

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 119
Summer 2021

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



A chink of light at the end of the tunnel? Join our walk on May 18th!

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A Note from the Chair



Dear Members,

On behalf of the committee and myself, I hope you have had a Happy Easter and like us are looking forward to greater freedom in the coming months. To that end your committee and I are taking tentative steps to resume normality with the reintroduction of speakers and visits in September and walks in the summer subject to Government Regulations. As soon as we can firm up arrangements, we will of course inform you immediately and the prospect of being able to visit places without restriction and mix freely fills me and I am sure you, with joy. As I said in the previous newsletter, when our rich variety of activities is curtailed we do appreciate how much they are valued.

Look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Best wishes,

David

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We are always delighted to welcome new members – please contact the Membership Secretary (details inside back cover) or download the on-line form to apply.

The editor welcomes items of direct relevance to Association activities, and thanks all contributors, with apologies for failure to acknowledge any, particularly if sent by post.

Copy and correspondence for the next issue, due for publication in August, should be addressed to newsletter@northstaffsnt.org.uk (01782 791360) by the **15th July** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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As in our last Newsletter we have no recent events to review and although we are anticipating that restrictions will be lifted in time to restart our delayed programme later in the year are not yet in a position to announce new dates or updated details, apart from the items listed below.

We would normally be holding an AGM in May as required by our constitution, but as last year, restrictions prevent indoor meetings at that time and we are granted dispensation to delay it until it is practical to proceed. This may be possible before one of our talks in the autumn.

We therefore publish a few items for your contemplation or amusement, and continue in our theme of including photographs from past events, and do encourage you to submit more items for inclusion in future editions – a few ideas were included in our last one.

You are reminded that your NSNTA membership is being extended at no charge during 2021 so the next time we will be asking you for any payment will be in January, May or September 2022 as appropriate. If you have not already done so, please feel free to change the renewal date on your membership card from '21 to '22. If your membership number starts with 40, it should be changed to 41. We are only sorry that national NT is not being so generous with its membership fee, but at least most of us will be getting the 25% reduction after 5 years (don't forget to ask for it if you are eligible and not getting it – it doesn't happen automatically!)

Tuesday 18th May: Walk: Hanchurch Hills and the Caves

With fine weather guaranteed*

If the current "road map" goes to plan, we will be allowed gatherings of up to 30 people out of doors from the 17th May. So this walk is planned to take place on the 18th.

If more than 30 people want to join in, I will split the list and repeat it on another day.

*as there is no restaurant booking involved, we also have the luxury of rescheduling if the weather forecast for the day is poor - hence I can offer my "fine weather guarantee" and if necessary pick a different day with a better forecast.

We will meet at 10.30 at the Hanchurch Hills picnic area, and set off through the woods, passing by a splendid Victorian water tower.

Our route takes us downhill and across the fields. There are fine long-distance views, including to our old favourite, the Wrekin. We have three stiles, which we may be able to bypass, then a bridge over a stream.

We'll cross the busy A519 with great care, to enter the small hamlet of Beech.





I wonder if any of us attended the semi-legal "raves" which took place in the Beech Caves in the 1970s and 80s? The history of the caves goes back to the 17th century when they were quarried out for building blocks for that era's renovation of Trentham Hall. During WW2 access to the caves was blocked by military guards, and there are rumours that US Army vehicles are still bricked up inside. Post-war, the caves were used as an informal music venue, then abandoned to the local youth and graffiti specialists.

On the way back I met some new friends...



... and took the safer route under the main road.



The walk is about four miles in total, with 3 possible stiles to climb and one mildly challenging uphill section. We will take it slowly and aim to be back at the start in about two hours.

Please bring a water bottle or a flask for a brief refreshment stop halfway. There are a few picnic tables near the car park if you want to make a day of it and bring a lunch box with you.

This event is mostly a social occasion after all these months of keeping our distance, so I am not asking for the usual "suggested" donation to funds. I won't turn down any offerings, but they are neither expected nor required.

Please register your interest with Richard Adams, by email to rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or phone 01782 637183. Fingers crossed, we'll meet up soon!

Tuesday 1st June: Walk: Three waterways of Stoke-on-Trent.

Fine weather guaranteed!

As there is no restaurant booking involved, we also have the luxury of rescheduling if the weather forecast for the day is poor - hence I can offer my "fine weather guarantee" and if necessary pick a different day with a better forecast.

