

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers

Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk



Run No.2241
Date: Sunday 8th November 2026
Venue: The Royston Club
Location: St Albans
Beers/Cider: Church End Hoppy Poppy/ Fat Boys; Wadworth 6X
Seasider: Rhubarb/Pineapple, Williams Bros Splanky;
Ampleforth Abbey
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 20
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 1
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 22
Membership: Paying our respects

Memorial Window
St Albans Abbey



Apart from Milf, Kylie & Cody getting snarled up in traffic, everyone else, who was not on Parade elsewhere in the County, managed to arrive in plenty of time, which paid off for the Two Minutes Silence. Fliptop was on Parade in Royston, representing the RBL, while Tent Packer was marching & playing the bagpipes at the Stevenage Remembrance Parade

Many were shocked that it was not My Lil' who was clock watching this week, but Juice's Flowing who was keeping the Hash in check & pointed out that the hour & Two Minutes Silence was about to be upon us!

Milf had earlier sent a message on that she, & the others, were having to take a detour due to the number of roads closed to Remembrance Day Services, another side effect was that the bus Mr X & My Lil' caught over to St Albans arrived really early due to its route being changed, which meant they had a 40 Minute wait on the cool bright morning before the majority arrived!

The Two minutes silence was impeccably respected, then Paxo welcomed the Pack to the correct Run Number, before it was over to Mr X, the Hare for the day. Normal Hash Markings, there were T's & Bar CHKs mentioned, as well as a Sweet Stop. He added that when setting the Trail he encountered a docile, but humongous pooch, bigger than a Shetland Pony, [Did it have eyes as big a saucers? – Ed] as well as a friendly old pug, who wanted to help him set the Trail at one point!

Before setting off, Mr X said that one person was 'Not dressed properly!", the Pack all looked around to see who wasn't wearing a poppy? Everyone was sporting one, but the RA meant that Moss Key Toe didn't have a Mosquito Poppy Pin, this was rectified as an official RAFA pin was handed over to Moss Key Toe, to wear next to his 'Battle of Britain Flight' Poppy.

My Lil' didn't move at all from the start of the Trail, for the nasty Hare had placed a CHK right outside of the Royston Club & like a Border Terrier forced to wear a coat he was rooted to the spot until calls of "On! On!" were heard from the southern end of College Road. My Lil' moaned that Paxo was also wearing the same 'Poppy Run' T-shirt he had on! Then as Milf, Kylie & Cody were decamping for their vehicle, My Lil' had two more identical Poppy Run T-shirts to grumble about, as Milf & Kylie were also wearing them!

Double arrows directed the Hash westward at the T-unction with Camp Road. The Camp area of St Albans derives its name from the fact it was once the home to a Roman Army Camp, in the days when St Albans was the Roman City of Verulamiam, which was granted 'municipium' around AD 50.

Parson's Nose, 3D, Toni, Daimond Geezer & now My Lil', who had caught up, led the way down Camp Road for a mere 100 Yards to reach a CHK at the T-junction with the north bound Ely Road. While Toni & Diamond Geezer started off down Ely Road, My Lil' led others directly across to the start of the gated access road into the northern corner of the Camp Play Area, where Dust was picked up.

The Trail ran beside the northern group of the Camp Allotments to the right, another 100 Yards on & the Trail saw the play area to the left in the green space. The Trail reached a crossroads of footpaths outside the outer southern corner of the allotments' metal fence. My Lil' was straight on to the correct Trail, heading away on the sou-sou-eastern tarmac path, here the RA allowed the Knitting Circle to 'hack it' across the grass.

Milf, Cody & his buggy, with Juices Flowing, Kylie, Lobby Lobster, Mark E Mark, Paxo, Secret Squirrel, Hot 'N' Spicee & Mai Lean all taking advantage of cutting over the grass to keep up with My Lil', Moss Key Toe, Parson's Nose, Toni, Diamond Geezer, Well Laid & Pimp, who were 90 Yards ahead & disappearing out of sight on the path as it turns south-eastward & runs below the separate southern section of the other Camp Allotments.

One powerful piece of TV from the Royal Albert Hall, Royal British Legion on Saturday



Around 140 Yards on & the wide tarmac path left the allotments & started out on the western side of the serpentine sections of the elongated green-space, here a CHK was found & almost instantly the Trail was picked up by My Lil' further to the east.

