

# North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 106  
Winter – Spring 2017

[www.northstaffsnt.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsnt.org.uk)



Taking stock by Eyam Hall

## Arrangements for Trips

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

Please send a separate cheque, with the event name on the reverse, and a stamped addresses envelope for each event applied for, even if it is with the same organiser. People wishing to sit together should complete one form.

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 booking.

Please make cheques payable to "North Staffs National Trust Association". Cheques are normally not cleared until after an event. We will give notice if we need to do otherwise.

Refunds on cancellation are possible only if there is a waiting list. Please do not find your own substitute travellers: people on the waiting list have priority.

The Committee reserves the right to cancel any event that is not viable.

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.

Whilst participating in an event please make sure that you carry the organiser's mobile phone number from the booking acceptance form in case you get lost. Please DO NOT MAKE alternative arrangements to get home without first telling the trip organiser.

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This Newsletter is published by North Staffordshire National Trust Association to provide members with information on the forthcoming programme, reports on recent events, and other membership issues. The text and images are copyright and may not be reproduced without the owner's permission. Any views expressed by individual contributors are their own and not necessarily of the NSNTA or the NT.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. **Note:** you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer. To join the Association, please see the details and complete the Application Form on Pages vii & viii, or download the membership form from [www.northstaffsnt.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsnt.org.uk).

Copy and correspondence for the next issue, due for publication late April, should be addressed to [Newsletter@jspriggs.com](mailto:Newsletter@jspriggs.com) (01782 791360) by the **1<sup>st</sup> March 2017** at the very latest (but earlier if possible!)

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# North Staffordshire National Trust Association

## Newsletter No. 106 Winter – Spring 2017 Programme

### A Note From The Chair



This Newsletter is designed to arrive at the period known as “Twixmas” when you might have consumed too many tasty treats already, but I have no hesitation in offering the glorious “pick & mix” confection that is the Spring Programme. However there are no calories in the Talks, and the Walks, Excursions and Holidays are part of your fitness programme. A balanced diet of something for everyone. Apart from encouraging a New Year resolution to go on more events, I should like you to resolve to help organise one too. Jane and the Programme Planning Group are very welcoming and friendly and will help make your day a triumph. They are full of useful tips like “Did you measure the gates at Tottering Hall?” I can tell you about not

going out of electric gates that are only designed to let you in, they trap the coach part way down like immovable pincers! As we add another year I can tell a short, true story about Southwell Minster, (26th April). On a project on which we were both involved I met Rory Young, the sculptor of “The Pilgrim” in Southwell Minster. The Artist captured the image of an actual young man in his prime. Rory told me the model, struggling with the ravages of time, occasionally goes back to look at himself and feels very strange because his stony double has not aged at all!

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year,

*Ralph*

## ***Forthcoming Events***

All talks are at N.S. Conference Centre, Hartshill, at 7.30p.m. unless otherwise stated. Admission free to members; non-members and guests are welcome @ £3 per head.

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January: Talk: David Barrett – “A year in the life of a Travel Agent”.**

David has worked in the travel business since leaving school. In 1986, he started his own travel company, Regent Travel, in Stone. As well as being an independent travel agency, Regent operate their own tours which David often escorts.

The presentation looks at 2016 and a year in the life of travel boss David Barrett and his travel adventures. Many of you have used Regent Travel to organise your own holidays. I believe that David's talk encompasses not only the fascinating destinations to which he has taken people but the many humorous incidents that have occurred along the way.

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Car Outing: Spode Visitor Centre, Elenora Street, Stoke. ST4 1QQ**

Since the closure of the factory in 2008 the historic collection of Spode pottery was in storage until the opening of the Visitor Centre in 2012. The Centre now houses the largest collection of Spode pottery in the world.

We will be met by the Manager of the Centre, Michael Escolme, and served with tea or coffee (included). We will go upstairs (17 steps) and be given an introductory talk on the history of Spode before being split into groups. One group will see the Blue Room which houses a large collection of blue ware and some of the hand-engraved copperplates from which inked tissue paper was used for the under glaze transfer printing. Another group will visit the museum which tells the story of the factory through displays, films, photographs and objects from the collection. The archive includes the old pattern books showing watercolour drawings of the patterns used over the centuries. There will also be demonstrations of transfer printing and painting or gilding by former employees. There will be an opportunity to have a guided tour round the old factory site including the mould room. On the site are some studio potters which small groups can visit.

Numbers are limited to 50. Cost: £9.00 members, £10.00 non-members. Please apply to Jane Mayer, 16, Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, ST9 9PU enclosing cheque and S.A.E. Tel. 01782 533476

The Visitor Centre is right off Elenora Street and immediately right into the factory complex. There is free parking in front of the Visitor Centre but as this is limited please car share where possible. Meet at 10:30 at the entrance to the Centre.

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Talk: Mike Herbert – "The Restoration and Regeneration of the Trentham Estate".

Mike Herbert has worked for St. Modwen for 25 years. He has overseen many major schemes within Stoke on Trent, not least the wonderful restoration of the 725 acre, historic Trentham Estate. Described as "the garden make-over of the decade", Trentham Gardens was given the accolade of Garden of the Year 2014/2015 by readers of BBC Countryfile Magazine.



Capability Brown must surely be smiling down from his rolling landscape in the sky.

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Car Trip to Burslem: Guided tours of St. Joseph's (Catholic church) and The Leopard (public house).

An opportunity to visit these contrasting Grade II listed buildings in Burslem:

**St Joseph's** – the glorious church which Matthew Rice enthused about in his talk at our AGM last May, and **The Leopard Inn** – steeped in history and with many secrets, another distinctive building of quite a different nature.

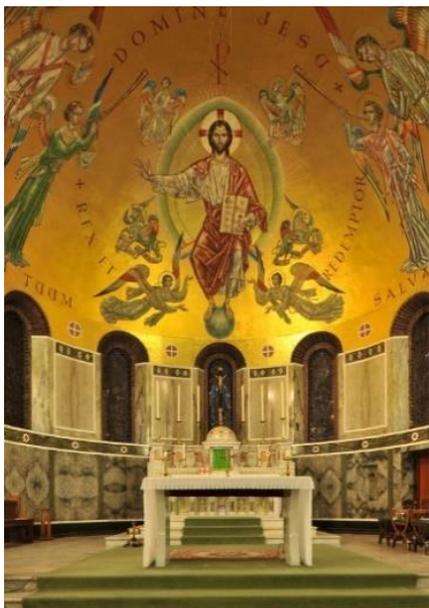


Image courtesy of St. Josephs

The outing will commence at 11am with us gathering over morning tea/coffee and a slice of home-made cake at St Joseph's. A guided tour will inform us about the construction in 1926 of this Italianate style church, built with bricks made in Fenton, and details will be recounted to us as we view the finely decorated interior, statues, ceiling, marble, and works of art. In particular we shall be able to admire the stained glass by Gordon Forsyth and the magnificent painting in the apse by his daughter, Moira Forsyth, entitled "Christ in Glory".

