photography by alec carmichael

Coopers Arms Pewsey . Sunday 17th February. Hare The Late Keith

The drive down from Swindon on such a glorious late winter morning was exceedingly pleasant. I had called for Kathy on time and was therefore not doing my usual mad dash to get there on time. The warmth of the sun filtered through the windows and we both looked forward to the exercise.

Having had to ask directions only once, we arrived in good time to find plenty of car parking spaces. After the usual milling around Keith gathered us together and gave the usual address. He was he said being environmentally friendly in presenting us with a recycled hash. When asked how long he replied "Walkers three miles, runners about six and a half". The precision of the 'half' and the approximation of 'about' did not strike me as odd until many miles later.

We set off. The trail was a little hard to find at first and I was wishing I'd worn something warmer than the KVHHH T-shirt as the wind was icy cold. However as the trail became clear and we were run it warmed up considerably.

The countryside about Pewsey is unfamiliar to me but very picturesque and quite flat which made the running easy. The long/short divide was in a pretty little hamlet. I had become detached from the other runners at this point (okay I was last) but was happily jogging along.

The trail allowed for Keith to meet us at various points to ensure a) we had not got lost and b) we continued in the correct direction. I couldn't help but notice that on each occasion he was enjoying a refreshing beverage from a flask. A little akin to someone guarding an oasis and pointing off in another direction.

As one o'clock approached I was feeling quite warm as the sunshine really was giving off heat. Global warming is a reality.

Arriving back at the pub I was delighted to find free bar snacks and a lovely pint of 6X.

The trail had been challengingly long but over beautiful countryside. Felt thoroughly refreshed (after the pint that is). Thank you Keith.

I am aware the mag should announce the upcoming runs but my computer here at college is denying me access to the KVHHH site. Perhaps this is because of the word 'hash'. Ask GOM.