

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

Run No. 2200
Date: Sunday 8th February 2026
Venue: The White Horse
Location: Welwyn
Beers/Cider: Purity Goose (& Not much of it)
Hare/s: My Lil'
Runners: 18
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 2
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 22



Membership: Meeting up with Junior & Drinker [Leg-ends in their own lunchtimes! – Ed] to drink the Pub out of Ale!

The perfect winter Month, starts on Sunday & only lasts 4 weeks

February 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Moss Key Toe's journey to the venue was a slightly staggered one, with a trip on the 724 Bus, then he caught a Train from Welwyn Garden City to Welwyn North Railway Station, which he discovered is about a mile & a half away from Welwyn Village, known as 'Old Welwyn' to the locals. Welwyn North lies to the west of Welwyn North Station, its an issue that has led to lots of people alighting at the wrong station & led to a few calls to rename it Digswell where it actually sits. On hearing this, Diamond Geezer took pity on him & said he's drop him off somewhere nearer for the Bus Service home.

On his walk in, Moss Key Toe was picked up & given a lift on his long walk, but it wasn't as long as Mr X's walk over, for he completed almost three miles from his home! Mr X's decisions to walk over was to try & clear out the cobwebs from the previous day's Gispert Memorial Trail, followed up by the Six Nations Rugby & then a Punk Band up in Brockley! [All self-inflicted, so don't have too much sympathy! – Ed]

On his way through Welwyn Village High Street to purchase a 'Get Well' card, Hash Test Dummy & Supertrouper, with a virgin of Debbie drove by as they searched for the correct Lockleys Crescent car park, just as Where's Wally? would at the end of the Trail on, but that's for later..

The gathering Pack now had their first chance to learn about, or be updated, on Pepé le Pew's condition, who on Friday Morning was involved in an accident on his motorbike. Due to dodgy road conditions, with no other vehicles involved, he is now in Hospital in Edmonton where he underwent his first surgery. He has broken shoulder, four broken ribs, a scared lung & damage to his knee, all of which sounds bad enough, but Pepé takes his riding very seriously & always wears the correct gear, so it could have been far worse.

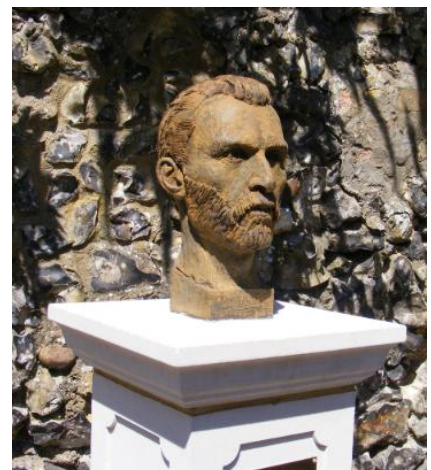
So, it was a bit of a subdued start as the news sunk in, then Mr X realised that Hash Test Dummy & Supertrouper had yet to arrive. Anyhow, the opening Circle was moved over to the car park entrance before Fliptop could call things to order, just as Hash Test Dummy & co drove in.

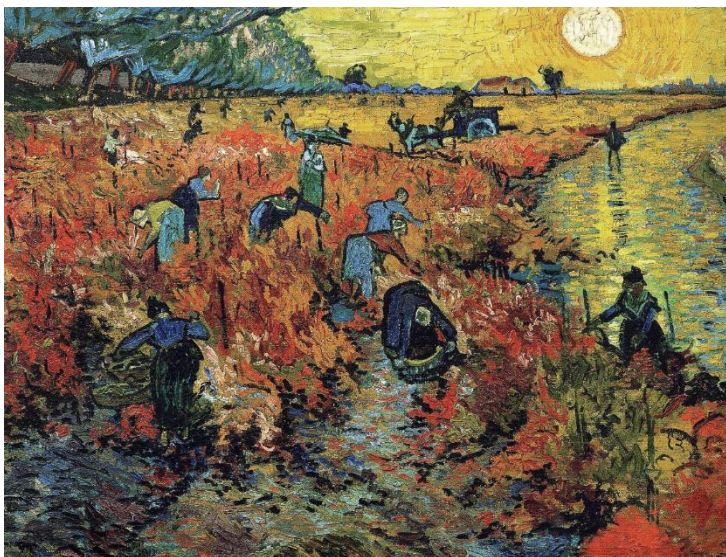
The Pack were welcomed & then My Lil' was called in as Hare to explain what was out there for the Pack. A cheer went up when 'Short Cuts' were mentioned, & again as the Sweet Stop was highlighted. It was normal Herts Markings before the Pack were ushered out & around on to Church Street, away to the southwest passing opposite the Rose & Crown, as well as Rose Cottage.

