

**North Staffordshire National Trust
Association**
Newsletter No. 104
summer 2016



”I shall be looking out for you Aug. 2nd”

[For copyright reasons some images have been removed from this on-line version]

Arrangements for Trips.

Coaches depart promptly from School Street, alongside the long stay pay and display car park and do not pick up en route.

Refunds on cancellation are possible only if there is a waiting list. Please do not find your own substitutes, those on the waiting list have booking priority.

Cancellations will incur a £2 per cheque handling charge. Non members, travelling as members' guests, pay an extra £2 for Coach Outings and £1 for Car Trips. If circumstances dictate they have lower priority on booking.

Please note carefully the return pick up point and time. Anyone missing a coach will have no claim on the Association. Please make cheques payable to "North Staffs National Trust Association". Usually cheques are not cleared until after an event. We will give notice if we need to do otherwise.

Please send a separate cheque, with event name on reverse, and envelope for each event applied for, even to the same organiser. People wishing to sit together should complete one form. The Committee reserves the right to cancel any event which is not viable.

Whilst participating in the event you should carry with you the organiser's mobile number from the booking acceptance form. If you become separated have someone use it. Do not have alternative arrangements made without informing the organiser.

The personal accident insurance arranged by the Association through the Trust does NOT cover members over 80 years of age. However, our public liability insurance covers members at any age. Please ask a Committee Member if you are unsure.



The North Staffs National Trust Association

northstaffsnt.org.uk

Summer Programme

A Note From The Chair

Welcome to the Summer Programme, thank you for attending in such numbers for the winter and spring events. I could summarise from now until September as a percentage of a pioneering potteries personality partnership, perambulating near and far, plotting, plague and Portsmouth. I hope you will be intrigued to visit places you have not been or to revisit and see the improvements. A warm welcome awaits at Biddulph Grange Garden on August 2nd where you will see the results of your fund raising over many years. Samuel John Rogers of New Inn Mill (May 31st Car Trip), could tell you a tale about the less generous side of life. Born in 1856, soon after, his father and brothers died of diphtheria, leaving his mother to run the mill. She needed his help from the age of twelve. We can only imagine how he met his wife from thirteen miles away, but for them milling and grinding poverty were the same thing. They planned a new life in Canada. Do visit Trentham and discover how he came to die in Ohio in 1930. Keep Cheerful.

Forthcoming Events

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE
NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE
HARTSHILL

TUESDAY MAY 17th 2016 at 7.00PM

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Minutes of the 35th AGM
4. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising
6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2016 – 2017
7. Approvals for re-election to committee *
8. Nominations for Officers and Committee **
9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2016 – 2017
10. Any Other Business

7.30pm approx: We will invite our guest, Matthew Rice, the MD of Emma Bridgewater Pottery and author of “The Lost City of Stoke-on-Trent”, to entertain and inform us with his local insights and wider perspective.

The evening will finish as usual with tea/coffee and biscuits, or wine from the bar - all available to purchase on the night.

* Under our constitution, committee members should normally stand down after 5 years. Richard Adams, Roger Cartlidge, Madeleine Hopley and Rose Wheat have served 5 years or more, and wish to continue in post. They therefore require the approval of the AGM to stand for re-election this year.

** Members will be invited to submit nominations for the Committee and Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each nomination should be signed by the proposer, a seconder and the nominee,



all of whom must be paid-up members of the Association. If possible, please send nominations in advance of the meeting to Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT.

Matthew Rice, Guest Speaker at A.G.M. 17th May.

Matthew Rice, prolific illustrator and designer, was educated at Bedale's school then went to Chelsea and Central St Martin's Art Schools. Having trained as a theatre designer, he has worked in the theatre, designed furniture and latterly

ceramics for his wife, Emma Bridgewater. Matthew's interest in architecture began at school and has been a thread through his work for thirty years. This is evidenced particularly in his five books. "Village Buildings of Britain", "Building Norfolk", a love letter to the buildings of the county, "The Lost City of Stoke-on Trent, a lament with illustrations and most successfully, his "Architectural Primer" and now "Church Primer" an invaluable illustrated glossary. Matthew and Emma live outside Oxford and have four children.

Wednesday 18th May: Coach Outing: Manchester Guided Walk Round The Roman City and Halle Matinee Concert.

Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, Cello Concerto, Symphony "From The New World". Sir Mark Elder, Conductor. Garry Hoffman, Cello. All Places now taken.

