



Run Number 471

AGM

27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Augustus John, Liverpool

**The Pack:** Compo, OTT and VR (Hares), Snoozanne, Cleo, Overdrive, 10secs, fcuk, ET, AE, Victim, Bimbo, Grasshopper, SMS, SF



This was to be a very special run, since Compo had left instructions with OTT and VR for the theme of the run, together with a sermon for the circle. We gathered outside the AJ and some of us even had time for a quick drink before we were summoned to hear the instructions; we were on a tight

schedule, since we had a date for a Zoom call during the circle, with AP, Hovercrap, Carthief and Brookside.



**The hares anxiously await the laggards**





It had been a long time for some of us since the last run, and some of us needed help even with the most basic instructions. But there were also complications; we had been told in advance to download a QR scanner onto our phones, and now we were told that there were several regroup points where we should await further instructions from the Hares and where we would eventually realise what the theme was. After a quick photo (which again was nearly forgotten about by some) we were off. The trail was found heading around the Metropolitan Cathedral to a regroup on the far side. Here a QR code was found around a tree up a bank...





...which required some scrambling to reach.





**1<sup>st</sup> tree**

When scanned, a description of the tree from the Woodland Trust appeared. This one was a Scots Pine. (The full set of QR codes is listed at the end – not all appear in the text.)





The theme for the evening was then revealed; Compo's idea was that it would be a "Tree-mendous" hash with a sequence of different trees along the way. The hares had decided to have a sermon at each tree, and OTT delivered the first one.





"I put the punchline to this joke on top of this coniferous tree; What is it?" (See the end for the answers to the sermons.)

The second tree was found quite near by...





--- a Norway Maple.





**2<sup>nd</sup> tree**

OTT once again delivered the sermon: "What do you call a military tree that doesn't return on time?"





We then continued along Hope Street and up to the junction of Myrtle and Mulberry Street (even the street names falling in with the theme).

The next tree (an oak) was found in a churchyard on Mulberry Street; SMS claimed that this was the one haunted by the gambler who had been placed in a grave above ground to cheat the devil, but after some discussion it was agreed that this was on Rodney Street. (NB there was no QR code on this tree – out of respect for hallowed ground?)





**OTT delivers the sermon: "What is an acorn?"**

The trail was then found up Falkner Street. There were plenty of trees ahead in Falkner Square, but we turned left back to Myrtle Street where we found a piece of woodland...









...where two more trees were found, a horse chestnut...





4<sup>th</sup> tree

...and sycamore...



5<sup>th</sup> tree









**Sermon: "What did the tree do when the Bank closed?"**

We crossed Grove Street (another tree-related name) and headed into the park where the concrete sculpted tree ahead was immediately identified as the target.

