TR Torque 🚇 🎯 Periodical newsletter of the TR Register Shropshire Group June 2023 - Issue 11





## Preface



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Articles for publication are welcomed provided that they are relevant to the Group such as:-\*

\* Restoration projects.

- \* Technical do you have a particular experience?
- \* Runs out with your cars either individually or in

a group.

\* Future events

\* Anything that Members may feel would be of interest to the Group beyond TRs.—ie anything!

All opinions expressed by contributors will be their own and are not necessarily the views of the editor, the TR Register or the Shropshire Group.

The Editor reserves the right to edit content and to moderate submissions.

## Letter from The Editor

A lot of oil has dropped onto floors, drives etc since the last issue of TR Torque Edition 10 in September

2022 which is all my fault as I have been rather preoccupied with other things as further explained in this issue.

Since that edition we have had the Turkey Trot, Snowdrop Run, Spring Tour and a host of other smaller events most of which go unrecorded as here at TRT we never get to hear about them.



Well hopefully, this edition will bring us right bang

up to date but if any Members do feel the urge to put pen to paper and wish to submit anything of interest to the rest of us please don't be shy. Get writing and submit your masterpiece (preferably with photos).

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# Roger's Ramblings

Message from our Group Leader

It's been a while since I've had a ramble to you and much has happened in the intervening period. So much so that Peter has been able to publish this bumper edition of **TR Torque**.



Most of these events are discussed elsewhere in this issue but I must talk about the conundrum I had over the Turkey Trot. You will be aware that we have habitually visited a Christmas Fair as an element of The Turkey Trot Run. But this was becoming a little too easy if not somewhat passé. The

Shrewsbury Town Quiz was a late decision, but it proved very popular. It is a format we may repeat – until this too becomes passé!

The highlight of our year so far must be the Group's Tour of Dumfries and Galloway and our stay at The

Balcary Bay Hotel. This is reported in more detail elsewhere in this issue, but I can't stress enough how much Helen & I enjoyed it. This is due to the hard work of my fellow organisers - Peter, Greq,



Gordon, Malcolm, and Roger B. Thanks guys - you made it great for everybody. And, of course, we can't forget all of you who took part. You completed it!



Club Nights at The Fox and Hounds are very popular. Many of us are now eating there. As Nigel does not charge us for the room, I like to think that we are paying our way.

Easter Sunday saw us, and some members of the Stoke Group, sitting in one of Lord Bradford's fields at Weston Park. The Weston Park Motor Fest (as it is now called) attracts guite an eclectic mix of vehi-

cles. This gave cause for me to consider "what is a classic car?". Many of the cars there did



not meet my preconceived idea of a Classic Car. My view had been that a Classic Car should be old, rare and venerable.

A vehicle I knew from my early years when, as a toddler, I helped my uncle change the oil in his Vauxhall Wyvern or tinker with his Vincent motorcycles (my mother was never too impressed with the state of my clothes!). The criterion for cars to enter the showring was that they must be at least 15 years old. But that's only yesterday! My revered copies of "*Classic and Sports Car*" now carry a monthly feature on a modern car as a "Future Classic". Where will it end?

However, looking around the exhibiting owners, I saw smiling faces, animated conversations and just unadulterated pleasure. Lots of happy people. So, maybe, it is not the cars that are the draw but the satisfaction of ownership.

The moral must be that whatever you drive - just enjoy it!

Roger



# Autumn 2022 Run 5th November 2022

#### Peter Napier

A small group of erstwhile members braved the potential elements to visit the arboretum at Bodenham after two previous postponements .

In the end the weather was relatively kind and rain held off to allow a leisurely drive from Salop Caravans around to the arboretum via Buildwas, Much Wenlock and Kidderminster.





Following the walk the group took a short drive via the Wyre Forest and Bridgnorth for a tasty carvery lunch and a good chin wag at The Down Inn near Bridgnorth.



### Peter Napier

# Five TRs go to Malvern in September 2022

In September 2022 Phil Desborough, Dave Somerville, Alan Edwards, Roger Critchley and Peter Napier decided to take a trip to Malvern to the Classic Car Show.

