



Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
352	Cobbler's Cottage	Liddington	8 May 2011	Viv & John	Keith

Well here I am scribing - all a huge mistake really - John was addressing the group & at some point asked "who will be scribe?" A stillness descended over the group & eyes drifted downwards...I wasn't really paying attention.....a fly buzzed around in front of my face & I raised a hand to clear it. "Thank you Keith," John said. And so here I am...

There was a good turnout on this special Hash - special because it was a "secret" hash that would result in a BBQ at Maurice & Fiona's home, & celebration of Mike's 70th birthday. All knew except Mike, of course, and Annie was required to make sure Mike got to the Hash start after everyone else. This Annie did very effectively, arriving 11:05ish, and enduring Mike's displeasure en route for making him late!

The weather was glorious and our timing perfect as we had planned for heavy rain to refresh the fields & soften the ground for us beforehand - which it did. It stayed sunny & warm all afternoon.

In order that we could greet Mike & surprise him with the BBQ after the run, we all needed to get back before him, and Margaret was tasked to keep him at the back, by fair means or foul.

Mike, however, had other ideas & set off at a cracking pace, a new man, refreshed & invigorated after his recent lay-up. Margaret was pressured to come up with tactics to slow him down. (I had Mike running alongside at the front at one point, a new experience for both of us I think.)

I suggested to Margaret she will have to feign injury or illness, a twisted ankle or something, in order to delay him. Mike would, no doubt, like a true gentleman, assist her hobbling back to

base. That should work. Margaret instead simply appealed to him, shouting after him: “slow down! I can’t keep up” & so he did.

Maurice & I ran together for a large part of the course, having a similar pace & having gone “off trail” somewhere, but the trail was lovely, varied, twisting & not too hilly save for Kite Hill (but that was our own fault).

Back at the celebration there was plenty of delicious food to eat, a great BBQ of sausages, chicken & beef burgers, tasty cold dishes & superb desserts too. Maurice addressed the happy Hashers before the desserts, wishing Mike a happy birthday & reminding the Hash that Mike had started all this when he formed Kennet Valley Hash all those years before. Thanks were due & given followed by another rousing “Happy Birthday.” Mike was a little overcome but addressed his thanks to everyone for a lovely surprise. Puddings were eaten & still the sun shone down on us.

Thinking all the speeches were done, we carried on eating & chatting, but then ... Maurice rose again ...calling for quiet...& then presented Mike with a birthday card & pressies! Forgotten earlier! Maybe the beer & sun had taken its toll on his memory!

We all had a wonderful hash & BBQ & thanks are due to Fiona & Maurice for their efforts in arranging the BBQ, John & Vivienne for a really good hash trail, & everyone else who contributed to the food & in other ways, including the local landowners who allowed us onto their land.

ON ONs

354	5 Jun	The Eagle @ Little Coxwell	Keith
355	19 Jun	The Blue Ball @ Kintbury	Jeremy
356	25 Jun	Naas, Co. Kildare	Naas HHH
357	26 Jun	Dublin Mountains	Jeremy & Maurice
358	3 Jul	Ivy @ Heddington	Des

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger’s Arms is please ring the GOM, Maurice, on 07887 608019 or email mspillane@appligenics.com