Tuesday 31st May: Car Trip: New Inn Mill, New Inn Lane Trentham Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8BE

Here is an unprecedented opportunity to visit an historic site of two water mills in Trentham. In existence for over 500 years, this building has evolved through time and is now a family home. After use as a corn mill, then a flint mill, it became a farm with beef and a few dairy cattle and you will see how the changes have taken place. Previously rented from the Duke of Sutherland, the Brassington family have lived here since the 1890s and they have kindly given us access to their private places, having never before allowed visits of this kind. Helen will show us her home and outbuildings.

References have been found showing that the famous millwright and canal engineer James Brindley worked on this mill in the late 18th century and you can still see the position of the overshot wheel and the site of the mill leat. Among items on display is farming equipment from long ago; a toilet with two seats; a Tudor corridor; and exterior walls now sited within the house.

I hope you will be as excited as I am by the heritage of this building hidden in the midst of suburbia!

Tours will commence at 10am with successive tours at 10.45, 11.30, 2pm and 2.45 if necessary. Please state your preference and I'll try to give you the time you choose.

Cost: £9 (£10 to non-members) to include tea/coffee and a slice of home-made cake. Additional retail opportunities are available).

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed reply envelope.

Closing date 26th April

Saturday June 18th: Coach Outing: Jackfield Tile Museum and Ironbridge Gorge.

On arrival at the Jackfield Tile Museum we will have coffee or tea and biscuits. On our tour we will see rooms filled with beautiful displays and settings in one of the factories which was once at the centre of the world tile industry. We will walk through an Edwardian Tube Station, a pub and a children's hospital ward. We can explore the National Collections and discover tile decorating techniques including encaustic, embossed, dust pressed and tube-lined.

The first iron bridge to be built was by Abraham Darby III. It is now recognised as one of the great symbols of the Industrial Revolution. This remarkable bridge still dominates the small town that bears its name. We can discover the secrets of how and why the bridge was built in an exhibition within the original Tollhouse.

There are fantastic views of the Ironbridge Gorge and River Severn. Many cafés and pubs can be found nearby for lunch at own cost – you could of course take sandwiches. There is also a Museum Gift Shop in town selling a large range of gift ideas and souvenirs.

Depart School Street at 8.45am; return to Newcastle by 6pm.

BOOKING DETAILS

Cost: £ 28.(£30 for non-members) to include tea/coffee on arrival.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed reply envelope. (DL size please for leaflets)

Closing date 27th May

This visit has been organised and planned by Margaret Thorley with the co-operation of Cynthia Dumbelton.

Wednesday 22nd June: Car Trip: Wightwick Manor and Bantock House, Wolverhampton WV6 8BN.

The manor is an outstanding example of late Victorian taste and craftsmanship. It is filled with Pre Raphaelite Art, with works by De Morgan, Morris, Kempe and Rosetti, inter alia. In addition the remarkable 17th Century furniture helps set the Arts & Crafts movement in its historical context.

The 17 acre gardens by Mawson with a lake, lawns, yew topiary and fragrant roses, plus a productive restored vegetable garden are a masterwork. There is a specialist Arts & Crafts inspired shop and a particularly good tea room. Please arrive between 10 and 10.30. a.m. using the entrance off the A454 Bridgnorth Road just yards past The Mermaid, not from Wightwick Bank behind it.

Please allow time to walk up a moderate slope from Visitor Reception to the house and outbuildings behind, where refreshments (included) will be served at 10.30.a.m.

We shall have a private guided tour of the house at 11 a.m.

At around midday you will be free to explore the grounds and outbuildings. At lunchtime you may wish to investigate the tea-room menu or picnic at ground level in the gardens or at benches in the Old Orchard.

After lunch we recommend a very straight-forward, two mile drive to Bantock House, WV3 9LQ. (Open until 5p.m. Entrance free of charge). Originally a Georgian farmhouse, its appearance and its name was enhanced by the rising status of its owners, who in the Victorian and Edwardian period were successful entrepreneurs, public benefactors and the shapers of the town.

Bantock House is set in 43 acres of parkland, delightful formal grounds and a café. There are fully furnished Arts & Crafts rooms, by contractors also used at Wightwick, Pre-Raphaelite paintings and beautiful ceramics. There are special exhibitions of japanned ware, enamels, for which the town was famous, toys and dolls.

Cost £5.00. (£7 for members of the Trust but not members of NSNTA).

To include tea and coffee on arrival. Places for lunch in the tea-room cannot be guaranteed.

Booking Details

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QH enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed DL size envelope.

Closing Date 20th May.

Wednesday 6th: July: Walk: Hind's Head, Main Road , Norton-in-Hales, Shropshire TF9 4AT

Last year's RHS Britain in Bloom "Champion of Champions" for 2015. Let's see if the village people are keeping up the standard this year.

