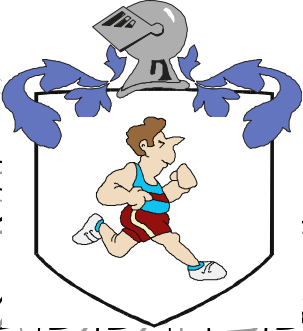


KENN  
HAS  
HARRIERS



VALLEY  
JSE  
HARRIERS

Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
362	The Red Lion	Axford	31 July 2011	Fiona and Maurice	Kevin

Long-time hashers may recall that The Red Lion at Axford dumped us at the last minute 3 or 4 years ago – and all because some royal personage or other was coming to lunch! As if we weren't fit to share a table with a prince or two! No such problems this time around – no royalty and precious few customers for that matter – at this attractive pub set in glorious countryside to the east of Marlborough.

It was a soft morning, coolish for August (though quite warm for this particular August!) with sun peeping through threatened showers as almost 20 of us assembled to hear Fiona introduce us to the trail set by her, Dee and GOM. It was Dee's initiation day so she can set her own hash soon.

Then it was off, heading east and then quickly south across the river watching for a black swan event that didn't happen for me though I gather that others did see them. A long, grassy trail then took us gasping up and up onto the wooded hill where the glimpses through the trees of the valley to our right were just gorgeous. Colin, as usual, set a cracking pace with Sarah and an increasingly svelte Ollie not far behind, magic shorts tinkling. Then came Dave the Doc, Tim and me, with Pickles haring round our heels.

The trail continued through dappled woodland and quiet lanes, very pleasant and flattish or slightly downhill after the initial climb as we performed a 5-mile loop to break out from the trees and see the view of the valley in all its glory with the river glinting far below and the clouds painting chiaroscuro-style patterns over the sides of the valley. I had fallen behind the leading group by now having "peaked too early" after my long absence from hashing and was trying to avoid being caught by the next lot as we trundled happily down the lanes which brought us down the side of the valley to rejoin the original trail and cross the river once again where I found the leading group chatting and admiring the river and (moments earlier) the black swans I had just missed. Pickles was swimming happily, having frightened them away, and I was ready to leap in and join him and soothe my hot and dusty feet.

We were back at the pub just short of the hour so this would be a Fisher-approved trail which everyone agreed was delightful. Beer drinkers were pleased to find Timothy Taylors' Landlord available on draught but initial enthusiasm was dampened, firstly by the laborious process of getting the till to work so that some beer could finally be poured, and secondly by the outrageous price of £3.50 per pint. For those with a sense of history, this was 38 times the price of my first ever pint, a mere 44 years ago! For those of you doing the maths, I have to stress that I was well under-age at the time!

Cath was so pleased with this "civilised" day that she later announced that it had been a "moan-free hash" to everyone's astonishment. Viv was so pleased, she said "I'd like to do that again, but slowly." John please note.

Ollie duly awarded the shorts to Cath for being an absolute soldier and not complaining, even once.

Mike told us the very sad news that Philippa, daughter of former hashers Greg and Kay, had died, aged just 19, and gave us details of the funeral arrangements in Swindon.

GOM reminded us that Hare of the Year (Hares to choose their favourite) and Scribe of the Year (Scribes to choose their favourite) were awards to be judged by everyone in December and presented on the Boxing Day hash (voted for by turkeys, in similar vein) so no doubt there will be a last-minute rush of would-be hares and scribes desperate to qualify for these prestigious and coveted awards. Oscars watch out!

Finally, grateful thanks were given to Dee in absentia (who is moving to Bracknell, apparently) and to Fiona and GOM for an excellent and beautiful trail of just the right proportions.

As we came out of the pub we found that there had been a heavy shower, proving the old adage that it never rains on a hash.



## Fourth Becoming Hash Runs

364	25 Sep	The Swan @ Milton, Marlborough	Colin
365	9 Oct	Ivy @ Heddington	Des
366	23 Oct	Buggers Arms	Jeremy

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 608019 Email [mspillane@appligenics.com](mailto:mspillane@appligenics.com)

web site [www.kvhh.co.uk](http://www.kvhh.co.uk)