



### Hash 326 – Dumb Post, Bremhill 9 May 2010

The run took us across a number of fields and around the perimeter of quite a few others, fortunately with not too close encounters with horses, cows, pigs and donkeys. In the distance were views of the White Horse and the Obelisk on the hills near Devizes

Near the end, the route took us into a magical wood filled with bluebells and wild garlic in full bloom. This track ended in the garden of a private house, which caused a slight anxiety that we were trespassing. But all concerns were dispelled by the warm welcome of the elderly owner who confirmed that the pathway did in fact run through his garden.

The Dumb Post was an atmospheric country pub complete with a collection of hunting guns and a post horn, surrounded with stuffed animal heads of fox, stoat and weasel on the chimney breast. Over the bar was an interesting collection of Toby Jugs. Des drew my attention to one of Winston Churchill as First Sea Lord, possibly one of the rarer ones. Also in the corner was a large wire cage complete with a green parrot. The beer was good too.

Historic notes supplied by Des:

**Dumb Post** is a small hamlet containing an 18th century inn of rubble stone with a tile roof. It has 15th century origins and was altered in the 19th century. It got its name because there was originally just a post for a sign to the hamlet with no name on it. There are also other rubble stone buildings with timber framing and red brick thatched roofs present in the hamlet.

**Maud Heath's Causeway** is a pathway in rural Wiltshire, for the majority of its distance it is at road level, but at Kellaways (2miles away) it rises about 6 feet above the road through the Avon flood plain on sixty-four brick arches, as it carries a country road between Bremhill and Langley Burrell.

The causeway is the gift of the eponymous Maud Heath; a sundial on the spot reports that she made her fortune carrying eggs to market at Chippenham. She was a widow and childless, and when she died

***"in the year of grace 1474, for the good of travelers did bestow in land and houses the sum of eight pounds a year foreer to be laid out on a causeway leading from Wick Hill to Chippenham Clift",***

which was the path along which she had tramped to market several times a week for most of her life. Five hundred and some years later, the charity still maintains the path out of her bequest.



Memorial column to Maud Heath at Wick Hill

The Langley Burrell terminus - at Wick Hill - features an inscription in stone

***"From this hill begins the praise***

***Of Maud Heath's gift to these Highways"***.

Further up the Hill is a statue of the lady, erected on a high column in 1838 looking out over the Chippenham mud flats. The statue, in a bonnet and authentic plebeian clothes from the reign of Edward 1V, was erected by the great Whig Lord Lansdowne and features a poem by the critic William Lisle Bowles who was vicar of Bremhill at the time, which reads:

***"Thou who dost pause on this aerial height***

***Where Maud Heath's Pathway winds in shade and light***

***Christian wayfarer in a world of strife***

***Be still and consider the Path of Life."***

Our thanks to Des and Paul for organising a super Hash which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



ON ONs

328	6 June	5 Bells	Jackie & Ray
329	20 Jun	Ridgeway Relay	Jeremy
330	4 Jul	Cross Keys@Upper Chute	Jeremy
331	18 Jul	Marlborough	Anne & Kevin

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOM Maurice on 07887 608109

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