We then leave the church and head for the pub, walking the few minutes across to The Leopard. (We can leave our vehicles on the church carpark as we have permission to park there, free of charge, for the day.) This 18<sup>th</sup> century public hotel is where, in 1765,

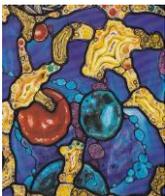
Wedgwood, Brindley, Bentley and Darwin first met, their negotiations leading to the cutting of the Trent & Mersey Canal. Our guided tour of this extensive labyrinth can be followed by luncheon in The Leopard's function room if you wish to remain a little longer to soak up the atmosphere.

If you'd like to stay for lunch, there is the option of pre-paying £4.50 for a roast dinner or £4.00 for Leopard lobby with bread roll. Alternatively, a selection of sandwiches, priced from £1.95, will be available to order and pay for on the day – but you may have to wait a while for these to be prepared.

**Cost:** £7 (£8 to non-members) to include tea/coffee and a slice of home-made cake on arrival and **two** guided tours. Pre-ordered meals are an additional £4.50/£4.00 p.p.

Please apply to Helen Mansell, 3 Oakdale, Newcastle, ST5 4JG, (01782 626091) ([helenmansell@gmail.com](mailto:helenmansell@gmail.com)), enclosing the booking form, your cheque payable to "North Staffs National Trust Association", and your SAE for the return of further details and maps etc. Bookings closing date: 9th February 2017.

## **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March: Talk: Keith Cattell – "Light Fantastic: 1,000 years of Stained Glass".**



Keith is a retired architect and has had a great interest in stained glass for the last 45 years. His talk covers the full history of glass from the earliest discovery up to present day compositions.

Early stained Glass has been described as the "disco lights" of its day and the stories they tell as the "Hollywood Epics" of their age.

Come along and be dazzled by Keith's presentation.

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Walk: Swynnerton and beyond.**

This walk starts and finishes in the village of Swynnerton, rightly proud of its charter granted by Edward I in 1306. Little seems to have happened there since, making it just right for a Sunday morning stroll followed by a social lunch in the local pub.

We will meet at the Village Hall, in Early Lane, just round the corner from the Fitzherbert Arms, at 10.00am.

The walk is about 5 and a half miles across farmland, quiet tracks and woodland. It's mostly flat, with a dozen easy stiles to negotiate. We head towards the small community of Cranberry, then briefly cross over the railway line to visit the even smaller hamlet of Bowers Bent. A brief stop for refreshments (bring your own!), then we make our way back to Swynnerton, in time for lunch at 1pm.



Cost is £3 for members, £3.50 for guests. Children and dogs are welcome, at no charge. Please book your place with Richard Adams, by email ([rjadams@doctors.org.uk](mailto:rjadams@doctors.org.uk)), or by post with an SAE to Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT .

## **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April: Talk: Andy Tomkinson: "A Himalayan Odyssey." Travelling and working in The Nepal Himalaya.**

Andy has been a consultant anaesthetist in Stoke since 1985, attracted by its proximity to The Peak District. Four years ago he completed a diploma in mountain medicine which prepared him well for working in a high and relatively remote mountain environment.

His interest lies in the issue of porter welfare and acclimatisation when visiting high mountain ranges. He spent 1982 working in Kathmandu and more recently obtained a volunteer position at the International Porter Protection and Rescue post in the Gokyo Valley just west of Everest.

Andy will illustrate his talk and in doing so will take us to places most of us only dream about.

## **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April: Coach Outing: Southwell Minster and The Workhouse, Southwell. (NT).**

Southwell Minster was founded in Saxon times and rebuilt by the Normans as an independent church in the diocese of York. It has a Norman nave which is one of the finest in Europe, a magnificent Angel window and the world-renowned Chapter House stone carvings, 'The Leaves of Southwell'. It became a cathedral in 1884.

Refreshments will be served on arrival followed by a guided tour of this magnificent building. Lunch will then be taken (at own expense) at one of the many pleasant cafés/pubs in the town which is arguably one of the prettiest in Nottinghamshire.

We will then meet up with the coach for the short drive to The Workhouse- 'a refuge for those in need, but a terror to the idle and dissolute'- decide whose side you're on! With the help of your free audio guide you can explore the most complete workhouse in existence and listen to the stories of those who lived and worked here.

### **PLEASE BRING YOUR NT CARDS WITH YOU.**

Please be aware there are several flights of stairs to the upper floors.

Depart School St at 8.30am. Return for 6.30pm (subject to traffic).

Cost: £24 (£26 non-members) to include coach driver's tip, tea/coffee on arrival, Minster tour, workhouse admission and audio guide.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Ave, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB, enclosing a cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 616113.

## ***Advance Bookings***

The following events are scheduled for the Autumn programme, but due to the advance notice needed, booking or pre-booking is required before the next Newsletter will be published.

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Coach Outing: Welbeck Abbey and Creswell Crags, Notts.**

This former monastic foundation has been in the same extended family since 1607.

Being a private home, it is only open to a restricted number of visitors for 28 days a year, so we have reserved all of the tours on this day.

You will see the magnificent state rooms where each generation has collected, remodelled, and quite often entertained on a lavish scale.



© The Harley Gallery

Copious notes will be returned with the booking confirmation, but there are some points to bear in mind before posting your form.

The State Rooms Tour lasts 1½ hours. There will be no access to plumbing or anywhere else to sit down during this time! There are full facilities in our base in the cluster of buildings comprising the Farm Shop, The Harley Contemporary Art Gallery and Craft Centre, the magnificent new Portland Gallery of Treasures, Café, Notcutt's Garden Centre, Edinburgh Woollen Mill and Restaurant.

The State Rooms Tours begin at 10am, 12noon and 3pm. If you have a preference for one of these times please indicate so on the booking form, otherwise I will allocate according to application arrival.

