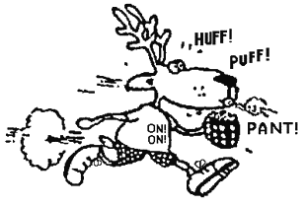


Herts Hash House Harriers



Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk

Run No. 1948
31st October 2021
Venue: Chez Paxo
Beers: Boxed Set of Ales
Location: Ware
Hare/s: Paxo
Runners: 16
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 3
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 20
Membership: Scaring the residents of Ware!



So, the bewitching day had come around, but first thing in the morning the weather did not seem to be on the side of the Hash, it was still blowing a bit of hoolie & raining when the early, early arrivals of Mr X & My Lil' arrived. Paxo was astonished to hear that they has travelled there on a regular Bus Service that stops along the street below his! It even runs when Mount Ware is snow-capped!

Anyhow, the Hash began to arrive in dribs & drabs, most were surprised to find it was still drizzling even at this altitude, which is normally high above the cloud level. There was plenty of bleating from these arrivals about the weather, & how the state of the weather is also the RA's responsibility! [No change there then! – Ed]

However, the mizzle began to ease, which was handy for those tasked with bringing a table & chairs around from Pebbledash's to be set up in Paxo's front room. Mr X asked if the detached legs that were to go on the fire to heat Paxo's igloo. [Apparently not! – Ed]

Suddenly the sun was out & clouds vanishing, with the prospect of a dry Trail & no washing away of make up, it was a cue for the RA to get the old grease paint out & to rope in Ewok to make up his face in a Día de Muertos style to go with Pebbledash & Ewok's La Calavera Catrina style of painted faces. Ewok was tempted to draw a 'comedy cock' on Mr X's forehead, thankfully she refrained & while Mr X thanked his lucky stars that Pebbledash was doing the face decorating!

Where's Wally? had arrived with his Drum & Base weekend Skeleton onesie, but he wouldn't go around the Trail in this as he didn't want to get splashed by any roadside puddles [As if it doesn't rain at Music Festivals! – Ed] & he would also be hindered by the bunched up leggings of the onesie were much longer than his own limbs. It also made him look like he had Nora Batty's stockings on, a frightening sight in its own right.

My Lil' now donned his Halloween outfit, which came with a with a warning for Ewok "Not to wet herself!" as he reappeared with a werewolf like mask & the yellow waterproof poncho that came in the goodie bag of a Lisbon Hash weekend many years ago, after drinking a fair amount of BSE Wine, where on a very hot Portuguese evening the Herts lads came back all wearing these in the hotel bar, the sight of which had Ewok in stiches.

Back to this day & Milf had arrived with an assortment of Halloween outfits, with Mr X's sugar skull masks going to one that she had brought along for Where's Wally? He wouldn't wear this either, in the end Hash Test Dummy chose to adorn himself in this, as he & Supertrouser turned out & had brought along a Virgin by the name of Dani. Though with the masks being worn our Virgin was overlooked at the opening Circle.

Fliptop got the Circle underway, after Paxo was given a 15 minute head start to set the Trail, he had the sense not to set it the day before as it would have been washed out by the overnight downpours. Milf asked for a Pack photo at the start of the Trail, as she prepared for a selfie, Mr X moved a usde rocket firework between her feet, which brought a few comments.

Mr X quickly explained that the day of the dead was actually on Tuesday, before some smartarse got in there! It's an event over several days that has origins in pre-Christian Mexico, that was corrupted by the Church to be connected to All Hallows Eve, All Saints Days & All Souls Day, he didn't add that the first Day is to remember the lost Children in the family, then they move on to a day for family & friends, where the living visit their relatives, it involves taking food & presents to the graves & tell amusing stories about the departed.

So, a fresh Trail was clear for all to see*, heading away to the east end of Parnel Road, with Mr X leading the way up to a CHK at the junction where it joins Cromwell & Tower Road. * Excludes Where's Wally? After a flying start, Mr X would soon go wrong as he chose the south by southwest Cromwell Road, meanwhile Fliptop, Milf, My Lil' & Where's Wally? all searched Tower Road as it runs around to the northwest, there they picked up the arrows for 250 Yards until the Trail peeled off on to Linwood Road for a further 50 Yards to reach the next Check Point.

The Trail was found a few degrees north of due west, on the dead-end Evergreen Road, at the end of the road My Lil' commented on "This wouldn't be a Paxo Trail without being taken up a back-passage or two in Ware!" [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] as the Trail led on through the snicket that turned to the north & brought the Hash out on to Brocket Meadows, a part of the newer estates in the north of Ware. It was here that Mr X took the opportunity to lay out by the headstone & skeleton emerging from someone's Halloween front lawn, for a photo.

