

Rambling Holiday May 2022, IOW

Monday 23rd. Roger and I left Sheila's at 8.30 am and had a very good journey, stopping in Arundel for toilets. We arrived in good time for our 11.20 ferry with some of the rest of the group already there. After leaving the ferry we met up again at Newtown Old Town Hall where we had our picnic lunches and the usual photo call on the steps of the historic building. We then set off for a walk around the estuary after which we went on to Norton Grange. We met up again before dinner for pre-dinner drinks and afterward our meal went into the entertainment lounge where our dancers took to the floor prior to the in-house entertainment team put on their show.

Tuesday 24th. After breakfast the group met in the car park for a drive to Wroxall and a walk to the Donkey Sanctuary for coffee. From here we walked to Godshill for snack lunches and where a couple of the group treated themselves to gorgeous (if naughty) meringues from The Old Smithy. Some then went to look around the shops, village and picturesque church before we set off for return walk around 2.00. After a short distance we thought we had left Paul behind and some of us waited back, with one going looking for him.....only to discover he had, somehow!!, made it to the front of the group without our knowing! We enjoyed lovely weather although we understand it was bad on the mainland. After dinner the evening entertainment was a Bee Gees tribute which very few enjoyed – except Brenda.



Wednesday 25th. This was a free day for people to do as they pleased. Some went to Osborne House or Carisbrook etc. Roger and I, with another couple, went on a circular walk from the hotel to Fort Victoria Country Park. Had coffee at the Beach Café before returning to the hotel along the beach. Then Roger and I took light snacks to Mottistone Gardens and had cuppa and another walk. On return to the hotel some of the ladies did a quiz and some of the men went round the golf course. Gathered for dinner after which we listened to a lovely singer, Jenny Williams.

Thursday 26th. 18 of the group set out on the figure-of-8 walk from Yarmouth to Freshwater and Fort Victoria. We stopped at 'The End-of-the-Line' café for coffee where 18 became 11. After walking the first 'loop' the group reduced to 9. We had a short lunch stop overlooking Hurst Castle, followed by ice-cream at Fort Victoria. Most of the group found their way to Pitch & Putt which Roger and Dave did with varying degrees of success. Five ladies did a quiz. Did a lot of steps today – in excess of 20,000. Watched some of the evening entertainment which was the in-house team doing songs from the musicals.



Friday 27th. After breakfast 4 left early and 14 met in the car park for a drive to Wootton Bridge and a circular walk. Four more left soon after starting as the uphill climb was too much. It was, however, a lovely, lovely walk which had dried out considerably since Roger and I did it in March. We came back to the 'Sloop Inn' and got some much needed drinks, meeting up with others who had made their way to Quarr Abbey. All the group met again at the ferry terminal for

our 2.20 return but were informed that it was running 30 minutes late. Thankfully it was only 15 minutes late but once out of Portsmouth the journey was slow and tedious. At one point we were at a standstill for 20 minutes – found out later that a horse-box had broken down and needed towing away. Another fantastic break for which we owe grateful thanks to Roger for organising everything. Will he do it again? Watch this space!

