

Hash 278 - 7 Stars, nr Woodborough - 6th July 2008

TLK was particularly L this Sunday – almost half-an-hour in fact. It was all down to that book I was studying - to instruct us how to buy alcohol and an occasional snack in Portugal's local lingo, location of our forthcoming annual willow-flashing, six-smashing tour just a fortnight or so away. I foolishly took it and a cup of Lapsang back to my passion pit for a quick 30 mins work at 8 a.m., only to nod off until 10.35. Panic!! As it was a Hash Sunday, I had first to swallow a nourishing but hasty tit-bit, although most natural morning functions obviously had to wait for a bit – I was in a hurry, and had no option but to push off, NOW!

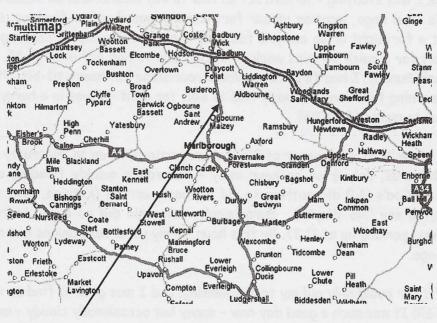
Glancing gloomily at a downpour of Biblical proportions, I ran to my trusty car to zoom off Hash-wards, only $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour away – but roads quickly flooding with copious amounts of God's H_2O did nothing to aid my hasty arrival (Katrina, btw, took a quick look, only to say "No Way"!!!). Surprisingly, rain, rain did go away, to turn into sun whilst I was parking up at 11.27. By this hour, all my usual companions had naturally run off long ago.

Loads of flour could only aid my trail-following, and I was glad to find so much – many thanks J&R! It was such a good day now – sunny but occasionally cloudy – and I found it was not hard to work out and maintain my position, as I had laid trails of my own – without doubt two, possibly as many as four – from pubs in that locality. So it was that I had jolly good fun loping along grassy tracks – although an occasional gadfly bit harshly, drawing blood and causing much harm, I'm afraid to say. And stinging plants, too, as I had virtually to crawl through thick, bluddy, muddy, clinging, almost tropical woodland by a small brook at Manningford Abbots. My skin was a big, glowing, pink rash as I finally got out onto a narrow path through a trout farm – at which point a thousand – no, a million fish, hoping I was going to toss in a bit of lunch, had to turn angrily away, as I was only passing by.

Past a calm churchyard and onto a road I was familiar with at Hilcot. From this point onwards it was a wholly straightforward run to a spot at which I thought my companions might possibly still await my arrival with a cooling glass - which could just contain alcohol. And I was right. Following a final oddly-winding path around waving corn, I could just about summon up a last gasping lungful of air to sprint back to my car. Out in a sunny spot, MMF, GOM, Lady M &c and - naturally - that kind pair who laid our trail (which I got round fairly comfortably without taking too long about it) - sat applauding loudly - possibly ironically - as I ran past in triumph.

During a glass or two (though many Hash folk by now had to go) I just had a short opportunity to say how sorry I was to turn up so ridiculously tardily, and to thank our trail-blazing duo, as big globs of rain brought a finish to our day. Driving back through a downpour, I thought that - as Hash folk-history has shown on many occasions - God is probably a big fan of our Hash!

btw GOM did his mag a fortnight ago with a worn-out PC which had all consonants working, but was lacking a particular digit – that 'twixt 'd' and 'f'. So what I saw – how about you? – was almost in txt. But look at his mag again, and you will find that his missing '!!!' actually turns up on two occasions... Why did GOM find it so hard? I had a similar hardship with my lap-top, but I did OK, didn't I?! In normal Anglo-Saxon, too – it wasn't that difficult. Sorry to boast, JR q:o)



Ogbourne St George

Unforthcoming Hash Runs

279 - 20th July - Barbie @ GOM's Gaff, 63 High Street Ramsbury - bring your own fuel, meat and booze - salad and Pimms provided

280 - 3rd Aug - The Old Crown, Ogbourne St George - PaulineandClive

281 - The Buggers Arms - Brian the Bold

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672 521064; email <u>jer@xyz.port995.com</u> or The Late Keith Mitchell on 01264 850841 email keith@griffins.co.uk - website http://kvhash.bravehost.com

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