

Jolly Boys Trip to Loughborough 28th February 2013

Boring Facts

Loughborough is a large town in Leicestershire and is perhaps best known for its internationally respected university. Loughborough University, since its inception over a century ago (1909) as the town's Technical Institute, has grown to be one of the UK's most respected universities, and is widely recognised as the UK's leading university for sport.

But since its beginnings Loughborough University has maintained strong links with industry and the professions and is valued as an important research centre nowadays. As a result of this, the town has attracted a number of major engineering firms as well as several large pharmaceutical companies.

In contrast to the cutting edge academic reputation afforded to Loughborough from its university, the town is in fact an ancient one and its cultural heritage is apparent in its striking architecture. Loughborough is replete with many examples of building styles spanning the centuries from the middle-ages onwards. The nineteenth century Italian-style Town Hall is a notable example and in a former incarnation was in fact the town's Corn Exchange. All Saints Church in the medieval heart of the old town is another notable example. It was constructed in the fourteenth century and is one of the largest parish churches in Britain. The Old Rectory, next door to the church, is older still and stands today as a rare example of a 13th century stone manor house. The rectory is now home to a fascinating museum dedicated to local history.

Arrival

Loughborough station is a fair way out of the centre of town. The walk to the first pub (route shown on map) takes 15 to 20 minutes. However there is a shuttle bus to the town centre (and university) from outside the station which runs every 10 minutes and takes 5 minutes. It goes down the yellow road on the map and turns left at traffic lights and the bus stop is directly outside pub no 1 and opposite pub no 2. The bus is called the Kinchbus Sprint. <http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/timetables.aspx>.

Train Times

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|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| London St Pancras d | 07.25 | 07.30 | 08.25 | 08.30 | 09.25 | 09.30 |
| Loughborough a | 08.45 | 09.03 | 09.45 | 10.04 | 10.44 | 11.04 |

Faster trains at xx.25.

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|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Loughborough d | 13.20 | 13.42 | 14.20 | 14.42 | 15.20 | 15.42 |
| London St Pancras a | 14.59 | 15.03 | 15.59 | 16.04 | 17.00 | 17.05 |

Faster trains at xx.42.

The Tour

This tour is unusual in that we do not go into the town centre but visit pubs set in local streets and by a canal.

As described above walk or catch the bus to..

1. The Amber Rooms, 15 The Rushes, LE11 5BE

<http://www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk/home/pubs/the-amber-rooms>. Modern Lloyds No 1 bar for earlies and breakfast.

Times: Start to 11.00

Cross the road to...

2. The Swan in the Rushes, 21 The Rushes, LE11 5BE

http://www.castlerockbrewery.co.uk/site/?page_id=19 . Apparently well known to “older” Jolly Boys as the venue to the Christmas meal in past times. This is a Castle Rock pub with 10 real ales. Opens at 11.00 so we will go over as soon as the doors open.

Times: 11.00 to 12.00

Walk 5 minutes to..

3. The Generous Briton, 85 Ashby Road, LE11 3AB

<http://www.bogiespubs.co.uk/generousbriton.html> . Local CAMRA pub of the year in 2012. 8 real ales. Food is only baguettes and toasted paninis.

Times 12.05 to 12.45

Walk 5 minutes to..

4. The Paget Arms, 41 Oxford Street, LE11 5DP

<http://www.steamin-billy.co.uk/paget/> . 2 ales from Steaming Billy plus 4 guests. Food is basket meals.

Times 12.50 to 13.30

Walk 5 minutes to...

5. The Albion Inn, Canal Bank, LE11 1QA

<http://www.albionmyway.co.uk/> . 3 or 4 real ales. Standard pub food menu plus specials.

Times 13.35 to end.

It is then about a 15 to 20 minute walk back to the station along the canal tow path (as shown on map) or by road in inclement weather. Buses only available in town centre which is 10 minutes away.

