

The race was started by Dame Vera Lynn, no stranger to lifting people's hearts in difficult times, even though this time the war was with the elements.

The route left the blustery village of Barns Green for a small loop on local roads back to the village before a larger loop finishing back at the start. The rain did ease a little, but the wind kept up and there was quite a bit of standing water and localised flooding on the roads to keep us occupied.

Thankfully the first loop was mainly flat and downhill so despite the 'distractions', felt quite easy apart from a small uphill section returning to the village. However the second loop was more undulating and also involved a little off-road, which would have pleased the mud-meisters amongst you.

I for one found the mile or so section of off-road, a mile or so too much of off-road and was pleased to see my beloved asphalt again, even if a lot of it was covered in water and autumnal leaves.

My plan was to get home in a similar time to the halfway time I did at Frankfurt, but alas I cross the line in 1:41:45 (gun time of 1:42:02). Still it meant a SB and based on my gun time I finished 285th (61st in age group) of the 1359 that finished.

I got a silver coloured medal for my efforts. The organisers had decided to hand out gold medals to the first 100 finishers, silver to the next 200 and bronze for every one else. Nice touch, unless you got a bronze I guess.

Overall a good race (ignoring the weather), which thanks to being totally traffic-free as a result of roads actually being closed to non-runners for the duration, well supported and varied in terrain, should please most people.

Half an hour after I had finished, the wind eased, the rain stopped, and guess what, blue skies and sunshine! Oh well, at least it made the journey home a bit easier.