We shall be leaving at 5.00pm so in case the cultural and retail opportunities begin to pall I am arranging a shuttlebus to Creswell Crags (admission free), where there is a nearby picnic area, café and optional tour in the prehistoric caves (£7.50 book in advance but pay on the day).

Further details of the arrangements, including special provisions for the comfort and refreshment of people on the first tour if time is pressing, will be included with the booking confirmation form.

The coach will leave School Street at 8.00 am and return about 7.00pm.

Cost: £37.50 (non-members £39.50) to include coach travel, State Rooms Tour, and driver's gratuity. Optional conducted prehistoric rock and painted caves tour: £7.50 payable on the day, but book in advance.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8QH, <[ralph@ralphwhitedesign.com](mailto:ralph@ralphwhitedesign.com)> Tel 01902 752833, including cheque and SAE.

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Holiday in Bristol**

Staying at The Mercure Holland House Hotel & Spa, Bristol



Visits include:-

- The Royal Mint, Cardiff,
- Slimbridge Wetlands Centre,
- Two historic Cathedrals,
- Bishops Palace, Wells,
- Two NT Houses,
- Bristol Harbour Tour, including the SS Great Britain,
- Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge

4 nights/5days. Cost: £510 per person

Organisation: Shipshape and Bristol Fashion!!

Further details and booking early in the new year. If you are interested and would like further information please contact by email, or else by post including a stamped addressed envelope.

Contact: Marion & Mike Lycett, Millstone House, The Green, Bagnall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST9 9JR, Tel: 01782 502919 Mob: 07481817048.

[marionlycett@hotmail.com](mailto:marionlycett@hotmail.com) / [lycettmichael@hotmail.com](mailto:lycettmichael@hotmail.com)

## ***Meet the Committee***

From time to time we publish a potted biography of members of the committee, just to show that the management of the Association is in good hands, and this time it is the turn of David Morgan who was elected onto the committee at the AGM last May.

### **David Morgan**



I was born in Stoke on Trent and educated at Wolstanton Grammar School where I enjoyed many years of playing sport with a little bit of work in between.

I initially studied Physical Education and French at College and then whilst teaching completed degrees in French and Law. My teaching career spanned 43 years as assistant teacher, Head of Department and finally Deputy Head at St. John Fisher High School for 21 years.

I enjoy speaking foreign languages particularly French and German. I have learnt Spanish and Russian but have forgotten most of it!

I also enjoy sport and played cricket in the North Staffs and South Cheshire League for many years. I also played rugby for Trentham and then hockey for Stone in my later years. I now attempt to play golf!

I am a founder member of Wolstanton Rotary Club and have been President twice. Rotary has been a very enjoyable experience and has led to lasting friendships and many satisfying charitable activities. I became a magistrate in 2005 and served 10 years on the adult and youth bench and also in the family court. This was at times very hard work, particularly as chairman but I did feel I was contributing to the community. I have been chairman of governors at Stoke Minster Primary school for 8 years and this is extremely busy and demanding but again enjoyable. I have tremendous admiration for the work of the teachers in the school. I became church warden of St Andrews in the Westlands in 2014 and will continue to serve until 2018.

I have been married to Val for 46 years and we have two children James and Rebecca. James is a barrister at St Philips Chambers and Rebecca a teacher at a primary school at Leamington Spa. Rebecca has two boys aged 7 and 5 and James has two girls aged 12 and 10.

I really appreciate the work which the local National Trust does and the superb efforts which are made to give us the opportunity to see new places and to travel.

## ***Reviews of Recent Events***

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July: Coach Outing: Coughton Court and Baddesley Clinton**

After a welcome cup of coffee we were taken on a tour of Coughton Court by not one but four guides, led by Mr Philip Roberts.

The house has been in the continuous ownership of the Throckmorton family since 1409. A prominent Catholic family involved in the plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1583 and through marriage to those who sought to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

There is much to see and do. In addition to the house, there is a picnic area, the walled garden, the formal garden, two churches, walks in the grounds and stunning views from the tower. This proved to be an interesting visit for all.

*Bob Beckett*

After an enjoyable light lunch, we boarded the coach for the short trip to Baddesley Clinton, set in the heart of the Forest of Arden and home to the Ferrers family for 500 years.

Our guide led us around the outside of the house, extended and rebuilt several times over the centuries, pointing out its many pleasing features. Originally constructed of wood, the moat offered both protection and a source of safety in case of fire as well as being a great status symbol of its time. It's an extremely attractive house, with many interesting stories woven into its history. It has been described as "the perfect late medieval manor house" and I see no reason to question that. The inner courtyard is beautifully laid out and the surrounding grounds are very pretty and immaculately maintained by the staff and volunteers.

The guides in the house were most welcoming and regaled us with facts and anecdotes relating to its family members.

After a very pleasant hour, we made our way to the obligatory tea-rooms and availed ourselves with "afternoon tea." The scones registered 10/10. They were delicious. The ducks know that too, as I discovered to my cost with a nipped finger.

Many thanks to Jane and Bob for organising such a lovely day out.

*Sue Till.*

## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July: Car Trip: Eyam Hall, Craft Centre & Village

We met in the former stableyard to the Hall which now houses the NT shop, some craft units and the Buttery café and following refreshments we were given an introductory talk on the Hall's history. The stone-flagged entrance hall has two 17th century bacon settles either side of the fireplace contemporary with the Jacobean Hall – what a strange idea to sit below the bacon! We then viewed the house in free-flow style but knowledgeable guides were available to answer questions. The main interest upstairs was the Tapestry Room where some old and valuable tapestries had been cut to fit around doors and windows to keep the room warm but with no regard as to their value! We then walked into the tiered walled garden full of colourful cottage garden plants and produce. It was in this delightful setting that those who had brought picnics ate them whilst others in the group returned to the Buttery Café for lunch.



After lunch we embarked on a guided walking tour of the village which took in the site of the former village pond where we were all given a tag bearing the name of a plague victim! We then passed a row of cottages each having the names of those who had died of the plague inscribed on plaques outside them.



The Churchyard held much interest not least the unique sundial; we then passed the village school whose iron gates incorporate the words "Ring-a-Ring of Roses" – a poignant reminder of the plague days.

The tour ended in the village square near the well which provided much needed fresh water for the isolated villagers. Many members then took up the option to explore further sites of interest including an example of a garden-burial with headstones and the huge Boundary Stone where neighbouring villagers left food for the plague victims to collect and where coins in payment thereof were left in holes drilled in the Stone and filled with vinegar to prevent spread of the plague.

