

Shropshire Group Report

TR Action 355

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The Shropshire Group's last adventure for 2024 was our Christmas bash – aka The Turkey Trot!

On Sunday 8th December, we met at Salop Leisure, on the outskirts of Shrewsbury, and visited the Christmas Craft Fair that was being held in their plant centre. A very pleasant start to the day and money was spent a variety of stocking fillers but, sadly, there was no autojumble.

The run element of the day was a cause of some concern to the organiser. This was the day after the height of Storm Darragh and fallen trees were expected. Whilst we did come across some road closures due to fallen trees, these were not closed in the direction of our route. The other concern was flooding. There is one road, between and Atcham and Berwick Wharf, which, at the best of times, always seems to be below the level of the adjacent River Severn. Indeed, the River had burst its banks, but the flood water had run away from the road. And we had little more than a puddle to contend with. However, our luck didn't hold. The River Roden had flooded the road further along. It was noticeable that Group members sat back but encouraged the GL (me) to try to cross the flood. Once I was safely through, they were happy to follow.

Our destination was the Shrewsbury Flax Mill and Maltings. This historic building was the first iron-framed building in the world. The pioneering frame is what makes this an internationally important industrial site. It is the grandparent of skyscrapers. The main building was opened in 1797 as a purpose-built flax mill. Since then, the site has grown and been repurposed many times. From 1897 to 1987 it was a maltings. A most fascinating place to visit.

A quick drive through Shrewsbury took us to the Croud Meadow, the home ground of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, where 46 of us enjoyed our Festive Fayre in the banqueting suite overlooking the football pitch. Helen Beresford organised the quiz and, with no expense spared, a box of "Heros" was presented to the winners. Many thanks, Helen. Great food and even greater company. Our collection of charitable donations amounted to £500 which was split equally between Prostate Cancer UK and Breast Cancer Now. Thanks all for your generosity.

That's it - another year gone. So, it's now time to hunker down and fettle our TRs ready for 2025.

Shropshire Group's Forthcoming Events

18th February – Club Night and Group AGM at The Fox & Hounds, Shawbury

Mid-February – date TBC - Behind the scenes tour of Shrewsbury Flax Mill

Late-February – date TBC – Shropshire Group's Snowdrop Run

18th March - Club Night at The Fox & Hounds, Shawbury

Late March – date TBC – Shropshire Group's March Hare Run

Photo Caption

Shropshire Group's Turkey Trot