

# Hartwell House, Aylesbury

AS our tea walk series continues, Christopher Fisher explains why Hartwell House is a great place for a cuppa: it's a Jacobean and Georgian treat...



MAP: James Heppell

Hartwell House



## WALKING INFORMATION:

**An easy two hour walk, do be careful however when crossing and walking along the A4128..**

1. The walk starts outside The Harrow pub in Bishopstone. Leave the pub, turn right onto Bishopstone Road. If you pass by a church on your left, you have taken the wrong direction from the pub.
2. Follow the road, ignoring two footpaths leaving to your left. Instead, continue on passing by Alwyn Lawn House and walk on until you meet a crossroads. Turn left here.
3. Walk straight ahead, but look out for a footpath leaving to your right. Once you meet this, take the footpath which leads away from the road in the direction of Stone village. The footpath will pass by Stone House on your right.

4. You will take a right turn and the path will run beside a minor road before connecting to Bishopstone Road. The village name has Saxon origins and it is likely to be associated with a boundary stone that once stood here. The settlement is also known for the Prisoner of War camp that once stood nearby, during World War Two.
5. Turn left onto Bishopstone Road, walk straight ahead until you meet a junction with Oxford Road. When it is safe to do so, cross over the A418 and move onto Eythorpe Road. You will soon pass by Stone's Methodist Church Hall, on your right.
6. Follow the road ahead, ignoring two minor roads leaving to your right. One will be signposted to a cemetery. Continue on until you meet a footpath leaving to your right, take this.

7. The footpath will bend slightly to the left, crossover a stream as it travels straight ahead, will bend right, and then will go straight ahead. You will soon find a footpath leaving to your right, ignore this, and continue on to a footpath crossroads.
8. Go straight ahead here, passing by Lower Hartwell Farm to your right. Continue on until you reach a minor road junction. Turn right, walk straight ahead towards Oxford Road.
9. At the Oxford road junction turn left and walk carefully along the road passing by Portway Road, a pub, and Sedrup Lane to your right. The road will bend to the left, progress along a stretch of road known as Beech Walk, and lead you to Hartwell House which will soon be on your left. The house is owned by the National Trust and is surrounded by beautiful parkland. To make the house even more spectacular is a romantic ruined church, a bridge, a lake and scattered follies which are all located in the grounds.
10. Once you have crammed in as many cakes as possible, leave the house, turning right, walk carefully along the road, until you meet Sedrup Lane leaving on your left. Take this.
11. Follow the road straight ahead, as it changes to a minor road, and connects to a footpath. Be careful here! There are several footpaths leaving at the same location. Take the footpath on the left, that runs straight ahead.
12. Ignore a footpath leaving to your right, but continue on, passing by Manor Farm on your right. At a footpath crossroads, turn right. The footpath will take you to your starting point at The Harrow pub. The pub is renowned in the area for great hospitality, superb home-cooked food and a great place for the community to gather. Don't forget to have a wee tittle on your return, before heading home.

**Hartwell House: 01296 747444.**

The tea is £17.50 (per person.)