - the last branch of the trams I need to do. Not the world's most exciting tram ride.

In a sensible world the tram would run into the centre of town, in England it terminates at the railway station and it is a ten minute walk to the centre. I walked to Greggs and back. In 2017 I visited St Mary Magdalene church and blogged about the work they had done on history and tourism. I didn't go as far as the church this time, and - checking the website - I now find it is only open Monday afternoons and Friday mornings in January (probably understandably).

I passed the Hucknall Miners' Memorial, installed in 2005 and crafted by Graham Ibbesson. I didn't realise until I read the web page, that it is shaped like a Davy lamp. It commemorates the 150 miners who died in the Linby and Hucknall 1 and 2 collieries which were nearby. The last one shut in 1986 (from memory) and the town does not look to have recovered.



Back in Nottingham I met the others in Five Leaves Bookshop, found a book I wanted, then we trammed back to Toton. Then J realized she had left her Polar Bear blanket in Waterstone's - so guess where I am going tomorrow! Hannah headed up the motorway and home.



Friday 13 January

RAILWAY 52

Ilkeston	1145
Nottingham	1158
Old Market Square	
Nottingham station	1245
Ilkeston	1300
	Train fare £4.15
	Tram fare £1.50

Every train between Ilkeston and Nottingham turns left at Trowell Junction, except the first train of the day which continues straight on and goes via Toton Yard and Beeston. I have done the rare track, but not the normal route - so here was a good excuse. Plenty of disabled parking at the new (unstaffed and not busy) Ilkeston station and an easy ride into Nottingham on the hourly Northern service from Leeds.

An easy walk up to Waterstone's, collected Polar Bears, then decided to be lazy and trammed back to the station. Platform 4 for the occasional East Midlands train to Ilkeston (the Norwich-Liverpool route) is half way to Grantham, so I got my exercise that way. I remembered not to leave the blanket on the train when I got off at Ilkeston.