Those that have been going to this event for many years say that this event was poorly attended compared with this event in previous years.





## Turkey Trot 11th December 2022 Peter Napier



This year saw a departure from the format of the pre Christmas run we know as "The Turkey Trot". After a short drive we parked up in the car park opposite Shrewsbury Abbey and walked into Shrewsbury Town Centre each of us armed with a written quiz all about Shrewsbury and things and people connected to it.

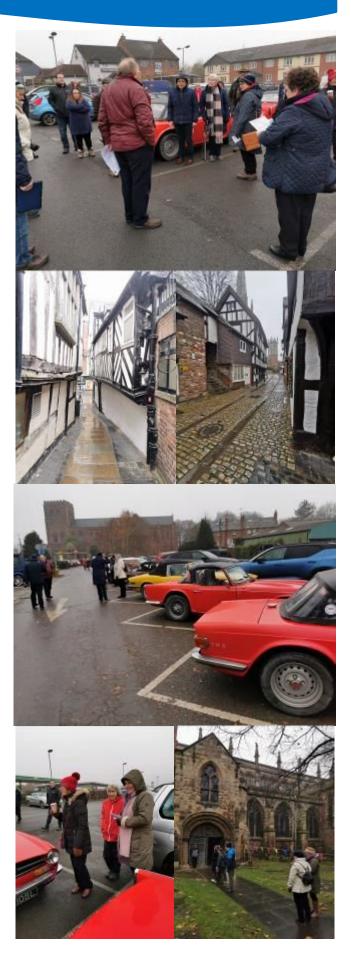
The quiz involved a walk around the town answering various questions followed by a Christmas Dinner at The Wroxeter Hotel where the winner was announced. Unfortunately due to the effluxion of time the name of the winner has disappeared into the fog that is a 72 year old memory. Perhaps someone could remind me for the next edition.

The primary objective was to try something different and from the comments received the idea was a successful one which may be repeated in future in other Shropshire locations.

Obviously weather has a bearing and had the weather been any worse than it was that day there are plenty of coffee shops open where members could sit around and chat before heading off to their lunch.

A big thank you to Roger and Helen Critchley for the work they put in planning this event and for 'dry running' the quiz in Shrewsbury ( a few times I gather!). Also thanks to everyone else who made the event a success.





## Snowdrop Run 6th March 2023 Peter Napier



Big thank you to Gordon and Sheena Grant for organising the annual snowdrop run which was a little late this year due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. This didn't lessen the enjoyment of the day (although I did come down with Covid a few days later!).

The run took us along some lovely South Shropshire lanes some of which I haven't driven in 40 years of living in the area. We were heading to Attingham Park for a snowdrop walk.

We had a lovely meal at The Mill at Leighton (formerly The Kynnersley Arms)

I apologise to those who posted photos on WhatsApp and which haven't been featured here. Photos are not easy to extract from WhatsApp without a lot of fiddling about.

If you want your photos to be featured in TR Torque, and why not as you all take such lovely photos, please email them to me on napierandcompany@gmail.com. Thank you.

Mid way along the run we took tea and cakes at Stanton Long parish church for which we extend our thanks to the members of the congregation that made the cakes and served the teas and coffees. Very enjoyable the cakes were too!









This year's unsuccessful "Daffodil Run" was recycled as the "Drive It Day Run".

15 cars met in Oswestry and followed a circuitous route through some of the lesser-known villages in the Welsh Marches to Powys Castle, Welshpool. Whilst the castle was originally built in the 13th Century as a medieval fortress, it will always be linked with Clive of India. Many artifacts from this period are on display. The magnificent gardens were just acquiring their Spring colours.

Another roundabout route took us to The Horseshoes Inn in Berriew. Twenty-seven members sat down to a

late lunch. This popular pub had already hosted a Classic Car Breakfast and a Porsche Club meeting





# Weston Park on Easter Sunday

#### **Roger Critchley'**

Easter Sunday saw 20 TRs on our stand at The Weston Park Motor Show. This is the first show that we attend each year, but it has occasionally been called off due to snow. This year the weather was with us.

