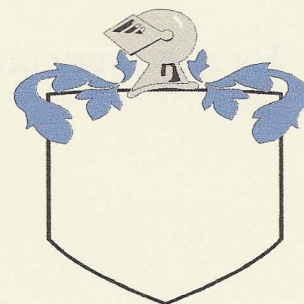


KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Hash 299: 26th April 2009 (Scribe: Kathy)
THE ROSE & CROWN, ASHBURY



Sometimes it's right to remind ourselves what a magical landscape we live in, and Vivien & John (hash novices no longer) hit just the right note with their marvellous trail today, laid with both cheerful enthusiasm and precision - walkers and runners returning to the pub in synchronised contentment (no mean feat!). Very well done, and our heartfelt thanks to you both.

When I awoke this morning I just knew it was going to be one of those splendid hash days – there was a thin mist, the air was still, and then the sky cleared to a piercing blue with the occasional cotton-wool cloud, and a gentle breeze started up – bliss.

A lovely mixed crowd - including a growing “family” of assorted dogs - gathered at the pub, and the walkers got ready in record time (after checking their emergency supplies for the umpteenth time:- tissues, pain-killers, fruit, keys, mobile, sweets, more tissues, lozenges... and loo paper!). Then we were off, swept up to the top of the Ridgeway in a tide of idle gossip and chit-chat, pausing in awe on several occasions to appreciate spectacular views of glacial valleys, long barrows, fantastic tree lines and - as we descended - more pastoral, idyllic scenes dotted with cows, ponies, smallholdings, woodlands ...and an almost hidden lake.

As usual, the walkers (unlike the poor, save-your-breath runners) chatted about a huge variety of subjects from Annie & Kevin's “bellissimo” holiday in Italy, and the wonderful Square One Easter weekend ‘bunkhouse’ break enjoyed by Liz & Robin, to how the economic slump is even affecting employment at local schools, as well as causing real unease at the likes of Honda (not to mention scribe's attempts to sell new houses!).

But somehow, up there nearer the clouds on such a glorious day, you felt just a little bit more able to cope with whatever life throws at you. I know *I* did. The bar staff were cheerful and efficient, the drinks were reasonably priced too, and I returned home in a better mood than I started – the hallmark of a perfect hash.

Unbecoming* Hash Runs

301	24 May	Radnor Arms, Coleshill	Brian the Bold
302	7 June	Village Inn, Liddington	Maurice & Dave (we hope!)
303	21 JUNE	RIDGEWAY RELAY	Truly Mad People
304	5 July	Patriots Arms, Chiseldon	Jackie & Ray
305	19 July	White Hart, Oare	Jeremy - GOM

** Should have been forthcoming, but we misbehaved, came fifth instead,
and won an electric kettle.*

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672 521064;
Email jer@xyz.port995.com; Website <http://www.kvhash.co.uk/>

With wholemeal flour, or just self-raising, Navy Mike's so self-effacing,
He's the very model of a modest hashing general!

* * * * *

He perseveres and stays the course, he really is a tour-de-force,
He is the very model of a modest hashing general!