The walk starts and finishes at the Hinds Head pub, just across the green from St Chad's church, and takes a 5 mile loop into the Shropshire countryside. It's fairly flat, and there are about a dozen stiles to negotiate. On a clear day, which it will be, we shall have good views over to the Wrekin and the Welsh hills beyond; we will also pass by Brand Hall, Betton Old Hall and Oakley Hall, for the property-hunters amongst us.

Dogs and children are always welcome. The former should remain on leads throughout – this is good farming land and sheep are everywhere.

Meet at the pub at 10.00 am, and we will be back there for lunch which is booked for 1pm. Cost £2.00 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day). Book your place with rjadams@doctors.org.uk or, by post to: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Telephone: 01782 646054

Wednesday 13th July: Coach Outing: Coughton Court & Baddesley Clinton,Warks.

An English Tudor Country House set in extensive grounds with a river, walled garden and lake. An early bird tour of the house which has been owned by the Throckmorton family since 1409. This strong Catholic family had links with Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, but also with the conspirators against James I. Free time will allow you time to explore more of the house and gardens, before we leave, after lunch for:

Baddesley Clinton, where we have an introductory talk followed by time to explore this 13th moated house. Its first owner was probably Nicholas Brome, and through his daughter the house came to the Ferrers family, who made many editions to the house. They were Roman Catholics and within the house there are three fascinating priest holes. There is a lake, a walled garden and a nature trail. You may wish to visit the church and the grave of Nicholas Brome who famously murdered a priest. The coach will leave School Street at 8am, returning from Baddesley Clinton at 4pm to arrive back in **Newcastle at 6pm**. Cost £20 (non-members £22) Optional lunch at Coughton Court is £7.00 (for soup, sandwiches and tea/coffee). Please add £7 if you require lunch. *It is not possible to order on the day.* Cost includes early-bird tour, tea/coffee, coach travel, Nat. Trust Donation, guides. **NB National Trust Cards must be shown.** Apply to Jane Beckett, 10 River Lea Mews, Madeley, Cheshire, CW3 9EH (01782 750715) enclosing cheque and SAE. **Closing Date June 10th**

Thursday 21st July: Car Outing: Eyam Hall, Craft Centre and Guided tour of the Village. Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 5QW.

In the summer of 1665 a bundle of lousy, damp cloth from London, was delivered to the village tailor's assistant. Whilst it was being dried in front of the fire the plague infected fleas fled. By early autumn the assistant was dead and within fourteen months so were another two hundred and sixty people. However, thanks to the leadership of the vicar and the self-sacrifice of the villagers, a self-imposed quarantine, many thousands elsewhere were saved.

Eyam Hall was built in 1672 by the Wright family who still own it, but since 2014 it has been administered by the Trust. It is a fine example of a gritstone Carolean Manor House within a walled garden with a bowling green and rose walk.

Our visit will be given livery in the Old Stableyard, sheltered in the Trust Shop, encouraged to browse in the craft units, and fed and watered at intervals at own cost in the Buttery Café. This is where we will foregather for an introductory talk followed by a free flow tour of the house, which has knowledgeable guides throughout. There will be time for more exploration, taking lunch or using the picnic facilities in the garden.

After lunch there will be a guided tour of the features and life in Eyam lasting approximately 90 minutes, finishing approx. 3.30 p.m. Please bring sensible shoes for the country lanes and footpaths. There will be time to take tea in The Square, if you like.

Further details of directions, timings and facilities will be returned with the booking confirmation.

For free access you will need your NT card for the Hall and your NT sticker for the Car Park opposite The Stableyard.

Cost £7.00. (non members £8.00). Includes guided tour and contribution to NSNTA funds. All refreshments are at own cost.

Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 777513 enclosing a cheque, SAE size DL (22 x11 cms).

Please indicate on the booking form if you would like to (1) lunch in the Café or (2) bring a picnic for the Garden.

Closing Date 30th June.



**The Dragon Parterre at Biddulph. Artificial Grass courtesy of NSNTA
Photograph taken on completion by Paul Walton, Head Gardener,
Biddulph Grange Gardens .**

Tuesday 2nd August: Car Outing: A Conducted Tour of Biddulph Grange Gardens ST8 7SD.

As a thank you for all the thousands of pounds NSNTA have donated to the gardens over the years, Helen Wilshaw and her team are giving us a conducted tour informing us of the history and horticulture of the gardens and pointing out the items we have funded.