A CHK was found here, but it didn't seem to catch many out as the Trail was found on the next section of the alleyway, which took the Hash in to Cooles Park, a green space with a small sports area within. Sludge, Where's Wally? My Lil' & Tent Packer were soon off out to the west of the park & on to a CHK out on small roundabout in the Fanhams Hall Road, opposite Ware Youth Football Club.

The option into Lady Margaret Gardens [Isn't that a euphemism? Perhaps we should ask Pebbledash! – Ed] was a Falsie, while the north-western option along Fanhams Hall Road was more fruitful as Trail was found along this way. The Road turns south-westward as it becomes High Oaks Road, the Trail stuck with this route, a shrewd move that would keep some of the Pack from the temptation of ~~pepping into~~ passing by the Crooked Billet on Musley Hill.

A nice 240 Yard Trot downhill to find a CHK by the junction with Kingsway & Hither Field, Milf waited here to mark the check, while Tent Packer & Sludge crossed over to Kingsway for the short way to a green finger-post footpath sign & pick up the Trail on this entry into Wooden Park. They called "On!" & for some reason thought that they were at the front of the Pack, Mr X was not so sure, but My Lil' & Where's Wally? where not to be seen.

Milf now marked the Trail to the footpath, as Where's Wally? now re-appeared on the scene, he was lucky Mr X was at the split in the path & pointed out the Trail took to the right-hand path, stopping Where's Wally? from going wrong & allowing him to join the rest on Trail on the Upper Bourne side of the elongated Park with the long strip of trees running down the centre where the stream runs.

By now things were heating up under the warmth of the sun in a now cloudless blue sky, it was warm enough for to have Tent Packer have permanently doffed his pantomime villain hat, which revealed that he had darkened his now sinister looking eyebrows to match his blackened moustache, more than a slight resemblance to Dick Dastardly.

While Tent Packer thought about searching off on the cut-through out on to Milton Road, Sludge recalled the last Trail through this park & he scuttle doff like a terrier after a rat out on to the footpath alleyway in the western corner of the park. Sludge was spot on & called "On! On!" as he was away along the narrow fenced in route, running between back gardens & then the walls of the homes where it concludes the 160 yards of old tarmac path that was rather rough under foot in places, thankfully TBT OBE was not present to trip over the raised folds of tarmac.

A 90° turn to the right, around the back outside corner of a detached home on Milton Road, for just a few feet then take an opposite 90° to run the 45 yards to reach the T junction where it join The Bourne, there a CHK was found. Sludge had now made his way a few yards out to the Wadesmill Road at the western end of The Bourne, Mr X followed on but was eventually called back as My Lil', Where's Wally? & Tent Packer had found Dust away to the east along The Bourne.

Milf marked the CHK as the FRBs headed away to Crib Street, where the Trail was found running by the corner shop & away down the south by southwest street, like a travel through time the buildings become older the further along the street the Pack progressed, then a CHK was found by Coronation Road away to the west.

The Trail would take to this side street to lead the FRBs out to a Held CHK by the Baldock Street Car Park, near to the statue of a Maltster, complete with his Malt-shovel & a cat. Ware was once renowned for its Maltings & the production of this for the brewing businesses, on the 1887 Ordnance Survey Map, almost every building was dedicated to the production of Malt, with the exception being the Workhouse & Infirmary situated between Musley Hill & High Oaks, the octagonal Building is still there to this day. Even on the 1950 version of the Map Madhouses were still the predominant buildings in the town.

Upon his arrival at the Regroup, My Lil' questioned how Sludge had got to this point before him, since he hadn't passed by him on the Trail? Mr X explained that Sludge had come out on to the A1170, Wadesmill Road back up off of The Bourne & simply didn't come back as he short-cutted.

While the FRBs waited for Hash Test Dummy, Supertouper, our Virgin Dani, followed on by Ewok & Pebbledash, to arrive all arrive, Milf decided to play some music on her mobile, soon Michael Jackson's Thriller could be heard, which brought out a ~~Dad-Disee~~ few moves, as well as comments about not giving up the day jobs!

There were a few car horns tooted, & waves from the passing cars at the sight of the Hash waiting all resplendent in their Halloween outfits, Milf took a group photo once the Pack was complete again. Then it was off again, not much searching now as everyone seemed to know that the Baldock Street would be the way the Trail would go, since it headed into the centre of Ware & the outfits could be appreciated by Joe Public, sure enough that's the way the Trail would lead.

