



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 0069 – Sunday 08 October 2000 – Catherine Wheel, Bibury

Bibury, a location rarely recognised as being on a long forgotten tributary of the Kennet river. Perhaps we will soon be told that the Kennet flows into the English channel (Studland Bay?) but I'm sure that we can rely on the British teaching profession to ensure that we are up to the mark with our geography knowledge.

Anyway having purchased world atlases, we all found our way to the Catherine Wheel, which is located in the midst of the most wonderful countryside. We did our best to fill the car park to ensure that we had tables and chairs in the pub for our return, and then after a warning from Margaret to go carefully through a field with a bull we set off. Special welcome to Graham on his first hash (did he have an ulterior motive or this particular hash?) and to John on his second - although the first where John managed to actually start.

Passing through our first field with a herd of shetland ponies, it was then on for a mile or so of rolling countryside before the runners took the longer leg and the walkers turned off along a valley.

Footpaths were easy to negotiate and with Margaret and Dave laying plenty of flour, we felt this would be an easy trail to follow.

On we went, first negotiating a field of sheep who had decided by then to remove all trace of flour. We reached a track with trails in both directions – both appeared to be false and then we realised that the trail led us straight on across the ploughed field. The hares had us foxed there – well done.

Another field and then a glorious run down a valley until we arrived at the river for a re-group with Margaret and Dave. On along the river bank, a slight diversion into a wood, then off over the river following the trail. On it led us into a field, more flour, more flour and then nothing, nothing but cows, not ordinary cows, but cows with testicles, four of them, cows that is. So we had the flour and the bulls previously mentioned by Margaret but no trail? We investigated all exits from the field, then we investigated them again, in all directions. We back tracked – did the flour lead us into the field – yes it did. More searching. Eventually a farmer appeared – “Do you know you are on private property?”. Steve explained all – “We are hashers”. At the mention of hash he produced his shotgun and it was only the sound of Richard honking in the distance that saved us

from being hound fodder. Back over the river we eventually caught up with Richard, Paul, and John, the more successful hashers.

Soon we were back in Bibury, having passed through the field where Margeret's bull really lived.

Back at the pub there was much merriment, more eating than normal and the presentation ceremony where Steve was incriminated for lack of team spirit – the heinous crime of not kicking out circles.

Very many thanks to Margaret and ^{Da} Steve for a great location, a great trail and for their enthusiastic and liberal application of flour. We look forward to more of their trails in the future.

ON – ONs

071 5 November 2000 Railway Pub, Hungerford Keith M

072 19 November 2000 Radnor Arms, Coleshill (Nr Highworth) GOM

Future Trails

If you would like to lay a trail or find out where the next hash is please ring Navy Mike (GOM) on 01672 871374 (Home), 01793 481220 (Office)

