

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers

Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk

Exclusive:

Man didn't buy any apples for Halloween!

He said it saved him a bob or two!

I can't prove it, but she may be shoplifting.



Run No.2240
Date: Sunday 1st November 2026
Venue: Chez Flying Solo
Location: Letchworth
Beers/Cider: Hobgoblins (Ruby & IPA) Greede King IPA Ciders & Prosecco!
Hare/s: Flying Solo
Runners: 25
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 2
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 28
Membership: Surviving Ale-o-ween!

So, another Herts Hash Día de los Muertos came around, this one being on the 1st November, so it is 'Día de los Inocentes', the first day of the two-day festival, which is in honour of the all the Children who have passed on, with adults being honoured on the 2nd November.

With a noon start it gave the Hash plenty of time to arrive at Chez Flying Solo. As there were no Public Transport delays, some were left with almost an hour to whittle away, & so there time enough to pop into the Three Magnets (Spoons) where it was discovered that a Held CHK & a Beer Stop were marked outside, also a nice Oatmeal Stout was on offer, but more of that later!

My Lil' & Mr X met up with Lobby & Mark E Mark in the spoons, where bacon butties were order of the day for two, Mark E Mark said that he hadn't eaten 'Mothers Pride' for years as he tucked into his plain white butty. Soon it came time to drive around to Chez Flying Solo, which Mark E Mark & Lobby couldn't find earlier, so they settle on Spoons, for they had more than an inkling that the other two maybe popping in there! [What were the odds on that? – Ed]

Arriving at Chez Flying Solo everyone was found around the back, with a heated gazebo to keep the Hash warm on this cool & slightly damp morning, all until they could get motivated & produce some body heat. Our very own *La Catrina*, Flying Solo, was busy with face painting of Sugar Skulls, for those who hadn't done their own. For anyone lacking enough 'spooky attire', Flying Solo also had a room full of extras, like spider fascinators, hats, headbands & tattoos, for added chilling effect!

Finally, Paxo got to call the circle together after midday! This week we were joined by some London/EELS Hashers of Going Commando, Blood Stained Clothing, Dawn's Crack, Reach Around & Baby Elver, who were also partaking in the Día de Muertos dressing up on the first day of the Day of the Dead Celebrations.

A lot of effort had been put in by some present, while on the other extreme was a simple skull mask paired up with a Ronald McDonald costume? Noticeably, some effort in dressing up was non-existent for DWSS, who also refused face painting just in case Flying Solo managed to put a smile on his face! [Bah! Humbug! – Ed]

Photos taken outside the front of Chez Flying Solo, where the Hare went through a very thorough 'Chalk-talk' on Herts Markings & the Sweet Stop/Beer Stop at a local Hostelry, some of the Pack dropped a hint that they had already been in Spoons & that the Orca Oatmeal Stout was recommended! Then without further ado, the Pack were ushered away, northward up toward Eastern Way, & the first CHK of the day on the corner with Southfields, away to the west.

Noisy F#cker led a small group up to Linden Croft, the next road up to the west & called "On!" but this would prove to be a Falsie, which led My Lil', Mark E Mark, Moss Key Toe, Mr X & others to carry on up Eastern Way toward where they knew there was a ginnel through to Croft Lane, which has been used on previous Trails around here, but, not this time as the Hare had been tricky, then calls of "On back!" came from down on Southfields.

A few cut over the green to regain lost ground on No Eye Deer, Milf, Kylie, Cody, Hot 'N' Spicee who were all well on their way toward the dog-leg in the road, & after 340 Yards up to the local shops, this was the first chance to either make the general Public laugh at the sight, or shock them with the outfits?

Here arrows crossed to the southern side of the road & a CHK was found near to Grange Road. More experienced Hashers would go wrong by continuing along Southfields until they were called back once again!

Mr X, in his Habit & Skeleton outfit was seen carrying an empty wine bottle for the 400 Yards Grange Road, [What a sight for the Hash to live up to? – Ed] before he found a bin where the Trail came up to a CHK on the T-Junction where Grange Road terminates at the Wilbury Road. Here there were three options, either west or east on the suburban road, or an option slightly off-set to the south which led into the wooded, northern end of Letchworth Common.

350 Yards southward under the tree canopy & a CHK was found in the centre of the park, again the Hare caught out the Keenies of Blood Stained Clothing, Landing Strip, My Lil', Tent Packer, Diamond Geezer, Toni & Moss Key Toe to name a few. With the southern & western options proved to be Falsies, it was down to No Eye Deer to be the first to head eastward over the main central tarmac footpath, crossing the green open space to reach the small patch of woodland beside the Letchworth Lido, here the Trail turned before the Lido, coming around by the Norton Common Skate Park.