We will meet in the main car park at 10.45am where we will be checked in and given a map.

At 11.00am we will have tea or coffee (included) in the café and at 11.30 we will split into 3 groups to have a 1½ hour tour of the gardens.

Whilst in the café, if you so wish, you can order and pay for a 'Grab and Go' lunch which includes a choice of jacket potatoes, sandwiches, salad, soup, cake and drinks to be collected at a time of your choosing. Alternatively, there are outdoor tables by the car park if you would like to bring your own picnic.

Please indicate on the booking form if you would like to buy food there to give the catering staff an idea of numbers.

PLEASE BRING YOUR NT CARDS.

N.B. There are many steps, gravel paths and no handrails although there are plenty of seats.

Numbers are limited to 50.

Cost: £5.00 members, £6.00 non- members.

Booking Details

Please apply to Jane Mayer, 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, Stoke on Trent, ST9 9PU enclosing cheque and S.A.E.

Tel: 01782 533476

Thursday 25th August: Coach Outing: Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Bromsgrove ,Worcs.

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings is an award-winning museum on a beautiful 19 acre site which is home to over 30 buildings and structures, a wild flower meadow, period gardens and a cider and perry orchard. The buildings date from a medieval town house to a fully-furnished Arcon V prefab and include such former commercial buildings as a 19th century windmill, a nailer's forge and a chain shop, all of which are in occasional use today.

On arrival we shall enjoy morning coffee/tea and a Danish pastry to set us up for our initial stroll around the site. A cold buffet lunch of sandwiches, quiche, gourmet sausage rolls, vegetarian pasties, tomatoes and grapes plus tea, coffee or fruit juice will be served at 1.00pm in the Edwardian Tea Room [included in cost]. A selection of cakes will be available to purchase. After lunch you will be free to resume your trip around this fascinating outdoor museum- perhaps a visit to the Victorian mission church or to a branch of the Shrewsbury Cooperative Society or maybe, to the National Telephone Collection which has also found a home here. All of the buildings and exhibits have been rescued from dereliction or demolition and rebuilt at Avoncroft.

Depart School Street at 8.45am. Return for 6.30pm (subject to traffic).

Cost £31.00. (£33.00. non-members) to include museum entrance, coach, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival and lunch.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 ONB enclosing a cheque and SAE.

NORTH STAFFS NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
Revised Programme

A COASTAL HOLIDAY

An Active 6-day Holiday based in Portsmouth

Sunday 11th to Friday 16th September 2016

Care! Change of dates from our original leaflet

We will visit 2 historic dockyards, 3 houses, 3 ferries, 2 islands,
2 castles, 3 villages, a tower and a mill

At the time of printing (early April), there are still a very few spaces left on this holiday. If you are interested and want more information, please `phone or email Cynthia or David on 01782 641765, dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com.

**Booking Details:
Tuesday May 31st: Car Trip: New Inn Mill, New Inn Lane,
Trentham ST4 8BE.**

Tours will begin at 10 am with successive tours at 10.45, 11.30, 2pm and 2.45 if necessary. Please state your preference and I'll try to give you the time you choose.

Cost: £9 (£10 to non-members) to include tea/coffee and a slice of home-made cake. Additional retail opportunities are available.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed reply paid DL envelope.

Closing date 26th April

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**Booking Details:
Saturday June 18th: Coach Outing to Jackfield Tile Museum
& Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire.**

Depart School Street at 8.45am; return to Newcastle by 6pm.

Cost: £ 28 (£30 for non-members) to include tea/coffee on arrival.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed reply envelope. (DL size please for leaflets)

Closing date 27th May

Booking Form: Tuesday May 31st: Car Trip: New Inn Mill, Trentham.

Name(s) Association number £

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I/We would like the 10.45., 11.30., 2pm. or 2.45.Tour (circle choice)

Total

Address.....
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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

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Booking Form: Saturday June 18th: Coach Outing: Jackfield Tile Museum and Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire.

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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Total

Address
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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

**Booking Details: Wednesday June 22nd: Car Trip:
Wightwick Manor and Bantock House, Wolverhampton
West Mids WV6 8BN.**

Cost £5.00. (£7 for members of the Trust but not members of NSNTA).

(To include tea and coffee on arrival). Places for lunch in the tea-room cannot be guaranteed.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QH enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed DL size envelope.

Closing Date 20th May.

