

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS Mag No 295 - The White Hart Wroughton. Scribe - Mike

Spring is in the air! - Hooray. We were bathed in spring sunshine on our hash today and we ran through countryside with snowdrops in abundance and crocus and daffodil just coming into bloom. This is a lovely time of the year and it felt good to be alive. The fine weather brought everybody out too and there were runners and walkers of all ages ranging from Elizabeth (who is 9) to old age pensioners like me greeting each other and chatting in the White Hart's capacious car park. Our hare was Keith who took charge and had us all running and On-On-ing by 11.02. You cannot afford to be late for one of Keith's trails. The trail led up a particularly steep hill at the start and feeling tired and unfit I dropped back and chatted to Margaret, who felt the same, as the younger runners surged ahead. There was Razor at the front (again) looking very smart in the green bags as he led us through a gate into a large field which dipped down into a valley across a stream and up the other side through muddy woodland. Emerging from the woods we carried on climbing to the top of a ridge at the edge of the airfield- getting a bit strung out by this time - and we stood and admired magnificent views across Wiltshire to get our breath. On over fields and bridleways where there were some clever false trails which brought us back to a group for a while but people like Maurice and Dave and Vivien and John have obviously been doing a bit of secret training as they were soon well ahead of us again trying to catch up with Razor. We came down a road from the high ground to a little village called Elcombe where we turned right into a series of fields with horses in. I was with Jackie and Pauline and Margaret at this stage and normally I am a bit wary of horses as I do not trust the brutes. Jackie however, who loves horses, went over to them and stroked their noses - and they did not attack us once. On across the fields and past Wroughton parish church to the pub arriving at the same time as the walkers and in just over the hour. I am very impressed with the standard of trail laying these days. Kathy arrived back at the pub a bit after everybody else but she likes to savour every moment of the hash and sees no point in rushing – I know what she means. The weather was so clement we all sat outside in the sunshine for the après which was nice. Jeremy wasn't there (a plumbing crisis at home we learnt later) and so I thanked Keith for an excellent and really well planned trail and Razor presented the bags to Kevin for some highly technical reason. It was a lovely day and a splendid trail - Thank you again Keith.

ON ONs

296	15 th March	The Jolly Tar at Hannington	Kevin and Anne
297	29th March	The Pelican at Froxfield	GOM
298	12 th April	The Fox and Hounds at Uffington	Pauline & Clive
299	26th April	The Rose and Crown Ashbury	John & Vivien
300	10th May*	Chez Mike and Annie (Highworth)	Mike

Our 300th hash will be from my house in Highworth . I will provide the drink – there will be real ale from the micro brewery in Lechlade, wine from the wine merchants in Wood Street and soft drinks from Tesco in Highworth – but will ask you to bring the food. If you volunteer to bring something please have a word with Annie to sort out who brings what. There will be games in the garden (croquet and boule) and a very relaxed atmosphere and so please do not plan to leave early. I will however turf out all those who are still there at midnight as I have to go to work in the morning

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