

THE SHROPSHIRE WEEKEND AND LUDLOW MAGNALONGA : 9-12 AUGUST 2024

Adjustment, Adventure And An Anniversary

A group of 6 South Cheshire Ramblers spent a weekend in Shropshire.

Adjustments and Adventure on 2 Walks :

On Friday morning, we met at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms to walk the Wart Hill Wander. However I was advised that the route was blocked by windblown trees at the decision point to follow the long (10 mile) or shorter (7.5 mile) routes. By mutual agreement, we decided to have an adventure and follow an alternative described route to Norton Camp.



This is a 5 mile route to one of Shropshire's largest hillforts, renowned for its double rampart and ditch. The walk goes both over and along the River Onny and climbs quite steadily to give views of the Shropshire Hills including Brown Clee. We made some adjustments to walk in the open countryside rather than through the woodland and in all completed a good 7 mile walk.



We finished off the day with a convivial dinner at the Blue Boar in Ludlow. As the pub was fully booked for meals there was a lively atmosphere, the staff were attentive and courteous and the food was excellent. We had a great evening which included a walk through Ludlow.

On the Saturday, it was disappointing that after overnight rain, the promised good weather started as heavy drizzle. I had planned a walk to the viewpoint at Clapping Wicket and to finish off with a visit to the fortified manor of Stokesay Castle.

Another adjustment and by agreement, it seemed sensible to visit the Castle and Church in the morning rather than walking in the rain. It was an excellent tour, made even more interesting following the audio guide





The War Memorial in the Churchyard lists the names of both the fallen and of those who served and returned following the two World Wars.



I was told that following the rain, our original walk up to View Wood and Clapping Wicket would be quite wet and slippery. So, while we had our lunch in the grounds of the Castle – it had stopped raining by then – Helen and I devised a circular walk of about 5 miles following, in part, the Shropshire Way.

We would be making a steady climb to the small village of Aldon, leaving the Shropshire Way and returning via Onibury Bridge then taking a lower route back to Stokesay following the railway line and the River Onny.



It turned out to be a good walk and we were rewarded with fine views and a hot sunny afternoon.



We re-grouped at the Squirrel Pub for dinner in the evening.

Anniversary: The Ludlow Magnalonga celebrates its 21st Year.



“... this event gives you the opportunity to explore our lovely landscape along a carefully planned and waymarked route. As you eat up the miles you'll also work through a tantalising menu - featuring delicious offerings from local producers. “

The number 21 written in cakes – we didn't win one in the raffle !!



The walk started from the Ludlow Brewery. Thank you to Judith for arranging the taxi to take and collect us.

Helen's review of the Magnalonga:

“The six of us set off on the 8.5 miles walk *[10 miles if you visited the church at Bromfield]* from the Ludlow brewery. After walking through the town, past the castle and down to the river we climbed up to Whitcliffe Common where we had a scotch egg and a drink. Then it was off to Bromfield along lanes and tracks; here it was a Welsh black beef bap and a drink. From here we headed over to the racecourse and across fields to the 3rd stop near Felton farm. This time it was chocolate brownie and honeycomb ice cream. After leaving here it was getting hot but we made our way back to Ludlow and the brewery for cheese and biscuits and another soft drink *[or beer]*. It was a lovely walk with great views.”



There is entertainment at each of the stops, traditional and contemporary sing-a-long ditties and on the practical side, water refills and portaloos.

There were options for Monday; Bernie and Tony were booked in for golf at Ludlow, we'd walked through the golf and race courses on Sunday. Bev and I visited Wroxeter Roman City and Helen and Judith headed home.



Another lovely Shropshire weekend in great company. Thank you for embracing the adjustments and enjoying the adventures.

Photos are courtesy of Helen. More can be viewed on the SCR website.

Shropshire Weekend

Eileen Dorman August 2024