



**ERSEY THIRSTDAYS
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

Run Number 542

18th January 2024

That Beer Place, Chester

The Pack: Victim (Hare), Snoozanne, Mad Hatter, OTT, 10secs, PA, Grasshopper, Cleo, Overdrive

Snow had already fallen over the last couple of days and there had been a lively debate over whether there would be more during the run, with everyone quoting their favourite weather forecast. As we gathered in That Beer Place it looked like we might escape unscathed; though 10secs was taking no chances and wearing hiking boots.



The adjacent table was occupied by a group who introduced themselves as the Chester Heritage Pub Society which seemed like a fine idea for a club. They were celebrating their first anniversary and generously gave us some of their cake,

This run was billed as in honour of the collapse of Chester's city wall which had taken place exactly four years ago, shortly after we had passed it on one of Victim's runs (see Trash Number 420), but had still not been repaired. The plan had been to visit this and several other spots on the wall which were still in a ruinous condition. The weather conditions meant that this plan would be curtailed somewhat; but still Victim had invited along the leaders of the Chester City Walls Repair Campaign Group for a photo-opportunity. David and Lynne joined us in the pub where they were bemused by our various hash traditions, especially hash names.



They had brought along a banner to be deployed at strategic spots.

Victim explained the plans for the run; the recent snow fall had covered all his marking, so he had produced a printed sheet for each of us, detailing a regroup outside a number of pubs en route.

Regroups outside/at the following:

1. Eastgate Clock Foregate St
2. The Albion Albion St/Park St
3. The Bear and Billet Lower Bridge St
4. The Golden Eagle Castle St
5. The Architect (beer stop) Nicholas St
6. The Henry Potts Watergate St
7. Footbridge along walls over St Martins Way
8. The Liverpool Arms Northgate
9. The Bull & Stirrup George St
10. The Lockkeeper Frodsham St
11. Old Queens Head Foregate St

To the obvious question he explained that disappointingly we would only be having a Beer Stop in one of them, namely the Architect.

We headed out and took the team photo, enlivened this time by having a banner to display. Grasshopper had messaged to say she would be late but as can be seen, she made it for the third version of the photo, taken by an obliging passer by.



Then we were off, along Foregate Street to Eastgate and up onto the walls. Very soon we were at the site of the main collapse, where we unfurled the banner again and took some photos.



As David commented, at first sight it looks like the wall walk is barred at this point, despite the council's addition of signage at his suggestion.



He also pointed out that at the next tower there is a donation point which no-one would spot unless you already know it's there (to the right of the window).



We descended from the walls at the amphitheatre, where David and Lynne left us. We continued to the next pub regroup at the Albert, then back onto the walls and down to the riverside.



Here there was more evidence of the parlous state of the walls.



A short walk up Bridge Street took us past the regroup at the Bear and Billet; then along Shipgate Street...

