

ADLERBUS TOURS CHILTERN TOUR PART 2 AYLESBURY.



Aylesbury Town station with LT slam door stock set in platform 1 on last day of steam running before current Met electric service truncated to Amersham. Electric loco coming off at Rickmansworth.

From the station stand and marvel at the great new foot and bike bridge across the railway. Walk away from the station towards Friars Square Shopping centre. There are myriad ways of reaching the centre of town which is less than 5 minutes unless you wait for the traffic lights then make it 10 minutes. The easy way is to wait for the lights then walk straight ahead under Friars Square and into the bottom of the Market Square. If it is raining then there is a lift in the corner of the multi-storey car park up to the top floor and then across the bridge into Friars Square. Otherwise to the right of the crossing there is an underpass which either brings you to Great Western St or Friarage Passage up to Bourbon St and then to the top of the Market Square. I have found an All day breakfast for £3.95 for the early risers at The Kingsbury which has the look of a Wetherspoons and does sell real ale Spitfire and Broadside on my visit. Go out of Market Square top right hand corner into Kingsbury (picture right) the Kingsbury is on the right. We will leave here at 11:15 for the 100 yard walk to the real start of the tour at the Kings Head.



Travel

- Trains from Marylebone at 27 and 57 out of rush hour. Return at 32 and 02.
- For the more adventurous there is the possibility of a trip on the only slam door stock still in daily use from Princes Risborough to Aylesbury.
- Bus 100 from Milton Keynes station at 32 past every hour. Journey time 45 mins. Stop nearest to station on right This is the bus from Aylesbury which goes to Central Milton Keynes then direct to Aylesbury. Get off in Bus station. Return at 45 past hour.
- Bus 280 from Haddenham and Thame at 27 and 57. Journey time 25 mins. Beware the bus uses the same stop in both direction

DATE OF TOUR: 29TH OCTOBER 2009



The Kings Head Inn, left, is a National Trust property which is a well preserved coaching inn, built in 1455. If you are later than 11:15 go to the Kings Head direct from the top left of the Market Square. It is worth finding the Coffee shop of the National Trust in the great hall of the original inn. The Farmers Bar is the brewery tap of Chiltern Brewery. There are usually four real ales on one of which is a guest. The pub is not very busy until 12:30 even for a pub in the centre of town. We plan to leave here at 12:15 for either a quick one in the Harrow or direct to the Hop Pole Inn.

The Harrow is a watering hole I used when at BT Aylesbury for 3 years after leaving the service. It had Hobsons, Black Sheep, and Broadside on when I looked in last week.

To the Hop Pole either bus 2 to West St 50 yards before Hop Pole on other side or an easy 10 minute walk downhill which is at the end.



The Hop Pole Inn, above. 13:00 - end. Owned by Vale Brewery rescued after it had been a run down establishment; not an architectural gem as the Kings Head. The place to drink in Aylesbury. Has 10 hand pumps with usually at least four guests. Last week they were York, Trad Scottish, Daleside Springside Wolf and Rugby. Unfortunately could not tell me what would be on in three weeks, as they only know themselves the Monday before.

Suggested eatery for those who haven't had a breakfast.

Return travel.

Buses to the station run every 15 minutes from outside.

Trains to London are at 02 and 32 from the station. There is an hourly train taking 15 minutes longer at 37.

Allow plenty of time as if you have come this way you will have discovered that you cannot get onto or off the station without the booking office staff opening the gate for you.

Buses to Milton Keynes station are at 45 every hour.

Buses to Haddenham station are at 00 and 30 from the bus station.



CULTURE The centre of Aylesbury was decimated in the sixties when a large area was cleared to make room for the Friars Square shopping centre. North west from Market Square the area inside the inner ring road shows what was destroyed. Photo to left. The old LNW station area is at the bottom of the High Street between the Vale park and the concrete block which is now QS. When I first moved to the area this was a car park and you could see the goods yard loading dock wall. The track bed outside the town is virtually intact all the way to Cheddington. If you have time to spare; the 57 from Marylebone runs through to Vale Parkway and is back in Aylesbury to form the 32 to London.