If more than 30 people want to join in, I will split the list and repeat it on another day.

Third time lucky I hope for this walk. It was planned for last summer and tried for again in the autumn. Ever optimistic, we can offer it again.

We will meet at the car park on the north side of Hanley Park, off The Parkway ST1 3BB for a 10.30 start.

The park itself is a gem in the heart of our city which you may not be familiar with. The Caldon canal goes right through the park, and we will set off from here along the towpath. Do you know where the first ever public infirmary was built in Stoke? We pass by its site, followed by Jesse Shirley's Bone and Flint Mill, now the Etruria Industrial Museum. Here we join the Trent and Mersey canal, passing by the old Twyford's works and Shelton cemetery, then thread our way between Stoke station



and the Potteries D Road. Sounds grim but it really isn't; you will see parts of the city from a fresh perspective! We cross over to the Staffordshire University campus, where we walk through their Natural Heritage nature reserve alongside the River Trent, some 25 acres of managed grassland, wetlands, lakes and deciduous trees. Water vole and otters, plus numerous bird species and butterflies have been seen in the summer here. Then it's a short cut back the park we left maybe two hours ago.



This walk is about 3 or 4 miles in total, mostly flat and mostly on surfaced paths. There are no stiles and little traffic. It is an urban walk, so please be aware that there will be litter and there will be graffiti.

We finish the walk at the park café. It should be open, at least for outside dining, so we can linger here over a pot of tea and an oatcake or two. There is plenty of space and seating inside or out for whatever mingling is allowed and desired!

This event is mostly a social occasion after all these months of keeping our distance, so I am not asking for the usual "suggested" donation to funds. I won't turn down any offerings, but they are neither expected nor required.

Please register your interest with Richard Adams, by email to rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or phone 01782 637183.

Talks

We are hoping to resume talks in September, subject to restrictions etc. and have booked the following dates:

Tuesday 21st September: Georgina Woodcock, 'Scams'.

Tuesday 19th October: Hazel Griffiths, 'The life of Eva Perón - Saint or Sinner?'

Tuesday 16th November: Geraldine Outhwaite, 'The Hospital Where Everyone Smiles: Biddulph Grange'.

Further Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 29th September: Car outing to Crewe Railway and Heritage Centre. *Rose Wheat*.

Tuesday 21st December: Christmas Dinner at Upper House. *Cynthia Dumbelton*.

No booking forms or deposits at this stage – further details in the next Newsletter - but please let the organiser know by email or phone if you are interested to gauge numbers.

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*After more than a year of lockdown, tiers (and tears) and extra time at home, NSNTA members may have had more time for creative hobbies, taken up a new hobby or revived old ones. It is hoped to have a display of work when opportunities allow this.*

*We had a large display at Keele University on the evening of the dinner in December 2015. This exhibition of new items might be at our dinner in December this year, at one of the Hartshill talks in the autumn, or at another social event to be arranged. There will be more details in the next newsletter in August.*



## Commemorating 125 years of the National Trust

2020 was the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the National Trust and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of our local branch, the NSNTA. With the outbreak of the pandemic, almost all the activities marking these events were cancelled, except the recent series “Landscape Artist of the Year” on Sky Arts, Freeview 11.

The programme marked the first donation to the National Trust by Mrs Fanny Talbot of 4.5 acres of land above Barmouth and the Mawddach estuary, Dinas Oleu. The idea of the programmes was to capture on canvas the most spectacular landscapes, including people and land, which are important to the National Trust. The winner would receive £10,000 and a commission to paint Snowdonia.

Thousands applied to be in the competition, 36 entrants were chosen to be filmed, with each round including professional and amateur artists as well as a large group of unselected painters working nearby. The artists have been seen in locations in the south of England, many belonging to the National Trust: West Wycombe Park in Buckinghamshire and Winston Churchill’s home at Chartwell in Kent, where he spent many happy hours painting the house and extensive gardens. The semi-final showed the Olympic Park which has matured nicely since our visits in 2010 and 2018. The two final landscapes were at Kew Gardens and the view of the Millennium Dome from across the river.

The winner was Ophelia Redpath. The internet shows lots of the work she has done in the last 30 years in her own meticulous style, with many different subjects including people, wildlife, landscapes and the natural world. She has written and illustrated children’s books. Earlier in her career, she spent 3 months in Tokyo, so she was pleased to have the opportunity of painting the Japanese garden at Kew in the final of the competition.