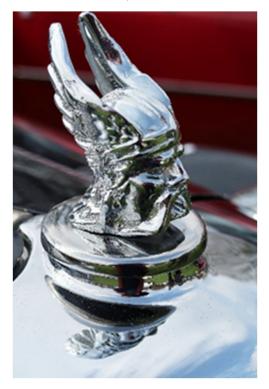
The 17<sup>th</sup> Century Hall is the home of the Earls of Bradford and is set in 1000 acres of parkland landscaped by Capability Brown.

The show has experienced a resurgence over the last couple of years and was very busy. The trade and autojumble stands did brisk business.

One feature, this year, was the abundance of "modern" classics and I have discussed these elsewhere in this issue.

However, it was great to see some good old cars including an excellent Triumph 2000 Roadster and a venerable Rover 75. Both very desirable cars. I would be only too happy to have either in my garage.

This was a very enjoyable show, and it is good to see Weston Park back up on form.







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## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023

Peter Napier, Helen Critchley and others

#### Background

This year's Spring Tour was, like the previous two tours, a real team effort. Members will recall that not so long ago Roger Critchley and Helen did most of the planning of these tours with a little help from Scenic and Continental who charged for their services.

Then Roger was taken ill and was hospitalised for a while and Helen took over the reins and to help out Helen a group of Members volunteered to help out.

Thankfully Roger recovered and took over the reins again but the group wanted to continue with helping in any way that they could. This included organising runs to take some of the time consuming work off Roger who lets not forget also has tiresome TR Register admin to deal with none of which I daresay anyone else would want to do!?

From their experience of organising runs it was suggested that why use an outside organisation to organise what we can do ourselves and so it came about that the group with Roger Critchley's leadership and with Helen C's support set about searching for suitable locations and more importantly suitable hotels.

It isn't a given that a suitable destination will have suitable hotels for a group of 20 or so cars and up to 40 people at a rate that is reasonable to all. So it proved in Pembrokeshire which it had been collectively decided by the voluntary planning group would make an ideal location. And so it would but finding a suitable hotel proved so difficult it was suggested that we identify several destinations and look for a suitable hotel in those areas.

#### Helen Critchley writes:-

Great hotel, fabulous location, wonderful scenery, excellent weather - what more could we want? Brilliant company of course!

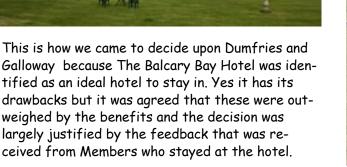
With several varying routes and places to visit on offer we were able to plan each day according to our personal requirements; long drive or shorter drive; castle or garden; town visit or seaside (and an ice cream); walk or lakeside picnic.

So much choice. This meant that usually there were no more than a max of 8 cars per group which made keeping together so much easier - and less stressful for the leader.

Catching up in the evenings with everyone else's experiences was most enjoyable as were Roger B's entertainments!! It's just as well we had the hotel to ourselves or we would certainly have been reprimanded for unruly behaviour and lack of courtesy to other guests. Who would have thought that the manoeuvring of an After 8 chocolate from forehead to mouth could cause such hilarity? Congratulations to the winner - Sheena.

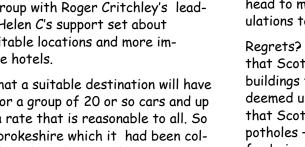
Regrets? Yes, a few - but not many. We regret that Scotland is not spending money on their listed buildings therefore, many places of interest were deemed unsafe and inaccessible and we regret that Scotland are not spending money on filling in potholes - but we all know they have a reputation for being tight-fisted (Gordon!!). But these regrets were far outweighed by all the positives. We will definitely be visiting again

Yes, Scotland 2023 gave us everything and is going to be a hard act to follow.









#### The Journeys up to Scotland

This year the Group went to Scotland for a Spring Tour in and around Dumfries and Galloway. 17 cars were to make the journey up and many decided to have an overnight stop enroute.