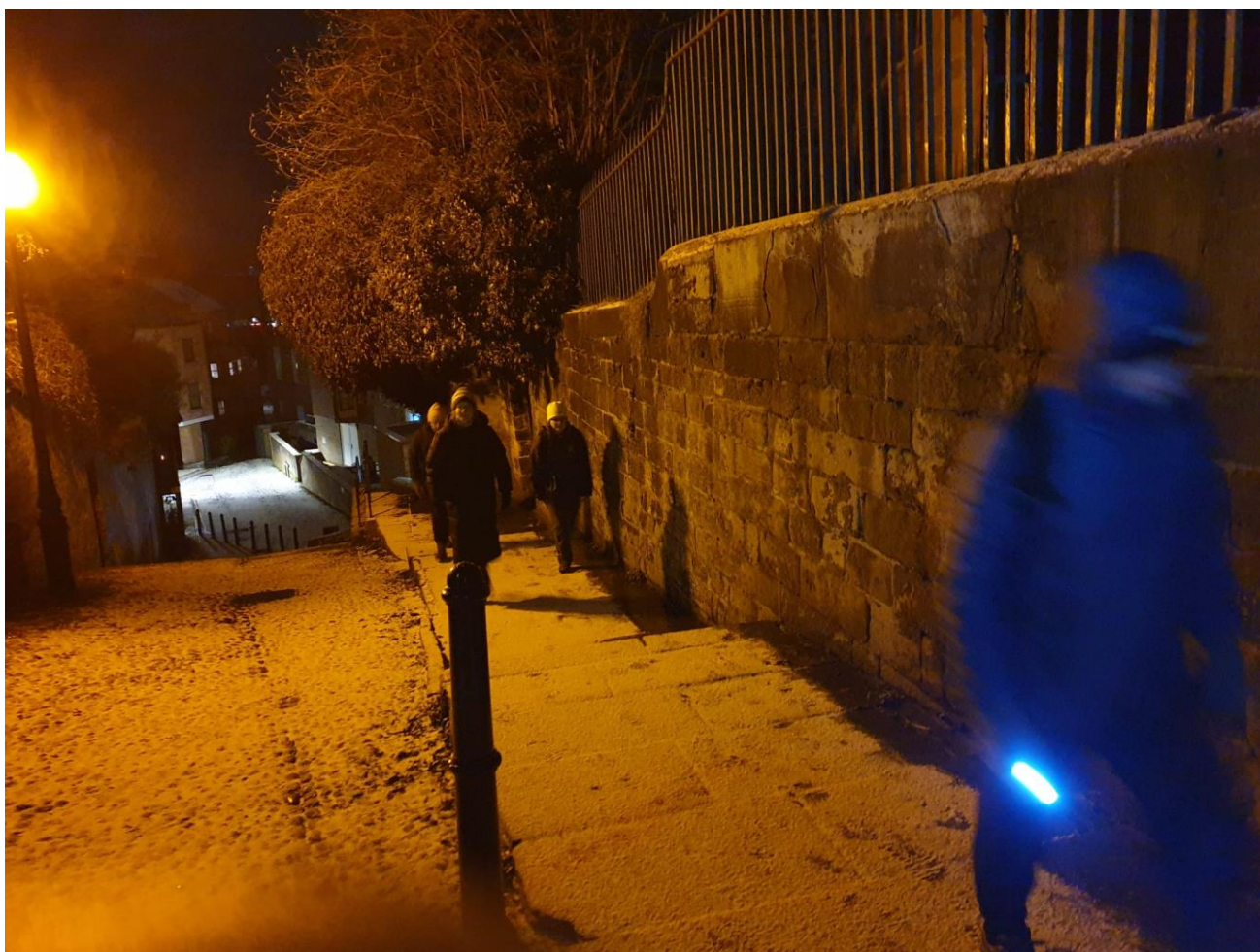


...where a bit of real checking was done...



...aided by some of the rare surviving markings, to find the route steeply up St Mary's Hill...