In the last programme of the series, she was seen in Snowdonia preparing for the commission. At Penrhyn Castle she discussed the project with Justin Albert, Director for Wales of the National Trust. She studied pictures done of the area by earlier artists: J M W Turner and a picture of Cader Idris by Richard Wilson, an influential Welsh landscape painter.

Ophelia took her usual sketching things when she was exploring the area: an A3 pad of heavy cartridge paper (Turner used a small A6 sketch book), water-proof pens, pencils, charcoal, acrylic inks, water and camera. Her first sketch was from Dinas Oleu, above the beach at Barmouth, showing the shoreline houses. She looked at boats on the beach and took a short boat trip to see from a distance the area known as the “Citadel of Light” or in Welsh Dinas Oleu. She walked up the hill with rocks, deciduous trees and foliage, making attractive pen drawings.

At Nant Cader, she sat on a slate bridge to sketch the mountains as well as some details of the rocks. At Cader Idris, she found the point where Richard Wilson painted his view of the mountain and lake, a landscape unchanged for centuries. Ophelia is interested in

environmental issues and sustainability. She visited a farm making renewable electricity from a stream, providing enough power for hundreds of houses.

Ophelia does not usually paint in the open air (*en plein air*) so she returned to her studio with her sketches, notes and photos to remind her of the visits. For the commission she decided to paint the land given by Fanny Talbot in 1895. Ophelia used a prepared board with thin oil paint, gradually adding layers of thicker paint and more colour. The view was looking down from Dinas Oleu, with woodland, heather, houses by the beach and a few people in the distance.

*Anthea Bond 12.3.21*

## Dinas Oleu

In 1895, the first donation to the newly formed National Trust was from Mrs Fanny Talbot who lived 1824-1917. She had moved from Somerset to Barmouth after the death of her husband and she devoted her time to local philanthropic work. Their only child, George, died before her so she made generous donations in her lifetime. In 1874 she gave 12 cottages and land at Barmouth to the art critic John Ruskin for the Guild of St George which we learned about at Sheffield in 2019. They were both interested in the arts, philanthropic matters and chess, they corresponded for many years.



The National Trust started on 12.1.1895 with Octavia Hill being the famous name associated with this, she lived 3.12.1838-13.8.1912. She had been a copyist for John Ruskin at Dulwich Picture Gallery and the National Gallery. She was a pioneer of social housing, buying small blocks of run-down properties and improving living conditions there, often financed by John Ruskin who lived 1819-1900. Octavia Hill was the co-founder with Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter of the “National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty”.

Octavia Hill knew Fanny Talbot who donated 4.5 acres (1.8 ha) of land to the National Trust early in 1895 and 13 acres (5.3 ha) have been added. The site above Barmouth and the Mawddach estuary is known as Dinas Oleu, Welsh for “Citadel of Light”. The hillside is rocky with pink, purple and white heather, gorse, deciduous trees and wild flowers.

Now, the National Trust owns 247,000 hectares of land, 775 miles of coast and 500 special places, with 5 million members.

*Anthea Bond 12.3.21*

## On the role of the National Trust

In 1895 the founders of the National Trust sought to "promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the Nation of lands and tenements (including buildings) of beauty or historic interest". Of course, 'beauty' and 'historic' are elastic terms and highly subjective in application. One might say one man's notion of beauty is ugliness to another. That which is of historical interest is equally controversial. It all depends, in this case, on what you think is our national history. In what way does 'the Nation' benefit from conserving Little Moreton Hall and why does it qualify as of national historical interest? Easy to answer you might say. Tudor monarchs and their activities are crucial to our national history and the timber construction of Little Moreton Hall is a scarcely believable survival from the age of Elizabeth I visibly reminding us of many aspects of those tempestuous times. That it is not unique as a structure and is paralleled in other parts of Cheshire as well as elsewhere in the country is not considered relevant when considering the expense of constant conservation and energy expended in drawing in visitors. The Hall fits in nicely to a particular vision of England's past exemplified throughout Stratford-on-Avon, in Warwick Castle and the Tower of London. If you have read 1066 and All That you know the story. It's a very comfortable one to skip through.