Thank you Roger for an enjoyable and thought-provoking day.

*Shirley Timmis*

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August: Car Trip: Biddulph Grange Garden



It was a grey day when we visited Biddulph, with rain threatening. After a general introduction from Helen Wilshaw, the site's Commercial Manager, we were split into three groups, led by gardeners and one by Helen herself, which we joined.



The garden compartments with their micro-climates reflect Bateman's eclectic taste as a pioneer collector of plants from all over the world. Our tour went through the Italian garden, then along the dahlia walk – the product of months of continual care each year – on through the stumpery to China. We passed through the pagoda with its



spectacular vista of the lake and surrounding acer and golden birch trees. It was good to see the fruits of the donations made by our group, especially the striking gilded



buffalo and the artificial grass in the dragon lawn. We passed the huge monkey puzzle trees, transplanted when they outgrew their original position on the parterres, and the striking sequoias and Wellingtonias, mostly originals first brought back as part of Bateman's plant collecting zeal.

We went through the Cheshire Cottage and emerged into Egypt, guarded by monumental sphinxes, then back through the cherry orchard – where once stood the wards of the hospital – to a welcome lunch in the tea room.



The staff and volunteers have done an excellent job in keeping the garden much as Bateman envisaged it. My lasting impression is of the enormity of the Trust's task when it took the garden on in the 1970s and the constraints of restoring a Grade 1 Listed Garden in the absence of detailed original records and documentation – a task which is on-going and will last well into the future.

Thanks to Jane for organising a memorable visit.

*Roger Savage*

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August: Coach Outing: Avoncroft



Avoncroft is a unique home for historic buildings which have been rescued from demolition and rebuilt in a beautiful corner of Worcestershire's rural countryside. Many of the buildings house historical treasures and they give an insight into how we once lived, worked and played.

The museum has grown steadily since 1967 and there are now 37 buildings covering a period of 7 centuries. These include a counting house, the National Telephone Kiosk Collection, an Anderson Shelter, a spire from a Smethwick church and a toll house from Malvern amongst many others.

Even though the weather was damp and dull, the visit gave a fascinating insight into the past and one can only be grateful that there has been the enthusiasm and vision to preserve what could so easily have been lost.

Many thanks are owed to Rose Wheat for her excellent organisation and for giving us the opportunity to see a museum which for many of us was unknown.

*David Morgan.*

## Sunday 11th to Friday 16th September: Coastal Holiday: Portsmouth

September weather is not always like this, but we had fantastic weather for five of the six days of this active holiday – brilliant sunshine nicely warm temperatures and no rain, until the last day on our return journey when we had rain, but only in the morning.

Our hotel was very good and the food nearing excellent. As organisers we are always concerned about whether we have gathered together the right combination of visits and entertainments and whether our holiday-makers will enjoy themselves. On this occasion the enjoyment level was high and the mood relaxed and, as always, very friendly and happy. This was a great reward for us.

The following day-by-day reports will, we hope, reflect this relaxed mood of enjoyment; at the time of writing this preface we have no idea what people have written!

*Cynthia and David Dumbelton*

*Continued on page 15*

**Booking Details: Thursday 9th February. Car Trip : Spode Visitor Centre, Stoke.**

Cost: £9.00 members, £10.00 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

**Booking Details: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Car outing to St Joseph's and The Leopard, Burslem.**

Cost: £7 (£8 to non-members) to include 'elevenses' on arrival and guided tours at both venues.

Add £4.50 per person for roast dinner or £4.00 for lobby & roll, if you wish to reserve your seat for lunch at The Leopard, following the tour.

Please apply to Helen Mansell, 3 Oakdale, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 4JG. (Phone: 01782 626091 / Email: helenmansell@gmail.com).

Enclose: this booking form, your cheque payable to "North Staffs National Trust Association", and your self-addressed and stamped return envelope for further details and maps etc.

Bookings closing date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Booking Form: Thursday 9th February. Car Trip : Spode Visitor Centre, Stoke.**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email .....

For booking details see reverse of this form.

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**Booking Form: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Car outing to St Joseph's and The Leopard, Burslem**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Pre-booked roast dinner @ £4.50 per person: .....

Pre-booked lobby and bread roll @ £4.00 per person: .....

Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email .....

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**Booking Details: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Walk: Swynnerton and beyond.**

Cost is £3 for members, £3.50 for guests. Children and dogs are welcome, at no charge. Please book your place with Richard Adams, by email, or by post with an SAE. Pay on the day.

**Booking Details: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April: Coach Outing: Southwell Minster and The Workhouse, Southwell. (NT).**

Cost: £24 (£26 non-members) to include coach driver's tip, tea/coffee on arrival, Minster tour, workhouse admission and audio guide.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12 West Ave, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB, enclosing a cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 616113.

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For booking details see reverse of this form.

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**Booking Form: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April: Coach Outing: Southwell Minster and The Workhouse, Southwell. (NT).**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email .....

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## **Booking Details: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Coach Outing: Welbeck Abbey and Creswell Crags, Notts.**

Cost: £37.50 (non-members £39.50)

To include coach fare, State Rooms Tour and driver's gratuity.

Optional Prehistoric Rock and Caves Tour: £7.50 payable on the day, but please indicate on the form how many wish to go.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8QH, Tel 01902 752833, including cheque and SAE.

Early booking advisable as only 42 places available.

No closing date, but book now as we have to pay in full in the Spring for the Welbeck Tour and reserve places for private guided tours of Rock Art caves. (These tours are being mounted especially for us outside the publicly available tours so we need to know numbers well in advance.)

## **Booking Details: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Holiday in Bristol**

Further details and booking early in the new year. If you are interested and would like further information please contact by email, or else by post including a stamped addressed envelope.

Contact: Marion & Mike Lycett, Millstone House, The Green, Bagnall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST9 9JR, Tel: 01782 502919 Mob: 07481 817048.

marionlycett@hotmail.com / lycettmichael@hotmail.com

**Booking Form: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Coach Outing: Welbeck Abbey and Creswell Crags, Notts.**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email.....

How many persons on each Abbey tour? 10 a.m. .... 12 O'clock ..... 3 p.m. ....

How many for the conducted tour of the prehistoric painted caves? .....