The Trail would lead down to the High Street to head southward, for the Keenies this wouldn't last long as arrows directed them away up Mimram Walk, as small narrow side road of terraced cottages that turns from east to south & then west back out on to the High Street once, more via the High Street car park, then the Keenies crossed over to join the Knitting Circle over the road in crossing the old bridge spanning the River Mimram.

Mr X pointed out the suitably rusty red bust of Vincent Van Gogh, by Anthony Padgett, on a plinth by the Mimram ford beside the bridge, he explained that Vincent Van Gogh, who was living in poverty at the time, had walked over 100 Miles from Ramsgate to London, & then London to Welwyn in 1876, to stay for a few days as his sister Anne Van Gogh at Rose Cottage. Rose taught French in Miss Applegarth's School, now Ivy Cottage in Welwyn. A couple of nights stay seem to give the good people of Welwyn a valid claim to the Dutch Artist & both cottages bear plaques stating the connection. Ironically even having painted nearly 900 Paintings, Van Gogh only sold one 'The Red Vinyard' in his life time, for 400 Francs, 7 months before he died.

With a crafty little loop to start with, perhaps the FRBs should have taken this as a portent of what was to come? The Trail would lead down to School Lane, peeling off to the west after 70 Yards to reach the first CHK of





the Trail by a side street of 'The Green', Diamond Geezer was amongst those who started to search the side street, or School Lane, all to no avail!

The Trail was a found across the road from the CHK, where behind a white metal pole barrier is a steep rising footpath to the southeast, this old back passage is squeezed in behind [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] the homes to the east & sports pitch opposite on Hobbs Hill. The 200 Yards climb on the boomerang shaped path would sort out the Keenies & the Knitting Circle as the Pack finally reached the level to take to Ottway Walk, here things turned south-westward to reach a CHK by the outer corner of Welwyn Sports & Social Club.

The Knitting Circle didn't get left behind, for it took a while for Moss Key Toe, Diamond Geezer, Parsons Nose, Tent Packer, No Eye Deer & Where's Wally? To pick up the Dust once more, they had missed out on the fact that there is a path running nor-

nor-westward along the edge of the playing fields for the Cricket Club, to the right the calls & hollering from the in-use football pitches could be heard drowning out any Hash calls of "On!"

After 159 Yards the Trail changed direction by the kids' playground in the corner, to head along the far end of the sports ground, running along the wooded edge in a south-westerly direction before disappearing through to a set of steps behind the Whitehills Centre building.

Care was needed on the short steep drop to the Whitehill car park, from there the Keenies had a slight detour around on the road, while the Kitting Circle were taken to the other end of the car park & then off down over the triangular green space. Over the grass to come back to School Lane, where the Trail led the Pack along a raised terraced footpath on the southern side of the old road.

The Trail dropped down to the road level to leave the homes behind & pass by the entrance to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital. The RA mentioned, in passing, that many years ago he had attended physiotherapy there, Paxo also stated that he had bad memories of the place when his father was taken in there.

Just beyond the small electricity sub-station, a footpath was found up the embankment & into the raised fields to the north of School Lane. The Hash now encountered the first section of Shiggy on the northwest for 100 Yards, where the way takes a turn to the west on a longer near 300 Yard slog over to a north to south farm track. A CHK there slowed the FRBs down again before the Trail was picked up away to the north on the farm track to the back of Linces Farm.

The Hare marked the Short Cut straight on over the farm track with Debbie joining Milf, Supertrouper, Juices Flowing, Soggy Butt, DWSS, Paxo & still subdued Mr X, Fliptop & Teddy embarking on the west by southwest over the rising field of stinky brassicas. On this exposed hillside the cooler wind could be felt, but there was no sign of rain from the overcast skies.

The going was still hard work in the slippery Shiggy for 750 Yards over the crop of greens to pass through a hedgerow, once through the thicket the Trail turned southward & at last there was some firmer ground underfoot the get some purchase.

Meanwhile the Keenies had made their way up to Linces Farm, where they would head long the western side of the farmyard & then out to a footpath to the west, this would be a long old wavy section of some 400 Yards to the west before Hash Test Dummy, Tent Packer, No Eye Deer, Moss Key Toe, Parsons Nose, Where's Wally? & Diamond Geezer reached a fairly straight section after 440 Yards. It would be further slip-sliding of 245 Yards to reach where the Knitting Circle had joined the southbound path out to the bend in the Ayot St Peter's Road, where the old Graveyard sits.

Ayot Old Church was not the first one to serve Ayot St Peter, they are now on Church number four! The Medievael one, built in 1282, was demolished in 1750 due to being too difficult to maintain, the second one was completed in 1751 but that only lasted 110 Years before that too was replaced!

The third Church was opened in 1862, being larger & incorporating parts of the second Church, & this one had a nice 72 feet tall spire, which on Friday 10th July 1874, being the highest point in the area was struck by lightning, the Church was largely destroyed by fire, with only a part surviving to become the Mortuary Chapel, but by 1957 the rest had to be demolished.