Cut

**Booking Details
Wednesday July 6th: Walk: Norton-in-Hales, Shropshire,**

Meet at the Hind's Head pub, Main Rd (TF9 4AT) at 10.00 am. We will be back there for lunch which is booked for 1pm. Cost £2.00 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day). Book your place with rjadsams@doctors.org.uk or, by post to: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Telephone: 01782 646054

Booking Form: Wednesday June 22nd: Car Trip: Wightwick Manor & Bantock House.

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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 Total

I/We would like () Teas and () Coffees on arrival

Total

Address

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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

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Booking Form; Wednesday July 6th: Walk: Norton-in-Hales.

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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 Total...Pay on the Day

I/We would (not) like to bookplaces for lunch at own cost.

Address.....

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 Total...Pay on the Day

Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

Booking Details: Wednesday July 13th: Coach Outing:

Coughton Court and Baddesley Clinton,Warwickshire.

The coach will leave School Street at 8am, returning from Baddesley Clinton at 4pm to arrive back in **Newcastle at 6pm.**Cost £20 (non-members £22) Optional lunch at Coughton Court is £7.00(for soup, sandwiches and tea/coffee).

Please add £7 if you require lunch. It is not possible to order on the day. Cost includes early-bird tour, tea/coffee, coach travel, Nat. Trust Donation, guides. **NB National Trust Cards must be shown.** Apply to Jane Beckett, 10 River Lea Mews, Madeley, Cheshire, CW3 9EH (TEL. 01782 750715) enclosing cheque and SAE.

Closing Date June10th.

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Booking Details: Thursday July 21st: Car Trip: Eyam Hall, Craft Centre and Guided tour of the Village. Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 5QW.

Cost £7.00. (non members £8.00). Includes guided tour and contribution to NSNTA funds. All refreshments are at own cost. Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 777513 enclosing a cheque, SAE size DL (22 x11 cms).

**Booking Form: Wednesday July 13th: Coach Outing:
Coughton Court and Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire.**

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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Please book () Lunches at £7.00.each.....

Total

Address

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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

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**Booking Form: Thursday July 21st: Car Trip: Eyam Hall,
Craft Centre and Guided tour of the Village.**

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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Total

Address.....

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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

(a) I/We will need () Café Lunch Places (b) () of us will
bring a picnic

For booking details see reverse of this form

**Booking Details: Tuesday August 2nd: Car Trip: A
Conducted Tour of Biddulph Grange Gardens.**

Cost: £5.00 members, £6.00 non- members.

Please apply to Jane Mayer, 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook,
Stoke on Trent, ST9 9PU enclosing cheque and S.A.E.

Tel: 01782 533476

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**Booking Details: Thursday August 25th: Coach Outing:
Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Bromsgrove,
Worcs.**

Depart School Street at 8.45am. Return for 6.30pm (subject to
traffic).

Cost £31.00. (£33.00. non-members) to include museum entrance,
coach, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival and lunch.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5
ONB enclosing a cheque and SAE.

**Booking Form: Tuesday August 2nd: Car Trip: A
Conducted Tour of Biddulph Grange Gardens.**

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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..... Total

Please reserve () "grab & go" lunches, chose your ingredients from the day's menu. £3.50 to £5. Pay on the day.

Address.....

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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

Cut.....

**Booking Form: Thursday August 25th: Coach Outing:
Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Bromsgrove,
Worcs.**

Name(s) Association number Cost £

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Total

Address

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Tel. No..... e-mail address.....

For booking details see reverse of this form

Booking Details: Thursday September 29th: Coach Outing: Marks & Spencer Exhibition and Temple Newsam House, Leeds

The coach will leave School St. Newcastle at 7.45 am and depart from Temple Newsam at 4.30 pm to arrive back in Newcastle by 7.00pm

Cost £29 (non-members £31) to include tea/coffee at the M & S exhibition, lunch and entry fee at Temple Newsam, coach fare and driver's tip.

Please apply to Richard Mayer, 16, Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9PU Tel: 01782 533476 enclosing SAE

Booking Now.Closing Date 26th August. (Numbers have to finalised a month in advance of visit). See full description page 25.

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Booking Form: Thursday September 29th: Coach Outing: Marks & Spencer Exhibition and Temple Newsam House, Leeds.

Name(s)	Association number	Cost £
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Total

Address

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Tel. No.....

e-mail address.....

For booking details see top of this form

On the Media City Coach Outing last November some people had to



work , while others caught up with old friends.



Thursday 29th September: Coach Outing: Marks & Spencer Exhibition and Temple Newsam House, Leeds

First we will visit Leeds University to see the “Marks in Time Exhibition “. This exhibition celebrates the role that Marks & Spencer has played in people’s lives for more than 130 years. It traces the journey from market stall to international retailer. We will have a short talk entitled “ M & S and the War Effort”, a guided tour of the exhibition and free time to look around including the gift shop.