Quarry Bank Mill at Styal is something else. It's been accepted now in the litany of key features of England's past. It symbolises an industrial and technological achievement from which the world has derived immense material benefits. That it also illuminates the human cost of the social revolution consequent upon mechanisation and the harnessing of first a water and then a coal sourced power supply is a concomitant we have to live with. Unfortunate, but it's a price our ancestors paid and the National Trust cannot, in all conscience, hide. It is not repeated too often in other parts of the country, though Southwell Workhouse would take us into other features of our national history we might not care to be reminded of too frequently. Rather spoils the image of a green and pleasant land showering its gifts across the globe. Whatever might have been the icons of English history Octavia Hill and her colleagues had in mind in 1895 it is a fair guess that the mill at Styal and all Workhouses would not have been foremost. Yet the National Trust has accommodated itself to changed and expanded views of English history totally foreign to late Victorian conceptions.

Another opening up of just what made England 'great' at the moment when the National Trust was founded is currently a matter of debate. And not necessarily a pleasant exchange of ideas either. Quarry Bank Mill along with Hare Hall are among Cheshire properties, and Shugborough in Staffordshire as well, which can now be set in a different context. Does the National Trust have a duty of care to recognise and explain this? It is not that the subject of slavery is not touched on by the explanatory information boards on display in the mill which is an issue. English property holders and industrialists as slave owners is not news. Rather it is the way the story is told of English involvement in slave trading, owning and campaigning to end slavery which is under scrutiny. What ranking might this way of making money be granted in explanations of how England became a world power commercially? The workshop of the world, yes. But what paid for the bricks and mortar, the tools and the raw materials for the factories, mines and shipyards? Was it

profits from farming in Cheshire, or money made by transporting food and manufactures to market in London? Or was it importing sugar cultivated by slaves in the West Indies which financed Samuel Greg?

The National Trust's role as a significant communicator of what is the history of England and Wales carries with it responsibilities. As members we should be engaged in forming the policies determining the way this role is played.

*Paul Anderton*

## **Trees and the Environment**

The Conservative Manifesto for the last general election in December 2019 promised to plant 500,000 trees in the UK by 2025. This was one of their targets for Climate Change which took over from Brexit as the main topic of the day.

There have been many national tree planting campaigns in the last 50 years – remember the successful Plant A Tree in '73 which led to the foundation of the Tree Council in 1974 whose primary objective was to act as an umbrella organisation for local groups involved in the planting, care and conservation of trees throughout the UK.



**Tree planting in Wolstanton Churchyard**

The current financial incentives include the Branching Out Fund to get Communities and young people up to the age of 21 involved in tree and hedge planting and the care or maintenance of woodland. There are free tree packs for schools supported by the Angel Orchards Fund. The 2020/21 planting season has been oversubscribed by applications from 730 schools across the country. The deadline for planting of 30<sup>th</sup> March has been extended because of the pandemic. The only schools submitting in our area are in Leek and Stafford. The next submissions will be for September 2021.

The Woodland Trust is UK's largest woodland conservation charity. They are concerned with the creation, protection and restoration of nature woodland heritage. It has planted 43 million trees since 1972 and plans working with land owners, schools and local authorities to plant 50 million trees in the ground over the next 5 years.

Native woods and trees are one of the best ways to tackle the climate crisis by capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. It is calculated that 1 tree can remove 1 ton of carbon from all air over 40 years! The Woodland Trust are members of the Climate Coalition seeking to meet the UK target of net zero carbon by 2050. Trees can also help alleviate flooding, another result of climate change. Tree canopies can slow up rainfall and evaporate and soak up water.

## Threats to Woods and Trees



### Watermills Wood Apedale

such as country parks and big estates containing ancient woodland such as Keele, Trentham and Alton Towers can be protected and managed for wildlife.

Large areas of North Staffordshire had been raped of their minerals. They were reclaimed after 1974 by a Major Derelict Land Reclamation Programme funded by The Department of the Environment and the European Commission and the NCB large open cast mining programme in

the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme. Much of the derelict land in the City of Stoke on Trent was reclaimed as public open space. Stoke City Council and Staffordshire County Council no longer have the resources to properly manage and staff these amenity areas Newcastle Borough have transferred Apedale, Bates Wood and Silverdale Country Park for charities and voluntary groups to look after.

