Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2154
Date: Sunday 5th May 2025
Venue: The Bell
Location: Studham (Beds)
Beers/Cider: GK IPA, Sharpes Atlantic
Hare/s: Juices Flowing & Parsons Nose
Runners: 15
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 2
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 19
Membership: On a tour of Churches, a Cathedral & Pubs.

It was day of sunshine & overcast clouds, however both conditions came with a cold, biting, northerly wind that just took a slight edge off when out in exposed areas. For some, there was a lift over to the venue from Hemel Hempstead, though with just one foot in the front passenger side, the RA was exposed to some rather unpleasant language as Mother *quoted* Buster in saying "Not those two nobheads!" which as My Lil' pointed out was a case of "Mother Doolittle talks to the animals!"

Lemming was now in his element, egging on Mother, & Buster with the more insults on the way to Studham, he was also trying to get the two passengers to agree with his hypothesis that the journey over, with him at the wheel, was far smoother than when Mother Drives, but neither Mr X or My Lil' were going to fall for that one!

Not too bad a turn out, considering this was the first of the two May Bank Holidays & the colder temperature under grey skies. This week the Pack were joined by Fat Controller & Kisses Anytime, since they were not too far away from the venue. Mr X was welcomed with a "You never invited me to your 60th Birthday!" from Fat Controller, Mr X explained that there was a long list & not everyone on it ended up getting an invite.

An absent of Hierarchy meant Mr X carried out the Hash welcome, then it was over to the Hares, well, Parsons Nose who conducted the main Chalk-talk. There were mentions of Three Churches on route, a Cathedral, there was a Sweet Stop marked with an SS, which had nothing to do with 80th V.E. Day Celebrations.

Parsons Nose finally added that there was a chance for the older members of the Pack, to reminisce with some Frank Ifield song. [Whoooo? I hear the under 60's ask? He was an English born Australian singer song writer whose biggest hit was 'I remember you' from 1962! – Ed]

So, the departing instructions to the pack were "Turn right, head around by the Red Lion, the other Pub in this tranquil Village, & so Mr X began leading the way down to the grass common area, turning as instructed after he somehow managed to pass beyond the Red Lino, with its enticing, plump red leatherette bench-eats outside!

It was a wrench but Mr X was soon on to the footpath heading from Church Road & up by the Studham Methodist Church, then up the wooded edge of the farm field, behind the line of trees hiding the homes lining Swannells Wood.

300 Yards along the arcing north-westerly footpath, to reach a CHK at a crossroads of footpaths, here Mr X went wrong, temped by the footpath, sheltered from the wind, as it heads sou-souwest through the top of an orchard, he would find no Dust that way. On his way back he was informed by Parsons Nose that there was "No Dust up there!" At least he wasn't the only one to have gone wrong as those on the almost due north path drew a blank as well.

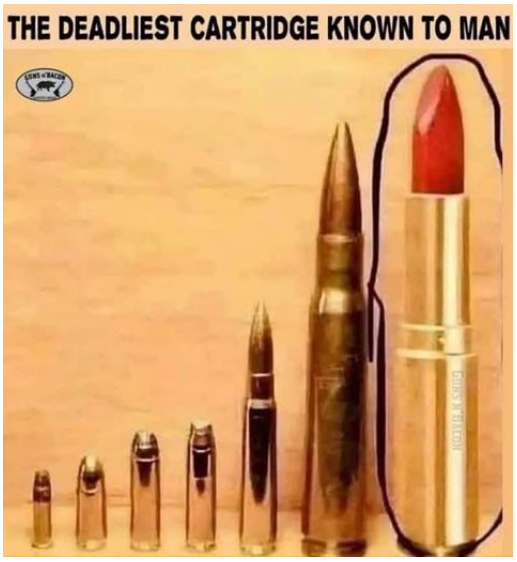
The remaining option was to continue north-westward above the field of Manor Farm, with Happy Feet leading the way until the footpath came up to the boundary of the Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin Church. Cutting diagonally through the graveyard & out to find a CHK on the opposite side of the wooden gates to the approaching Church Road.

Diamond Geezer, Mother & Buster all headed away southward down Church Road, they were quiet away down this when Moss Key Toe had cottoned on from his earlier failed search, he sussed that there must be another footpath to & from the Church. As Diamond Geezer, Mother & Buster were called back, Mr X shouted out to Buster "Who's the Nobhead now?" Buster ignored him, while Lemming thought that this was really funny!

