

Jolly Boys Trip to Overton, Hampshire

28th April 2011

Overton has existed for many centuries and was a fairly important location on the London to Exeter coaching route. In 1854 the railway opened between Basingstoke and Andover but somehow, the contractor building it completely missed Overton. Thus even today it is the "Stagecoach" bus that properly serves the village.

The village of Overton is but a speck on the horizon as viewed through binoculars from the railway station, therefore our journey will start at Basingstoke where we shall catch a bus. This arrangement has the advantage of delivering us direct to the centre of the village. It also allows those requiring breakfast to visit the nearby Wetherspoons establishment which happens to be a Lloyds Bar.

The buses to Overton are Nos. 76/86 and depart from outside the station on the DS. Leaving at 08 and 38 mins past the hour, both go to Overton but have different final destinations. (Optimum bus to fit in with opening times at Overton - 08minutes past the hour - journey time 26 mins).

Buses return to Basingstoke on the hour and half hour at the stop opposite to where we arrive.

The Pubs:-

1. Lloyds Bar : Basingstoke. (Sorry no useful map)

Directions : Outside the station (DN side) down steps and cross road diagonally left.
Turn right at Londis Store.
Pass between twin tower blocks, thence over footbridge to bus station.
Pass through the bus station to the end and on into Festival Place.
Turn left into Festival Place - Lloyds is last bar on the left.

Note : There is no need to return to the railway station for the bus as 76/86 start from the bus station at 5 and 35 mins past the hour - Stand R. (optimum 35mins past the hour)

At Overton :- See map, all pubs within a very short distance of each other thus late arrivals need only stand at the main cross roads and shout for guidance.

2. The Old House at Home : Open 11.30 -15.00 : Young's, St Austell Tribune, Ringwood - Food.

3. The White Hart : Open 12.00 - 15.00 : Various local ales - Food

4. The Greyhound : Open 12.00 - 14.00 : CAMRA Pub : Deuchers, Wadworth.
: NB - Erratic opening hours

5. The Red Lion : Open 11.30 - 15.00 : Triple F Moonraker, Cheriton Flower pots - Food

Trains to/from Basingstoke

Half hourly cross country services to / from Birmingham and other points North of Watford - plus local First GW service from Reading.

Extensive SWT services between London Waterloo and South West calling at Basingstoke. Just avoid the stoppers.

NB - For any who wish to continue the session upon return to Basingstoke a further opportunity exists Just outside Basingstoke station. Exit down side turn left through car park. Pub facing you

The Queens Arms - Usually a nice selection of ales.