### HS2 In Staffordshire

Much of the ancient woodland in the Countryside has been much reduced. The Forestry Commission is a non-government department responsible for the management of owned forests and the regeneration of public and private forests in England (from 2013 there are

Much of Staffordshire and Cheshire was covered for centuries by forests which provided the North Staffordshire Coalfield. Acres of the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme were threatened by open cast mining in the 1980s. Through the acquisition of land by the NCB and the planning powers of Staffordshire County Council they were able to protect the remaining Ancient Woodland in Apedale and through Derelict Land grants and European money create new areas of native woodland for recreational purposes.

Ancient Woodland covers just 2.4 % of the UK. Since 1970 41% of all woodland species have been in decline. Elm Disease and Ash die back are the well-known species affected but the problems in the area have not been noticeable. We are fortunate in his area that many of the public areas



### Trentham Estate

different bodies responsible in Wales and Scotland). Management Plan Grants have been available to farmers and land managers from the Government since Brexit on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021.

The proposed HS2 railway will run between Stafford and Crewe through our area and involves the loss of Woodland in the Madeley Area. The approval for major infrastructure rests with Central Government, not the local planning authority. The Forestry Commission provides funding for woodland creation and restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites for phase 1 (£4,000 per hectare).

### **National Trust Trees and Plants**

The National Trust cares for 25,000 hectares – 61,776 acres of woodland, 135 properties with historic landscape sites and more than 200 gardens. It intends increasing from 10 – 17 % of each over the next 10 years and planting 20 million trees BY 2030.

A recent article in the NT members' magazine ('Our cause') announced the Trust's active intentions to support the national targets for tree planting and It sought donations towards Tree Planting Projects in the UK. 14,500 saplings have been planted on NT land this winter. However donors cannot specify a specific location or species but will receive a digital certificate. Further information on the NT Web Site.

"The NSNTA Committee decides each year to make grants from members income to local and national National Trust heritage and conservation projects, and hopes to be able to contribute to tree planting work to be carried out at Styal Mill in the North - West Region. Members individually may also wish to support the Local Authorities and Local Secondary Schools to apply for tree planting projects under the Tree Councils National Scheme."

*J. Richard Ayling, Retired Chartered Surveyor and Town Planner, Wolstanton.*

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOCAL NT PROPERTIES?

Most members will have visited many properties in Staffordshire and neighbouring counties, often on organised visits with the Association. How many of these can you identify? All answers are NT properties that have been visited by NSNTA members or are featured in the photos in this edition, though one rogue has escaped the local area. The Handbook can be helpful as can the websites for individual properties.

1. This stately house of classical design and Italian influence is at the heart of Lord Berwick's estate. The snowdrop walk in early spring is extensive and beautiful.
2. King Charles II slept here and hid in a priest's hole after he fled the Battle of Worcester in 1651.
3. This moated house with a knot garden is possibly the NT's most iconic and most photographed building. Visitors sometimes wonder if it is falling down!

4. Do you remember Colin Firth as Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*? Which property starred as Pemberley in the BBC series?
5. This Georgian mansion, with interiors designed by Henry Holland, is surrounded by what is claimed to be 'Capability' Brown's last garden and landscape.
6. Owned by the Lucy family for over 900 years, this beautiful property has deer roaming on the estate. Legend has it that the young Shakespeare was caught poaching here.
7. A very small, very old property, the name of this place is connected with legends and a supposed hero of long ago. Victorians received messages here.
8. Where can you experience life as a scullion, a Victorian school child or a chimney sweep as well as admire a Grand Staircase and carvings by Grinling Gibbons?
9. You can enjoy walking here by a stream, perhaps glimpse a kingfisher, and discover by looking at a rock pillar what distant landmarks can be seen.
10. This fine stone house is the home of a family whose history dates back to Saxon times. There is a beautiful Restoration church in the garden.
11. In the 1930s a guest described this property as "...a house to dream of, a garden to dream in". The garden, restored at the start of the 20th century, is noted for sculpted yews and colourful herbaceous borders.
12. The stories of two brothers, one a seafaring adventurer, are entangled in the history of this Georgian mansion set in parklands with a farm and monuments. On display is the Rover car of a recent Earl, registration plate E8
13. As NT income continues to fall, will more properties become like this one – examples of gentle neglect, peeling paintwork and abandoned rooms?
14. A far cry from the many stately homes of the NT, this public building is known for "...folk music, Morris dancing and asparagus"!
15. This 18thc show palace is an extravagant temple to the arts, designed by Robert Adam and intended for lavish entertaining. Many items collected by Viscount Curzon, Viceroy of India, during his travels are on display.
16. "More glass than wall", this remarkable house was built by a remarkable woman, whose stone initials rise above the turrets, outlined against the sky. It is famous for its many tapestries.