The FRBs were now heading westward back to the centre of the Park, then dropping down to the main southern entrance on the Icknield Way, here a CHK was found opposite the Quadrant, & another CHK directly across the Icknield Way, just in case the first one was missed?



Three options from here, up or down the Icknield Way, or take the tangent the urban side street of the Quadrant? The Quadrant won out & the Trail progressed down to Nevells Road. Now in one of the original 1903's section of Letchworth Garden City, some of these homes are now Grade II Listed Buildings, such as 'Annmuir' in the World's First Garden City. There was also a clause for the architects & builders that none of the homes could cost more than £150! The Hashers who went wrong earlier to the southwest passed by 217 Icknield Way, which won the best £150 Cottage!

Mr X continued to wish the passing civilians a cheery "¡buen día!" on the way to another CHK, which was found out on the junction with Nevelles Road, here My Lil' picked up Dust to the southwest, running along Nevelles Raod to its termination with Bridge Road, over which the huge, impressive Red & White brick edifice that proudly displays the name of "The Spirella Company of Great Britain" around its top floors.

My Lil' would now go wrong as he searched to the north, meanwhile Moss Key Toe & Mr X were led astray down the steps to the footpath that runs parallel to the railway line until they too were called back. The proper Trail would now head by the local Police Station, so no stopping here as the Hash continued over the railway bridge & across to the start of the Broadway, not that this stopped Lobby Lobster& DWSS from nipping straight over to Leys Avenue & down into the Spoons!

Paxo, Hot 'N' Spicee, Kylie, Slug, Milf with Cody, Reach Around & with Little Elver in the second buggy, as the Knitting Circle of the Hash, followed the on Trail Keenies up the Broadway. This is the centrepiece of Letchworth Garden City, from which all roads should radiate out like spokes, an idea that was first ventured by Sir Christopher Wren with his proposed rebuilding of London after the 1666 Great Fire, though Christopher Wren's plans never came to fruition.

George Orwell, somewhat sweepingly, described the Garden City project as attracting every form of "crank: fruit-juice drinker, nudist, sandal-wearer, sex-maniac, Quaker, 'Nature-Cure' quack, pacifist, and feminist". (Road to Wigan Pier, page152). [No wonder the Herts Hash set regular Trails in this First Garden City! – Ed]

The Trail moved up the western side of the Broadway, passing the Art-deco Broadway Hotel, built in 1961 which was once the only licensed premises in the Quaker Town, via a covenant for some 20 Years, with the exclusion of the village Pubs that would be swallowed up with the expansion of Letchworth. The covenant license was until the construction & opening of the first 'purpose built' Pub in the Town, which the Letchworthians at the time, in their wisdom, voted to name it after the local Tree-rat, the Black Squirrel.

Back to the Trail & after 280 Yards the Trail crossed the Broadway gyratory Road & led the Hash into the well kempt Broadway Gardens, complete with ornamental fountains. The Full Trail was picked up on South view, which actually runs south-eastward away from the centre of Town! There was also a Short Cut marked from here, leading away down Meadow Way.

Toni, Diamond Geezer, No Eye Deer, Christa, Moss Key Toe, Blood Stained Clothing, Nosiey F#cker, Angeli & Tent Packer were mogging their way over the rest for a further 200 Yards where a CHK was found, from here the Trail was picked up on the north-eastern section of Souberie Avenue, which would turn to due north before coming on to a CHK on the crossroads with Meadow Way.

Of the three options here, the west by north-western one was narrowed out as it headed back to the Broadway Gardens. Of the other two choices, the east by southeast section of Meadow Way had Trail on it. Paxo, Kylie, Milf with Cody, who was out of his buggy & wearing a Sugar Skull mask, along with ~~some clown~~ Mark E Mark followed on along 360 Yards down to Norton Way South, where things then changed direction to head northward,



- excellent, that's halloween done. now what's for tea?
- take an educated f**king guess timothy...



The Trail would not head straight back to the centre of town just yet, for the Hare had plans to show off a bit more of Letchworth Garden City to the visitors by peeling off to the east & running the Trail up through Howard Gardens, just off of Pixmore Way roundabout with Norton Way.

The Pack were led on through the small park, where they found a CHK by the statue of Sappho, here Toni, No Eye Deer, Tent Packer & Blood Stained Clothing were among those who went wrong on a Falsie over the wooden footbridge. They returned to find the Knitting Circle were now up by the famed female Greek Poet, sometimes known as the 10th Muse, who wrote love poems, many about other women, which only added to the reputation of the Island of Lesbos!

