

Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers

Hash 322 The Red Lion, Castle Eaton- 14th March 2010

This was Mothering Sunday & a day that was (at long last) Spring-like. Sunny & generally warm, but with a chill wind from time to time to remind us Winter hasn't finished with us just yet. There was a good turnout of runners & walkers, though a few regulars had succumbed to Winter colds & other ailments or simply the duties of family life on Mother's Day. The Red Lion is reputedly the "first pub on the Thames". Apparently we hadn't hashed here before though it seemed familiar.

Mike looked dapper in his 'apparently' new trainers & smart red running top. (He later disclosed his trainers were not new but 'clean- as- new' due to washing his trainers in the **dishwasher**- God knows where he washes the dishes- the washing machine? - (This might explain why Mike & Annies' china is all in small pieces).

Kevin & Anne had planned the trail, though sadly Anne could not be with us on the day. Kevin promised us a flat trail of 6 miles (runners) and 3.5 miles (walkers) & this was the case, except for a slight hill near the end- a pimple really on an otherwise smooth landscape.

The trail took us along a lane for quite a long way before this petered out and we entered fields, running along field edges and close to the Thames. My absence from the recent Hashes was telling, & I could not keep up with Colin , Des, John & Jeremy, but I was ahead of the rest, so found myself running mostly on my own, with just the voices in my head for company (best not go there!). Fortunately the recent dry weather meant we weren't ploughing our way through deep mud, as we have been through the Winter.

The Regroup was towards the end of the run, & only then could I catch up on the leaders, who shortly after set off again leaving me in their wake.

I got back in just over the hour & met Mike coming in , having just run the walkers route.

The Red Lion was comfortable, cosy even, as we huddled in a small area near the front. The old leather sofa was a treat to sit in, if difficult to get up from . The beer on offer was good; Exmoor Gold, Sharps Doomsday, Red Lion Special (pronounced as very drinkable by several though what ale it actually was wasn't clear). Mike recalls the pub before the refurbishment in 2000, when the bar used to be a much smaller area. Since 1720 the inn at Castle Eaton has been known as The Red Lion but prior to this it is thought to have been named The Green Dragon. I don't suppose Mike remembers that, though. The building that now houses the current Red Lion was originally thought to have been a house, with the pub itself being located in a

small cottage somewhere in the village.

GOM made the thanks to Kevin for a very pleasant trail, & the hash horn was awarded by Colin to.....me, apparently for having the "fairest" legs on the Hash. In this instance, I gather (with some relief) that "fairest" was a reference to their paleness rather than some other quality.

Forthcoming Hash Runs

323 28 Mar Railway Tavern @ Hungerford Jeremy

324 11 Apr Blue Boar @ Aldbourne John & Vivien

325 25 Apr Horshehoe @ Mildenhall (BIG DAY!!!) Margaret & Mike

326 9 May

327 23 May Pauline & Clive

328 6 June Jackie & Ray

329 20 June Ridgeway Relay.

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where the Buggers Arms is, please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672-521064; email jer@xyz.port995.com

* **RIP Gene Pitney.** Apparently, it will take 3 weeks to make a coffin from oak for Gene Pitney, but only 24 hours from balsa. The marriage to Whitney Houston is off so we'll never see her as Whitney Pitney.