#### Group 1 (by P Napier)

One group consisted of Alan and Nic Edwards (TR5), Phil and Alice Desborough (TR4a), Roger and Helen Critchley (TR6), Martin and Sascha Edwards (TR6), Ian and Pat Thomas (TR6) and us, Peter and Rosanne Napier (TR5).

We were booked to stay in The Kings Arms which is the village pub in Temple Sowerby near Penrith. Our route kept motorways to the minimum preferring to travel on A roads and what a lovely drive it turned out to be. M6 to Preston then A roads to Clitheroe, Gisburn, Settle, Kirby Lonsdale, Sedburgh, Brough, Appleby in Westmoreland and finally Temple Sowerby. A beautiful drive in wonderful weather.

On the route up we stopped to have lunch just before we reached Kirkby Steven at The Cross Keys which is a temperance inn and B&B. Here we had a lovely break in glorious weather with fantastic views.



After a long but thoroughly enjoyable drive along wonderful roads and through lovely English countryside we eventually reached our hotel in Temple Sowerby.



After leaving the hotel in the morning the cars drove to The Larch Cottage Nurseries at Melkinthorpe and garden and what an amazing place it turned out to be. Well worthwhile having a detour from the motorway.



The whole Group was due to meet up at Dumfries Aviation Museum which was having an open day on the Sunday.

The weather was again kind to us and we all drove roofs down up to Dumfries along mainly A roads but taking the M6 around Carlisle.

There were many planes on display but one of the stars of the show must be the Spitfire which was dug out of a Scottish loch and restored to its present condition.





Eventually we reached the Balcary Bay Hotel where there was ample time for a relaxing drink, or two, before dinner.









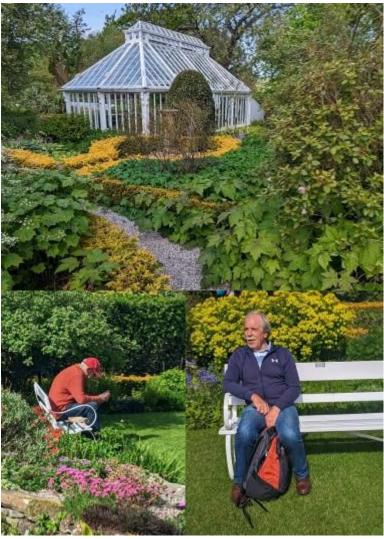
## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Short Run to Palnackie Harbour—Day 2—Peter Napier



For the Spring Tour this year it was decided to plan a number of long routes but for those who preferred not to drive too much also to offer some alternative shorter runs. In the end a number of shorter routes were planned by Roger Critchley, Malcolm Lainsbury and myself.

The route that I planned involved a rather long stop in Kirkcudbright to allow for plenty of time to explore the town. We walked around the town and visited Broughton House garden at the rear of an 18th town house in the heart of the town. Afterwards we took a short run 'all around the Wrekin' (a Shropshire expression) and then back to the hotel via Palnackie Harbour which appears on the map but which other than that I knew nothing about.

Broughton House is a National Trust of Scotland property is an 18th century townhouse of the Alexander Murray, Provost of Kirkcudbright and later home of a famous Scottish impressionist painter E A Hornel. It was used for injured soldiers in WW1.





Kirkcudbright is a lovely town with a small quayside where fishing vessels unload their catches and there is also a nearby marina with pleasure craft. There is a medieval castle which thanks to Historic Scotland's aversion to risk is currently closed until such time as they are satisfied nothing will fall from it from a great height. It makes one wonder how have we survived these crumbling ruins for so long?



Five cars decided to take part in this run and after we departed from Kirkcudbright we drove the short distance to the Old Schoolhouse restaurant and café on the A75 for lunch but unfortunately they could not accommodate us. Perhaps I should have tried to book ahead but without knowing how many takers there would be for this run it wasn't feasible.

Never mind, it was decided to proceed and to get back to the hotel earlier than planned and to see if there might be somewhere en route to have a coffee and a snack. So, after a lovely run through the lanes and side roads north of Castle Douglas we found ourselves at Palnackie Harbour. Pal Wacky Harbour might be a more appropriate name for this place.

