

Kennet Valley HHH

Hash 308: New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton- 30th August 2009 Scribe=Keith

What a good turnout on this Bank Holiday Sunday, when (predictably) the weather was grey, cool & even drizzling towards the end of the run. But we did not mind, running along a pleasantly undulating terrain for the allotted hour. Towards the end, we ascended "Windmill Hill" for fine views around in all directions including Silbury Hill & Waden Hill.

Apparently Windmill Hill was bought by one Alexander Keiller in 1920 to prevent Marconi from erecting a radio aerial on it! Situated on the higher ground to the north-west of the henge it was found to be the location of an early Neolithic settlement dated to about 3700 BC.

The New Inn is worth a mention as "new" it definitely is not;

The front part of The New Inn is about 200 years old.

The back of the building are made up of 300 year old, thatched cottages.

The following tale may be why The New Inn is called 'The New Inn' 'No one seems to know the name before it burnt down.



George Neate, who farmed on land at Monkton which bordered Avebury Manor, had dismantled his threshing machine during the November 1830 riots only to re-assemble it the following summer. On Saturday 4th June 1831, many of the buildings on Neate's farm were razed to the ground by fire.

An engine from Avebury attended the fire, but unable to halt the devastation of the buildings that were already alight, played water on the walls of the church as fire threatened to take hold from the edge of the graveyard.

The night sky was ablaze with embers that brought alarm to those in thatched houses as far away as the village of West Kennet, which is some miles away across the Downs. It must have been an awesome sight as the blaze in progress attracted people to the scene from as far away as Devizes, and the following day nearly a thousand people came from all over the county to witness the destruction. The local press reported that the fire at Monkton had destroyed the most extensive range of farm buildings in

Wiltshire, erected at an estimated cost of one thousand pounds, and that the total loss was estimated at between two and three thousand pounds. The report also mentions that the farm was fully insured; all livestock, machines ricks, barns and other buildings were covered; only tithe stacks were not.

Glastonbury Abbey acquired this area in 928AD and the Monks settled the village, hence it's name.

Winterbourne Monkton was settled to prevent the worship at the Stones... and to convert the Pagans.

The Winterbourne is the winter river that runs through the fields to Avebury where its meets the river Kennet and feeds the Swallow Head Springs at Silbury Hill.

Well, that's probably more than enough history...Here's the future.. (and thanks to Anne & Kevin for their efforts today in arranging the Hash @ the New Inn)

Forth coming Hash Runs

310	27.9.09	The Swan, Southrop	Keith
311	11.10.09	?	Jackie/ Ray
312	25.10.09	?	?
313	08.11.09	?	Jeremy

314 22.11.09 Cawley Arms, Upper Wanborough

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring

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(Maurice + Tim)