The fourth & Current St Peter's Church was built in 1875, known as a 'Victorian Arts & Crafts' Church & often ends up on list of best Churches.

So, a short walk down the lane until a footpath off to the east was found, up a set of steps & over more Shiggy to reach the other side of the arcing Ayot St Peter Road after 300 yards. The Trail now nipped across



A rare photo of the old St Peter's

the tarmac & in through the hedgerow to a small enclosed paddock like field, where at the opposite eastern corner was supposed to be a Held CHK, the Knitting Circle were now salivating like Pavlov's Dogs & then the Hare dropped a bomb-shell!

The Hare decided that he'd yank their leads, as the Keenies were so far behind, struggling with the slippery conditions, that he would keep the Knitting Circle moving! May be the fact that he didn't want to stop moving & seize-up could have been a factor in his decision, for he had been around earlier that morning to set the Trail? So, with the H kicked out of the CHK, the Knitting Circle begrudgingly trudged onward to reach School Lane, where they would cross this & enter a square of woodland

8am: "My body is a temple."



8pm: "The temple is now closed."



After over 300 Yards trotting & slipping amongst the broadleaf trees, the Trail came out at the bottom of a paddock, then it was out through a gate to rise up by a ripped to shreds Minnie Mouse on the grassy slope. On the 250 Yards on by the hedgerow, Supertrouper mentioned that Debbie has horses before reaching a CHK, which the Hare now hastily changed to the be a Held CHK.

Sweets at last, well one packet according to Supertrouper, who claims that liquorice Allsorts aren't sweets! Well, these cheap supermarket ones may well have been discredited as confectionaries, for there were, seemingly, no Aniseed Buttons in the packet!

Supertrouper was also mentioned that she had been out dark-skies star-gazing, spotting Orion's Belt, Mr X also said he also saw this constellation as he staggered home at Silly O'Clock! But it's good to hear Supertrouper is into a science. [Though Mr X has found his way home via the Half Moon, the Seven Stars, The Plough & the Sun! – Ed] Perhaps these starry nights may also inspire a love of Art?

Diamond Geezer led the way for the Keenies as they began to come up the hill, he, like the rest were looking a bit flustered as the loop was hard work. Mr X said if the rain keeps up,

then he'll be looking at his Hash Boots with the stud like soles for some grip in the Shiggy in the future.

At this hiatus in the Trail, Mr X told of a Hash regroup there, around 30 years ago, when the new Housing Estate which used to be the Frythe, it was once the home to a large Drug Company's Animal Experiment centre, it was maximum security with CCTV all around these parts, & the presence of the Hash was spotted so a Police car dispatched to see why the Hash were gathering there!

Time for the Trail to resume & off down the White Hill road as the Pack wandered down the lane, passing the farmyard with a few crumbling old red-brick out-buildings, then opposite the single row of homes the Trail turned off from north to east, here some took the eyes off of the ball as they continued on the wider southeastern track, missing the Trail leading through the old open gate into the crop field to the northeast.

Another hard work section of Shiggy had some looking like they were open a cake-walk struggling for 330 Yards, it was fine if you could keep your pace & gait but as soon as slowing to a walk feet were all over the place! Things improved as the Hash reached a small patch of rougher scrubby land, at last a bit more purchase underfoot as the path finally came out of one last patch of Shiggy & around to Tudor Road, what seemingly appears to be a long driveway, but is actually the access road between Welwyn St Marys School to the left & the rear gardens of The Crescent on the right.

A nice straight, gentle downhill 300 Yards to reach London Road, there the Pack turned left & headed northward, where arrows directed the way over the pedestrian crossing, where Mr X got some stick for pressing the button for those of the Knitting Circle who were not far behind the Keenies near the end of the Trail.

The Trail turned off on to Broomfields by the Steamer pub, the hostelry being named after the Shire Horse that would be physically steaming after ploughing up the steep hill from the village below. Hash Test Dummy led the way around in an anti-clockwise trot of the rhomboid shaped road, but Supertrouper left her dad to run this on his own, as she overheard Mr X preferred the back-passage by the Steamer [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed] as he knew where there was a path down through the wooded drop to the Hertford Road. Thankfully the Hare also took this route & marke dit for the Knitting Circle to follow.

On the northern arm of Broomfields, approaching the set of steps that drop fairly dramatically through the wooded embankment, Hash Test Dummy called back for Supertrouper to take care & use the Hand rails. Mr X told of a cautionary tale of a time when he, Rhino & Junior were with Drinker ascending these narrow concrete steps.

They were making their way back from a session of the village Pubs, to Drinker's home up on the hill from the Hertford Road. Having scaled the hights, they stopped at the top & Drinker leaned backwards & missed the railings, resulting in him rolling all the way down between the trees to the Hertford Road. Due to the alcohol consumption, Drinker didn't have a scratch upon him when they all went back down to get him out of the road.

