



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 281- 17th August 2008 - The Swan at Wilton. Scribe - Mike

Every now and again everything that is good about hashing comes together to make a glorious whole - and so it was this summers day in the heart of Wiltshire. The weather was perfect - bright sunshine with cumulous scudding across a blue sky and a gentle breeze to keep the temperature at exactly the right level for running - delightful countryside - a proper pub that sells proper beer and a trail laid by a master craftsman (before you take this old flannel too seriously remember who's writing it) - but It was a really lovely day and our Kennet Valley is always a delight to run in. There were lots of hashers to enjoy it too - regulars GOM Jeremy and Pauline and Clive and Jacky and Ray and Margaret with friend Sian and her grandson Max and Linda - and we had the pleasure of special guest appearances from Iain and Laura and Ray and, a bit later - Jenny. There were five new hashers - Jeremy's son Sebastian (who looks like a real runner like his dad), friends of mine John and Vivienne and Andy and Jacqui who are friends of Laura's from Guernsey.

So, a great jolly mob of hashers galloped off down the middle of the village, past the duck pond and on to the long/short divide. A slight irritation here as some half-wit had scuffed out the 'L' and 'S' but we soon sorted that out and the walkers set off across a field and the runners on up the road. Usually the runners are in front of the walkers and they just follow the kicked out circles but today the walkers were in front for a while and had to find the trail themselves. They found the trail extremely well however; they enjoyed the challenge and nobody got lost. Meanwhile the runners picked up the trail at the top of the village which led down a muddy track to a heavily overgrown bridge over a stream - you have never seen so many stinging nettles - then up a steep field of long grass to a road and right to the canal tow path and past the Crofton Beam Engine looking magnificently Victorian in the sunshine. Young Max was in front at this stage closely followed by Iain and Clive and Ray with the rest spread out behind. There was a short run along the canal and then right past the tree-lined lake that provides the head of water for the canal and up to the point where the walkers had branched off. Back to the canal along a stony track with lots of false trails tempting them away and then right towards Great Bedwyn along that lovely bit of the towpath. Then up the hill into the woods on Wilton Brail. Here it was muddy; people sinking up to their ankles in a series of bogs - all part of the enjoyment of hashing - and then out to open fields where you could see half of Wiltshire lit up in the sunshine. That was just before the finish and everybody galloped down the last bit to the pub on the road feeling inspired. The front group of runners (which included Iain who had decided not to go off on a frolic of his own today) arrived back just on the hour and the walkers and back markers about 10 minutes later - so that was alright.

We all sat in the garden afterwards and chatted and GOM thanked the hare for a nice trail and the sun shone and it was very pleasant.

ON ONs

282	31 st Aug 08	The True Heart Bishopstone	Kevin and Anne
283	14 th Sep 08	The Old Crown at Ogbourne St George	Laura and Iain
284	28 th Sep 08	The Crown at Aldbourne	Brian
285	12 th Oct 08	The Wheatsheaf Chilton Foliat	GOM
286	26 th Oct 08	Ramsbury Brewery - near Ramsbury	GOM *

*Combined hash with North Wilts and Churn Valley Hashes from the brewery (directions to follow) Big après with a hog roast and excellent beer. Grand Old Master (GOM Jeremy) - 01672 521064 or email jer@xyz.port995.com. The Late Keith Mitchell 01264 850841 - email keith@griffins.co.uk HashWeb site - kvhash.bravehost.com