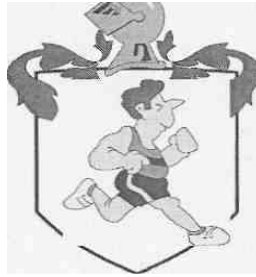


**Hash 361: 14 August 2011 (Scribe Kathy)
THE PRINCE OF WALES, SHRIVENHAM**



Well, I can hardly believe it's been more than two years since I last wrote a hash magazine for the lovely Vivien and John, a delightfully upbeat hashing couple and a real asset to KVHHH. As always, Viv greeted me with infectious enthusiasm and affection when I arrived early at the pub, which put me in a lovely mood immediately, and really sustained me throughout the hash... which was just as well, 'cos scribe lapsed into a bit of a 'moaning minny' when the ever-smiling - and confident - Viv led us stalwart walkers on the 'short' route through some very dense undergrowth indeed! (and I still have the scars to prove it!) "But it wasn't a bit like this a few weeks ago" said Viv ingenuously. But all was forgiven because it was a really lovely hash with plenty of variety and, thankfully, few stiles. But I digress...

When I woke up that morning, the first thing I did was jump out of bed (did I say jump?), throw back the curtains and check the sky and prevailing wind to make that all important decision "WHAT TO WEAR ON A HASH?" The last one I attended I ended up being far too hot and bothered (and consequently a bit grumpy - sorry, Brian!) by wearing winter-wear trousers on a perfectly mild summer's day.... My own fault entirely. Not this time. Short shorts for me... Oops... big mistake when brambles line our path! (I'll get it just right one of these days.)

But at least today's weather was just right as we meandered away from Shrivenham, and the trail followed various overgrown canal tow-paths (canal clearing work in progress, as evidenced by a brand-new bridge). We wondered why the bridge was built first before the canal was cleared, but Annie suggested it was to get the equipment to the other side easily... now why didn't I think of that? We also crossed a number of fields, chatting endlessly as we walkers are wont to do, and admired the rolling countryside and the amazing, billowing cloud formations (whose precipitation thankfully held off). It was very nice to have Caroline amongst us again to catch up on her news, and to meet Jack - so don't be strangers, please.

Towards the end our route took us around the boundaries of some impressive gardens and properties, allowing Annie and me duly to drool. There was even a picture-postcard small cottage for sale near the ancient church, but on reflection I decided the tiny windows and overhanging thatch would make the interior too dark for me (well, if you can't afford it, you have to find fault don't you??).

Back at the pub, we all spent a great leisurely hour or so together, eating and drinking. The food was exceptionally good (the home-made chips especially) and the staff serving us were really pleasant, helpful and cheerful - what more could we want? I'm delighted to say that many more walkers turned up this time, even if the majority were female, but it was a great turn out and I'm sure everyone left in a good mood. Of particular thanks, Viv and John, the hash was the perfect length too - I had to leave by 1.45, but that left me with ample time to socialise without feeling hurried, and to sample great food. Perfick. Thank you, Viv and John, for all your hard work and planning. It was a lovely hash.

NEXT HASHES

No. 362	Aug 28	The Red Lion @ Axford	Maurice
No. 363	Sept 11	The Daneway @ Sapperton	Margaret and Liz
No. 364	Sept 25	The Buggers Arms	Colin
No. 365	Oct 9	The Ivy @ Heddington	Des