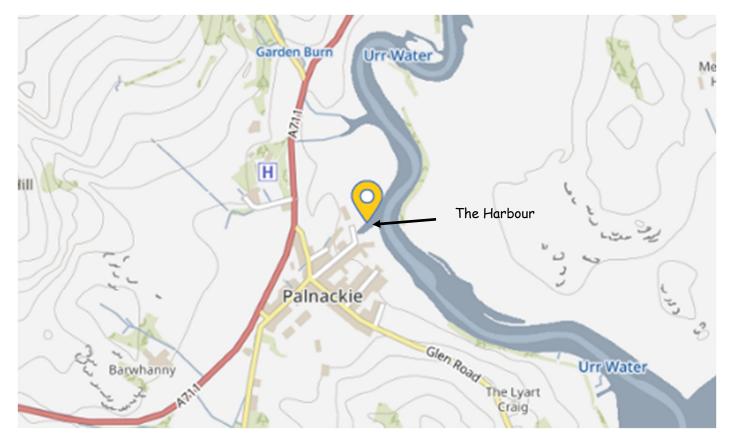


The harbour is a 'community port' according to the website 'Palnackie Community'. The harbour is a small rectangular basin off the River Urr with wood-piled quays, now badly silted and their timber walls forming the quayside are collapsing. Nearby is a 2-storey rubble and timber warehouse which seems to have been built using old ships masts.





We arrived unannounced and parked up outside some modern warehouses wondering whether this would be permitted. We were approached by a man with a long straggly beard and a mop of curly hair beneath a woollen hat who enthusiastically welcomed us to the harbour and that we were free to park up here.



Palnackie Harbour - also known as Barlochan Port and Garden Creek

The man in question told us his name is Tim Dennis and that he originates from a farming family in Shropshire. Truth be told in the nicest possible way Tim is a tad eccentric. He is also very hospitable and agreed to show us around the harbour and offered us a cup of tea in the nearby warehouse which also appeared to be his home at least that is what it looked like.

Tim introduced us to the captain of a tall masted ship which was tied up in the harbour and resting on the mud as the tide was out at the time of our visit, The ship, La Malouine, is a twin masted French Brigantine captained by Roy Kerr an octogenarian sailor who told me he is awaiting triple heart bypass surgery. That didn't seem to stop him sailing the ship to Belgium recently!



Roy welcomed me on board and showed me around including below decks and the engine room. We certainly seem to find some interesting places on out TR Tours!



The other ships in the harbour included one sea going trawler and two that looked quite unseaworthy, and Tim explained that in contravention of whatever regulations apply to such things, they were gradually scrapping these hulks.

The nearby pub apparently was built from reject bricks brought in by the ships from Lancashire as ballast. By 1849 the creek was opened out and converted to a dock.

The dock was excavated on land owned by Barlochan Estate and Orchardton Estate. The harbour was kept silt free by releasing a sluice gate at the end of Brig Barwhinnie Loch. When the tide was half way out the water would rush down from the loch and out into the harbour.

Palnackie was an export port for millstones from a nearby quarry as early as 1650, the stones being cut beside Castle Point beach and rafted to Palnackie for shipment to Glasgow. Palnackie was also a ship building site and the last ship to be built at Palnackie was a boat called the Maksicar by Mr Clifford Henderson. The ship called the Sarah and Isabella was a 2-masted topsail schooner which was owned and run by Captain Black traded coal from Palnackie. Many different cargoes were traded in and out of Palnackie such as barley, treacle, timber, granite, cattle feed and oats.



















## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Short Run to Dumfries —Day 1— Roger Critchley



This was our first run in the area, and we were impressed by the quietness of the roads. Until we found out why. POTHOLES! Many could swallow a TR whole. This must be the reason that the much of the Scots Nation is avoiding the roads in Dumfries and Galloway.