Out of the northern end of the graveyard to hit the open farmland once again, a long straight undulating trot lay ahead, with Diamond Geezer, Happy Feet, Doormat, Moss Key Toe, Mr X & My Lil' all taking up the Front Running, with 3D, Slug & Sally in the middle order, leaving Lemming, Sludge, Fat Controller & Kisses Anytime to take up the rear of the Pack. [Whoa! Pebbledash! – Ed]

The farm track was dry, dusty, & stony underfoot as it continued northward.to pass through the long thin, east to west Longspoons Wood, Mr X now realised that we had none of the usual Hash-Flashes present today, with the absence of Milf & Kylie, so he decided that he ought to take a few pictures for the Herts Farcebook Page.

The front few slowed up as if they had lost Trail, but an arrow were spotted on an earth-digger bucket, perhaps their attention was distracted by the sight of a line of trees up on the next ridge to the north. Sawdust was



spotted a little further along the Track, continuing by Linney Head & up toward Holywell. A couple of kinks in the footpath with broad bean crops on either side before it came out almost on the end of the old Studham Lane as it leaves Holywell.

Happy Feet finally went wrong as she searched south-eastward into the village, she was soon back as "On!" was called up beyond the bollards as the 'sign-posted as a Dead-End' Studham Lane moves on north-westward, My Lil' pointed out that the cast bollards looked like a real couple of nobheads!

Diamond Geezer & Doormat taking up the Trail for a further 320 Yards to reach the next CHK, right on the corner with a footpath coming up from the southwest. Mr X went wrong here, & much to Parson Nose's delight, he did lead My Lil', Moss Key Toe & Happy Feet off along the eastern edge of the fence to the edge of Whipsnade Zoo.

None of the 'off Trail Keenies' could hear Diamond Geezers calling from further along the Studham Road, his calls lost on the wind? It wasn't until Parsons Nose arrived at the CHK that they were called back! At least they could listen to Happy Feet's tale of a time that she had walked this path before & spotted Black Wallabies on the other side of the fencing. Mr X said that trumped the previous week's Black Squirrels!

Another longish trot, this time being a further 490 Yards within the sheltered tree-line old single lane, then they came across the Short Cut pointing out to the fields rising to the east. The major consensus was to continue on, no doubt the talk of a Cathedral was still intriguing most, more so than the Frank Ifield threat. So, on to finish the last 170 Yards of the lane, coming out to a CHK on the edge tip of a triangular green. On the way the sound of the Zoo's steam train's distinctive whistle could be heard. [Kylie would have loved that sound, if he was there! – Ed]

By the time most of the FRBs had arrived, Diamond Geezer & Happy Feet had already cross the rising green, trotted over the B4540 Studham Lane & were spotted standing over at the entrance to the Whipsnade Tree Cathedral car park. Some hoped that this was the Sweet Stop but it wasn't.

The Trail was found on the Hornbeam Avenue leading into the Tree Cathedral car park & then amongst the large broadleaf trees, with sections of plantation laid out to represent the Nave, there were circular sections of trees to represent the Towers of the Cathedral, though it made it sound more like a Castle. The line of trees seen earlier in the distance is the Tree Cathedral.

The Dust seemed to peter out as the Pack ended up crossing the Nave & stopped at the Dew Pond Enclosure, which Parsons Nose reckoned was a Font? The Keenies began searching all over the various options, a lot of Dust was found at the base of a large cedar, but a grey tint to this dust had the Hash realising that these were someone's ashes!

It took quite a while for the Keenies to find the Trail leading out of the North Entrance, long enough for Slug & Sally, Lemming & Buster to catch up. Dust was found & Parsons Nose marked the Trail out to Sallowsprings drive, where another CHK awaited.

Mr X chose to search south-eastward & picked up the arrows, reaching the B4540 Studham Lane, where double arrows pointed the way over the green space, here a diagonal path cut over the grass to Church of St Mary Magdalene, this Church being a structure of Bedfordshire Red Bricks.

The Pack made their way through the Churchyard & came out of the southern side, where they were immediately met with a CHK. Moss Key Toe was looking at searching off to the east, but then in the 190 Yards distance to the southeast a figure could be seen waving a handkerchief, Mr X said it was the poorest Morris Side he's ever seen! It turned out that it was none other than Sludge waving the Keenies on to where he, Fat Controller & Kisses Anytime, were all waiting at the Sweet Stop.

While the Hash enjoyed the Liquorice Allsorts, Jelly Babies & Wine Gums, Sally & Buster were both let of the lead, all of a sudden they were zooming around in wide circles in the grass, really enjoying themselves chasing each other. Or, perhaps they were running around to get away from Fat Controller's rendition of Frank Ifield's "I remember You!" the reason? Well, it was all down to the fact that Frank Ifield used to live near the Church of St Mary Magdalene.

