**Shropshire Group Report**

**TR Action 347**

**Roger Critchley**

Although submitted, no Social Scene Report was published for the Shropshire Group in TR Action 346. This report, therefore, covers several months’ activities.

We met in Oswestry, for our Drive It Day Run and followed a circuitous route through some of the lesser-known villages in the Welsh Marches to Powys Castle, Welshpool. Lunch was taken at The Horseshoes Inn in Berriew. This popular pub had already hosted a Classic Car Breakfast and a Porsche Club meeting that morning.

Our Spring Tour of Dumfries and Galloway consisted of 17 cars and 33 people. We occupied the whole of the scenically located Balcary Bay Hotel, Auchencairn. An hotel to be recommended!

Everybody assembled at the Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum for a convoy run to the hotel. Unfortunately, an error in Roger’s route instructions led to an impromptu tour of Dumfries. It is always fun seeing another group car coming from the opposite direction!

We stayed at The Balcary Bay Hotel for 4 nights. Three days of runs were prepared. Details were supplied for 6 driving routes (one incorporating a 5½ mile walk along the shore of Loch Trool) along with details of 2 other walks. The result was that the number of cars on each run was quite small, so much more fun than a convoy of 17.

One of the advantages of taking the whole of an hotel is that we don’t need to consider the other guests. Therefore, hilarious entertainment could be provided each evening. Many thanks to our MC, Roger Boxall.

Feedback from the members showed how much everybody enjoyed the tour. Thanks must be given to my fellow organisers Malcolm Lainsbury, Peter Napier, Gordon Grant, Greg Washington and Roger Boxall.

The North York Moors was the location most voted for by the members for our 2024 tour. We reserved all 20 rooms in the Mallyan Spout Hotel in Goathland. Shropshire Group members were emailed details and by the following lunchtime all the rooms had been booked! In fact, members have taken additional accommodation elsewhere in the village!

Part of the 2023 European Meeting will be based in Llandrindod Wells, and we were tasked by the organisers (well, I had my arm twisted by Messrs Forey and Holyoak) to verify the routes that they had chosen for the runs. Shropshire Group members have individually and in small groups driven all the runs. We had a great time doing this and it helped us appreciate the wonderful scenery we have on our doorstep.

The Dorothy Clive Garden is located near Market Drayton. On Sunday, 18th June, it hosted a Summer Music Day with a Vintage and Classic Car Display. Shropshire cars undertook a short run to the garden and, once we had arrived, were joined by the North Wales Group. This brought 20 TRs together and provided an impressive show.

Last year we had a scenic run to Black Rock Sands, Porthmadog for a beach picnic. We enjoyed it so much that we had to do it again! The drive over the Berwyns to Bala and then on to Porthmadog was sensational! After a picnic on the beach, we returned via the steam railway station in Llanfair Caereinion for tea. Many thanks to Greg Washington for organising this.

The Shrewsbury Classic Car show was held on 9th July in the village of Longden. We had a scenic run over the Stiperstones Hills on our way there.

The latest issue of our occasional Group magazine, *TR Torque*, was published in July. A copy can be found at: [www.tr-register.co.uk/group/shropshire/tr-torque-newsletter](http://www.tr-register.co.uk/group/shropshire/tr-torque-newsletter). Many thanks to our editor, Peter Napier for undertaking this massive task.

North Shropshire is an area we often overlook for our runs. Helen Beresford, Ann Hazledine and Jo Hardy organised a run in this area along interesting and little-known roads for 27th July. They also arranged a raffle which allowed us to donate £103 to Cancer Research. A visit was made to Woodseaves Nursery and Steam Railway followed by a meal at The Four Alls in Woodseaves. Many thanks, ladies!

Alan Edwards arranged for us to look at the gardens of Westwood House, Bridgnorth on 8th August.. These charming privately owned gardens were opened specifically for us. This was followed by a run around the Clee Hills and a carvery meal at The Punch Bowl, Bridgnorth. Thanks, Alan.

RAF Shawbury hold an event each year for the families of their personnel. We were invited to display our cars. A great day – thanks to Malcolm Lainsbury for co-ordinating this.

TR@70 was our next major event. A handful of members camped overnight and, in spite of the distance, others attended for a day. Good to see us returning to an “International”.

The Black and White Villages of North Herefordshire are particularly picturesque -so we drove around them on 20th August. We had stops in Weobley and Pembridge to admire the buildings. The Bell Inn in the tiny village Yarpole is a community run pub and they gave us a most excellent lunch.

For details of forthcoming events please see: [www.tr-register.co.uk/group/shropshire](http://www.tr-register.co.uk/group/shropshire).

**Photo captions:**

IMG\_3022 Shropshire Group at The Balcary Bay Hotel

PXL\_20230629\_131120827 Shropshire Group at the Black Rock Sands