Our first stop was at Threave Gardens. This is The National Trust of Scotland's School of Heritage Gardening

Threave Castle is a 14<sup>th</sup> Century castle situated on an island in the River Dee just outside Castle Douglas. However, Historic Scotland has allowed it to fall into such a state of disrepair that it is too dangerous to visit. This was to be the theme for many of the attractions we wished to see. Obviously, Holyrood has different priorities.

Threave gardens are fantastic.











In the Grounds of the garden is Threave House. This was built as a shooting lodge in 1871 in a Scottish Baronial style for the Gordon family.



It is owned by and correctly maintained by the National Trust of Scotland. One of the features of the lodge is a "gliding staircase". This staircase has very low-rise treads so that Victorian ladies would not, immodestly, show their ankles. Our ladies, however, not only showed their ankles but also their knees!

From Threave Gardens we drove through Castle Douglas and along the old Military Road to Dumfries. This road was built by the English troops to suppress the Jacobean uprising of 1745.

It has largely been surpassed by the A75 and is now a very pleasant by-way going through such evocatively named places as the Haugh of Urr and Lochfoot.

The plan had been to do an historic walking tour of Dumfries. Dumfries describes itself as "The Queen of the South". It is quite obvious that the town has been carried away by its own sense of grandeur!

Fortunately, we were unable to park in the free car park that I had chosen by the Old Bridge (the pay car parks on the other side of the road were



all but empty). Everybody decided not to stop (a wise decision) but to follow the rest of the route and explore elsewhere.

This just left Helen and me to "appreciate" Dumfries. The town was the home of Rabbie Burns, the Baird of Scotland. It was here that he was the local Excise Officer, lived with his family, fathered several children - some by the barmaid at The

Globe - and wrote much of his poetry. Whilst having an inedible panini at a very unpleasant Starbucks, we were rescued by the arrival of Peter and Rosanne. The day improved thereafter.

We returned to plan and had a very pleasant scenic drive along the side of the River Niff and the



coast of the Firth of Solway. It had been hoped that we could visit Sweetheart Abbey, but the curse of Historic Scotland prevailed.

When we stopped to take in the view of Drum Bay at Drumburn, we were met by Malcolm and Jacqui, Roger and Angela and Ray and Anne approaching from the opposite direction!





We drove together to Caresthorne and then split up to follow our chosen routes back to the Balcary Bay hotel.

A stop at Rockcliffe s here that Helen had

was compulsory because it was here that Helen had spent some childhood

holidays. Then back to the hotel as the bar was calling.

An excellent day, other than Dumfries town.









## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Short Run to Drumlanrig Castle Roger Critchley



Our drive to Drumlanrig Castle was the alternative route, on Day 2, for those who did not wish to do the long drive to Portpatrick.

The run started with a pleasant drive along the side of Loch Ken. Our original plan had been to stop for coffee in the small town of St John's Town of Dalry but no suitable café could be found. So we stopped in New Galloway at the CatStrand Arts & Visitor Centre.

The Centre is located in the former village primary school. It takes its name from the stream that ran beside the school. Extensions have now put the stream underneath the building and a glass panel allows visitors to see the water rushing by when the stream is in flood. The coffee and cakes were good!

We drove through St John's Town and Moniaive to Drumlanrig Castle.

Drumlanrig Castle is the home of the Duke & Duchess of Buccleuch & Queensberry. The grounds are extensive and the drive up to the castle is imposing.

We did not visit the house as the tours have to booked in advance. However, we did walk around the gardens and have lunch at the café.

Our journey back to Auchencairn took us on interesting minor roads to Corsock and then on to Dalbeattie.





## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023

A Few Photos posted on WhatsApp by Helen Beresford





## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Short Run to Raiders' Road — Malcolm Lainsbury



Upon leaving Kirkcudbright 5 cars headed north on the A762 towards New Galloway. On reaching the eastern end of Raiders Road, we entered the forest track , paid our dues and made our way along the gravel road to the Otter pools. Here we stopped for lunch next to the tumbling waters of the River Dee and sat on the granite rocks in the sun.

