****Malcolm Saville Society

Shap in September

8th – 10th September, 2023

*Strangers at Snowfell* is the only Saville book set in this quiet part of England, between the Lake District, the Howgill Fells and the Pennines. It is the third of the Jillies series and is set immediately after Two Fair Plaits, between Christmas and New Year, as the Jillies and Standings head north to celebrate New Year in Scotland. However, these plans are interrupted as Saville once again uses the device of extreme weather – on this occasion, relentless, heavy snow – to precipitate an exciting adventure around the famous railway high point of Shap Summit.

The village of Shap will be our base for the weekend as we explore possible locations for Snowfell & Callow. Alternatives for people who would rather not yomp over the fells include a steamer trip on Ullswater and the chance to explore Shap Abbey then stroll in the lovely grounds of the Shap Wells Hotel, where red squirrels are rampant.

A reminder that you are responsible for organising your own accommodation. Suggestions for accommodation in and around Shap are given below, but these are NOT recommendations. **However, it IS recommended that you book accommodation immediately;** the hotels in the village are already fully booked, so you may well have to look further afield, as per the suggestions.

The provisional plans for the weekend are as follows.

**Friday evening:** Meet at the King’s Arms (https://kingsarmsshap.co.uk/) in Shap at 7.00 p.m. for a meal at 7.30 p.m. £10 deposit to be paid towards this meal when booking on this event.

**Saturday morning & afternoon** **- you have a choice of:**

**EITHER**

A walk to a possible Snowfell, taking in much that would not have existed in Saville’s time, including the Coast-to-Coast footpath, the M6 motorway and a huge, stunningly blue (at least, when the sun is shining!) lake, formed in an old limestone quarry.

Approximately 9 km / 5.5 miles long, the walk is a mixture of footpaths, tracks and quiet roads. There are a number of dry stone walls to cross via the stone steps sticking out. These are hard work for those of us with short legs!!

Bring your lunch with you.

**OR**

A cruise up Ullswater from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding & return. The views are glorious, as you sail from the low, rolling landscape and woodland around Pooley Bridge towards some of the highest peaks of the Lake District, including Helvellyn. At Glenridding there are shops, bars and cafes, plus the opportunity to do some short walks, perhaps around the lake or up into the foothills. Return to Pooley Bridge by any steamer, where again you will find shops, bars, cafes and walks.

Pre-booking as a group is both cheaper and gives priority access to the boat, so a £10 deposit is required with the return of this form. Total cost will depend on how many attend but will be £21 or less per person.

**Saturday evening**

Meet at the Greyhound (https://greyhoundshap.co.uk/) in Shap at 7.00 p.m. for a meal at 7.30 p.m. £10 deposit to be paid towards this meal when booking on this event.

**Sunday morning – you have a choice of:**

**EITHER**

A 6 km / 3.5 mile walk beginning at the Shap Wells Hotel, probable inspiration for Callow, complete with stone bridge over a beck – do check for hidden documents! We also take in Shap Summit, and retrace some of Tim’s journey through thick snow from the halted train to the now demolished signal box.otelHHH

**OR**

A chance to explore the ruins of Shap Abbey, just 2 km / 1 mile from Shap (a pleasant walk or there is a car park) before arriving early at the Shap Wells Hotel with time to stroll in the lovely grounds before lunch; see how many red squirrels you can spot. And don’t forget to check under the bridge……

**Sunday lunchtime**

A 3 course lunch at the Shap Wells Hotel, total cost £21.95, for which a £10 deposit to be paid.

Please complete and return the form to Pam Kirkland at chelsea14458@gmail.com by Friday, June 30th, and make payment of a £10 deposit for each of the meals you plan to attend, plus a £10 deposit for the Ullswater cruise, if applicable.

**Possible accommodation**

Below is a list of accommodation within 6 miles of Shap village and £500 or less for 2 people for 2 nights.

There is other accommodation slightly further afield or more expensive!

And there may be other accommodation I have missed.

**Via Booking.com (distance from Shap village)**

Primrose Cottage

The Cottages

Croft House Cottage

Shap Wells Hotel (3.6 miles) – SEE SUNDAY’S ITINERARY & LUNCH

The Brew House (3.8 miles)

Rosie’s Barn (4.3 miles)

Cruise – UK42280 (4.9 miles)

Widewath Barn – UK 42281 (4.9 miles)

Haweswater Hotel (5.1 miles)

Rose Cottage (5.1 miles)

The Rochester Wing, Orton Hall (6 miles)

**Via Airbnb**

The Hollies, Hackforth (5 miles)

**Via Google**

Yan Shepherd’s Hut at Crake Trees Manor (4.8 miles)

Fern Cottage (5.5 miles)

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Booking Form

**Your Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First Name(s) | Surname(s) |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Home address, including postcode: |
| Contact telephone number: | Email address: |
| Any dietary requirements: |
| In case we should need them, please provide emergency contact details. (These will not be retained by the Society beyond the weekend) |

**Your Options for the Weekend.**

Please indicate with ticks your choices of the options below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Saturday | Sunday |
| Walk to possible ‘Snowfell’ | Cruise on Ullswater(£10 deposit required) | Walk from possible ‘Callow’ to Shap Summit | Shap Abbey and Shap Wells Hotel |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Friday evening meal - King’s Arms, Shap (£10 deposit required) | Saturday evening meal - Greyhound, Shap (£10 deposit required) | Sunday lunch - Shap Wells Hotel @£21.95 (£10 deposit required) |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Please make deposit payment(s) by FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH.

EITHER by BACS to the Malcolm Saville Society: sort code 55-81-36; account number 77507509; Ref – your surname followed by SHAP. OR send a cheque made payable to the Malcolm Saville Society to Clive Gee at 4 Burleigh Way, Wickwar, Glos. GL12 8LR.

Please complete this form and return it NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH, either to my email address (chelsea14458@gmail.com) or to Pam Kirkland, 27, Whitehills Way, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 8EW.

**Disclaimer & important information about photographs**

The organiser reserves the right to change the route or cancel the event if, in her judgement, the weather conditions or other circumstances make this advisable. Whilst reasonable care has been taken to ensure a safe and enjoyable event, any person attending this event does so at their own risk and, to the extent permitted by legislation The Malcolm Saville Society and organisers cannot be held liable for personal injury, loss or damage to vehicles or personal effects. Members of the Society take photographs of its activities during the weekend. These are normally group shots and rarely of an individual alone. Some, but not all, of these photographs will appear on the Society website, Facebook page and/or in future editions of Acksherley! If you do not want your image to appear in this way, please inform Pam Kirkland at the beginning of the weekend.