The Dust was set on short, stubby tree cuts of tree-trunks acting to bolster up the embankment, on the southern of the two paths separated by a low embankment with hedges & shrubs.

The lower brick path, being the least walked option of the two, was chosen as its out of view of any kids playing soccer, & piss-weasels who take a fancy to kicking out the Dust. Anyhow, after 200 Yards the Hare was surprised to see My Lil', Diamond Geezer, Toni, Parson's Nose, Juices Flowing & Moss Key Toe all milling around looking for non-existent Dust up to the north?

As the Hare marked the Trail in the direction of the east, calls came back about there being a Bar CHK, according to My Lil'? The Hare said that there should be no Bar CHK there & so everyone headed back to the east, where on closer inspection the Bar CHK was discovered to be a long, discarded sweet wrapper! Now the calls ringing out where "Should have gone to Specsavers!" [Other high-street opticians are available! – Ed]

The serpentine path would straighten out as it runs into the western end of Drakes Open Space, coming out on to Drakes Road, where arrows directed the Pack over the Pedestrian Crossing to find a CHK on the eastern side. Moss Key Toe, My Lil', Toni & Diamond Geezer were soon on up the passageway footpath through an elongated, dog-leg wooded strip for 200 Yards, emerging out on the edge of Hill End Lane, where a CHK was found right by another pedestrian crossing.

Buttons pressed & the Keenies were soon over to the eastern side, then off through the short wide tree-line to find double arrows pointing the way south-westward in Highfield Park. Weaving its way southward from the Pétanque Club & behind that the Lady Bird Nursery, after 260 Yards through to the Highfield Park Centre the Hash found a tree-stump before it, that had a plater cast plaque with a Jay upon it.

The Hash passed by the Outdoor Project building, crossing a small access road to the car park, then they continued on for another 280 Yards southward to the Orchard area, which was once the Orchard for the Hill End Hospital. From the CHK here, the southeastern fork was the one to take, with Trail leading down to Highfield Park Drive, crossing via a traffic Island to enter the western end of Winchfield Wood.

There were a couple of options here, westward toward Nightingale Lane, or, head eastward into the centre of the woodland. Eastward it was & the Dust would follow the semi hard [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] footpath. Around 200 Yards in & there was a strange marking that the Hare had earlier forgot to mention, a V-arrow for a view where in the southern side of the wood was a carved stump of a trunk in the Head of the Green Man!



Moss Key Toe had a slight diversion to admire the Green Man Carving nestling in the brown & red leaf-litter, as Did Cody when he, Milf & Kylie arrived at this point of the Trail, Cody was doing a lot of running this morning. The Trail moved on, with the Path turning north-eastward at the 250 Yard point, over to the right, of the two parallel paths in the wood, was a bench that had an old, dog torn, Greek Donkey-Duck! [Yep, never heard of one either! – Ed]



The Trail would continue for another 340 Yards, with the last few Yards turning a tight left, around to nor-nor-west, Sally was back on the lead as the Trail now came up to Highfield Park Road once again, with a CHK found on the other side of the traffic island.

The obvious way would be to take to the footpath/cycle way around to Highfield Lane to the northwest, but the Hare had gone back to the southwest on Highfield Park Drive, just far enough to lead the Hash up Honeycroft Drive & entering the estate to the east of Highfield Park.

A series of back streets would now be run, with the Trail heading off the northbound Newfield Way to reach Puddingstone Drive, large lumps of which can be seen nearer the Park Trust buildings, this also lends it name to the central lozenge shaped Park in the Housing estate.

Puddingstone typically occurs scattered across the land surface as isolated concretion-like masses in the areas of Hertfordshire & Plumstead Common, England. Large masses of Hertfordshire Puddingstone often occur within local Pleistocene glacial tills, where the glacial pressure forms a silica-cemented conglomerate composed of rounded flint pebbles & cobbles with matrix of fine sand & silica cement.



After a short, left turn, the Trail moved up by the eastern edge & then along the northern edge to turn off of the western side of the small park, now to head northward up the delightfully named Starlight Way, it would be a total of 600 yards through the suburban estate to reach Highfield Lane.

