



ERSEY THIRSTDAYS HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

19th June 2014

Run Number 269

Bull and Dog, St Helens

The Pack: Carthief; FCUK, Sprog; Wigan Pier (Hare), Compo, Snoozanne

Meeting at the pub for some inner lubrication prior to getting into the cars again for a 1 mile drive to the start where the Trail was explained. Wigan Pier had done a trial of sorts with the flour, although she could not quite explain the trial.



The obligatory Hash Flash and some laughs at the Wigan sign



The Hare pointed the way to the Trail and explained that the white thing in the background was called the Giant Pen is (a deliberate gap to put off any censorious spell checkers). Several Hashers objected to the word Giant.



The Hare kept us all guessing as we assumed that Trail would lead to the white tower but it kept veering off. We saw all sorts of sculptures



The phallus kept coming into view



At one Check the Hare pretended that she had forgotten to lay Trail and led Carthief a few hundred yards along a path to a giant T (false in some Hashes) leaving the remainder of the Pack back at the Check.



After going past previous markings several times it seemed to the Pack that the Hare had a secret trail layer changing the route as we ran it but he / she never appeared even at the pub so it must have either been the Hare or our missing the signs.

Eventually we started up the hill towards the sculpture and a Hash Flash

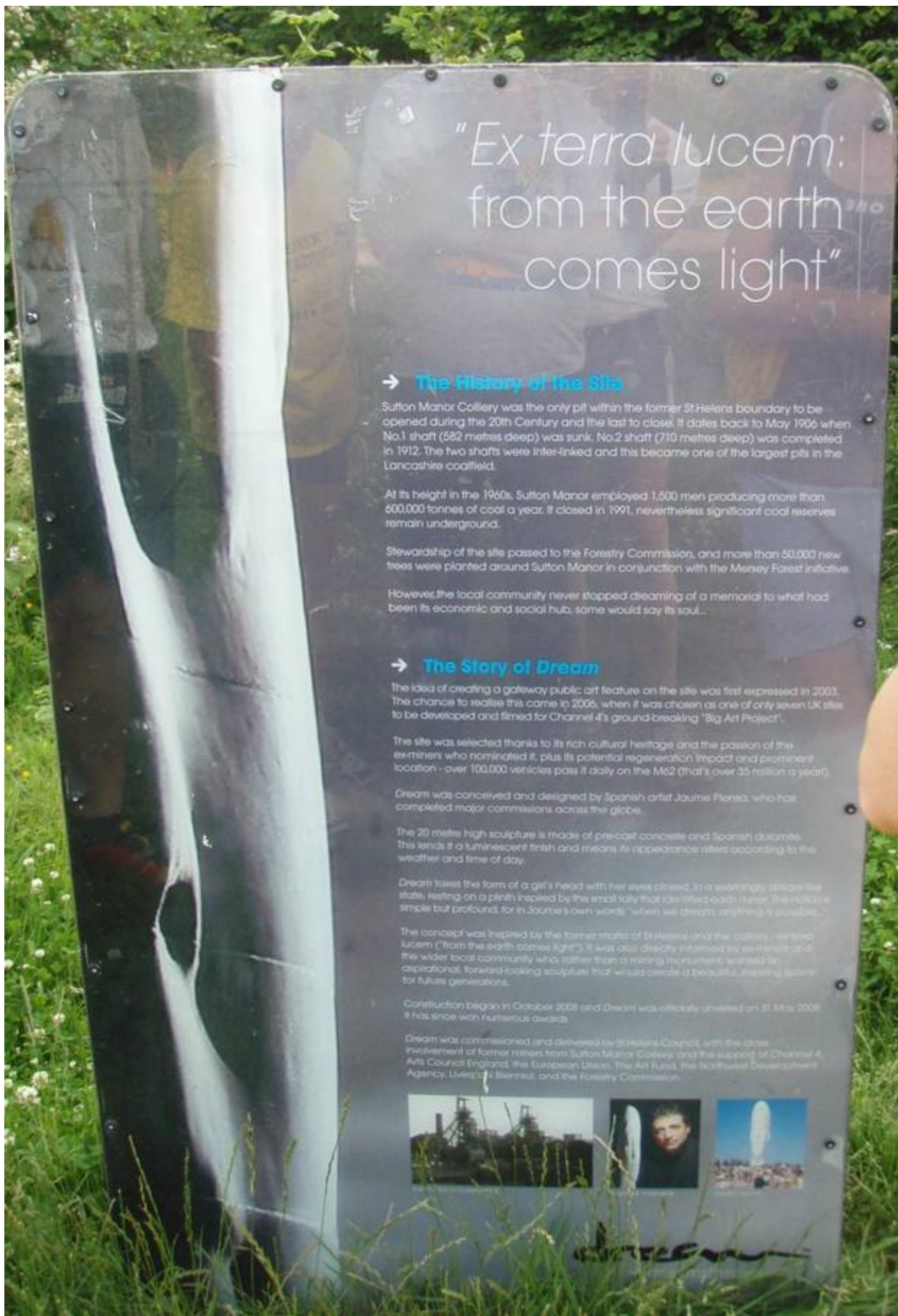


Coming round to the other side of the sculpture



Wigan Pier posing with The Dream

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_\(sculpture\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_(sculpture))



*"Ex terra lucem:
from the earth
comes light"*

→ The History of the Site

Sutton Manor Colliery was the only pit within the former St Helens boundary to be opened during the 20th Century and the last to close. It dates back to May 1906 when No.1 shaft (582 metres deep) was sunk. No.2 shaft (710 metres deep) was completed in 1912. The two shafts were inter-linked and this became one of the largest pits in the Lancashire coalfield.

At its height in the 1960s, Sutton Manor employed 1,500 men producing more than 600,000 tonnes of coal a year. It closed in 1991, nevertheless significant coal reserves remain underground.

Stewardship of the site passed to the Forestry Commission, and more than 50,000 new trees were planted around Sutton Manor in conjunction with the Mersey Forest Initiative.

However, the local community never stopped dreaming of a memorial to what had been its economic and social hub, some would say its soul.

→ The Story of Dream

The idea of creating a gateway public art feature on the site was first expressed in 2003. The chance to realise this came in 2005, when it was chosen as one of only seven UK sites to be developed and filmed for Channel 4's ground-breaking "Big Art Project".

The site was selected thanks to its rich cultural heritage and the passion of the ex-miners who nominated it, plus its potential regeneration impact and prominent location - over 100,000 vehicles pass it daily on the M62 (that's over 35 million a year).

