

KENNELLEY HAS HARRIERS



Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
343	The Black Horse	Wanborough	2 Jan 2011	John & Viv	Anne

A group of runners & walkers emerged bleary eyed from New Year excesses to meet at the Black Horse. Two new runners joined us today, Lena and Tim. Keith wasn't running and joined the walkers blaming man flu for his incapacity. Soon we were wide awake, David had been awarded the purple shorts with bells and he chose this moment to unveil his stripy underpants before covering up again. Something like the ones below??!!! (or who saw Jim Royle in the Xmas Royle Family special!!!)



John got straight on with proceedings but struggled with laying a circle, but it did, at least, look like a fine Christmas Tree!

We marched/ran down the hill to Hinton Parva and a wonderful 360° panorama opened up with views as far as Uffington and Lambourn and then we turned off along a path to the strangely named Bodyhorse Hill.

We climbed still further, this time along a bridleway. Poor Claire and myself (the horse lovers of the hash) were soon to be drooling profusely as we passed Badgerstown, a livery yard for very expensive event horses, the likes of which may be competing at Badminton this year (the place, not the game!!!).

The owner Miss Colthurst is a dressage judge and I'm sure I have a record of her comments on one of my test sheets, "a lovely partnership but the pirouette was meant to be performed by the horse!"

The runners continued up to Charlbury Hill to such a mighty 253 metres above sea level that there was still snow and just to prove it, Tim and David has a snowball fight. The route back down passed through the National Trust site "The Coombes", a site of Special Scientific Interest. A bit like the Great Rift Valley, just a tad smaller. I preferred the idea that the cause of the terracing was the lines of sheep walking nose to tail around the sides of the valley, not just boring old land slippage.

We climbed down further, and through a kissing gate. Oh where for art thou George Clooney/Kylie Minogue when you need them. We were back in the village and soon passing St Swithuns Church, which is no less than 800 years old. If you passed by too quickly you missed the traceried spandrells, the billet hood-mould, the saltire crosses, the pre-Urnes type interlaces, the braces from the corbels etc. Does anyone know what I'm talking about??? No change there then!!

We passed by the Water Gardens – did you know one of their specialities is floaters??!! (trust this scribe to lower the tone again!). No, we've not returned to Jim Royle, these are very important plants to provide shade and water clarity in your pond no less. Heaven knows what their 'deep marginals' are?

Once back inside the Black Horse the walkers were duly chastised for their late return – us chattering? - surely not! We learnt that our esteemed GOM was on second honeymoon – guys, that's just greedy you only got married last year! John and Viv shared their plans for the hash in February at Aldbourne but those who remember their last one will have made a mental note to bring a compass! Mike promised to return the horn next time and Lena was awarded the shorts – probably because we couldn't keep up!

Many thanks to John and Viv for laying an excellent trail.