Back on the move to the end of the track and on to New Galloway where we joined the A713 and made our way along a very scenic road, with Loch Ken on our right, through Castle Douglas back to base at Balcary Bay.

These photos were posted on WhatsApp and were taken by members of the group on the run.





## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Long Run to Portpatrick — Gordon Grant





This run to the pretty harbour town of Port Patrick on the West coast of Scotland was designated for Tuesday as it was a fairly long drive along the Solway coast via Wigton and the Isle of Whithorn. A round trip of 163 miles however did not deter eight intrepid cars and we had a good mix of the TR range. We set off at 9:30 on the dot in unusually cold weather, and our route took us via Kirkcudbright, Wigtown and down to the point on the Solway Firth called the Isle of Whithorn (it's not an island though!) [it used to be— Ed]).

As we left Wigtown the sun finally came out and the grey clouds dispersed as we dropped down into Isle of Whithorn - a lovely little harbour town on the southernmost tip of the peninsular projecting into the Solway Firth. It is the most southerly seaport in Scotland.

En route Alan had been having fuel injector issues but with help of from Phil he sorted the problem whilst the rest of us enjoyed a coffee at the very fine St Ninians Tearoom overlooking the pretty harbour. We then parked a little further round the harbour, walked the half mile to the point and sat in the lee of Isle Head lighthouse. From here we could just make out the land of Northern Ireland in the far distance. Our walk took us past St Ninians chapel - sadly not open to the public.

After enjoying the sun for a while, we continued the run around the peninsular, hugging the Solway Firth coastline for many miles in bright sunshine and with dramatic views over the sea, until eventually we rejoined the A75.





It was quick dash westward to Port Patrick, arriving just in time for lunch at the Crown Hotel. Port Patrick turned out to be just as picturesque as all the photographs we'd seen and is a tidal harbour - at one time one of the busiest fishing ports on the West coast of Scotland.

We walked around the harbour to a rocky promontory with a tall Scottish flag proudly flying high. From here one could easily see the coast of Northern Ireland. For a bit of fun Roger B and Gordon did a great job recreating the famous "Raising the Flag at Iwo Jima" photo!.



After a nice break we set off back to the hotel with a lovely fast run East along the A75 - just in time for dinner. All in all, a very nice drive and well worth the miles.



## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Long Run to Glentrool — Greg Washington



On Wednesday in sunny bright weather, 6 of us set off to walk around Loch Trool in the heart of Galloway Forest Park.

From our starting point at the West end of the Loch we quickly found ourselves walking through Gletntrool's untouched native oak woodlands - indeed later on much of the forestry plantation is being removed to make way to extend these native woods.

The removal of the forestry meant we had great views over the Loch to the foothills of Merrick - South Scotland's highest mountain.

At the East end of the Loch we stopped for our picnic before reaching Bruce's stone a massive granite boulder commemorating Robert the Bruce's first victory over an English Army in 1307.

The English soldiers were ambushed as they approached the Steps of Trool by Bruce's men who released a volley of stones onto the surprised troops. Those who turned to flee met heavily armed men behind them.

Our return took us along the 17 mile long Queen's way which twists and turns through the scenic forest park rising up from Newton Stewart to its highest point near Clatteringshaws Loch and then descends into New Galloway.





## THE SPRING TOUR May 2023 Roger Boxalls' Party Games



In a departure from previous years, this year featured after dinner games to help keep the group entertained and together a little longer into the late evening.

The game that got us all off to a good start on the first night was a quiz in which people had to find other people who had or hadn't done certain things before. To be honest it is now all of a bit of a blur.

On the second night Roger and Angela divided the room into groups and called for the groups to create memorable shapes from aluminium cooking foil. Some results were very creative and it kept everyone amused for ages.

The final game involved balancing an After Eight mint on One's forehead and then to convey said mint into One's mouth without external assistance and without using One's hands.

This created massive jocularity. It was hilarious and if ever there was an ice breaker surely this must be it!

In the end it was decided that Sheena won but Roger came a close second if not joint winner.

Here are a few photos from WhatsApp where there are also videos of the After Eight event.