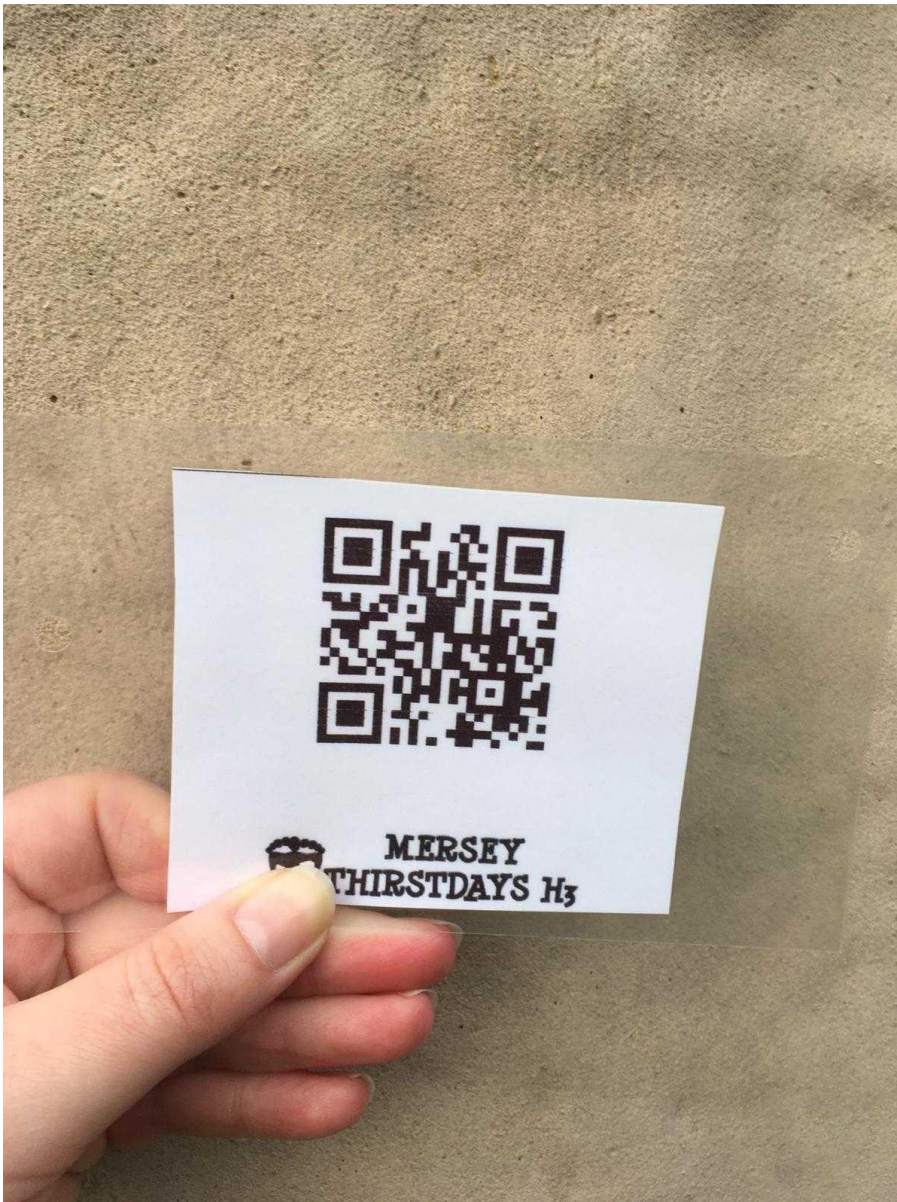












6<sup>th</sup> tree

At close quarters it was slightly disturbing with an eye (apparently modelled on a pariah dog) set at the top of the trunk. (Sermon: "What do you call an oak tree that can't make its mind up?") Acting upon hints from the hares, two further trees, a beech and a silver birch, were located in the same park.



**7<sup>th</sup> tree**

Sermon: "Why do birch/beech trees only have daughters?" Exiting the park, we headed up towards Edge Hill and then down towards Oxford Street and on to the wooded area behind the Police Station. The regroup was found here but it took some time to find the trees. One tree with a plastic notice was a red herring. Eventually we found the QR code around a sapling,





9<sup>th</sup> tree

one of a small plantation which turned out to be white poplars.







**Sermon: "Does anyone know any good tree puns?"**

The hares told us to keep looking in the same vicinity and eventually we found the QR code on another sapling, this time a wild cherry. Sermon: "Why do trees hate Maths?" Crossing Crown Street we were on the university campus and apparently heading back to the AJ. But the hares had told us there was one more tree to find, and a detour took us to Brownlow Hill and down to a London Plane.





11<sup>th</sup> tree

This name was too tempting and people started making up their own sermons ("What do you call a two-dimensional tree?", etc).





But the official one was “What kind of tree can fit into your hand?”. By this time we had got the hang of this and several people actually shouted out the right answer.



Meanwhile (look behind fcuk!) we were being closely observed by the university security services – or was it Special Branch? It turned out that fcuk had twigged this some time ago.

Finally we headed back towards the AJ as directed by the “On Inn” arrow, but stopped short in University Square where there was plenty of space and benches to deposit the food, drink etc. Here we found Mad Hatter awaiting us. ET had made a detour to his flat and soon returned with the Hash Food. SMS and Grasshopper had made a detour to their car after the wild cherry tree to liberate the stored bags, and now returned, also with a couple of bedpans which had somehow ended up in their possession. Soon we were tucking in to the food, which included a lovely poppy seed cake baked by Cleo, which was still nicely warm from the oven. We then prepared to have the circle, which was planned to include AP and Hovercrap, Carthief and Brookside by Zoom. At first, they could hear us but we could only see them on the mobile; but this was rectified by the use of a second mobile. Fcuk then called the circle. Down downs were awarded to:

Mad Hatter: missing the run





Victim, ET: they were invited to confess to their misdemeanours and readily admitted to watering the trail, though ET at first attempted to claim that he had only been inspecting the rear side of some interesting tree.

The earlier down-downs were drunk from the bedpans, for the first time in ages, after some initial reluctance from those concerned.

ET, Bimbo, Snoozanne, Grasshopper: Several hashers were sporting suspiciously pristine-looking footwear, but most claimed it was through lack of recent shiggy or having been through the washing machine. ET was the only one who admitted to wearing new trainers and was made to drink from them.







Returnees: AE, 10secs



The hares

And of course we finished with a toast to Compo.





OTT and VR then delivered a spirited rendition of the sermon, which had been provided by Compo.

"When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore.

When the world seems to shine like you've had too much wine, that's amore.

When the moon hits your knees and you mispronounce trees, syc-amor-ay"

There was great applause and they were prevailed upon to do several encores.

We then retired to the AJ. We were able to get three tables outside quite close together, but it was still quite difficult to have any discussion. We dealt with the most important business by selecting OTT to attend Compo's funeral service, and also decided that the title of "Apprentice Webmaster" would be kept solely for Compo, the job title henceforth to be changed to "Deputy Webmaster". We then decided to postpone further discussion of AGM business to some future date when it could be transacted indoors. Victim started to prove himself worthy of Compo's mantle as hare razor by waiting until everyone had had a drink or so and then passing round the "hareline". The magic worked and several dates were taken. People then started going their several ways. It had been a bitter-sweet occasion but a very fitting way to remember Compo.

## ANSWERS TO SERMONS

1. If you don't get it, the joke's on Yew.
2. Absent without leaf.
3. In a nutshell, it's an oak tree!
4. It started a new Branch.
5. Undeciduous
6. The kill the male birch/beech trees, cos nobody likes those 'Sons of Bitches'.
7. I'm Pining for a new one, but they're not that Poplar
8. Cos it gives them Square Roots (but they do like 'Geometree').
9. A palm tree.





1. Scot's pine

No QR Code

But Inspired By The Open Eye Gallery

The Story of Liverpool City Region  
Through Its Trees

<https://openeyestories.org.uk/treesproject>



3. Oak



7. Beech



9. White Poplar



2. Norway Maple



5. Sycamore



6. Art Installation Tree



11. London Plane



4. Horse Chestnut



8. Silver Birch



10. Wild Cherry