17. Erected in 1824, this austere building is the most complete of its kind still in existence. We can choose to visit but those from the Nottingham area who came here had no choice.
18. This small cottage with its charming garden was the birthplace of one of our greatest composers. Throughout his life he loved to return to the area, walking, riding and cycling around the countryside.
19. These heather-covered hills are important for wildlife, geology and archaeology and are beloved by walkers. Sheep and ponies graze here and stargazers appreciate the Dark Skies Discovery Sites.
20. Paint provided the money to buy paintings, many by female artists, now on display in this 19thC family home.

We are very grateful for Anne Anderton for compiling these questions and hope they will keep you entertained while the restrictions continue. There is no prize other than the satisfaction of completing the answers and recognition by other members. Answers will be revealed after Tuesday the 18th of May on the website and by email to newsletter@northstaffsnt.org.uk (Subject: Quiz answers) or send an SAE to the editor. The best answers received by that date will be acknowledged in the next Newsletter and on the web-site.



In our last Newsletter we included a résumé of events from the inauguration of NSNTA up to 2014. We continue now with some reminders of trips and holidays from 2015 and 2016.



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

LONDON HOLIDAY based in Hampstead:
Lesley Huson with a friend in Fenton House!

Shirley Rathbone in Fenton House garden.



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Keats' House



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Frances Paget and Derek Gaunt outside the Museum of London



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Mike Lycett and Val Morgan outside the church of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

View from a hotel bedroom



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

At Fenton House



2nd May 2015

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Boat trip from Windsor on the way to Runnymede



2nd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

NANCY HOLIDAY by train: Dining in the famous Excelsior restaurant



3rd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Interesting Windows



3rd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Interesting Art Nouveau door, one of many



3rd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Outside the Villa Majorelle



3rd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Ralph & Jim outside the Villa Majorelle



3rd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Villa Majorelle doors



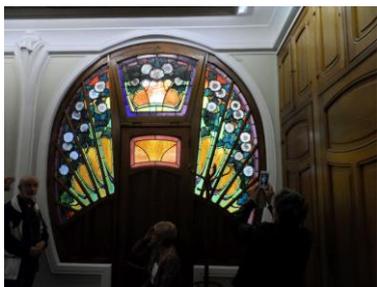
3rd October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton



5th October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

The Association had an Art Nouveau holiday in France: In October 2015 a group of us went by train to Nancy and stayed near the Plas Stanislas.

We visited a chateau in Luneville



5th October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton



5th October 2015 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

A very colourful window

We took a walking tour of the Parc de Saurupt housing estate before boarding the TGV to Paris and homewards at the end of a spectacular holiday.



18th May 2016 Photo: John Spriggs



June 2016 Photo: John Spriggs

A guided tour of Manchester before the Hallé

Can anyone spot where this is?



22nd June 2016

Photo: John Keates

Car Trip to Wightwick Manor



22nd June 2016

Photo: John Keates

Wightwick Manor



6th July 2016

Photo: John Spriggs

On the Norton-in-Hales walk



6th July 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



21st July 2016

Photo: John Spriggs

Car Trip: Eyam Hall, Craft Centre & Village



21st July 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



2nd August 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



2nd August 2016

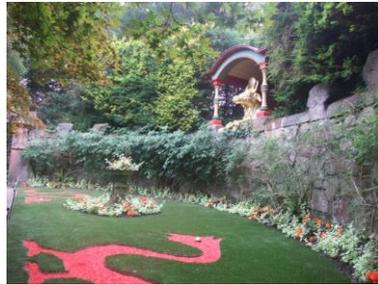
Photo: John Spriggs

Biddulph Grange Gardens



2nd August 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



2nd August 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



25th August 2016

Photo:

On a coach outing to Avoncroft Museum



11th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett

PORTSMOUTH HOLIDAY: A visit to Bekonscot model village



11th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



11th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



12th September 2016

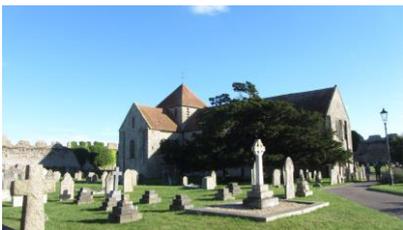
Photo: Patrick Wilson



12th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett

HMS Victory



12th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



12th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



12th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



13th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett

The Spinnaker Tower, where we had high tea in the Café in the Clouds



13th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



13th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



13th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett

Osborne, Isle of Wight



13th September 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett

Osborne, Isle of Wight



13th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett

Osborne gardens



14th September 2016 Photo:

Peter Borrell about to visit Brownsea Island with his friend Lord Baden-Powell



15th September 2016 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

On a private tour of Pylewell Park courtesy of the Hon. David Roper Curzon



16th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



16th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett



16th September 2016 Photo: Marion Lycett

Winchester Cathedral



29th September 2016

Photo: John Spriggs

On a coach outing to M&S Exhibition & Temple Newsam House, Leeds



29th September 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



19th October 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett

On a coach trip to Media City, Salford



19th October 2016

Photo: John Spriggs

At Media City, Salford



19th October 2016

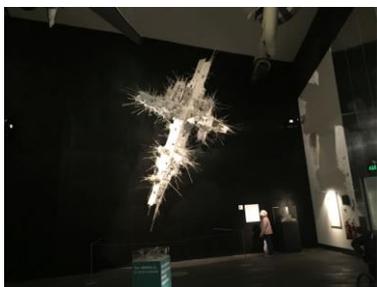
Photo: John Spriggs

At Media City, Salford



19th October 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



19th October 2016

Photo: Marion Lycett



29th November 2016

Photo: John Spriggs

Coach Outing: Chatsworth House & Christmas Market.



29th November 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



29th November 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



29th November 2016

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29th November 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



29th November 2016

Photo: John Spriggs



29th November 2016

Photo: John Spriggs

These photographs will shortly be posted on a larger scale on the website. If any individuals identified in any of them wish for their names to be removed please contact the editor.

A reminder that the website contains a list of events going back to 2000, plus a few before that, and Newsletters back to Issue 63, August 2002. It is also intended to add the historical content of this Newsletter, which may be expanded as material becomes available. If you can contribute information or items to add they will be most welcome.

Images on the website are of reduced resolution to speed up downloading and optimise disk space. Higher resolution images may be available on request. All items are copyright and permission of the owner must be sought before copying any material,

A reminder of events we have been able to plan, and further dates for the diary. Watch the website or contact the organisers to be kept up to date with changes due to Covid restrictions or other causes.

Tuesday 18th May: Walk: Hanchurch Hills and the Caves

Tuesday 1st June: Walk: Three waterways of Stoke-on-Trent.

Tuesday 21st September: Talk: Georgina Woodcock, 'Scams'.

Wednesday 29th September: Car outing: Crewe Railway and Heritage Centre.

Tuesday 19th October: Talk: Hazel Griffiths, 'The life of Eva Perón - Saint or Sinner?'

Tuesday 16th November: Talk: Geraldine Outhwaite, 'The Hospital Where Everyone Smiles: Biddulph Grange'.

Tuesday 21st December: Christmas Dinner at Upper House.

The following events were planned for 2020 but were cancelled, but we hope to reschedule when possible.

Talk: David Skillen - A general introduction to the American Civil War.

Car Trip: Crewe Hall.

Walk: Tittesworth Reservoir and Lunch at Three Horseshoes.

Car Trip: Dorothy Clive Garden.

Talk: Danny Wells - Cooks Tours.

Car Trip: Pipes in the Peaks Organ Museum, inc. lunch.

Coach Trip: R. Mersey Cruise, U Boat 534, lunch at Adelphi & Walker Art Gallery.

Car Trip: Evening canal cruise with fish and chip supper.

Coach Trip: Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedrals.

Car Trip: Dunham Massey, Altrincham, WA14 4SJ.

Car Trip: Visit to a Woodland Craftsman.

Coach Trip: Boughton House, Kettering, Northants.

Coach trip: William Booth Museum and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.

Coach Trip: Ledbury and Weston's Cider Mill.

Talk: Henry Birks - The Forgotten Artists of North Staffordshire

Coach Trip: Mini Holiday to Salisbury.

Talk: John Pomfret - Braunston: The History of a Canal Village.

Talk: Kath Reynolds - The Famous Folk of Stoke.

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This Newsletter (along with previous editions) is available on the website.