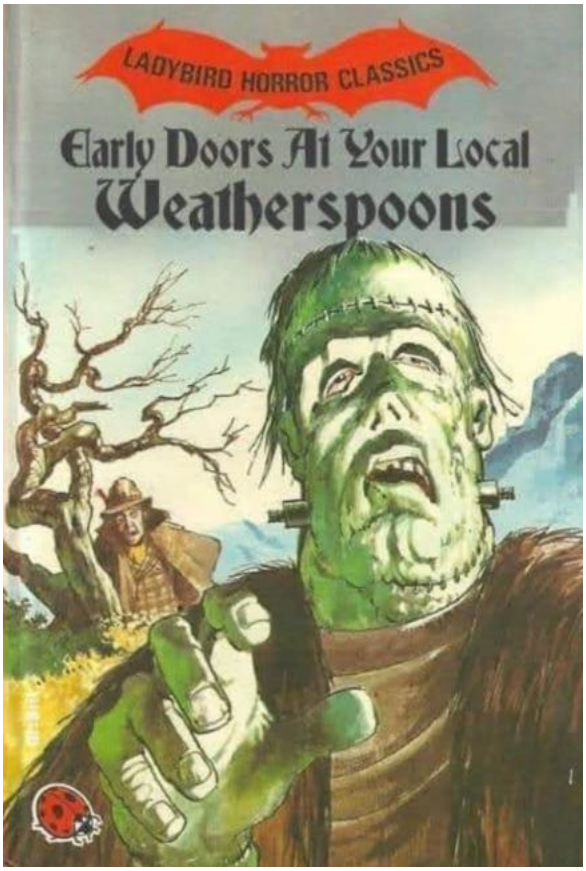
There was only one pooch on the Trail today, which was lucky with all of the bones on display, there were two buggies on the Trail, Cody in & out of his one, perhaps it was the sight of a skeletal Roanld McDonald that got him out? Meanwhile Litle Elver stayed pout in her buggy as Reach around pushed her along the Trail.

The Hash moved on up by the local Bowls Club, after 300 Yards the Pack left the southern section of the park & then crossed over near to Mrs Elizabth Howard Memorial Hall to enter the northern section, running on by the paddling pools, which were less shallow years ago.

On one Herts Hash Trail, set by Food & Drink, & Miss Piggy, the two Harriettes had the Pack tied together by the wrists, split into several teams of six & they all had to splash their way up through the pools, as the flour was placed upon the now gone pillars in the water. It was a scene that had the local kids looking on in disbelief!

Anyhow, that was then & this is now, as the Trail nipped over to the busy Norton Way South, crossing over to take to cut-through to Openshaw Way, this would lead the Pack thought the small original light industrial area, which is home to the Garden City Brewery but no time to stop there this time around.

The Trail would cut back through from the Wynd & emerge from a Ginnel on to Leys Avenue, where a right turn would head north-westward up to the Three Magnets, [The First Spoons Pub to ever make the CAMRA Good Pub Guide! – Ed] Being in a Spoons, it led to some broaching the fact of "Should we be in there?" as "Spoons ban poppies!" [We don't do politics on the Hash! – Ed] but those who raised it were told to do some research & not be taken-in by Keyboard Warriors or the Daily feMail [Which, like this great publication, wouldn't let the truth get in the way of a ~~good~~ story! – Ed]. In fact, Spoons raise a lot for the RBL & have not banned wearing Poppies, they chose not to allow entry to a group people who were wearing Poppies, since the venue in question had been told to close by the Police due to the nearby protests taking place.



Being cooler outdoors, Mr X was found sitting outside, having taken an earlier short cut due to the old shin-splints kicking in & preventing his running. Something that he hasn't suffered from in years but a medicinal Oatmeal Stout seemed to be order of the day to bring some pain relief! He recommended the Stout to Landing Strip when he came out of the Wynd & around onto Sweet/Beer Stop. [Surely, it should now be called a Hydration Break? – Ed]

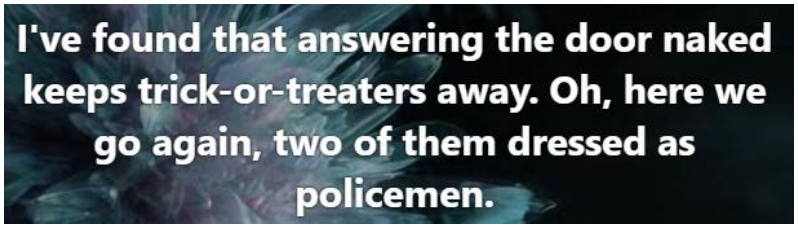
The Pack regrouped, with the sweets being Bird Jelly Babies [Yep, I've never heard of them either! – Ed] as well as Jelly Brains (With soft centres) & (Weird, crunchy) Freeze-Dried Fangs to add to the Spooky Theme. There was time for a couple of Ales & a good old chat, as it now seemed quite mild outside the Spoons, before moving on.

Strangely, none of the punters in the Three Magnets 'batted an eye-lid, [I see what you did there! – Ed] about the Hash being present showing off their 'Day of the Dead' outfits & Horror regalia!