When it came to move on, the Trail would follow the footpath through the grassy field to a kissing gate, hidden by some abandoned farm equipment in the hedgerow corner.

Diamond Geezer led the way through to another farm field, Dust stuck to the edge of this until reaching a gate out on to the Dunstable Road, now the pooches had to go back on the lead as the Trail crossed the busy tarmac to run around two sides of the opposite field, the first short section turned around 120° degrees to the southeast, running along the bottom edge of Whipsnade Heath Wood.

From the tip of Heath Wood, the Hash would be led down a snicket between two homes to come out on to Woodland Rise. Now they were led around to Oakway off to the southeast, at the end there was a turn to the south & then back to the southeast & the short, dead-end Holywell Close.

Mr X stopped several times to take some scenic pictures [Eat your heart out David Bailey! - Ed] then he caught up with Moss Key Toe, who had stopped to admire a small scaffold-tower that two guys were climbing up to prune a very large over hanging tree in the front garden of one of the nice homes in this little estate.

Back on Trail, with Diamond Geezer, Happy Feet & Doormat leading the way to the end of this cul-de-sac, where a gap led on to the footpath running along the edge of Oldhill Wood. Out of the trees & over a couple more

bean fields to enter the northern tip of Longyards wood. Mr X now wondered if the ‘plants’ that Parson Nose had earlier mentioned that he had brought along for Mr X were going to turn out to be broad beans?

On this long wooded trot the Hash were serenaded by the loud sound of lots of barking hounds in the distance, some with booming barks! The noise of possible kennels became louder as the Trail moved slightly to the west, but thankfully the canine cacophony all died down as the Trail came down to the Dunstable Road for the last time.

Care was needed on the bend in the road, dashing over to start on an uphill section, on a southbound rising hillside back toward Studham, but the Hare had other ideas as the direct route would lead back on to cross the out Trail, so, as Happy Feet discovered, the Trail would turn on the top of the ridge. She followed Doormat who had spotted the change in direction to the east, then back northward for a short way to leave the field & take to a footpath & the On Inn as it runs right beside the Bell car park, if you had your eyes peeled

Back at the Bell, Mr X sat out the front, cooling down with an Ale, suddenly he was surprised to see Diamond Geezer coming up from the common? Mr X asked if he had been to the Red Lino & if so, what Ales did they have on? But it turned out that after the On Inn, he ran on by the side of the car park & down to the green, once realising his mistake, he just couldn't be bothered to go back the way he came.

With the Bell pretty much booked up for lunches, the drinkers had to move out to the 'Dog House' quite literally there is a gazebo out back named the 'Dog House'. Sally & Buster made themselves at home, them Buster found a toy in one of the small cat houses, now his 'Ratting skills' came out as he ripped away at it until Mother took it off of him.

When it came to tube Circle, Mr X wanted to get it over with fairly quickly, but trying to get the diners out of the warm Pub to join the Hoi Palloi, wrenching them away from their soon to be dining experience was a real effort, as Diamond Geezer would attest too.

Finally all were present & Mr X toasted the Hash, then he started with the Hares as the Pack celebrated an excellent Trail form Juices Flowing & Parsons Nose. Then we had the rendition of Frank Ifield from Fat Controller. Also out was Diamond Geezer for going the extra Mile, well 750 Yards by overshooting the turns to the car park

Finally, Slug was presented with his Half Yard of Ale, with engrave plaque on the wooden stand, for completing his 600th Herts Trail, which he did on the previous Sunday but was missed by the RA as be didn't see the book until after the Circle that week.

The Circle disbanded, a little later the Hash were joined by Mrs Mallet & Tent packer, who had been out visiting one of their Daughters. Once the gourmet section of the Hash had eaten, the remainder of the Pack moved around to the Red Lino, as Mr X used the excuse that he had neglected to take a picture of said building, plus there was a chance to try a different Ale.

The Red Lion was warm & welcoming, with some locals giving up the seats they were vacating to the Hash, so no siting outside for the Hash. Mr X could now relax & contemplate Buster calling him & My Lil' nobheads! But don't laugh too soon, dear reader, for according to Mother Buster has other names for the rest, including Numpties, Muppets & Bozos! No doubt Mother Doolittle will translate Busters growls for you, so you know what category you will come under?

Here the Pack enjoyed a couple of Wadworth's 6X's, as well as a great laugh, not sure what the Pub regulars though of the Pack & the nobheads?