Dream was conceived and designed by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, who has completed major commissions across the globe.

The 20 metre high sculpture is made of pre-cast concrete and Spanish dolomite. This lends it a luminous finish and means its appearance alters according to the weather and time of day.

Dream takes the form of a girl's head with her eyes closed. In a seemingly serene-like state, resting on a plinth inspired by the small Italy that identified each miner. The notion is simple but profound, for in Jaume's own words: "when we dream, anything is possible."

The concept was inspired by the former shafts of St Helens (and the colliery) - *ex terra lucem* ("from the earth comes light"). It was also directly inspired by ex-miners and the wider local community who, rather than a mining monument, wanted an aspirational, forward-looking sculpture that would create a beautiful, inspiring space for future generations.

Construction began in October 2008 and Dream was officially unveiled on 21 May 2009. It has since won numerous awards.

Dream was commissioned and delivered by St Helens Council, with the close involvement of former miners from Sutton Manor Colliery, and the support of Channel 4 Arts Council England, the European Union, The Art Fund, the Northwest Development Agency, Liverpool Biennial, and the Forestry Commission.



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

The plaque at the site

Wigan Pier explained that she had tried to lay a trail but had been bitten and stung so much that she advised against following the trail. After much complaining (she was still alive therefore it cannot be that bad) she still did not relent and we followed her alternative trail down the hill.



Odd Audio posts kept appearing and your scribe attempted to listen to one



Down to the gate, a final Group photo



And the (On In)



Back at the cars, Snoozanne produced carbohydrates, protein, fat and liquid and all fell silent for a while.

The circle was announced and Compo recited a poem that he had part plagiarized and part changed to suit the occasion.

*Some people say that there's a pier in Wigan somewhere
George Formby said it led t'sands on stilts up in the air
Some folks'll say it's a myth but I don't think they're right
'Cos I once fell off yon Wigan Pier staggering home one night*

*It's long and strong and it leads nowhere
You can see it when the weather's clear
So, what a run we've had here
And all thanks to, Wigan Pier*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wigan_Pier

Down Downs as selected by Sprog

Compo had printed some Hash songs on the back of the poem and there was an earnest discussion as to which was appropriate to which sin.



Compo for his poem
The Hare Wigan Pier
Returnees – Wigan Pier, Carthief



We drove back to the pub and discussed the world until we got cold (we were sitting outside to avoid the World Cup match on every TV in the pub).