

number 06

TOP 10 AFTERNOON TEAWALKS

fresh as a daisy

Walking towards Number 06, Christopher Fisher finds
Sonning Common's best kept secret...

WALKING INFORMATION:

A fifty minute easily navigable walk through
tranquil surroundings.

1. The walk starts outside The New Inn in Kidmore End. The pub is on Chalkhouse Green Road, to the right of the church of St John The Baptist and opposite Kidmore End Primary School. Crossover Chalkhouse Green Road, where immediately opposite you is a footpath. Take this.
2. The footpath will connect to a minor road. Cross over the road, where you will find the footpath continuing. The footpath will travel through Holly Tree Farm and will lead you to Kennylands Road. Turn left here and walk straight into Sonning Common.
3. Walk straight ahead until you meet a junction with Kidmore Lane and Wood Lane. Turn right onto Wood Lane.
4. Walk up the street until you find number 48 Wood Lane, this is where Fresh As A Daisy is located. This café is a place to relax your weary legs. (It may be more relaxing than a spa!) If it is a nice day, and not too cold for February, there is a great place to have a tea picnic later on in the route, so the choice is simply... inside or out?
5. If you decide to make it an afternoon tea picnic, or when you are ready for fresh air, leave the café, walking straight ahead. Once you have passed The Post Office, look out for a road leaving to your left, Woodlands Road: take this.
6. Go straight ahead, ignoring Baskerville Road and Orchard Avenue, both leaving on your left. After Orchard Avenue, you will find a minor road leaving to your left. Take this.
7. Take the footpath that is located at the end of the no-through road. The path will cross Sonning Common, a great place for an afternoon tea picnic and some people-watching! During the Civil War, Sonning Common was located on the route between Reading, occupied by the Parliamentarians, and Oxford, which was where the King's headquarters were. Around the end of the war, in 1647, the King was imprisoned in Caversham House in the village but was allowed out to play bowls at a local inn, in Collins Green, now called the King Charles Head!
8. If you chose the picnic option, make sure you throw away the rubbish in a bin before carrying on with the walk. The footpath will skirt around the outside of a building and minor road before connecting to Gallowstree Road.
9. Turn left here. Ignore two turnings to the right, Woodside Lane and Hearn's Lane, and one to the left, Reade's Lane. Take the second turning on the left, Hazelmoo Lane.
10. Walk straight ahead, passing by Coldnorton Wood on your right. About half-way down the road you will find a footpath leaving to your right, also positioned in the middle of the edge of the wood. Take this.
11. The footpath will go straight through the wood, connecting you to Wood Lane (another one).
12. Turn left here, ignoring three roads, two unnamed streets to your right and Craysleaze to your left. Instead, walk into the centre of Kidmore End. At the crossroads, cross over onto Chalkhouse Green Road and return to your starting point at The New Inn. Classy and cosy, the pub is one of the area's finest. You may have left Sonning Common full-up, but as soon as you walk through The New Inn's doors the aroma of home-cooked food will make your mouth water. So, don't be surprised if your stay here is longer than for just a drink!



CREDIT: John V Nicholls
The Milestone Society

Snapshot of Sonning Common
in summer with oilseed rape.
CREDIT: Ian Townsend

Fresh as a Daisy: 0118 972 4061