



Hash 232 - The Swan, Inkpen - 29th October 2006

Do you remember the Mag I wrote exactly a year ago? About dancing in the rain with a tall, beautiful statuesque young blonde? At 3.30 in the morning? Well bugger me if I didn't do it again the night before MBA Mike's Hash. This time however it was more indoors than out - it was sipping with rain; and I didn't drink half-a-bottle of Cointreau - though the chilled white port took more of a bashing than was entirely necessary; and I drank enough water to have a passable bath in; and I was in bed by 2.30. So all in all it was a rather more sober, fit(ish) and sensible TLK who set off to drive the 80 miles back from Horsham (passing through 5 counties, incidentally) to put in a dedicated and un-late appearance at the Hash. Katrina was also in a better state than last year - not difficult, in all truth, since she had slept in the car at Cadley whilst I was ploughing through the mud and drizzle....

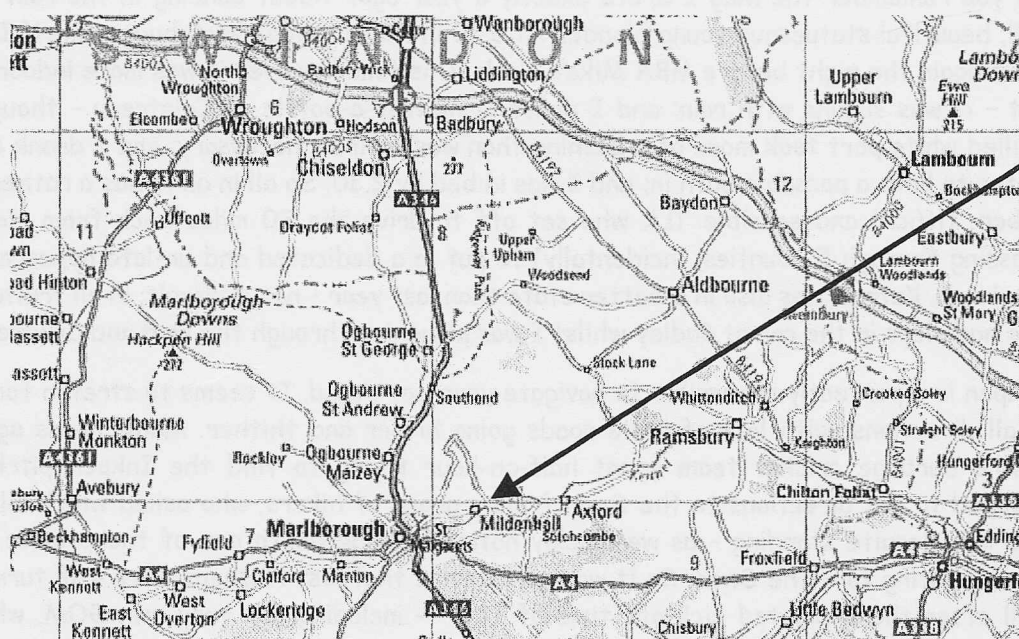
Inkpen is a perfectly impossible to navigate your way round. It seems to stretch for miles in all directions, with lots of little roads going hither and thither. Many moons ago, the entire Burbage cricket team spent half-an-hour trying to find the Inkpen pitch. K&I stopped to get directions to the Swan from a group of hikers, who asked which village it was in - despite standing - as we quickly noticed - underneath one of those little brown signs pointing to - The Swan. So it was no surprise that lost Hashers were still turning up well after the appointed kick-off time of 11.11 - including our very own GOM, who had originally turned up early - but with only his slippers to run in... and Brian the Bold and Linda, who turned up even later.

After some incomprehensible gibberish about fishhooks and other innovative flour signs from our Hare (who isn't here today, so I can say what I like), we eventually set off at 11.16 prompt, and after a couple of bad (i.e. correct) calls at checks, through no fault of my own, I immediately found myself in The Lead. So shocked was I at this ghastly turn of events that I promptly slipped over - turning my ankle in the process - and then ran down a false trail. To my intense relief, I was thereafter in my rightful place at the very back.

Spending a night half-cut on an under-inflated rubber bed, having run 4 miles the day before with daughter Becky - just in case we didn't make it to the Hash - is poor preparation for a decent outing, and K&I have to confess that we didn't turn in a particularly spectacular performance. However, it was a glorious, globally-warmed late autumn day, the leaves glowing golden-red, and the trail led through ancient coppiced pathways, up and down chalk by-ways, through fields of curious cows and horses, across the many roads and streams which encircle Inkpen, past crooked red-tiled homesteads and the very occasional dob of flour.

Eschewing (good word!) the XS and even the S trail, it was 90 minutes before we staggered back to the pub - almost overtaking Major Phil and 'Totty' (I'm sure she has a Proper name), who had run 3 times round Inkpen looking for the pub. A brisk rub-down - and a chat with dear Terry, who loyally turned up to say Hallo, seemingly without making it up the slope to the pub - to sit in the sunshine with Maurice, Andrea and daughters. GOM made a moving speech of highly-justified thanks to MBA Mike for a simply splendid trail, the Major was awarded the Order of the Horn with bar - Bernadette - and after everyone had gone, Brian the Bold and Lovely Linda turned up - minus sunglasses. But with no convincing explanation of how they were lost....

Advance notice - the Boxing Day Hash - courtesy of Princess Margaret and Duke Dave - will be in traditional fancy dress. It seems there is a theme this year - Cops and Robbers. You have been warned!



Second Coming Hash Runs

233 - 12th Nov - The Rose & Crown, Ashbury - Katrina

234 - 28th Nov - The Horseshoe, Mildenhall - GOM

235 - 10th Dec - The Buggers Arms - Andrew

236 - 26th Dec (Boxing Day, Tuesday!) - Keepers Arms, Quenington -
Princess Margaret & Duke Dave

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bigger's Arms is please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672 521064; email jer@xyz.port995.com or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email keith@griffins.co.uk - website kvhash.mysite.orange.co.uk