



TR Register Shropshire Group's Autumn Run Friday 24th October 2025



This year's Autumn Run will take us through the byways of Shropshire and Worcestershire to Witley Court and Gardens - enjoying autumn colours along the way.

Witley Court, once a grand English country house, was remodelled several times by the Foley and Ward families—wealthy West Midlands industrialists—between the 18th and 19th centuries. In Victorian times, it became known for its lavish parties and luxurious atmosphere.

After a devastating fire in 1937, Witley became one of the country's most spectacular ruins. But it is still possible to gain a sense of its former grandeur, as well as to see the earlier layers of the building's history laid bare by the fire.

Witley's house and grounds deteriorated during and after World War II, with parts used as a jam factory and some features sold off. By the early 1970s, collapse was imminent, but in 1972 the Department of the Environment took control and restored the estate.

In 1984, English Heritage took over Witley Court, conducting archaeological studies and restoring the formal gardens. A major success was the 2002 reactivation of the Perseus and Andromeda fountain, marking a key point in the site's revival.

Aardvark Bookery, established in 2007 in a converted nineteenth-century barn on the Harley Estate in Brampton Bryan, has grown into an expansive independent bookshop featuring over 50,000 titles and unique event spaces. The premises host a specialist children's area, pop-up markets, and cultural events, while also celebrating local history, notably the 1643 Civil War Siege of Brampton Bryan with biennial re-enactments. The shop is a vibrant centre for books and a café.

The run will be concluded with a meal at The Green Dragon in Little Stretton. Food needs to be pre-ordered. Please see the attached menu. The deadline for food orders is Wednesday 22nd October. If, due to poor weather conditions, the run is cancelled, we will still meet at 3pm at The Green Dragon for a meal. So, please do be aware that once food is ordered there is no cancellation option.

Itinerary

09:00	Meet Montford Bridge Café, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1EB. Located on the A5 just to the North of Shrewsbury
09:30	PROMPT Start of Run
10:45	Arrive at Aardvark Books, The Bookery, Manor Farm, Brampton Bryan, Bucknall, Herefordshire, SY7 0DH
11:30	Depart Aardvark Books
12:30	Arrive at Witley Court, Great Witley, WR6 6JT. Entrance £10.90 (Concessions £10.00) English Heritage Members free. Book on line for discounted tickets - Prices and Opening Times for Witley Court Gardens English Heritage . Parking free for members.
14:00	Depart Witley Court
15:00	Arrive at The Green Dragon, Ludlow Road, Little Stretton, SY6 6RE
15:15ish	Meal

Contact: Roger Critchley 07811 260166 trshrops@gmail.com

This is a non-competitive social run and is organised under the latest instructions of the TR Register. It will be necessary to sign the TR Register's disclaimer before the start of the run. Please note that TR Register Shropshire Group events are for TR Register members, their partners and occasional invited guests.