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**Booking Form: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Holiday in Bristol**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email .....

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## Booking Details for ....?

The committee are always on the lookout for new ideas for trips. The Programme Organiser and her helpers do a magnificent job in assembling such a varied and attractive range of activities, and our thanks also go to those who so ably arrange the individual events, but if you have any ideas for a future trip or event – some location that impressed you that you think other members might appreciate, or some NT milestone that should be marked – please pass on your ideas. If you are able to actually organise the visit as well, even better still – there are others experienced in arranging activities who are always willing to help and advise if required.

Contact: Jane Mayer, [janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk), 01782 533476, or jot your ideas on the reverse of this and post to 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9PU, or to any member of the committee.

## North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Membership Application

We are always delighted to welcome new members. **Note:** you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer.

Annual subscription, for the first member £10.00. For each additional member at the same address £7.00.

Please complete the form overleaf and send, with your cheque, payable to “North Staffs NT Association”, to the Membership Secretary: Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, Email: [rjadams@doctors.org.uk](mailto:rjadams@doctors.org.uk) Tel: 01782 646054. Additional membership forms may be downloaded from [www.northstaffsnt.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsnt.org.uk). Thank you very much.

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....

Telephone No. .... email .....

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**North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Membership Application**

I/We wish to apply for membership of the North Staffordshire National Trust Association.  
I/We are NT members or volunteers.

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

Address	Total .....
.....	.....
.....	.....

Telephone No. .... email .....

For application details see reverse of this form

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*Continued from Page 14*

## **Day 1 – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September: Bekonscot Model Village and Portchester Castle**

### **Bekonscot Model Village**

When it was opened in 1929 it was the first model village in the world. Since then it has raised over £5.5 million for the Church Army and other charities.

Our visit to Bekonscot was a very delightful interlude on our journey to the South Coast. We were blessed with beautiful weather and we enjoyed a relaxed wander around the manicured grounds; the trees and vegetation all in keeping with the scale of the buildings. (I'm sure that 80 years ago the Koi carp would also have been to scale). We particularly enjoyed the names above the shops and other businesses: Chris P Lettis the greengrocers; Argue & Twist, the solicitors and Humpitt and Burnett the local coal merchants were just three of many which amused me.

The detail in the buildings and the humour attached to some of the figures was quite remarkable and very true to life. I particularly liked the archaeological dig complete with part exposed floor mosaic and pillars which could have been the remains of a Roman bath-house. Certainly a place to delight both young and old.

### **Portchester Castle**

On the outskirts of Portsmouth, we arrived at the very impressive Portchester Castle in glorious sunshine.

The immense and still intact Roman walls belie the fact that it was built in the late third century, with the aim of intercepting attacks by pirates sailing towards the Straits of Dover. Although it was rendered redundant almost immediately, it was again occupied from about 300AD. Archaeological finds indicate that the castle was inhabited continuously from around 500AD until 1066AD.

After the conquest, it was passed on to one of William's powerful associates and subsequently changed hands many times, periodically undergoing various changes and additions. We wandered through the layers of all these centuries, audio guides clasped firmly to one ear. Many of us climbed to the top floor of the magnificent keep to be rewarded with a stunning panoramic vista. Some of us, not many, spiralled down the original stone stairwell to reach terra firma again.

I was left with a very powerful image imprinted on my mind during the short onward journey to our home for the week, The Royal Maritime Club, and dinner!

*Sue Till*

## Day 2 – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Historic Dockyards and The Spinnaker Tower.

### Historic Dockyards



A highlight of the holiday was the recently reopened *Mary Rose*. This sank in 1545 in view of Henry VIII, was partially excavated in 1968, raised in 1982, and subjected to the slow process of conservation. The thousands of recovered items have provided intriguing details of the crew whose skeletal remains were found with

their tools and personal belongings. A warship was a hard and dangerous life but it appears they were well fed and lubricated. A surprise was the use of longbows in naval warfare. Afterwards we visited Nelson's *Victory* where few dramatic changes seem to have occurred by the early 1800s!



The associated museum contained many beautiful figure heads but there was insufficient time to see other boats.

*Pat Wilson.*



*A second note from the chairman.*

I am sorry to report that Dr. Patrick (Pat) Wilson's review is published posthumously. As you can see, Pat and Gillian had enjoyed the holiday, but shortly after returning home, he was taken from us in a most untimely way. On behalf of all the members who remember him with affection, I send sincere condolences to Gillian and the family.

### The Spinnaker Tower.

We had a superb view of the Spinnaker Tower from our hotel bedroom and so were delighted to see it from close quarters – though perhaps some of our members found it nerve-wracking from the top!

This magnificent structure stands at 170 metres (560 feet) above sea-level and is the centre-piece of the re-developed Portsmouth harbour. From the top deck we enjoyed stunning views of the Isle of Wight, Portchester Castle, which we had visited the previous day, and for miles around the surrounding coastline.

At 4.00pm we were served a delicious and plentiful High Tea in the Café in the Clouds which fortified us for the exertions of the evening ahead. Despite the controversy which surrounded its construction (delays and over-budget) the people of Portsmouth should be understandably proud of this beautiful landmark.

*Rose Wheat*

**Members on strike!** In the evening we assembled in the bowels of the hotel for a competitive match of skittles in their twin bowling alley. Mick Wheat had efficiently organised us into teams of four and we duly took turns with the wooden balls. He did a splendid job, there was no fighting, and despite any lack of skill from the majority, the winning team emerged victorious to claim the prize.

*Cynthia Dumbelton*

## **Day 3 – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September: Osborne House – The Needles**

### **Osborne House**

My last visit to the Isle of Wight was some 60 years ago when I had enjoyed family holidays at Sandown. So I was really looking forward to re-visiting old memories. I wasn't disappointed. The ferry trip from Portsmouth harbour to Fishbourne was warm, calm and magical. Our coach negotiated the narrow lanes to



Osborne House and a representative from English Heritage came on board to welcome us. We were invited to walk around Queen Victoria's favourite home, full of ornate furnishings and priceless artefacts, mostly still owned by the Royal Collection and held in trust by the Queen. As Victoria is supposed to have said "it is impossible to imagine a prettier spot". Set in beautiful grounds, the house has so much to offer. It is in exceptional condition, for me the exquisite ceilings were the main attraction plus the detailed history of Victoria and Albert and their nine children. In the afternoon 16 of the group of 41 took the coach to The Needles Park giving us the opportunity to see some of the Island before walking up to the Headland overlooking the Needles (see below), or taking the chair lift down to Alum Bay, a fascinating ride overlooking the Bay with its famous coloured sands. Others stayed to enjoy the attractions of Osborne House, visiting Swiss Cottage, originally designed by Prince

Albert for the Royal children to learn domestic skills, or relaxing in the sunshine before re-joining the coach to make our way back to the Ferry. A very successful day thanks to Cynthia and David's usual meticulous planning.

