

Rambling Holiday May 2021 – Hayling Island

Monday 24th

Roger and I had a very good journey, even through Polegate roadworks, arriving at Northney Farm coffee shop around 10.45, with another couple arriving soon after and the remaining group at various times after that. After refreshments etc and as the



weather was subject to very heavy downpours, we decided not to do the planned walk but to do the seafront. Parking off Ferry Road, near the golf club, we had a very blustery walk as far as the memorial obelisk – dedicated to the volunteers of combined operations pilotage parties based on Hayling Island in WW2 - sheltering under some trees during another shower and taking our picnic lunch here. Afterwards we did the short drive to Sinah, checking in from our cars, and caught up with four others. After unpacking we all met for afternoon tea in the lounge. A slight mix up with Rogers' and my order which was very late arriving and then ended up with double. After returning to our rooms we all met before dinner and were reprimanded for

gathering in a large group instead of groups of six. Perfectly acceptable and something we really should have been aware of in these strange times. After dinner several of us found seats for the evening cabaret, at 9.30, which was the entertainment team singing songs from the James Bond films.

Tuesday 25th

A dozen of the group started breakfast at 8.30 and the remaining four came down for 8.45. These were the best times Roger had been able to pre-book. *As with all hospitality, the hotel has to record who is in the restaurant at any one time and it is all table service, no buffet.* At 10.15 the whole group met in the car park and drove the short distance to the car park at the start of the Billy Trail (old railway line). From here we walked to Langstone Bridge and had coffees at the Ship pub. Lovely walk, warm in sheltered spots but blustery where exposed and the sea was quite choppy. We watched a kestrel hovering over prey and saw a field yellow with buttercups. After lunch three people took the bus back to the cars while the rest did the return walk. We certainly achieved our step quota today! Back to the hotel for a much needed cuppa in the lounge bar. After dinner, during which things seemed to go wrong for one of our tables due to staff in early days of training, many of us went to watch the evening entertainment, a comedian.



Wednesday 26th

A nice day, cloudy but less wind. After breakfast the group met in the car park at 10.15 for a walk from the Ship Inn, at one end of Langstone Bridge, to Emsworth. This walk has to be timed just right for the tide. On this day it was beginning to come in but we took a detour via Warblington Church and there were no wet feet. We all spent a couple of hours in the pretty village of Emsworth before our return walk to Sinah. After our evening meal many of us met in the Pavilion Theatre for an evening

of 60's music. We were able to dance around our tables, which some of us did. Still no proper dancing permitted.

Thursday 27th

A lovely day. After a somewhat hilarious breakfast (*due to lost menu our table got our main food before our fruit/cereal etc and it took 1¼ hours!*) a few of us did the quiz before meeting others in the car park for a drive to Stansted House. Here it was planned to do a nice short walk – however, somewhere along the way we missed a turn and it became longer than expected. But it was a beautiful day, in lovely countryside and woodland, a few even managed to hug a tree in memory of Doris Atkins, and, of course, wonderful company. Had a welcome cuppa in the Garden Centre café afterwards – all socially distanced, of course. After dinner we gathered for the evening cabaret which was the very talented entertainment team singing songs from the musicals.



Friday 28th

After a final hotel breakfast several of the group made their own way home while 10 of us met at Arundel for a walk along the river and through Swansbury Park. This was quite delightful. We had a snack lunch on the green by the river in Arundel before leaving for home around 2.10. This holiday may have been over a year late but we all had such a wonderful time together and our sincere thanks to Roger for his hard work rearranging everything. Thanks to Warners who also had everything Covid-safe.