The Hare had warned that the Trail would use part of the P-Arrow Trail from the Station back to the On Inn for the Runners, with an extra loop being put in before the end. If anyone wanting to go the extra loop hit Red P-Arrows, then they would have to go back & turn off for white Dust, as they would now be on the short cut all the way back to the On Inn.

So, the Inn Trail would begin a few feet up Leys Avenue before heading through the Arcade above the Wynd, this would lead by the shops & then out on to Station Road. Mr X now discovered that the medicinal 'Stout' had cured his 'shin-splints!

The Trail would head down Station Road for 320 Yards, back down to the Norton Way roundabout. On the way Mark E Mark stopped at Sigma Sports to admire the cycles in there, that had an average price range of £4,000 to



£6,000. Lobby said that he was allowed in as he didn't have her credit card, while the two sales guys kept an eye on Mark E Mark, who was still wearing his Ronald McDonald outfit, something that had My Lil' saying "What does that Clown think he's doing in there?"

At the roundabout splitting Norton Way South from Norton Way North, the Trail was marked under the railway bridge, on the way the Pack would pass by the local 'Sally Ackers' Church, but having bene imbibing no one was going in to sign the pledge today. The Hash were not too far away from the Settlement, the original Bar in Letchworth, then known as the Skittles but it only sold Milk & softies. [Does What She Says would have loved it back then, all doom & gloom! – Ed]! Thankfully when Bands play there now, it has had a licensed Bar run by the Garden City Brewery. [My, how things have changed for the better! – Ed]

After 370 Yards up the curving road to the northeast, the Trail reached the two mini roundabouts where the Icknield Way crosses the Norton Ways, here the Trail advanced as the road bends back toward due north, passing by a block of apartments, the first of the ground floor ones has a very large collections of gnomes outside.

Just over 100 Yards later & the main trail headed westward, down the service spur road for around 90 Yards to reach the eastern edge of Letchworth Common, here the Trail stuck religiously to this eastern edge of the park, running up through the wooded northern section again, then after 390 Yards emerging back out on to Wilbury Road, from which it was a short walk around to Eastholm & the On Inn.

For the shorter Trail, the Knitting Circle just had to stick with the Norton Way road all the way up to the roundabout to cross over on to Eastholm. By the time the stragglers from the Three Magnets had arrived, everyone else was settled in, drinking under the warm gazebo, or inside, where Flying Solo was preparing a chilli for the Hash.

3D, who had missed the Trail, was found at the On Inn, recovering after partaking in a Park Run on Saturday & she was feeling the effects from it, also she had looking after Sally, as Flying Solo's three cats would no doubt not have approved of too many canine encroachments on their territory.

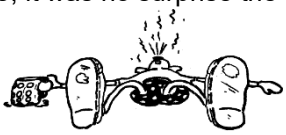
The Circle was called just before food was ready, with the Hare being rewarded for an excellent Trail that caught out a few 'old heads'. Also out, in particular order, were: Noisy F#cker for living less than three miles away in Hitchin, Herts, yet each week travels all the way to the Smoke to Hash with London H^3!

3D was out for feeling exhausted after her previous days Park Run! Mark E Mark was out for looking at the expensive cycles & My Lil' coming out with the classic line of "What does that clown think he's doing in there!" Finally, we all those who had not partaken in our Day of the Dead Trails.

The RA mentioned the next Week's Herts Trail would be from the Royston Club, followed by a visit to the St Albans Organ Museum for their World War I & II renditions, ending with their version of 'Last Night of the Proms' which he is organising, DWSS was awarded his Down-Down for busying himself behind Mr X's back, being the Hash misog & trying to put off Angeli, as well as others who would listen to him, that in his opinion the organ museum is a load of crap! [Best you turn out to see for yourself & make your own mind up? Everyone else on our last visit, 10 years ago enjoyed it all, especially the renditions of Tom Jones's Delilah & the Thunderbirds March being played out on a huge, highly decorated fairground organs! - If anything, its waste of the Hash Committees time in putting in the hours trying to organise something a little different for the Hash than just a Trail, if someone sits there putting people off! – Ed]

The Hare (& Hostess) had made a splendid Chilli, both a meat & a veggie version, though with a lack of veggies present the veggie option was also devoured by the omnivores of the Hash! Plenty of Tortillas, rice & accompanying dips, all of which was followed up by a really nice & moist, frosted pumpkin cake, it was no surprise the idea of which didn't sit well with DWSS, however, it was rather like a superior carrot cake.

All in all, another excellent day, thanks to our hostess.



The results are in for the Herts Hash Halloween Pumpkin Carving Competition:

1st Prize: Paxo 2nd Junior 3rd Lemming 4th DWSS