*Marion Lycett*

## **The Needles.**

A small party of 16 continued from Osborne House in the afternoon to visit the Needles and the Old Battery. The coach parked at the commercial end of the Needles and those that wished to walked up a very steep hill with extensive views over the Channel and Alum Bay: the weather was glorious and the views superb. The Battery at the end of the walk was built in 1864 to defend the Solent passage and the dockyards from enemy invasion. Its history has been shaped by its proximity to the sea and the views of the Needles rocks are never far away. It was a very worthwhile trip and walk.

*David Morgan*

## **Day 4 – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Visit to Brownsea Island and Corfe Castle**

Sail Away Sail Away Sail Away – the three ferry day. We boarded our first ferry at Poole where the harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world and made our way to Brownsea Island which is a haven for wildlife. Some of the group caught a glimpse of the elusive red squirrel and some of us headed for the Dorset



Wildlife Trust's reserve where we spotted Avocets, Spoonbills and Godwits. The island was the site of Baden-Powell's first Scout camp and also the deserted village of Maryland, once home to potters. It had been hoped to produce porcelain with the local china clay but the poor quality was only suitable for chimney pots.

Our second ferry was from Brownsea to Sandbanks, a peninsular south of Bournemouth where most properties



are valued at many millions. We then rejoined our coach for our third ferry the 6 minute chain ferry to Studland making our way across the Isle of Purbeck via Swanage to Corfe village and its spectacular castle initiated by William the Conqueror in 1086. The ruins are set high on a hill guarding a gap in the ridge of the Purbeck hills, and although looking daunting from the village the climb to the top followed a gradually ascending path. During the Civil War the castle's defences were only breached due to treachery from within.

Thank you Cynthia for an interesting itinerary.

*Bronwen Montgomery*

## **Day 5 – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September: Beaulieu, Buckler's Hard, Pylewell Park.**

At Beaulieu members either toured (a) the Palace House or (b) the Motor Museum.

### **Beaulieu Palace House**

Being led around the splendid but cosy gothic-styled country house, with the clocks chiming and the sunshine streaming in, was a delight. Our eloquent guide recounted intriguing stories of the Montagu family characters including John Montagu, who devised the Spirit of Ecstasy mascot for Rolls-Royce and founded the National Motor Museum by initially displaying five cars inside the house!

Other colourful tales depicted a mad Duchess who thought she was Empress of China; a marriage certificate being burnt to prevent an inheritance going to an illegitimate child of Charles II; a head being chopped off and then sewn back on again for the purpose of a portrait to be painted; a lady who'd had ribs removed to attain an 18 inch waist; and of the old Baron living the last two weeks of his life on claret and mashed caviar.

With an eye on the time, we skittled through the impressive gardens and briefly peeped at the remains of Beaulieu Abbey where Cistercian monks had agreed with King John that rather than pay him the additional taxes he was demanding, they would instead pray for his soul.

*Helen Mansell*

### **National Motor Museum**

The Museum was founded in 1952 by the late Edward 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Montagu as a tribute to his motoring pioneer father John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Montagu. Over the years, the collection has expanded and now comprises over 250 vehicles as well as a library and collection of motoring artefacts. We were taken round in two small groups of seven by two lady guides, both of whom were at pains to stress the role of women in the early development of motoring. They took us on a 45-minute tour which sensibly concentrated on some key exhibits. In the entrance hall, our guide focussed on the

1903 De Dion Bouton, reg. no. AA20. I was familiar with this car as I had seen it as a child on several occasions taking part in the London-Brighton run to commemorate the emancipation of the motorist when the speed limit of 4 mph and the requirement to precede cars by a man with a red flag was abolished. John Lord Montagu had campaigned for this and was also instrumental in introducing registration – as a result his Hampshire area was allotted the AA suffix, the first after A – London. We were then taken to look at some historically significant cars, the first being the first petrol-engined British car built in 1895, with wooden cart wheels,



and 3 brakes, one of which was a sprag – a stick which dropped down and stuck into the road to prevent the cart rolling backwards. The earliest cars were built in Germany including the first “horseless carriage”, an 1886 Benz with a water-cooled engine and proper carburettors. The 1899 Renault showed its origin as it was built by bicycle manufacturers – it was steered by means of handlebars. We were shown the earliest surviving Royal Car, a 1901 Columbia Electric car bought by Queen Alexandra to drive round Sandringham. Another significant car pointed out was the 1914 Ford Model T, an example of the mass produced car that rolled off the production line every 40 seconds and began to make motoring affordable for everyone. We saw examples of every-day cars, sports cars, racing cars and world speed record holders, including a modern steam car made in 2009 which reached 140 mph, breaking the record of 127 mph which had existed since 1906. Nevertheless, Lord Montagu’s favourite car remained a 1909 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost – which was used to convey his coffin to his funeral last year.

*Roger Savage*

## **Buckler’s Hard**

Nowadays this is a relaxing and peaceful spot, where some of our party took a short but delightful, Beaulieu River cruise. However, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century this village was a hive of industry where well over 50 Royal Navy ships and merchant vessels were built.

With 150 shipwrights working here, the cottages would have been crammed and the museum displays made it easy to imagine life when the smell of the forge mingled with sawdust and the salty river air. The slightly spooky mock-up of life at the New Inn; dark, dank and noisy, conjured-up a clear impression of a hard but merry way of living. Displayed in the atmospheric chapel is a beautiful stump-work altar cloth.

The excellent exhibition was quite diverse – showing how to caulk a ship, explaining where the saying ‘money for old rope’ comes from, and housing a puckle gun (an automatic weapon to fire round bullets at Christians and square ones at ‘heathens’).

*Helen Mansell*

## **Pylewell Park**

Congratulations Cynthia for procuring the invitation to visit this hidden gem, and congratulations also to Ian, our coach driver. After dodging overhanging branches, we drew up in front of the house and were greeted by Hon. David Roper-Curzon who, with his wife Melanie, currently occupies this amazing country home.

