**Shaw’s Cornered: Harpenden to St Albans, Saturday 10th December 2016**

21 walkers, 19 miles – leader Roderick Smith

A group of 21 enjoyed a day out from Harpenden Station starting at 0915. A grey overcast morning preceded light drizzle at lunch and light rain in the afternoon. We followed a route devised by Peter Aylmer initially along a former railway line from Luton to Hatfield, thence via the Mid-Herts Golf course, Lamer Park, and the two St Lawrence churches to arrive at The Brocket Arms in Ayot St Lawrence for a mid-morning coffee and tea break.

Duly refreshed we passed Shaw’s home, now a National Trust house, and continued past Stockings Springs Wood to walk beside the River Lea into Wheathampstead for lunch at The Swan. The pub provided reasonably quick service for a large group and we were on our way again after an hour. There was little time to explore the church which has substantial memorials to the Garrard family of Lamer Park, and a diminutive figure of the Antarctic explorer, Apsley Cherry-Garrard.

Via the Devil’s Dyke and Coleman Green to Sandridge for mince pies before a gentle climb and a descent to cross the old airstrip of Ellenbrook Fields and join the old Hatfield to St Albans railway line at Smallford. A brisk pace saw us finish at St Albans Station at 1645 just in time for a fast train back to London.

7:30 total time, including 1:20 for coffee and lunch, net c.6:10 moving for c.19 miles walked.

Photographs by Roderick Smith