

# Old Barn Tea Rooms

Did you know that the concept of a tea break originated when staff started at work at five or six in the morning meaning bosses needed to provide breaks by mid-morning and mid-afternoon?

So, seeking similar relaxation, this month Christopher Fisher goes in search of tea in Wantage.

## WALKING INFORMATION:

Minimum two-hour hike.

Be careful on A338 and B4494.

1. The walk starts at The Boar's Head, Church Street, Ardington. Leave the pub onto Church Street and turn left. You will soon meet a junction with Well Street and turn left again.
2. Walk straight ahead until you meet a footpath leaving to your right. Take this: the footpath will also bend to the left. The footpath will travel away from Ardington, bend to the left and later to the right. The track will also pass by Home Farm, Ardington Mill and Barton House.
3. The track will link to an unmarked minor road in West Lockinge. Turn left here, walk straight ahead until you meet a minor road leaving to your right. Take this.
4. The road will pass by a carpark to your immediate left. When you reach a minor road, Goddards Road leaving to your left, take this.
5. In a few minutes the road will pass by Goddard's Barn on the left. Soon after this a minor road leaves on your left. Do not take this.
6. Instead, continue on to a minor road leaving to your right. Take this and walk on until you reach a junction with the B494, Chainhill Road. Turn right onto the B494. The road will bend to the left and will then travel straight ahead.
7. Take the first footpath leaving to your left. Walk straight ahead until the path joins a minor road. Turn right, walk straight ahead, then turn left, and walk on passing by Wantage Field and continue on until you reach a junction with the A338, Manor Road. Turn left, passing by Spike Lodge Farm, a road directed to The Downs and a further minor road which are all on your left. When you come to Court Hill Road on your right, take this. Follow the road until you reach The Court Hill Centre on your right. This is where the Barn is located and will be signposted from the entrance.



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8. After your plate is only left with crumbs, return to the A338. Turn right walking along Manor Road until you reach a minor road leaving to the left named The Ridgeway.
9. You will pass by Black Bushes Barn and Whitehouse Farm which are all located on your left. The road will bend to the left and will cross a footpath junction. Turn right onto the path. You will pass by a footpath and Lattin Down Kiln to your right. Keep to the main track and you will connect to a minor road. The minor road will lead you to a junction with the B4494, Chainhill Road.
10. Turn left onto the main road and walk straight ahead ignoring a carpark, minor roads on your left and right. Continue onto the next minor road leaving to your right: take this.
11. The road will lead you to a junction with Goddard's Road. Turn left here. When you reach a minor road leaving on your right, close to Goddard's Barn, turn right onto it. Walk straight ahead and go straight ahead at the crossroads.



12. You will pass by Bitham Farm immediately on your right. The road will then turn left and then turn right and pass by Betterton Farm on your left.
13. When you meet a road junction with Coldharbour Road turn left. You will pass by Betterton Cottages on your right. You will also keep Betterton Brook to your left. When you meet a minor road junction, turn left, but take the first right.
14. The road will keep Moonlight Barn to your right; ignore a minor road leaving to your right but go straight ahead. The road will then turn left and then turn right as it progresses towards Ardington.
15. Ignore a road leaving to your right directed to Sheephouse Farm but continue on as the street name becomes Well Street. The road should take you into the centre of the village. When you meet Church Street, turn right and you will return to your starting point.