Complimentary tea and coffee will be served. We will then transfer by coach to:-**Temple Newsam House**. Built in 1518, it is a Tudor-Jacobean country mansion with grounds (1500 acres of stunning woodland, parkland and gardens) landscaped by Capability Brown. Following extensive restoration over 40 interiors now display one of the most important collections of fine and decorative arts in Britain which were designated as being of pre-eminent importance in 1997- the first country house to be recognised in this way. It is a treasure house of outstanding collections including furniture, ceramics, textiles, silver and wallpaper. The collections also show how the house was used as a family home, which was once birthplace to Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots. Temple Newsam has recently hit the headlines in the national newspapers after the revelation that Lady Isabella Hertford, owner of the house in the 1820s, having accepted wallpaper from her lover the Prince Regent, then enlivened it by cutting out and pasting on birds from a copy of Audubon’s ‘Birds of America’. A copy of this book recently sold for £7.3 million! The birds still grace the walls of the Chinese Drawing Room.

A pre-booked lunch will be served in a private room soon after our arrival (classic sandwich selection, crisps, selection of cakes, tea coffee and fruit juice). **Booking Details on page 23.**

Reviews of Recent Events

November 17th: Coach Outing: BBC Media City, Salford.

This is surely one of the newest sites our association has ever visited – the BBC has only had its northern base at Salford Quays for four years. We found ourselves in a slightly surreal world of plate glass, open piazzas, outdoor screens and coffee shops, with a tram terminus for easy transport to the reality of central Manchester. The Lowry Theatre and Gallery and the Imperial War Museum are both adjacent, and members had free time to explore all of these and more. My group for the BBC tour had two excellent and enthusiastic guides, who took us first to a radio DJ studio, surprisingly large with room for live performers, but otherwise all computer screens and digital sounds. We moved on to a radio drama recording studio – The Archers is recorded in Birmingham, but that’s what we talked about anyway. Somehow it was comforting to know that coconut shells are still used and are the best way to imitate horses’ hooves on the wireless; less so to see a bunch of rubber gloves waved in the air to produce the sound of birds in flight; and don’t mention the yoghurt! The “dead room” or semi-anechoic chamber (my new word of the day) has sound absorbing walls and ceilings, and is paradoxically used for outdoor scenes, where you would expect no sound echoes. On again to TV, and the Match of the Day studio, where the spotlights above were 200 or so strong, and the floor is repainted every week or so to ensure perfect holographic projections. The green room is neither green, nor luxurious, instant coffee and paper cups – another illusion shattered. Our final stop was for Breakfast TV, a chance to sit on the red sofa, for the brave to have a go at presenting the news, and for the very brave to appear on screen to give the weather forecast. It was raining. Thank you, Jane, for organising a memorable day out. **Richard Adams**

Tuesday December 8th: The Christmas Meal at Keele Hall

Climbing the steps of Keele Hall from the cobbled courtyard then arriving in the warmth and colour of the Hall, we could have imagined ourselves as guests at Downton Abbey. The rooms were richly decorated and while we enjoyed drinks we admired the amazing array of crafts on display. Association members have many talents as everything from appliqué to woodcarving was exhibited. A handsome embroidered fox gazed at us. Chaucer's Canterbury Tales had inspired a set of beautifully carved wooden figures, silver jewellery and delicate lace were on show, as were paintings, a patchwork quilt, decorative objects made from old book, and much more. We were delighted to hear members of the Keele Bach choir, in the gallery, singing a seasonal selection of carols and other Christmas music. They earned a well-deserved round of applause for the beautiful sounds of their voices in harmony. While we enjoyed our dinner in the imposing Salvin Room, our brains were exercised by a Christmas quiz and we groaned at the dreadful jokes in the crackers! Many thanks to Sue Till, Cynthia Dumbelton, Anthea Bond, Kay Williams and Ralph White and all who helped to organise such a varied and entertaining festive event.

Anne Anderton

Tuesday 19th January: Talk: "The Royal Secrets of Spode".

Ray Elks talk was excellent and very much enjoyed. The illustrations ranged from historic images to actual examples of the elegant and colourful ware. We enjoyed discreet gossip about royal visits and presentations. The live royalty came out well, but others have left behind a reputation for being difficult. The oval, modern dessert service recently presented to HMQ by the industry inspired envy.

Thursday 11th February: Coach Outing: Singers Hill Synagogue & the Back to Backs, Birmingham.