Situated near Lymington, with long views across to the Isle of Wight, Pylewell stands in an enviable position. David is the fourth generation of the family to live here – his father Lord Teynham still lives on the estate as do nine siblings and their families.

Wartime occupation by the US air force meant the Capability Brown landscape of the North Park was flattened. When the family returned, two wings of the house were demolished to form a more manageable property. Today’s dining room features the chimney-piece, including elements of Grinling Gibbons, from the former ballroom. Here we saw a painting of the Battle of Trafalgar hanging above a framed, signed letter from Lord Nelson. The house is clearly a family home, with evidence of modern living alongside historical artefacts.

The parkland hosts food and drink festivals and is the venue for the Curious Arts festival, now in its third year, where festival goers are encouraged to camp and enjoy the glorious views. A wooded walk took us to the 15-acre lake stocked with carp. A priority project is to restore the walled kitchen garden for glamping, another way of bringing revenue into the estate.

David Roper-Curzon clearly loves living here and is committed to preserving the house and the estate. This is not his only interest: we learned that he is also a sculptor and a delightful host.

*Ann George*

## **Day 6 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September: Visit to Winchester.**

The final day of an absolutely brilliant Portsmouth holiday saw us driven by Ian, our friend and excellent and thoughtful coach driver, to Winchester, England’s ancient capital and the former seat of King Alfred the Great. We were met by 2 official tourist guides whose local knowledge so enhanced our City walk. After perfect sunny weather for 5 days we needed umbrellas for the first part of our walk to the magnificent Great Hall, “where history and legend meet”. It is home to ‘King Arthur’s Round Table’ which has hung there for over 700 years.

Ian managed to park our coach right by the striking bronze statue of King Alfred the Great, at the foot of which is written “Alfred, King of the West Saxons AD871-899, drove the Danish invaders from Wessex.”

My impression of the many individual shops, coffee houses, financial institutions and other high street establishments was how well they all merged discretely into one. Even Lloyd’s Bank did not look out of place in the old Town Hall !

Next we were able to walk under the beautiful tree-lined approach to the famous Winchester Cathedral, which must be one Britain’s best and I wondered whether King Henry VIII and his successors realized what a huge amount of money would be needed to maintain the building.

Winchester City Mill (N.T.) provided another highlight of the day, when N.T. volunteers demonstrated one of the oldest working watermills in the country.

A huge thank you, Cynthia and David, for a memorable holiday and a lovely old city with which to end our visits.

*Richard Mayer*

## **POSTSCRIPT**

Since the end of the holiday David and I have received many expressions of thanks for the holiday. We have received many cards, e-mails and telephone calls and we would like to express our sincere thanks for these.

We enjoy planning and operating these holidays and receiving such expressions of appreciation makes it even more worthwhile, as does the surplus the holidays generate so that the Association can continue its good work in support of National Trust sites.

*Cynthia Dumbelton*

If Cynthia can be persuaded to run any more holidays which you might be thinking of joining, the following quotations might encourage you to sign up:

*“... another excellent holiday; so many things to enjoy ...” – Ann*

*“... the wonderful holiday – such fun with a great group ...” – Mary*

*“... really splendid “active holiday” ... which I very much enjoyed” – Jenny*

*“Once again you have excelled yourselves and organized a brilliant holiday” – Rose*

## **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September: Talk: Bill Durose – “English folk song, dance and customs”**

Anyone who thought that we were a group of possibly rather mature heritage enthusiasts, who might be a little bit stuffy, would have been proved wrong on this occasion. Bill Durose is a retired headteacher who is clearly passionate about a wide range of interests, including English folk music and dance. He is also actively involved in

local history and radio, was a volunteer in the 2012 Olympics, and is a fanatical Port Vale supporter – do you know anyone else who has a sitting room carpet in the team colours?

Not only did Bill give us a very clear explanation of the origins and development of folk music and dance in this country, but he illustrated his talk, not with the usual pictures, but with actual performances of a series of increasingly graphic folk songs. Bill accompanied himself with his collection of instruments – guitar, melodeon, concertina and ukulele – with a brief explanation of how some of them worked. Although Bill claimed to have had no musical training, and to be unable to read a note of music, his accomplished performance made this almost impossible to believe. He also gave us a demonstration of the steps involved in Morris Dancing, explaining some of the differences between the ways in which Morris Dancing is performed by groups in various parts of the country.

Bill invited the audience to join in singing the chorus to most of the songs he performed, and we responded with gusto, despite (in some cases) our own evident lack of musical education. We even proved to be fluent in the Potteries dialect. After this performance no one can say that Association members don't know how to enjoy themselves.

In questions and discussion after Bill's talk, many members revealed their own enthusiasm for folk music and (perhaps in earlier life) dancing. One member also told us about his own concertina, acquired some time ago as a 'snip' at Newcastle's open market.

This was an extremely enjoyable and informative presentation. It was particularly heartening to hear from Bill that there are still young people writing and performing folk music, and many active folk clubs and indeed Morris Dancing groups.

If you missed this meeting, Bill gives similar presentations to groups all around this area, and can be seen and heard at Endon Well-Dressing Festival (Spring Bank Holiday weekend) where he provides music for maypole and Morris dancers, helping to keep local folk traditions alive.

*Peter Wilson*

## **Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>: Coach Outing: Marks & Spencer Exhibition and Temple Newsam House, Leeds**

On a beautiful September day we arrived at Leeds University campus to hear first about how M&S prepared for, then coped with, the second world war. The firm was already noted for its care of employees and this extended to sending a regular Bulletin to all former staff in POW camps, providing hot meals daily for staff (a service which soon became the highly important British Restaurants), increasing staff training and above all promoting women and girls to managerial positions. Sufficient money was raised to buy a Spitfire which was named Marksman, and during the war

the 5th floor of the London store secretly became the HQ for SOE! After the war, great efforts were made to enable returning employees to rejoin the workforce.

We were then taken round the exhibition which illustrated the entire history of the business and caused many to remember clothes, household items and even food from years ago!



At Temple Newsam we enjoyed Richard's promised 'superior sandwiches', cakes and coffee then explored this amazing treasure-trove of art, furniture and much else. Belonging to Leeds City Council, the building is impressive and inside we admired the magnificent staircases, and heard stories of some of the owners and

occupiers of the house. The sun tempted many of us to walk later in the beautiful grounds, designed by the man of the moment, Capability Brown himself.



