Pengwern Perambulation 14th February 2016

1 Leave the boat club heading upstream along the driveway. At the cattle grid turn right passing the Boat House pub and after 100m [CAUTION the footpath and road are narrow – single file only] turn right down alley way signposted Severn Way (Look out for sign posts for the Severn Way all the way to Montford Bridge). Path turns left at the river, passing under Welsh Bridge before reaching car park. Continue through car park and into field beyond keeping close to the river on your right. Pass round the right side of the cricket pitch and through the field beyond. The path always stays close to the river until it climbs steps to pass behind some houses.

2 On meeting a road, turn right down steps to regain the river. Follow the path upstream always staying close to the edge of the river. Several small gates are passed and after about 1km the river curves round to the left after which the path enters some trees via a small gate and climbs steps. The path eventually reaches a road after climbing another set of steps. Head downhill past Blythe Cottage (finger post for bridleway), taking the path to the right of Mountwood Park. The path widens to become a track [5 km].

3 Continue along this until it meets a main road. Turn right and after less than 100m turn right through two gates, fingerpost for Severn Way. Follow the track beyond and when it reaches another large gate, take the small gate on the left and follow the path. Pass through 2 small gates and follow the right edge of the field beyond. Pass through another double gate and briefly join a track before forking left following signs for Severn Way. Follow the right hand edge of fields through 2 further sets of double gates. After the second set, bear left by 45 degrees, heading past two marker posts in the field before passing through two sets of double gates. Cross the road beyond heading down the lane opposite (fingerpost for Severn Way, signposted Private Drive – Wags and Whiskers).

4 Continue in a straight line, passing between some houses, through a gate into the field beyond. Through another gate then down a slight hill, through a gap in the hedging and then bear left following the path up the hill. Pass through the gate in the corner of the field, turning right and following the lane. When the road makes a 90**°** turn to the right, keep going in a straight line, finger post for Severn Way. The track makes a 90**°** turn to the right and shortly afterwards forks – stay to the right, signs for Severn Way. After a gate, bear slightly left following the right hand edge of the cultivated part of the field (views of river Severn down to the right, but don’t be tempted to approach the river). After a small gate, turn right following the right hand edge of the field, which turns left before a gate is reached in the corner of the field [10km].

[ESCAPE: If this gate is under water, continue following the right hand edge of the field up to where it nears the road, which can be joined by a short slope. Turn right to head towards the Wingfield Arms. Before the pub you will see a Bridleway – the Humphrey Kinaston Way – on the other side of the road, where the Perambulation can be re-joined.]

5 If not submerged, pass through the gate and carry on ahead keeping to the left, passing behind houses on the left to reach gate onto main road opposite the Wingfield Arms. CAREFULLY cross the road and turn left and after 50 metres turn right along the bridleway - Humphrey Kynaston Way (NB this bridleway is new and not shown on older maps). Follow the path passing through a gate containing a metal stile. Immediately turn right following signs for the bridleway. [CAUTION – do not miss this right turn as a path continues ahead and tries to take you across the A5]. Cross the field and go through a small gate onto a road, turn right. Follow the road under the A5 curving round leftwards until you pass through a service area (refreshments and toilets available here). Cross the service area in a straight line and on the opposite side of the toilet block pick up a fingerpost for the Humphrey Kynaston Way bridleway (direction Ford) next to a picnic bench. The path heads through trees back towards the A5 just to the right of a slipway, turning right to head parallel to the A5. There is a large field on your right – just after the end of the field the bridleway turns right passing through two small gates. Follow the right hand edge of the field beyond turning left and passing behind a field centre. Pass through a large gate and turn right to head through another large gate (fingerpost bridleway) passing to the left of a large barn.

6 Follow the track beyond and when the bridleway turns right, DO NOT follow it; instead continue in roughly the same direction to a large cropped field. Cross this in the same line to a small gate in the middle of a clump of trees. Follow the narrow path with barbed wire either side to reach a main road – A458. CAREFULLY cross the road and follow the lane opposite. When the lane makes a sharp right hand bend, continue through kissing gate (finger post). Continue along right edge of field with stream to the right. Cross small footbridge between two stiles and carry on beyond, again with a small stream to the right, to reach a main road. Turn left and after a little over 100m turn left down a drive (Cruckfield House). As you approach a gate (bird topiary – peacock?) take the stile on the right following the path over 2 further stiles to the edge of a large field. Head across the field bearing 125 degrees (heads towards the top of a large tree) to the far side where there is a marker post, turn right following edge of field, through a gate and along track through the farmyard beyond, turning right along a metalled lane [15 km].

7 On reaching the next house on the right (signs of renovation work), head over a stile on the left to cross a field (heading roughly S) and stile in the hedge opposite. Then bear slightly left towards corner of field. You are aiming for a stile at the left hand edge of the wood. Cross the stile and follow the left edge of the wood and after passing a water trough bear slightly right across a field to join the road at some gates (which may need to be climbed). Turn left and follow road to cross-roads. Cross VERY CAREFULLY (fast cars) the B4386 and follow the road opposite, signposted Cruckton. After about 300m where the road turns sharply left, turn immediately right into Cruckton Hall School, past the side of the school, down through a car park and past a large green shed on your right before turning left onto path between coppiced trees.

