



## **KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

**Mag No 290 – 26<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – The Keepers Arms Quennington. Scribe - Mike**

This is the fifth year in succession that we have held our Boxing Day hash from the Keepers Arms and as always it was jolly and great fun. There was a very large crowd outside the pub – all wearing silly hats and chatting in the most glorious sunshine. Our walkers were very much in the majority as our runners have been decimated with flue and injuries and had it not been for Jacki and Pauline and John and Vivien it would have been very quiet on the long trail. Rew and I were once again walking, he with a still troublesome broken leg and me with the latest virus going around. We had a very short brief from Margaret and everybody ambled off down the hill to the first circle where there was a committee meeting with everybody involved in deciding which was the right trail. John found it in the end and the hash then started in earnest as the runners sped away and the walkers began to thin out. The countryside around Quennington is quite remarkably lovely and our trail led us along the bottom of the valley next to the River Colne which, white with frost and bathed in bright winter sunshine, looked wonderful. We were walking quite briskly by this time as the temperature was around freezing despite the sunshine. The trail was clearly marked and led up through a small wood and into open fields. Here there was a bit of a climb up to the Fairford road where we turned right for a short distance to the long/short divide. The runners set off left on quite a long loop, details of which I am afraid I am ignorant – the runners merely said how much they admired Brian for running the trail twice and that it was a good run – and we walkers turned in the opposite direction back across the fields to Quennington. As we approached you could see the village nestling in a fold in the landscape looking magical - like one of those adverts that they use to persuade Americans to visit the Cotswolds. The trail led us up to a few feet of the pub but there was a barbed wire fence between us and it and we had to peel off to the bottom of the field to find a gate to get out on to the road where the first circle had been. Into the pub nice and early, filling it, even before the runners got back and I was half way through my second pint by the time they arrived. Nice chatty relaxed atmosphere in the pub. Our GOM Jeremy was in France and so I thanked Margaret and Brian for their excellent trail, and Vivien presented the green bags to Jacki because she'd complained about the jingling of the bells attached thereto (I thought they sounded quite festive – but there you are). The landlord then kindly acted as judge for the silliest hat and Terry, with his imaginative hairpiece, won first prize and James took second prize with a hat that rotated. Thank you again Margaret and Brian for a classic Boxing Day hash.

### ON ONs

291	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 09	The Red Lion at Baydon	GOM
292	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 09	The Black Horse at Wanborough	John and Vivien
293	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 09	The Plough at Eastbury	Jacy and Ray
294	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 09	The Eagle at Little Coxwell	Mike
295	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 09	Buggers Arms	Keith 2
296	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Another Buggers Arms	Kevin and Annie

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