Enid Nussbaum reports that surrounded by high rise buildings, the modest red brick exterior of the Synagogue gave little clue as to the glamorous interior. Our Guide, Steven Newman's introductory remarks were made in the sun filled, high ceilinged Childrens' Chapel.

Steven spoke fluently of the history of Jews in Britain and Birmingham. This building is one of only four "Cathedral Synagogues" in Britain. It attracts many visitors whose tours have to be managed round the three daily services. The main part of the building occupies a huge volume with a vaulted ceiling and is breathtakingly beautiful. There are six pairs of columns with gilded capitals representing the tribes of Israel. All this is bathed in ethereal blue light from the tinted east window. Concealed from the light in the Holy Space behind oak doors were the sacred scrolls. We were shown a sumptuously hand decorated copy of the Torah on vellum. Our Guide also pointed out the separate pews where men were obliged to pray but for women in pews screened off with Perspex, praying was optional.

Thank you, Jane, for arranging this visit where we learned so much which can only be summarised here. If you haven't been, when in Birmingham, do go to experience the beauty and serenity of this building, all the more surprising for being in the centre of the busy city.

Enid Nussbaum

Helen Mansell comments on the Back to Backs. We explored tiny, terraced, roughly-built houses, grouped around a courtyard, in the heart of Birmingham, with communal privies and brew-houses. "transported us through time" from the 1840s to the 1930s. A living room with a smoky fire in the range grate, eggs hung from the ceiling, out of reach of vermin, and a caged canary chirping

merrily. Running water, oil lamps and electric lighting were introduced over the years. Up a steep, narrow, winding staircase a curtain hung across the bedroom for privacy purposes, but the tenants' bedrooms often doubled as workshops, where some crafted clock-hands and glass eyes. The en-suite facilities (chamber pots) would have been emptied into miskins (barrels) in the courtyard, shared by about 60 people. Our visit was quite a sanitised affair - the bedding and items of clothing were all very clean, and not at all damp, and bugs no longer lived between the layers of wallpaper. Luckily we didn't have to experience washing in a tin bath, sleeping top to toe or the privies (hole in a wooden plank with a bucket below which rats and mice would have scurried around). Feeling thankful for today's luxuries, we nipped into the corner sweet shop, which was probably more often frequented by theatre goers than the people of the Back to Backs. Glad to see Walkers Non-such toffees from Longton on sale!

Helen Mansell

Tuesday 16th February: Talk: The Floating World of Japanese Woodblock Prints.

Isabelle and Jeff Killicoat gave us a great insight into the history, design and production of these graphic masterpieces. We learned about the three great old masters from Japan and an American modern master using and extending the superfine carving and printing techniques. The interaction between East and West was fascinating too. The east was influenced by our sense of perspective and Japanese design shows in the works of the Impressionists and Post Impressionists. Suitably inspired, it might well resurface in the artistic endeavours of the association members.

Wednesday 24th February: Car Outing: New Victoria Theatre, Basford, Newcastle-under-Lyme

On a bright February morning we were met by Lynn Parry and Jill Rezzano at the beautifully refurbished front of house area of the New Vic, originally opened in 1986. After a short introduction we were split into 2 groups, our group being led by Jill. The first part of our tour took us around the drum - the area immediately beyond the stage where the actors can run and make an entrance via one of three vomitoriums or 'voms'. Jill said that there were various explanations as to why the entrances were called voms but I'll leave you to consider why you might think this name apt. Around the drum there are several storage spaces, a prompt corner (although, by virtue of it being Theatre in the Round, there is no prompting - an actor's only hope is that another actor can help should you forget your lines), a firework 'tin' (a metal cupboard where any explosives are kept), a locked cage for musical instruments and quick change areas.

We then entered the atrium, known as the green room in most theatres, an area where actors can relax, cook, etc. with dressing rooms leading off. Then into the foyer by the Stephen Joseph Room where we were given a short history of the theatre and shown a model of one of the sets which are always made by the designer for each show; and we saw where a floor was being made for the theatre's next production 'Kiss me Quickstep'. We continued into the Wardrobe Department where several of our group were surprised by how much work goes into making the costumes. Sometimes costumes are altered and re-used, some are bought ready-made but a lot of the costumes are made from scratch by creating paper patterns following the sketches drawn up by the designer.

Our tour ended with a short talk from Lynn with Q & A's in the auditorium followed by several of us having a very nice lunch in the bar which we had previously ordered.