8 When the path expands to form a recess on the right, turn right down wooden stairs and over a stile. Follow the track over a stream on the right and then diagonally across the field to cross a stream over a bridge with 2 gates. Turn left following edge of field. At next field, turn 45 degrees right heading just to the left of a large tree, over an electric fence to reach a stile. After the stile, cross the track and go over the shielded electric fence. Head rightwards across the field to cross a stile by a gate. Go left down the lane and take the track on the left by Keepers Cottage over a footbridge, following the lane round to a T-junction. Turn left, go past house and cross stile on the right (fingerpost). Cross 2 electric fences and follow right edge of field, passing a school on the right to reach the recreation ground and village hall (CHECKPOINT/REFRESHMENTS – 18km).

9 Leave the far side of the village hall, passing a playground and following a path under the railway to reach the main road. CAREFULLY cross the road and head up Orchard Lane to the left of the garage. At the top of the lane, cross over the stile and continue through the field. The path takes a straight line to the far corner of the field but the ground is likely to be very boggy near the farm so head slightly rightwards so that you are at least 20m away from the left edge of the field before swinging back left at the farm to the stile in the field corner. Cross the stile and head down the path opposite, cross the metalled lane and continue down the path opposite with a field to the left. Continue roughly in a straight line, then through trees, ignoring paths branching off to either side. Cross a stile and follow the left edge of a field [20 km].

10 Cross a stile and head down the lane with houses on the right. At the T-junction by Hodge’s Cottage turn left and then turn left again on reaching the cross roads. Just after a left hand bend with a pond on your left you will turn right, opposite a large gate (fingerpost). Follow the path (right hand edge of field) until it reaches a road. Cross the stile opposite and the field beyond. After 100m join the right hand side of a hedgerow and follow this until you reach a road. Turn left and head into Longden. At the intersection, cross the road and turn immediately right just before tennis courts. You will now follow signs for the Shropshire Way all the way back to Shrewsbury. Follow the path downhill, over a stile, along the right hand edge of another field and at the bottom cross a footbridge in-between two stiles. Bear slightly right up behind a group of trees and cross a stile onto a broad track.

11 Turn left and follow the track to its end and over a stile then immediately left over another stile – footpath sign. The path follows the left hand edge of a field before swinging away rightwards (look out for the sign post), heading in a direction slightly to the right of a white cottage about 500m away. Go down to and cross a stile in the right hand corner of the field. Turn left and follow the field edge round a corner and then roughly in a straight line until you reach a road through a small gate. Turn right and after about 30m cross a stile on the left (fingerpost Shropshire Way). Before reaching the far end of the field, cross the stile on the right and head diagonally left to reach a small gate in the left hand hedge. Continue in the same line across the next field and through a gate in the far corner and then turn sharp left down the straight lane [25 km].

12 At the end of the lane turn left, taking CARE on the road, and after 30m, turn right down the lane (fingerpost Shropshire Way). The lane turns right in front of a house and then narrows (small gate) to become a bridleway rising diagonally right up the hillside. Eventually pass through a gate and along the lane beyond. As soon as possible, cross over to the path running parallel to the lane over open ground on the right. Continue in the same direction over Lyth Hill and past two car parks until you reach a small covered reservoir on your left. Turn left immediately beyond the reservoir (small gate), along the side of the reservoir fence continuing in the same direction across a large field. Pass through a small gate and follow the path beyond, curving gently round to the right towards Lythwood Farm.

13 Go through a gate and head through the farm (ignore signs to the left just beyond gate). Continue down the lane beyond the farm heading into Bayston Hill. At a junction, keep going in the same direction along Lythwood Road (sign for Shropshire Way) past The Beeches pub on the right and a parade of shops on the left. As the road starts to bend to the right, turn left down Castle Lane, passing to the left of a large white house (The Castle) and crossing the field beyond. At a large oak tree, turn left and follow the edge of the field around the corner and down to a stile. Cross the stile, the field beyond and a second stile to a lane. Turn right and follow the lane until just after it passes some houses, then take the path on the left. Follow the left hand side of the field over another stile and onto the main road. CAREFULLY cross the road and turn right, passing over the A5 [30 km].

14 After a few hundred meters, follow the Shropshire Way off to the left through a small gate. After passing through a building site, the Shropshire Way forks right and follows the left bank of a small stream until it crosses the stream next to a large wall encased in wire mesh. After climbing, the path starts to descend before crossing a brook. IGNORE a sign for the Shropshire Way leading off to the right. Instead, keep left and traverse a footbridge before the path rises upwards to reach a road, which is followed to the right past Meole Brace C of E Primary School, a small playground and a football pitch. Just in front of the church turn left down the road to a T-junction. Turn right (street name Vicarage Road). At next junction, turn left up Meole Walk and after 30m take the small, fenced-in footpath going off diagonally on the right. Follow this to level crossing. Cross with GREAT CARE to large playing field. Follow the right hand edge towards a main road (the Roman Road) then turn left parallel to, but below the road. Pass behind a goal post and drop down an incline behind a second goal post where you will find a path up right to join the road. CAREFULLY cross the road and turn left heading up the hill towards the roundabout (NB if the traffic is bad, head up to the roundabout and cross the road there). Just after the cemetery. Take the footpath on the right, which emerges onto a road. Cross the road WITH CARE and head down to the right for about 20m where there is a path down to the left (finger post – Shropshire Way). Path heads downhill crosses a bridge and then rises. At the Y-junction, turn right, passing below houses on your left. The path joins a drive before emerging onto a road. Cross this and head down the road just to the left of a post box, passing underneath a bridge and turning to the left. At the right hand bend, continue ahead through gate and head down the lane to the river. Head up-stream to reach the finish in 200m.