

Jolly Boys Trip to Alton, Hampshire

16th July 2015

First of all an apology for those expecting a trip on the Watercress Line. Alton was to have been the final stop of a round trip to Alresford but the timings on the steam railway just did not work, despite trying numerous alternative routes using buses from other locations. As a result a visit to Alton only has been arranged. Alton is a pleasant Hampshire market town with many pubs, regrettably not all up to Jolly Boys standard as the dreaded Green King has moved into town. We will try the best of the rest.

The Pubs:-

1. **The Ivy House (Wetherspoons).** All the usual.

Notes : Wetherspoons is at the far end of town and is a good 15minutes walk. Although there is a bus from the station to "High Street" (number 64 at 10 and 40 minutes past the hour). Unfortunately the bus operator (Stagecoach) has contrived to timetable the bus to leave at exactly the same time as the train arrives thus ensuring that you just have time to see it disappearing down the road as you exit the station!

Leave at 11.00 ... 1 Minute to pub 2

2. **The George**

Usually five real ales on sale. The beer line-up changes (many locally sourced) but on day of visit Red Cat, Flack Double and Atlantic were tried!

Good food available but probably a bit too soon after breakfast!

Leave at 11.40 ... 6 Minutes to pub 3

3. **The Kings Head**

Slightly grubby pub as new owners only recently taken over. Plans to improve and extend the range of beers soon. Doubt if this will be in time for our visit but beers available on day of recce included Punter and Good Old Boy. (No food)

Leave at 12.15 ... 4 Mins to pub 4 NB Those who need food may like to miss pub 3 & go direct to pub 4

10 Mins to pub 5

or get some solids from a foody shop between pubs.

4. **The Crown Hotel**

This pub has been included as an afterthought for food as so few of the remaining pubs do any.

Three ales usually available but on day of visit only Doom Bar available and this was in poor condition. However the barman assured us that at least three would normally be available including Lighthouse, Otter and yes you've guessed it Doom Bar. (Food available)

Leave at 12.30 (or sooner) ... 6 Minutes to pub 5

5. **The Eight Bells**

Fine Free house with a good selection of ales. The beer line-up changes (many locally sourced) but on day of visit Swift One, Sunset, Ghost Ship and others. (No Food Except a limited number of sandwiches)

Leave at 13.20 ... 8 Minutes to pub 6

6. **The Railway Arms**

This pub is the Triple F brewery tap and reflects the brewery's range. Alton Ale, Moonraker, Pressed Rat and Warthog etc. (No food)

Leave when you like ... 2 Minutes to station

For those who would still like some food the station café is available just outside the station (next to Waitrose). Usual greasy spoon fare available. (Closes at 15.00)

Trains to/from Alton

To Alton : 23 and 53 Minutes past each hour from London Waterloo. Arriving in Alton at 39 and 10 Minutes past the hour.

Return : 15 and 44 Minutes past the hour. Journey time 70 Minutes approx.