



**ERSEY THIRSTDAYS
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

Run Number 580

3rd July 2025

The Parrot, Buckley

The Pack: OTT (Hare), Welsh Maid (Hare), Snoozanne, 10secs, ET, Victim

It was a small select group which gathered at Buckley Station. Victim was making a welcome return after his hip operation and would have to do some mammoth shortcuts along the road while the rest of us negotiated gates and floundered in bogs. The Hare explained the markings which would involve a couple of View Points and an Optional Play Time. The trail had been co-set with Welsh Maid, in fact it was her standard running route.



The trail led down a country lane before cutting across the fields and through the Drury area before emerging onto Drury Lane. Here Victim caught up with the rest of the pack and together we went along a track...



...which brought us to the Optional Play Time. Some children were selfishly hogging all the facilities especially the tempting Zipwire so we continued on our way.



We had to demurely avert our eyes while the Hare explained the shortcuts to Victim. For the rest of us, the trail entered Mount Pleasant Country park. After a cloudy start the sun was now coming out and it was very pleasant running through the woods and grassy clearings. The park seems to be based around an old tip and the trail followed a line of cylindrical ventilation shafts. Eventually we found ourselves on top of Solar Hill, where there was a View Point. Here we met a familiar figure waiting for us, in the shape of Welsh Maid. OTT had told us she was at a School Prom this evening and apparently it was as much of a surprise to OTT as it was to us. She had brought a bag full of welcome refreshments – G&T, beer, soft drinks – and soon we were knocking these back, and arguing over the names of distant hills. Was one of them Billinge Hill, the highest point on Merseyside as Wigan Pier had told us on Run 573?





The air was very clear and there were views over to Liverpool...



...and Runcorn, Stanlow and Helsby Hill.

As we gazed, we saw a Beluga transport plane taking off from Airbus at Hawarden, looking very impressive in the evening sunlight.



Well, perhaps you had to be there...







What it should look like...



After finishing our drinks we headed down the hill past the solar panels which give it its name, and onto Mount Pleasant Road. Here the trail was found crossing a field and through a patch of woodland to emerge on Drury Lane again.



The trail here led into a nature reserve along a disused railway line.



At another viewpoint the hares explained that this area used to be industrial with coal mines, clay pits and potteries. More recently, an alarmingly steep path dropping down the hill was called Devils Drop and was where Welsh Maid's husband would ride his BMX bike as a child.



The trail wound around the old railway line...



...until it dropped from the embankment down onto the Dirty Mile Road where presumably a bridge had been demolished.



Here we were not far from the station and the On Inn was found.



Back in the car park we found Victim awaiting in his car. A smart table was deployed and was soon groaning under a pile of food – excellent egg and lettuce, and ham and cream cheese sandwiches, followed by strawberries and a home-made lemon cake. The hare had catered for larger numbers but nevertheless it didn't last long. We invented a new cocktail by judiciously combining Guinness and gin -- "ginness"? We then had a hasty impromptu circle, awarding down-downs to the hares and the returnees, Welsh Maid and Victim. Welsh Maid then headed home and the rest of us headed to The Parrot for a swift drink.