A great time had by all! Thank you Rose, an all-round triumph. **Chris Bailey and Jacquie Byrne**

Saturday 19th March: Walk: Rode Heath and the Salt Trail

We started this walk at the Broughton Arms pub at Rode Heath walking along country lanes until we reached the beginning of the Salt Line. The track had only been reopened two days previously after being “refurbished” so the surface was very pleasant to walk along. The Salt Line used to be the North Staffordshire Railway line opened in 1852 to carry coal and limestone to various salt works. At this time there were large underground salt deposits used to make soda, glass and soap. These products would then be taken to Liverpool for export or elsewhere. In later years the railway was used to take people on excursions to Trentham Gardens. On two days a week people were taken to Sandbach market.

We continued walking through pleasant woods whose trees were cut in the past and the wood used for thatching, barrel hoops and baskets. We saw spring flowers and heard birds singing in the trees. There were also posts indicating the distance of certain planets from the sun!

Eventually we walked through a tunnel under the M6 to reach the attractive small village of Hassall Green where we saw the pink painted corrugated iron Anglican church of St Philip's. This had been moved from Alsager in 1894 having cost £150! Here we joined the Trent and Mersey canal to walk back to Rode Heath. We saw some very attractive cottages and more modern houses and bungalows with some beautiful gardens full of spring flowers, bordering the canal. We also passed two locks, one with some very steep steps! There were several barges moored by the side of the canal. In the past salt was carried on the boats and coal and pottery brought up from Stoke.

We arrived back at Rode Heath and quite a few of us stayed for a very nice lunch at the Broughton Arms before returning home.

We were blessed with fine, if cloudy weather, for the walk. Our thanks go to Peter Wilson for organizing such an enjoyable walk for us.

Sue Corlett

New Members of The Association.

We should like to welcome, in some cases welcome back, the following who have joined recently.

Mrs Margaret Jones, Mrs Kathleen Cooper,
Mrs Bernice Mulliner, Gwen Paget, Margaret & Munroe Blair,
J E & V Chapman, Michael & Myra Pugh, Sandra Shephard,
Margaret Ward , Carol Davies, Jennifer Smith,
Barbara Hall-Petite, Judith Shaw, Pamela Darlington, Kath
Rhodes, Menai Roberts, Chris & Linda Spicer,
Glyn & Pat Farrington, Alan Treherne, Barbara Emery,
Fred Emery, Keith Walker, Carol & Michael Rowley,
John & Hazel Spriggs

Donations by NSNTA to National Trust Properties 2015-2016

Biddulph Grange Gardens £3500

Artificial Turf for Dragon Parterre and Iron Arch for Entrance to 'China'.

Little Moreton Hall £1200 towards Lime Ash Floors Repair.

Downs Banks £850 for ten benches

Mow Cop £600 for replacement signage

Wightwick Manor £500 towards replacement carpeting

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

We are always delighted to welcome new members.

Please note: you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer.

To join the Association, please complete the Application Form below and send it, with your cheque, to the Membership Secretary:

Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT

Email: rjadams@doctors.org.uk

Tel: 01782 646054

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Membership Application

I/We wish to apply for membership of the North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Name(s)

NT membership number(s)

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

Annual subscription, for the first member £ 10.00.

For additional member(s), at the same address (£7.00.). £

Total enclosed £.....

Cheque payable to "North Staffs NT Association" please

Thank you very much

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We hope to publish soon good news about a new Newsletter Editor and Website Liaison. In the meantime please send copy for the next edition, deadline 1st August, to Ralph White , details above.

It would be good to publish more photos of members on trips.

Summary of Summer Programme May to September	
Tuesday 17 th May	AGM at NSCC.7.pm.Followed by Talk: Matthew Rice. "The Lost City of Stoke-on-Trent."
Wednesday 18 th May	Coach Outing: Manchester. Guided Walk and Concert.
Tuesday 31 st May	Car Trip: New Inn Mill, Trentham.
Saturday 18 th June	Coach Outing: Jackfield Tile Mus. Ironbridge Gorge.
Wednesday 22 nd June	Car Trip: Wightwick Manor and Bantock House, Wolverhampton.
Wednesday 6 th July	Walk:Norton-in-Hales.
Wednesday 13 th July	Coach Outing:Coughton Court & Baddesley Clinton.
Thursday 21 st July	Car Trip: Eyam Hall,Craft Centre & Village ,
Tuesday 2 nd August	Car Trip: Biddulph Grange Gardens
Thursday 25 th August	Coach Outing: Avoncroft Museum
Sunday 11 th to Friday 16 th Sept.	Coastal Holiday, Portsmouth.
Thursday 29 th September	Coach Outing: M&S Exhibition & Temple Newsam House, Leeds.