



Hash 284 - The Golden Swan, Wilcot - 28 September 2008

They sometimes say the early bird catches the worm, but turning up to a hash 6 weeks beforehand certainly takes the biscuit. So our congratulations for outstanding enthusiasm must go to the Extremely Early Keith Pinder.

On the other hand we were all most impressed by the late appearance of summer. This was the second of 2 wonderfully sunny weekends and our hares had made the most of it by camping out in the publican's field for the weekend. This allowed them to be up in the mists of dawn to lay a stunning early morning trail. It's a shame that the peace would be broken some hours later by the On-Ons of a strung out group of hashers, kicking out the trail that had been carefully laid.

After our 11am briefing, with a warning about anglers, we moved off from the pub, just missing James who drove up a few minutes later. Margaret was dragged along by GOM to help catch up with the runners, who soon obliged by milling out an early checkpoint. John was running for the first time, showing himself quite capable of keeping up with the old lags.

Swanborough Tump appeared before us, but King Alfred had long departed, and nor were we obliged to scale its heights. Instead we had the delights of the Kennet and Avon canal, marred only by the anglers with their carbon fibre rods which they had no inclination to move out of the way for walkers, runners or cyclists. I couldn't help wondering whether the rods floated if thrown in the canal, or broke easily if accidentally stood on.

It was nearly back to the village, then another loop was thrown in for the runners, past lavender scented gardens and through a path of autumnal nettles and a small quagmire.

Back at the pub we sat outside basking in the sunshine, discussing past achievements, starting to plan for the next Ridgeway Relay whilst waiting for the walkers to return. Eventually they did, with Kathy threatening to wear her bikini next time it was so warm.

Many thanks to Ray and Jackie who did us proud, good enough to get a Duke of Edinburgh award for something or other.

Apologies to anyone who might have accessed our web site and gone to The Crown in Aldbourne instead. Luckily Malcolm doesn't believe everything that he reads on the web and had the sense to check beforehand.

Ramsbury Brewery - Directions - OS map ref: SU241734

The Brewery is an isolated modern wooden building roughly mid-way between Axford and Aldbourne - at the top of the most direct road linking the two villages. Do not go to Priory Farm in Axford, as that is the office rather than the Brewery itself.

From Aldbourne: On entering Aldbourne from Swindon, continue into the village. When the main road turns sharp left (signpost B4129 Hungerford), instead go straight on past the village store / Post Office in the direction Marlborough and Axford (please don't turn sharp right towards Ogbourne St George). After approx 2 miles the road turns sharp left and the Brewery is approx 200 yards further on, on the left.

From Axford: Coming from Marlborough, drive through Axford and after about half a mile bear left (signpost to Axford). Continue on for approx another 1.5 miles and shortly after passing the right turning to Ramsbury you'll come to the Brewery, also on the right.



Unforthcoming Hash Runs

285 - 12 Oct - The Wheatsheaf, Chilton Foliat	- GoM
286 - 26 Oct - The Ramsbury Brewery	- North Wilts
287 - 09 Nov - tba	- TLK
288 - 23 Nov - tba	- Pauline & Clive
289 - 07 Dec - tba	- Navy Mike

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

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