

Reading Offshore Club

Christmas Walk

Sunday 27 December 2009

Meet at 1030

Park on road either side of Shiplake C of E Primary School. See map below.

The walk starts along the road towards the Plowden Arms PH. Pass the pub and cross the A4155 main road (Take care!). Follow the lane opposite until you reach Shiplake Church. Pass the church and take the public footpath to the right of the Shiplake College Headmaster's House. Follow the FP downhill (it is quite steep and can be slippery if wet). At the bottom of the slope turn left and pass the Shiplake College boat houses, then cross the lawn to your right to find the FP along the river bank. Follow the path along the river bank until you reach Shiplake Lock. There is presently a short diversion around works at the lock, while the lock gates are being replaced. When you reach a road turn right and follow the road until you see a sign for the Thames Path to your left (flanked by a line of conifers).

At this point you have a choice.

For the full route (go on, you know you can do it):

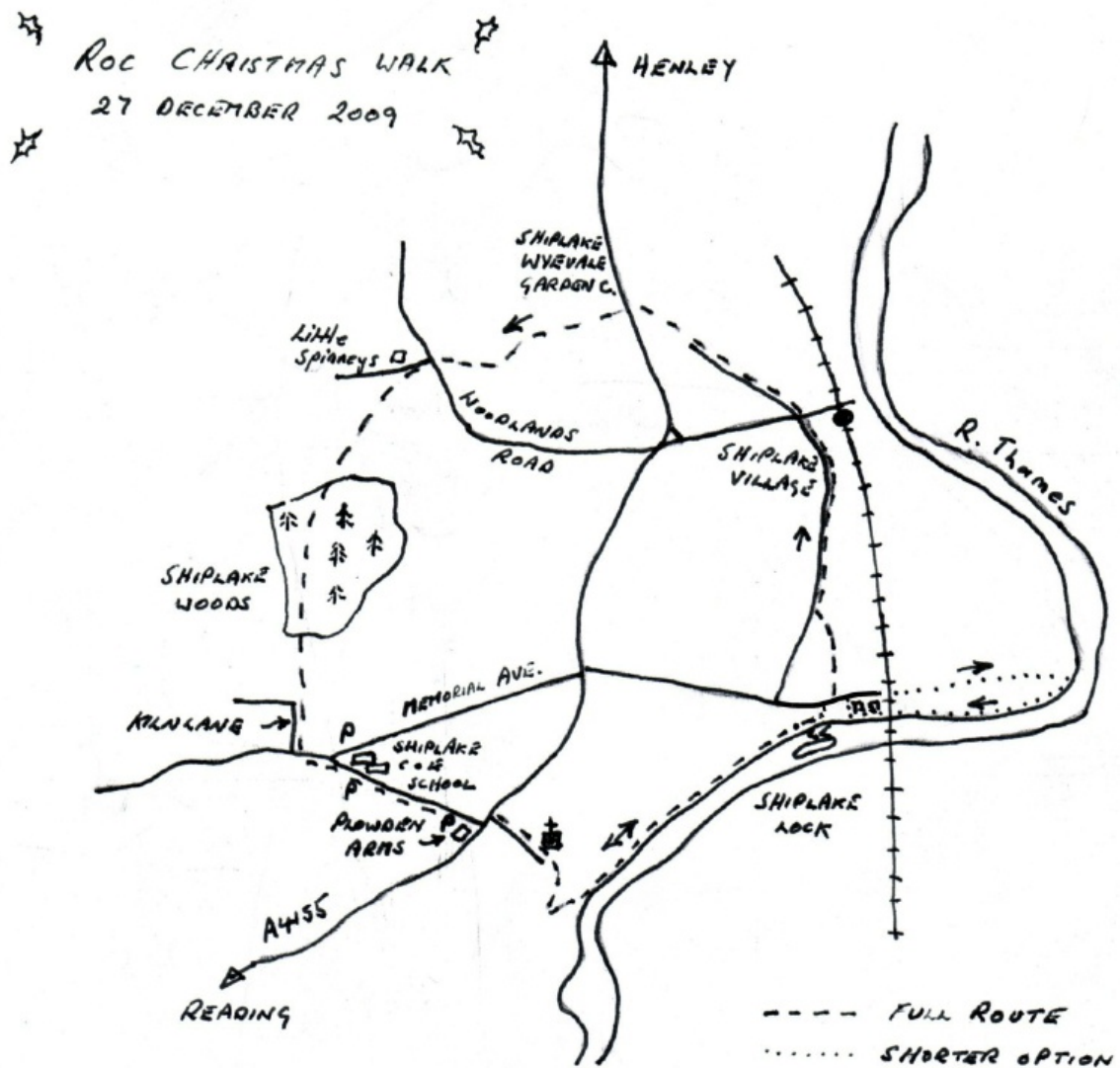
Take the Thames Path and follow it through a couple of galvanised wicket gates, across a small bridge until you reach a road. Turn right and follow the road, through Shiplake, until you reach a crossroads. Go straight across and follow the road past houses until you reach a FP at the end. The path goes between two fences, across a field of horses until you reach the A4155 road. Cross the road (Take care again!) and follow the bridleway directly opposite. Stay on the bridleway, up the hill, until it crosses Woodlands Road. About 200m past Woodlands Road take the footpath to your left, opposite "Little Spinneys" and follow it diagonally across a field until it enters woods. Follow the path through the woods until it joins Kiln Lane. At the end of the lane turn left and you will arrive back at your car.

For a shorter route:

Carry on along the road past several houses and under the railway bridge. Then follow the footpath directly ahead and keep to the left hand margin of a large field until you reach a stile at the river bank. Turn right and follow the public footpath along the river bank until you pass under the railway and reach a wooden gate. Go through the gate (it is marked with a public footpath sign) and you will find yourself in someone's back garden. Don't worry, you can walk straight on along the river bank until you find another gate. You will pass through several gates and across a number of private gardens, so please make sure that you close all the gates behind you. Would all dogs please ensure that their owners are kept on a lead for this section. You will eventually reach a gate with a sign indicating that you should turn sharp right and walk along the right hand side of a garden and then

pass through a rather splendid oak gate at the side of Rivermead Cottage. This will return you to the road from whence you came. You can now turn left and retrace your steps until you reach the Plowden Arms.

Please note: The car park at the Plowden Arms is locked until 1130 am, so you will need to park elsewhere until then.



The Plowden Arms

Lite Bites

Baguettes and Paninis

- **Chicken, Bacon & Melted Cheddar — £6.50**
- **Bacon & Melted Brie — £5.95**
- **Tomato & Melted Mozzarella — £5.50 v**

Salads

- **Chicken Caesar — £7.50**
Breast of Chicken, lettuce, cucumber, croutons and a Caesar dressing. Served with toast
- **Prawn & Avocado — £7.50**
Prawns, avocado, lettuce and a prawn cocktail sauce. Served with toast

Pasta

- **Spaghetti Meatballs— £7.95**
Spaghetti topped with meatballs cooked in a Napoletana sauce.
- **Chicken & Spinach Tagliatelle — £7.95**
Sliced breast of chicken, spinach leaves, tomato, onion, garlic & parsley cooked in a cream sauce with tagliatelle pasta.
- **Chicken and Spinach Cannelloni — £7.50 v**
Egg pasta filled with spinach in a mild ricotta and regato cheese sauce, baked in a cheese sauce. Served with a salad.

Side order of chips — £2.50