Passing the Old Bulls Head, two of the Hash peered inside like kids into a Confectioners to see that they still have that exceptional Ale of Theakston's Old Peculiar, which they do keep well, but for My Lil' & Mr X that Ale would be out of reach as the Pub was yet to open & Where's Wally? was calling "On!"

After 140 Yards arrows pointed the way into the small green area of the Old Churchyard, separated from the Church of the Mary the Virgin by Church Street, Where's Wally? was called back to the isolated green triangle to take a group photo by the real old Gravestones that now line the northern edge of the green.

Spooky Pictures taken & the Trail resumed running out onto Church Street on the northern side of the Church, then there was a turn from east to south by southwest to run down the path in the avenue of trees by the apse end of the Church.

At the end of the 79 Yards on the avenue the Trail led up to Jacoby's, the back end of which is the Mexican Restaurant, which was the original venue that this Trail was supposed to be starting & finishing at. On his way here, a

woman who was not looking where she was going, looked up & was shocked at the sight of Mr X in his Día de Muertos outfit.

It was at Jacoby's that the Hare found lonely 2-1-2 Maureen, who was unaware that Paxo had changed the venue to his gaff only two weeks earlier! None of which stopped 2-1-2 Maureen from blaming Mr X for Paxo's moaning about not being able to have the Hash numbers to book tables at the Mexican & changing the venue to his place! To be fair the Hash are pretty lame at letting organiser's know if they are turning out or not, & since the 'paper version of the Trash is now only printed for a couple who, like 2-1-2 Maureen are not on 't'internet, the Scribe can't be expected to post a copy out each week

Anyhow, the thick-skinned Mr X posed for a picture outside of the window, with its Día de Muertos Skeleton Waiter on display, this model was quickly named Sparky! When the Trail resumed it was out of West Street & on to the start of Ware High Street, where Sludge was found after he had again taken a short cut!!

The Pack were now on the opposite side of the road from No.73 - 75 High Street, the former White Hart Inn, which is thought to have been the original home of the 'Great Bed of Ware' which was built in 1590, designed by Hans Vredeman de Vries & carved from oak by Jonas Fosbrooke.

The Great Bed, which measures ten by eleven feet (3.48 x 3.35 Metres) moved on to the other Ware Pubs, The George, The Crown, The Bull (All long gone now days) & the original Saracen's Head from which it was sold in 1870. Henry Teale took it to Rye House, Hoddesdon, as a visitor attraction, it is now housed in the Victoria & Albert Museum. It is mentioned by Sir Toby Blech, in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, & by Ben Johnson in his 1609 "Epicoene: or the Silent Woman". [Whoa! Isn't that an oxymoron? - Ed]

Well, the Hare was certainly giving the Pack the run around as not even 100 yards along the High Street & the Pack were back on West Street, this time heading up the eastern arm toward the Punch House, then off to the olde worlde pedestrianized back alley, here double arrows pointed the way into the local Tescos. So, the Pack waited patiently outside until Ewok & Pebbledash arrived, since the latter works there.

Pebbledash realised that the Pack would be going through the store, as they did a couple of years ago when she was working on the checkout that Hash ran by, however there were no vibrators on Aisle 11 this time, since they rapidly sold out after Pebbledash informed the Harriettes back on that day!!

Once by the attention of the shoppers & security in Tesco's, Pebbledash had a sly word to the security guy, the Trail came out on to Church Street once again & stuck with this until reaching the High Street, where they Hash would run for just a couple of yards to head off eastward on East Street, which cuts through to New Road.

Arrows directed the Hash over to Kibes Lane, running by the car parks of the old Maltings & the former Quaker Graveyard on the south side, here there were more shocked civilians as a young girl called out to her mum "Pirates!" which makes one ponder or education system. Anyhow, Mr X led the way around on to the north-eastern Bowling Road, where a young lady pushing a pram, jumped as he saw Mr X run by her.

After 200 Yards the Trail turned south-eastward to run down Vicarage Road, the 130 Yard trot through the narrow backstreet was taking the Hash way from the On Inn, but thankfully not for long as the Trail now

changed tact as it headed up Garland Road, again Mr X shocked another local lass who was putting up her Halloween decorations on the front of her house. A further 130 Yards brought Mr X to the end of this side street, then across was a footpath leading up Hampden hill.