After a couple of turns between the steep drop of stairs, Supertrouper waited at the Hertford Road for a 'Responsible Adult' so she could cross over, which didn't take long & the first group headed toward the Welwyn Fire Station, as Hash Test Dummy & Diamond Geezer followed the Trail down Parkside to Mill Lane, on one last loop.

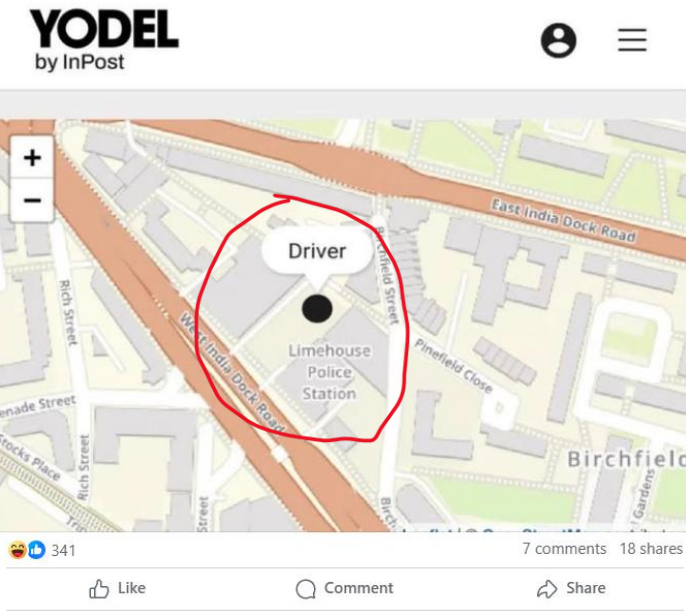
Mr X was happy to cut through by the Fire Station to reach the crossroads with Mill Lane. It was at this Junction that DWSS was spotted coming in from the High Street! While everyone else followed the Trail down Mill Road & to the White Horse, Where's Wally? Had somehow ended up at the High Street Car Park, where he couldn't find his car & so he txt Soggy Butt to let her know he was at the wrong car park, not to mention he had gone to the White Hart in the other end of the village from the White Horse!!

Mr X now pointed out to Tent Packer & the Hare that they have a better class of 'down & out' in Welwyn village, for there were two bottles of Prosecco at the side of Mill Lane & one was three quarters full, certainly one up on your Buckfast Abbey!

After a long weekend, some [Usual Suspects! – Ed] were resigned to a trudge back toward Lockley's Crescent car park, but then the Hare cheered up as, sherpa like loaded up with bags, Diamond Geezer lived up to his name by carrying around the Hare & RA's baggage along with him to the Pub.

The Pack arrived at the White Horse to see that Junior & Drinker were sitting in the front & looking out of the window for the Hash to arrive, like little puppies waiting for their owner to come home. The Hash sat at one end of the Pub, the 'Get Well' card for Pepé le Pew was passed around to be signed, Trashes were handed out & the Book signed. Some of the Pack were surprised to discovered in their quest for 'The Hair of the Dog' they only had one Ale on & in less than an hour they had even run out!

This would have some unforeseen & undesired effects with the closing Circle being put off, with no Ale to reward the Hare, but the Hash Cash [Who shall remain nameless! – Ed] decided that it would be funny to award the Hare an Orange Squash, the RA reluctantly agreed [He doesn't want to set a precedence! – Ed]



So, a short & brief Circle was held, the Hare was not a happy bunny, but did dispatch his Orange Squash for a good Trail, if a little hard with the underfoot conditions!

Juices Flowing was out, for Mr X had finally found her Christmas Present, he claimed while rummaging through his box of severed hands & feet for Friday 13th, but perhaps the real reason is in the Yodel Tracker to the left?

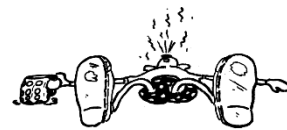
Mr X did say that he was relieved to have found the pressie for he was beginning to worry that he had not actually bought & wrapped said present!

The other Down-downs for our Virgin & 'Lost Soul' will be celebrated in a couple of weeks, with some proper drinks.

After the Circle, Mr X & My Lil' made their way over to the Rose & Crown, meeting up with Junior &

Drinker, after the latter had been to the Tavern to collect his Bonus-ball winnings!

Meanwhile at Gobbler's Knob [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed], last week, Punxsuatwaney Phil saw his shadow & returned to his Pennsylvanian home, meaning another 6 weeks of Winter to come.....



JOIN THE 3 DAY CHALLENGE!
Come on Herts Hash, we can do it....

NO BEER ON
FEBRUARY 29TH, 30TH, AND 31ST.