



## **ERSEY THIRSTDAYS HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

**Run Number 596**

**5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

### **The Royal Alfred, St Helens**

**The Pack:** Wigan Pier (Hare), Now and Then (Hare), Snoozanne, Mad Hatter, OTT, 10secs, ET

A message appeared on WhatsApp in the middle of the afternoon from Wigan Pier, saying that there had been an incident during the setting of the run, and consequently it was being cancelled. But shortly afterwards another message appeared from Now and Then, saying that he had completed setting the run and therefore it was on again. As the pack appeared one by one in the On Inn, Now and Then had to tell the story of the afternoon's events at least three times. It appeared that George had been attacked by a vicious dog which had run out of a nearby house. Luckily someone driving by had taken stock of the situation and invited Wigan Pier and George to take shelter in his van (Now and Then was not far away but nevertheless not aware of what was happening). The police were called and had been helpful and supportive but unable to take action because the dog was not a "dangerous breed" and there were no injuries (though later George was taken to a vet and found to have some puncture wounds from bites). It turned out that the dog was in the "care" of someone who was not actually the owner. So Wigan Pier was sitting at home recovering from her trauma, possibly with the aid of a large G&T.



After the obligatory photo opportunity, the hare gave us our instructions. Basically one was on, and for some reason we were on no account to be tempted to go along Argyle Street, which didn't seem likely as the only one we knew was thirty miles away in Birkenhead. And then we were off. The trail was found heading around by the station and then along the canal and across some park land.



We emerged on the Ravenhead Greenway which was on another part of the canal.



Apparently the St Helens Canal, the Sankey Brook Navigation and the Sankey Canal are more or less the same thing and is (are?) the first modern canal – we have been here before, see Trash Number 525.



The Greenway took us to a main road where we found the not-so-aptly named Swift Street. Across the road the route led through residential streets (passing the location of George's encounter with the dog) to arrive at the entrance to Victoria Park.



If only dogs could read...



Here there was a gatehouse with a sculpture of a big cat of uncertain breed (lion? Sabre-tooth tiger?) and an old milestone with a nearby information board which we puzzled over for some time.





It almost had too much information but still raised more questions than it answered, e.g. why exactly was it NHS property? Where was Afhton and why was it felt in such a funny way?

Anyway, we roamed in the park for some time, round a lake and through the trees and then around the edge of the park. Somewhere near here we found the dreaded Argyle Street, where all became clear – a crossed-out arrow where the Hare had presumably changed his mind or misread the map. We dutifully avoided temptation and turned down Chapel Street instead, eventually emerging at a large church, St Mary's. Here we turned down the oddly-named Crab Street and soon there were signs that we were in the downtown area...



...including a shop celebrating a local hero. Soon we were on the canal again, apparently once called the Hotties due to the hot water discharged into it by the glass works, making it a tempting place to swim; though possibly not after a local petshop unloaded its surplus fish stock into it, including (legend has it) some piranhas.

A detour from the canal took us past the Glass Museum to the huge glass kiln (n.b. daylight photos taken earlier by Wigan Pier);



then the canal bank led us to a bridge and over into Vera Page Park...



St. Helens Council

# Vera Page Park

This space in Ravenhead Greenway was renamed as part of Your Name Here, the opportunity to nominate someone to be commemorated permanently by having a park in St Helens named after them.



In the event of an emergency, please contact

St. Helens Security Force 01744 676728  
Merseyside Police 0151 709 6000 St. Helens Council 01744 676789

ALP

KAYLA

MWA

VINE

1/2/20



...where we found the Workers Memorial...



...constructed out of metal tools and pieces of ironwork...



...and dedicated to victims of industrial accidents.



Here we could see in the background the Steve Prescott bridge over the A58, named in tribute to another local hero. It was illuminated in constantly changing blue tints, though apparently on match days it is picked out in red and white, the St Helens rugby team colours. But our route took us back over the canal...



...and past the Quaker Meeting House, the oldest building in St Helens, built in 1679. Shortly after this we were back at the On Inn. We set up the food in a little park nearby, where there was a convenient seat but with an unfortunate camber which had a habit of depositing food on the ground. Now and Then had brought a tempting array of food and the low turnout had the advantage of giving us the chance of gorging to our heart's content; there was even a bag of green salad! Snoozanne supplemented the offering with a box of luxury mince pies which she was determined to finally dispose of. We would have lingered longer but the temperature had plummeted and though the absent RA had done his job until now by warding off the threatened rain, it was now starting. We had a quick circle where Now and Then and the absent Wigan Pier were commended upon an excellent run and Now and Then confessed to some discreet watering of the trail.

We then retired to the pub for a quick drink before going our separate ways.