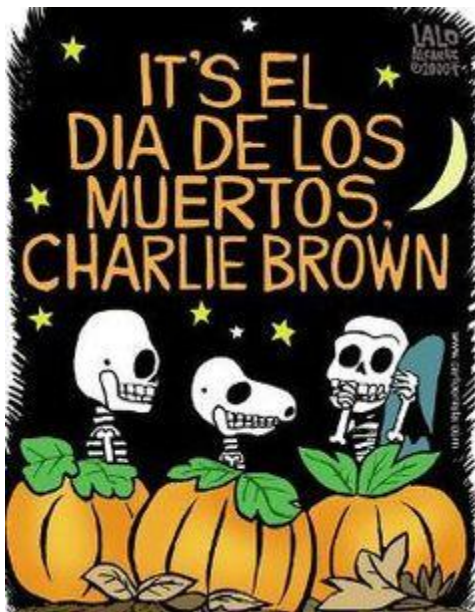
Dust was found on the old uncapped route as it led between the back of the homes up Hampden Hill, coming out into the short Hampden Hill Close to Hampden Hill Road, where the Trail turn to lead to the northern end & around the elbow in the road, then into King George's Fields, where Mr X spotted the Hare halfway toward the Jolly Bargeman.

The Hare's hair stood up on the back of his neck [Well they wouldn't stand up on his head! - Ed] as he sensed something & turned to look back, Paxo spotted Mr X & then began to Run, Mr X could have tried to have caught the Hare & he did start running, until he remembered all the cans of Ruddles the Hare had stashed at his place, [If you catch the Hare on a 'Live Trail' he has to buy you a pint! - Ed] Mr X then had second thoughts & dropped his pace back to a walk to leave the Ruddles for the Down-Downs in the Circle.

The Trail was now reaching its climax [Steady Pebbledash! - Ed] as it came out by the closed McMullens Pub of the Jolly Bargeman, if you ever wondered why the Pub is high up on the hill & over half a mile away from the River Lea Navigation, well in the 1920's the slums & hovels of Kibes Lane were demolished, which included the original Harrow & the Jolly Bargeman, in the 1930's they were rebuilt up the hill in the new King George Estate.

The final leg of the Trail was on by the Cromwell Road Sores to take to a ginnel that connects the Cromwell Road to the end of Jubilee Way & then out on to Parnel Road.

Back inside Paxo's Home & he opened the doors to warm things up inside for Mrs Mallet & Flanders who were already back. As the perspiring Pack returned the rooms were filled with the eerie sounds of spooky moaning, not woeful cries about tempestuous rain, nope it was harrow howls on how hot it was out on the Trail, no praise for the RAs in swinging the change in weather!



The food was on the go, with Pebbledash supplying the rice to go with the Chilli, when asked how she got the rice so good, Pebbledash replied "I just boiled it!" The Pack were then surprised when 2-1-2 Maureen arrived, then blamed the RA for her waiting outside of Jacoby's for an hour before Paxo found her! 2-1-2 Maureen was not the only late arrival, as Flying Solo, complete in her foot in a plastic hard shell cast, finished the Trail with Elizabeth & Isobel, all of whom were wearing Halloween outfits, which were for a party later on.

There would be one last late comer, & with impeccable timing to make his entrance just as Paxo called out for Meat Eaters to queue up first for feeding, it was none other than TBT OBE, who missed the Trail due to having a bad back [If he wants a second opinion his front isn't too good either! – Ed]. TBT would have to make do with the tasty warm cheese covered nachos that came out of the oven first, before the faketerain food was dished up, though TBT OBE now considers himself as now relating to being a 'Flexitarian' [You couldn't make it up as you go along! Well TBT OBE does! – Ed]