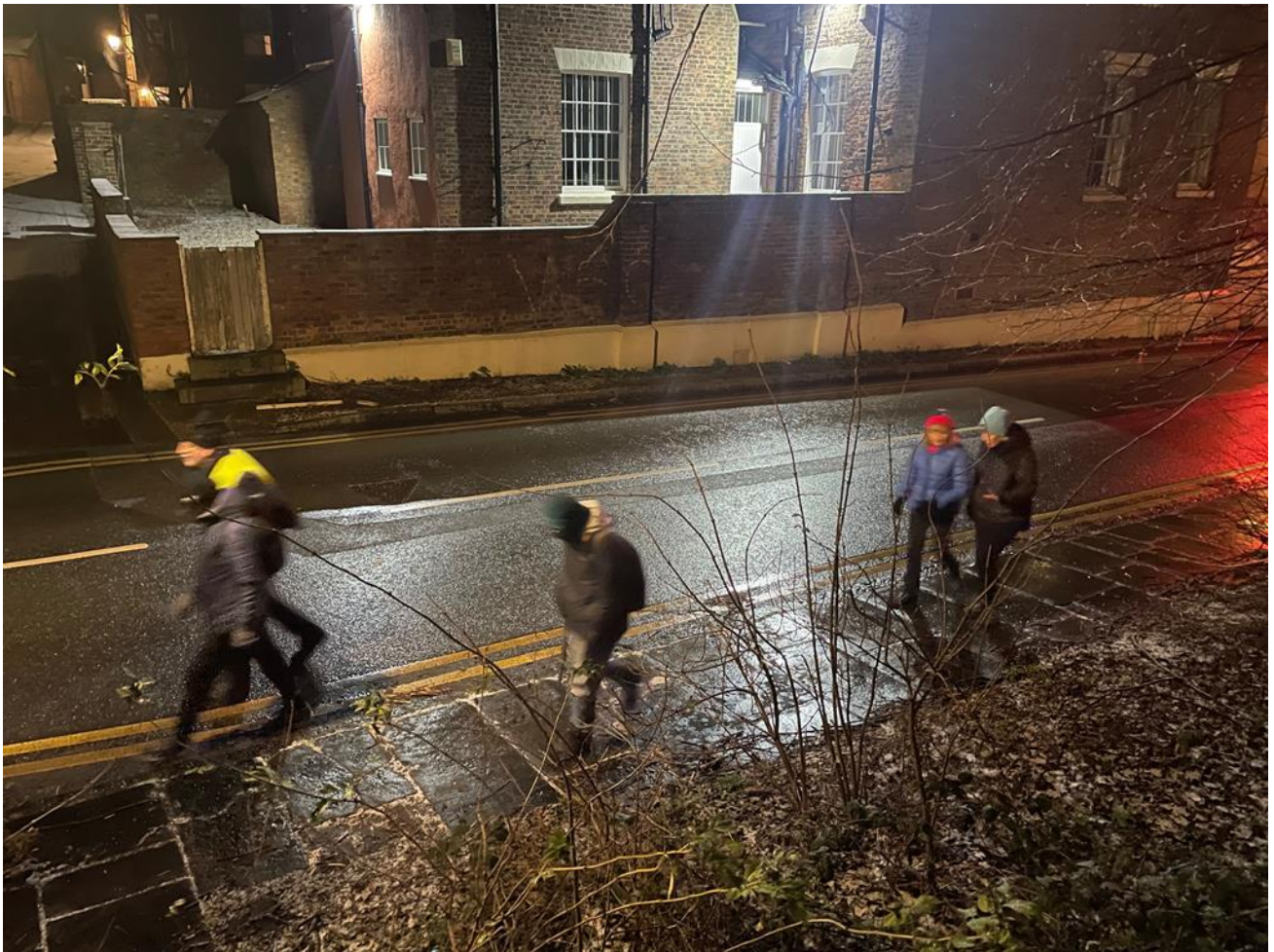




...which brought us to the Golden Eagle, the next regroup. Across Grosvenor Street and very soon we were at The Architect, a regroup and the one actual Beer Stop. Here Victim kindly bought us all a drink.



The onward trail was along the ring road and then down past the Henry Potts (another regroup) to rejoin the City Walls,



and up back towards the ring road and over the footbridge. This was a section where there was at least one section of wallwalk looking rather temporary with scaffolding and wooden planking. Shortly after this we crossed Northgate Street by the Liverpool Arms and then followed the frozen canal.



Soon there was a regroup and Cleo pulled a couple of large thermos flasks from her rucksack. These proved to contain generous quantities of gluhwein, which was still mouthburningly hot and enough for a couple of helpings each.





Regaled by this, we tottered on our way, over Frodsham Street and down to the canal towpath by The Lockkeeper. Here there were signs that someone had emerged from the pub and mistakenly decided it would be a jolly good wheeze to walk across the canal. Very soon after this we were heading over to Foregate Street and over to That Beer Place. The staff had kindly agreed to let us use their tables for our down-downs, which was certainly welcome news in the current conditions.



Soon we were tucking in to excellent food and beer. There had been some criticism of the Hare for driving the short distance from his home (though he did have an excuse in transporting the food). Now he could be heard on the phone trying to persuade PJ Vindaloo to come over and drive him back. For some reason the thought of braving the ice to have an alcohol-free beer with some drunken hashers didn't seem to be tempting him out.

Overdrive took over the RA duties. He called the circle (or in this case oblong) to order. The run was criticised for too much shiggy and not enough snow, and the inventiveness of the marking-free trail was praised. Cleo was also praised for the excellent gluhwein and for keeping it hot so long. Communal down-downs were awarded to:

The hare

Cleo (for the gluhwein)

10secs: for being a bit “nesh” about his footwear

PJ Vindaloo (in his absence): for, well, being absent