Double arrows pointed the way nor-nor-westward, taking to the cycle/footpath for 90 Yards to find a CHK on the eastern entrance to Monks Meadow, the small Park at the top of Highfield Park & home to the Millenium Maze, however there would be no going around & around in circles this time for the Hash, for the Trail was found over Highfield Lane, via another crossing, to enter the old metal swing-gate into the grounds of what was Hill End Hospital.

While the Keenies went on a trot around the western edge of the Park, as Short Cut was put in to carry on up Highfield Lane for the Knitting Circle. The FRBs would be led along the top of the soccer pitches, turning around the excellent interactive 'Village Green' play area, this has a lot of carved wooden play equipment. Climbing apparatus, rope swing blocks & stepping stones to mention a few.

The Trail turned northward for a short way to finish this 280 Yards stretch at a CHK on the T-junction on the tarmac path that runs below the wooded area below the grand looking, former hospital buildings that is now social housing. Sadly, the CHK was located by a bench that is dedicated to Suicide Prevention, with Samaritans phone numbers & a named plaque of someone who succumbed to mental health issues.

Unlike previous times, the Trail would not head out over the 'Village Green' all the way to Hixbury Lane in the east, instead it would head westward, toward the car park of the 'Ab Salute Gym' block, before a small loop was run up around by the local Spar shop, then back down Hill End lane, crossing over & then taking the right fork where it breaks away from the roundabout with Highfield Lane.



As the Hare marked the Short Cut up to the roundabout, he saw the FRBs of My Lil', Daimond Geezer, Toni, Moss Key Toe all running down Hill End Lane, which cheered him up as they would soon be running back after spotting the Bar CHK down there, just yards before the CHK they had crossed the road on earlier!

Returning, the FRBs would find that the Hare had now marked the Trail Short Cut over the roundabout & then crossed out the arrows heading south-westward, fresh arrows pointed away beside a house, on what looks like the home's driveway, but is actually a 70 Yard footpath that runs out behind the home & into a hidden green space between Hill End Lane & Drakes Drive, another 55 Yards on & here the Held CHK was found.

This week's choice of sweets were wine gums, 'scrotum' looking Cherry jellies & chocolate buttons covered in sugar dots that were now called va-jazzles! Here the Pack regrouped, well, all but two, for Juices Flowing was now concerned that Parson's Nose was missing from the Keenies section, as was 3D. Before long Slug was tracking down 3D's position via an app on his mobile, somehow these two were ahead of the rest of the Pack on the Trail?

Cody, Milf, Secret Squirrel, Paxo & Kylie arrived to enjoy some of the sweets, here the Hare explained that on the way back Inn, the On Inn would be found outside of the St Albans Organ Museum, so everyone knew where it was on a short walk from the Royston Club.

On again & after 45 Yards up the back passage between the homes, the Pack came out on to Drakes Drive, here care was needed to cross over the urban road to the western side, another ginnel lay ahead & this passageway led around 50 Yards westward to come out on to the end of the Liberty Walk cul-de-sac.

After 35 Yards the road turned toward the north & up to a CHK at the T-junction on to Camp Road, the Hare didn't expect the Keenies to go wrong again here, but for some reason, only known to themselves, the FRBs didn't consider the most direct route back to the On Inn was the correct one?

Perhaps some remember another Trail set around here, where a falsie was set up the north bound Oxford Avenue, all for TBT OBE's benefit as the T was located outside of the Naturist Massage Services of St Albans! Others chose to search away from the direct route back, but the Knitting Circle would now gain an advantage as the CHK was marked westward.

The Trail moved on Camp Road, after around 300 Yards the Trail would reach the On Inn, located outside of the St Albans Organs Museum, then moving on a few more yards the Trail passed by the Camp Primary School &cross over to College Road & the On Inn, on the way the Pack found 3D & Parson's Nose!

The Pack were back within an hour, then quickly settled in at one end of the larger Bar, at the other end where one of the local football teams, enjoying their post-match food. The soccer end of the bar smelt pleasantly of Lynx & Paco Rabanne, while the Hash end was more Brut & Old Spice, topped up with the distinctive, pungent odour of Paxo's knee that had rubbed down with horse liniment & a racing post!

For those who wanted them, as is the norm, Pizzas were ordered from around the corner. The Down-Downs took place while the Pizzas were cooking! Paxo raised the toast to the Hash, but forgot to hand out the first Down-Down to the Hare, until he was reminded of his duties!