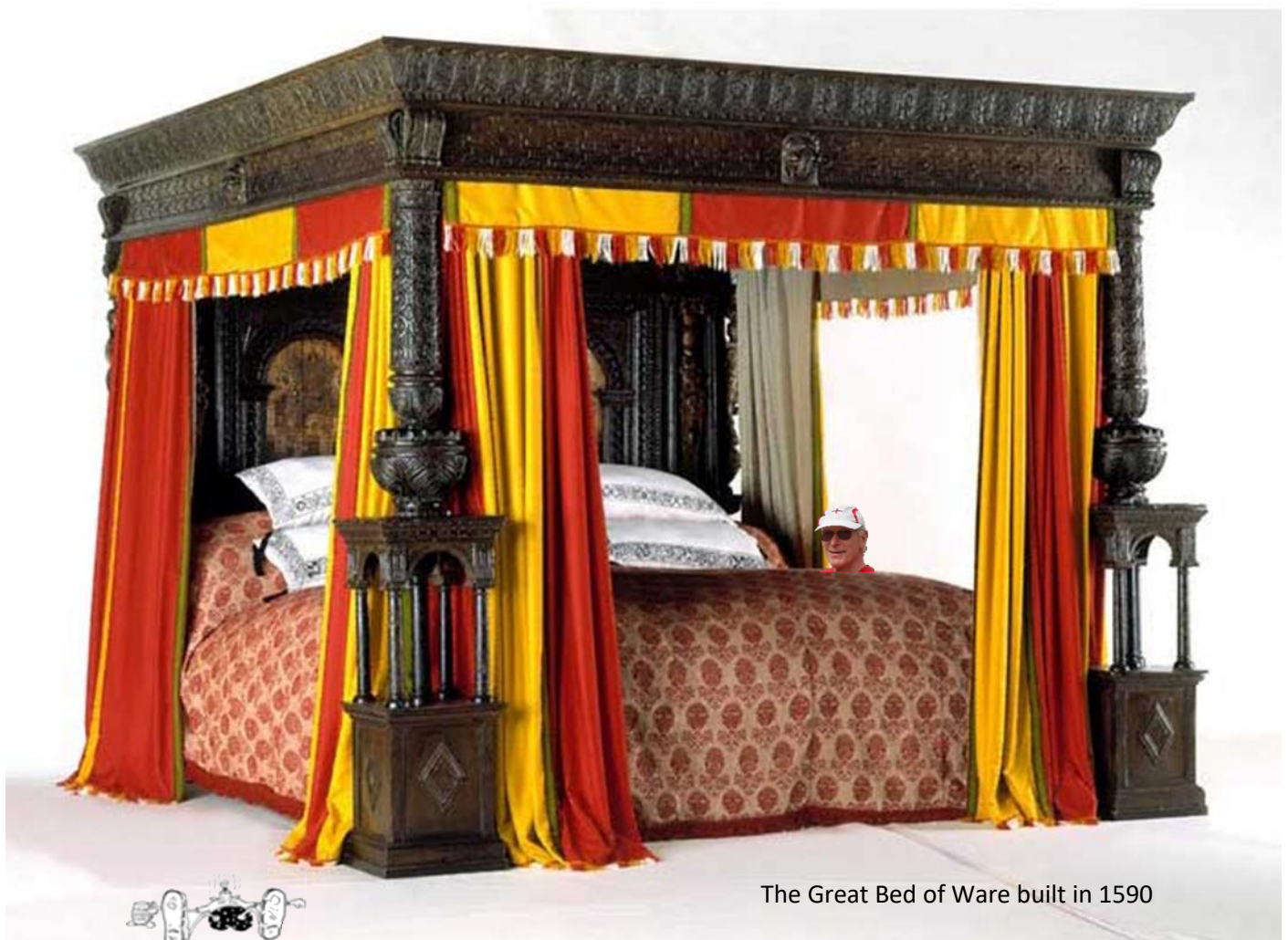
After the main & veggie/flexitarian Chillis, the Circle was called outside on the patio. Fliptop toasted the Hash, then it was over to the RA, then called forward the Hare for an excellent Trail, as My Lil' said "Paxo's live trails are better than his planned one!" then it was on to the outfits & dressing up by the Hash, My Lil' was out for complaining about sweating under his Lisbon Hash waterproof, while Tent Packer was out for the least amount of effort in dressing up with his blackened pantomime villain moustache & eyebrows!

TBT OBE was out, as the RA said that he had to remove his Día de Muertos makeup, & while in Paxo's bathroom, he found himself in a situation similar to the scene in Trains, Planes & Automobiles where Steve Martin's character Neal Page washes his face in the hotel sink only to find that he's not using a flannel but John Candy's character Del Griffith's pants, as Mr X found that he was wiping off his grease paint with TBT OBE's emergency towel, that even has his Hash name on the label!

Sludge for his short cutting along the High Street, twice! Flying Solo was out for her extra Plastic foot accessory, & finally our Virgin, Dani was welcomed after completing her first Herts Hash, then it was back inside to tackle the sweets made by the Harriettes.

Later in the afternoon, when Heather popped in later, those remaining discovered that Pebbledash had spent the night wearing her Día de Muertos make up she had worn to a party on Saturday, laying on her back as not to smear the makeup [Bet that was a nice surprise for Pepé le Pew? – Ed] since she had applied it to her mum the day before for a party!

Heather then went on to try & recruit team players for her Ladies Section Quiz night at Welwyn Rugby Club, Mr X added that she should work on Flying Solo to put in an appearance, since she has a good Quiz knowledge. Any other takers are welcome on Friday 3rd Dec 2021, 19:30Hrs Quiz Start at Welwyn Rugby Club, Hobbs Way, Welwyn Garden City Rugby Club, AL8 6HX ///pokers.friend.gently £5 per person teams up to Eight



The Great Bed of Ware built in 1590

