

Shropshire Group Report

TR Action 354

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As we move towards Autumn, the Shropshire Group's activities are starting to quieten down. A relief after a rather hectic Summer.

In the middle of September, we joined the North Wales Group for a run to Powis Castle, near Welshpool. We met at the services just outside Oswestry and drove through some of the lesser-known villages along the Welsh Marches to Powis Castle. Powis Castle was built in the 13th Century as a medieval fortress but will always be associated with Clive of India. The 17th Century Italianate terraces are lined with herbaceous borders and the famous cloud like yew trees. The run culminated in a great lunch at The Horseshoes Inn, Berriew. What great company the North Wales members were. Let's do it again!

Early October saw us on our South Shropshire Run. Starting from the Ludlow Food Centre, we drove through the historic town of Ludlow and into Mortimer's Forest to our mid-morning coffee break at The Horse & Jockey in Knighton and a visit to the Knucklas Viaduct. Empty country roads took us to our lunch at The Raglath Inn, Little Stretton. A great run and many thanks to Gordon Grant for organising it.

Later that month, the Stretton Strollers wing of the Shropshire Group went underground in the Snailbeach Mine. It is not always appreciated how industrialised Rural Shropshire had once been – even in the remote Stiperstones Hills. Lead mining commenced here in Roman times and continued, both for lead and barytes, until the 1950s. Shropshire Group member Greg Washington is a guide at the mine and, after a lunch at The Stiperstones Inn, took a group of ten on a two-hour tour. This was quite an experience. Well done, Greg.

The Group's 'Autumn Run' took 15 cars over into Cheshire and a visit to the Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker. RAF Hack Green was built to help Britain protect itself against the perceived Soviet threat of both conventional and nuclear war. Hidden deep in the Cheshire countryside, the bunker stayed secret for more than 50 years. Now the blast doors are open and we discovered how we would have met a nuclear National emergency. The visit was followed by a lovely Sunday lunch at the Cholmondeley Arms before heading off on the post lunch run back into Shropshire. A most enjoyable day out and many thanks to Roger Boxall for organising this.

Shropshire Group's Forthcoming Events

17th December – No Club Night

21st January – Club Night at The Fox & Hounds, Shawbury

Photo Caption

Shropshire Group at the Snailbeach Mine