

Leighton Buzzard was settled in the 7th century and became a royal estate. At the Domesday survey in 1086 with a pop of 700. Leighton was the richest market in Bedfordshire. By the 13th century All Saints church was built, but it was the coming of the railway in 1838 which turned Linslade on the other side of the river Ouzel into a boom town.

In 1965 Linslade was taken into Bedfordshire from Bucks and the two towns became Leighton- Linslade with market on Tuesday and Saturday as they had been by royal charter for over a thousand years.

The development of the fast train service to London turned the area into a commuter town raising the population to the current 43 thousand.

The prosperity had been built on high quality sand still mined today. In 1919 a 2ft narrow gauge railway was built to convey the sand to the main line for onward distribution to be used in the glass industry. In 1967 conveyance changed to road haulage and the Light Railway Preservation Society sprang up to run for 3 miles on the sand company tracks using steam and diesel engines which are used today. See photo 1.

The business.

Come out of the station on the up side and 30 meters to the left is a bus shelter with the best timetable display of the services I have seen. Beware the stop is used for services to the centre and some going out away from the centre. If in doubt ask the driver. It is an easy 10 minutes walk to the centre or a three minute ride. Get off the bus when it has turned off the main road into the market square with the church on your right hand side.

Walking go on past the bus shelter to the road junction and take a right turn and at the next junction continue straight ahead into New Street.. Just to the left, as you come out onto the main road at the bottom cross the zebra and the keep on that pavement round the corner passing Tesco on the right and at the next junction veer to the right into Bridge St. and continue on into High Street and up to the Market Square. The Swan is a large white building at the top of this street on the right hand side

Swan JDW. Market Square Had a good selection of non GK ales available and cheap. Leave 11:30 out and follow pavement round corner

Picture House Lake St. Opens at 11:00 but only 2 ales available. Food.

Leave 12:15 Back round corner and down to Black Lion.

Black Lion. High St. Opens 12 6 pumps. Cold food only

Leave 12:50 next door is

Bottle House. Opens 12:00 Small craft ale shop

Leave 13:20 Walk back towards station 6 minutes

White Horse. Opens 11:00 unofficially 4 pumps. Ignore sign whisky's opening 15:00 just go in. 13:30 - whenever

Food options For breakfast eaters there is the Spoons Swan. For lunch the options are more restricted as the only non Spoons open before 12 is the Picture House for a hot meal or the Black Lion for large pork pies (like in Rugby). Next to the Black Lion is Subway.

Travel.

Four train an hour from Euston but the two fast services either 1 stop or non stop at 23 and 56 past each hour are your best bet.

Return the fast services are at 17 and 47.

From the north connections from Milton Keynes at :00 :05 :30 :35 take 11 minutes.