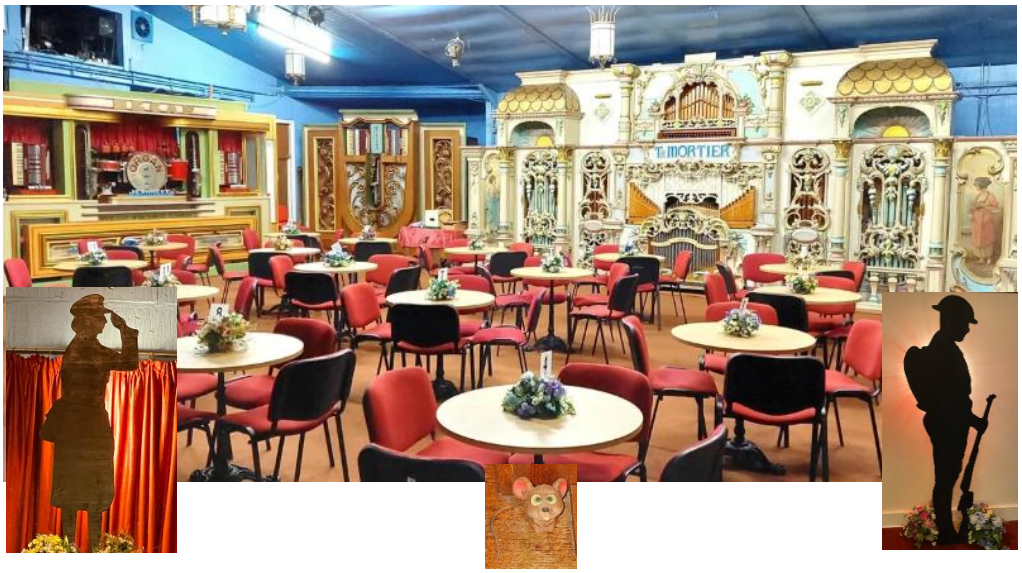
So, once Mr X had his pint for being the day's Hare, he went on to My Lil' & his not being able to tell the difference over a white line, or a long sweet wrapper! Moss key Toe was out for his new Mosquito Poppy Pin.

The RA then moved on to 3D & Parson's Nose, who got lost on Trail & those who used 'tech' on Trail, Slug & Juices Flowing, as they were all downing their respective drinks, the irony struck Mr X, as the RA's phone went off! So, Mr X had another Down-Down to deal with! Milf was out for ripping a page out of the Sacred Herts Hash Book [We will have to get the Repair Shop's Chris Saw on the repair? – Ed] The result of which, was the Keeper of the book was now grumpier than DWSS!

After the Circle, Paxo & Mr X went off to fetch the pizzas, though Mr X messed up as Parson's Nose's Caeser salad ended up being a Chicken Caeser Salad, that was probably because they were all out of 'Waldorf's' at the Pizza place. Kylie, in honour of the Late Sparky, decided that he would deal with the left-over crusts, nothing was going to waste. Now suitably stuffed [Some with crusts! – Ed], the Pack had time for a couple of games of pool before the remainder headed around to the Organ Museum.

Mr X was happy that enough of the Hash had decided to make up their own minds & come over to the museum, & weren't put off by any naysayers! As he had put the work into trying something different après Hash & got a group discount. Des Res joined the Pack here & everyone enjoyed the renditions on these spectacular machines, as well as the explanation of their workings. Though at one point Cody did nod off, due to all of the r*nning he did out on the Trail?

Though part the way through the recital the Mortimer had an issue with one if its pipes [Men of a certain age have sympathy! – Ed] which led to the end of the tune a droning sound sounding like Tent Packers bagpipes deflating after being played, so some of the prospective tunes were not heard on that as it wouldn't have been a spectacular as it should, but the other organs were still working well.



All in all, a great day, though Mr X had to let some back into the Royston Club on the way home, as some of the guys may have had issues with their organ pipes?

Puttenham is Hertfordshire's only 'Thankful' Village, a plaque in the Church records the names of 15 men who went off to fight in World War I, & who were ALL welcomed home, from a village which at that time had but 71 inhabitants. In other words, about a fifth of the population. There are only 53 'Thankful Villages' in the UK.