A sincere thank-you to Richard and Jane for arranging such an interesting day, and providing wonderful weather, even to the dramatic sunset on the way home!

*Anne Anderton*

## **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Talk: Nigel Daly – “Biddulph Old Hall – a decade of discoveries”**

Nigel started by recounting the spooky first sight of the hall! Pevsner had not been impressed by the building. The discovered inglenook fireplace has been incorporated into the present room. Priest holes were discovered. In the Staircase Hall, a large kitchen fireplace was found and restored, and, because the BBC during filming wanted something interesting on the wall above, a hatchment, bought by chance after some difficulties in London, was put there, and amazingly, proved to have a Biddulph connection. The tower was restored after English Heritage were impressed by the prize won for restoration of Bletchley Manor. Ground penetrating radar revealed the original plan of the house. It is possible that Smythson was the architect, as there were connections with the Talbot/Shrewsbury family e.g. pub in the village is the Talbot.

The rest of the talk was about Robert Bateman, an artist influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites and only known in the Yale Center of British Art. The way Robert signed his paintings also appears in a carving on the house, where Robert converted the chapel into a studio. Several of his paintings symbolise the illicit love of Robert and

Caroline Howard. Nigel told us some of the story of their son, adopted and unloved by Robert's sister, and the marriage of the couple after the death of the elderly clergyman Caroline was forced to marry, but several of us have now bought Nigel's book, so we shall learn more of this fascinating story.

*Kay Williams*

## **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Coach Outing: BBC Media city and Salford Quays**

Despite setting off at 8.15 a.m. the journey was good. Although still incomplete, as demonstrated by the scaffolding and work in progress, the regeneration of the area is to be applauded. We were split into two groups, some visiting Media City in the morning, and other attractions or a trip into Manchester in the afternoon.

We were on the 'afternoon shift' and with a great deal to fit in we started at the Imperial War Museum North, with the Fashion on a Ration exhibition, which evoked many memories of post-war life. In the knowledge that lunch and the Lowry Gallery had to be fitted in, we proceeded to do just that. The Lowry Gallery was a joy. I was pleased to discover the artist behind the man renowned for his stick figures. The excellent short film prepared us even further to view his paintings from a different perspective.

After crossing the bridge we entered The BBC section of Media City. We were welcomed by two very enthusiastic young men, Mike and Paul. They took us around radio studios and explained the basics of the technology and entertained us with a few anecdotes. We then moved on to the TV studios, which were



familiar to us from our screens at home. They were really quite basic and it was explained that much of what we saw at home was achieved by clever lighting. We finished in the interactive studio where three volunteers were given the opportunity to try news and weather presenting.

A most enjoyable day was had by all and thanks must go to Sue Corlett for her management of this the second trip to Media City.

*Sue and John Till.*



## **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October: Walk at Denford**

Eighteen members and friends gathered at the Hollybush Inn, at Denford, on a rather grey and drizzly morning, hoping for an improvement in the weather as we set out on the Association's autumn walk. Although the sun never really emerged, the rain did stop, and the temperature was comfortable for walking.

We followed the Caldon Canal as far as Wall Grange, setting a brisk pace up towards the top of Ladderedge, where we found our way into the nearby Ladderedge Country Park, which was new to most of us. As we descended towards Leek, we had distant views, albeit rather misty, over the town, and colourful views over woodland which stretches north towards Rudyard.

Having rested briefly near the bottom of the hill, we traced a path along the canal feeder which takes water from Rudyard Lake to the Caldon Canal, and then followed the towpath alongside the Leek arm of the canal. From there we could see into the dense and varied woodland which borders the canal, at its autumn best (in mid-May these woods provide an equally spectacular show of bluebells).

By this time our pace was becoming a little more leisurely, but quickened as we approached the end of the walk. Just before the Leek arm crosses the main canal at Hazlehurst Aqueduct, we were able to descend a long flight of steps which took us back onto the main towpath, so returning to the Hollybush Inn.

Here we enjoyed a sustaining lunch, and convivial company. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the walk, and we look forward to walking again with Richard in the spring.

*Peter Wilson*

## **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Talk: "Our Home in the West" by Miranda Goodby of the Potteries Museum**

Miranda's talk – 'A migration of North Staffs Potters to America in the 1840's' – described how an over-supply of workers in the industry, partly fuelled by early mechanisation, led one of the recently legalised trade unions to instigate 'organised emigration' to America. Enticed by glamorous scenes on the pots they were making, and the offer of land in Winsconsin, with a house and credit, repayable by growing and exporting grain to the UK, workers subscribed to the £1 lottery ticket (@ 1s/week) for a new life in the New World. However, with houses not ready and unaccustomed extremes of temperature, the scheme was a disaster and collapsed after a couple of years.

We followed the fortunes of six entrepreneurs who, with others, emigrated independently, followed by their families, and successfully developed small potteries by becoming proficient in a wide multitude of skills, and specialising in low-cost items for local markets which could not be satisfied by imports from Staffordshire.

*John Spriggs*

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## Summary of Winter/Spring Programme January to April 2017

### January

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: David Barrett of Regent Travel, Stone
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### February

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Car Trip: Spode Visitor Centre, Stoke
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Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Mike Herbert on the Restoration of Trentham Estate
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### March

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Car Trip: St Joseph's Church & The Leopard Burslem
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Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Keith Cattell '1000 years of stained glass'
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Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Walk: Swynnerton & lunch at Fitzherbert Arms
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### April

Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Andy Tomlinson on Nepal
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Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Coach Trip: Southwell Minster & Workhouse
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### Dates for your Diary

16 <sup>th</sup> May	AGM & Talk: Gaye Blake-Roberts on Josiah Wedgwood
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18 <sup>th</sup> May	Car Trip: History walk in Stafford
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23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Coach Trip: Worcester: Greyfriars, Cathedral & Elgar's Birthplace
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6 <sup>th</sup> June	Car Trip: Graham & Judy White's NGS garden, Uttoxeter
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21 <sup>st</sup> June	Coach Trip: Papplewick Pumping Station & Staunton Harold Church & House
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8 <sup>th</sup> August	Car Trip: Wollerton Hall Gardens
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23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Coach Trip: Welbeck Abbey – booking form in this edition
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10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Holiday in Bristol – details in this edition
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***This Newsletter (and previous editions) is available on the website.  
If required additional copies of booking forms can be printed  
using 'Booklet' printing for multiple pages.***