

# **North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members**

**NEWSLETTER No. 63**

**AUGUST 2002**

**and SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER PROGRAMME**

## **A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:**

As I write this in mid-July, summer seems to be starting at last after weeks of wet and chilly weather. However, nothing dampens the spirits of Association members who enthusiastically make the most of every holiday and day out, whatever the weather.

When I go on outings I always find pleasure in the coach journey as well as the chosen venue. I enjoy looking over walls and hedges to see views that are denied to the car driver and locally it is interesting to get glimpses of gardens I have often driven past but been unable to see. Of course, it's always more relaxing to let someone else do the driving while I enjoy talking to fellow travellers.

All this, and several tragic incidents that have been in the news this summer, make me very aware how much we value the expertise and professional skills of the coach drivers who serve us so well. Two or three of them are now well-known friends, but we confidently depend on them all for our safety and sometimes also for their calm attitude when faced with problems or delays, and occasionally other help or knowledge when things don't quite go according to plan. Many organisations now have a 'Friends' group, so if we ever have a 'Friends of NSANTM' I think the drivers should be made honorary members!

Good travelling.

Anne Anderton.

## TALKS

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March. Alan Craske: “A-Mazeing Restoration”.** In a highly entertaining talk, Alan Craske explained his role as the trimmer of the holly maze at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. In 1985 the maze was there, but had grown very tall due to long periods of neglect. It was decided to cut the 800 holly trees down to 4 inch stumps and allow them to regenerate. In spite of this drastic treatment nearly all of them regrew and Alan took on the task of trimming them – using, at his own choice, hand tools only. It was decided to keep the base down to a width of 18 inches and the eventual height to 6 ft. The sides taper to the top, and where a hedge terminates at a junction the end is kept square.

We were told of the problems, and eventual solutions, of having to fill in the gaps where trees had died. We learned of the great sensitivity with which he employed a brain-damaged boy to help him – to the great satisfaction of the boy - and how Down’s syndrome children enjoyed the maze. We were told that in any maze, if you keep a wall of hedging on your left you will eventually find your way out. We learned that the Castle Bromwich maze is a mirror image of the Hampton Court one, and that the trimming takes Alan 20 days twice a year, provided there is someone there to remove the cuttings, a task almost as onerous as performing the cutting.

## VISITS

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March. Rolls-Royce, Crewe. Car outing.** Our party filled the available places on the “Crewe Experience” tour of the factory. Production of Rolls-Royce cars is being phased out at the Pym’s Lane site, but we were able to see the production of Bentley cars. Since the events of 11<sup>th</sup> September the number of orders has fallen off sharply, but there were still plenty of cars on the production-line and being finished off in areas of the vast factory. We were told how perfection is demanded at each stage of production, and saw how even then there is much to put right at the final inspection.

After the tour we took tea and biscuits at the nearby “Legend” facility at the leisure club.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Liverpool Conservation Centre and Walker Art Gallery** The first thing I have to say is that those of you who didn’t book for this trip missed a great treat, according to the 30 or so of us who did venture into Merseyside. It was different from many National Trust events in that we had quite a few choices and decisions to make: should we have coffee after our early arrival, which group should we join and should we watch the video or look at the exhibition first, where was best for lunch, where should we cross

the busy roads between the venues, what should we look at in the Walker Art Gallery ??? We sailed through all these decisions with aplomb, quietly guided by Keith, Anne and the staff in both venues, and I got the distinct impression that we all had a really good day.

The Conservation Centre taught us a great deal about the care and repair of many kinds of artefact, including textiles, ceramics, paper, paintings, sculpture and botanic specimens. The introductory video was excellent, and Bill and I felt that we had made a good choice of group as we saw it first. We could use audioguides to steer us through the exhibition hall (more choices here about what to listen to!), then went into two workshops where we had the great privilege of actually chatting to the specialist conservators and seeing them at work. To watch an enthusiastic and knowledgeable young lady mounting real Turner paintings, and explaining why she was doing it in a particular way, was a rare treat indeed.

The Walker Art Gallery was another great pleasure. We concentrated on the Pre-Raphaelite paintings, and enjoyed seeing a collection we had not looked at before. Other people chose to visit the temporary exhibition of George Romney's work, or looked at other paintings in the wonderful permanent collection. Most of us made a final decision – tea in the café and a look at the gift shop - then we had another smooth journey home with not a traffic jam in sight.

As I said, many of you missed a great treat.

Sue Willson

### ***Visit to Holland – the Keukenhof and Floriade, 26-29 April.***

There was a palpable air of excitement as 47 local NT Members assembled in School Street at the start of their Dutch weekend; heavy rain and the early hour could not dampen their spirits. Our destination was Harwich, the embarkation point for the Hook of Holland. Once on the coach we snoozed while Perry conveyed us smoothly, speedily and safely. We were to sail on the Stena Line, familiar from TV adverts. On board we could watch a film, shop, gamble in the Casino or visit the restaurant. We chose to sit in groups and chat. There was a slight swell and poor visibility due to fog. The voyage passed quickly and 3½ hours later we landed on the Dutch quayside. Our destination was Utrecht. This seemed a long journey, in reality 21 miles, but it was rush hour and this part of Holland appears to have greater traffic problems than the M6. Utrecht is a town of canals and historic buildings; we, however, were looking for the MV Virginia which was to be our floating hotel for the next three days. Finding the right bridge over the right canal where our ship was moored proved difficult. Several buildings and avenues became very familiar as we circled in our search. Eventually we reached the ship. Although hungry, tired and stiff from sitting, members were very appreciative of the efforts of Penny, Terry and Perry.

Our floating hotel was attractive, welcoming and comfortable and we were soon sitting in the restaurant being served a timely meal as the ship sailed on to Amsterdam, our destination for the next few days. Once moored we could enjoy the nautical scenery through our cabin's picture window.

We awakened next morning to sunshine and set off for the Keukenhof, a vast park which for a short season of about ten weeks is a show case for bulb vendors where under large mature trees are different, beautifully designed large flower beds filled with tulips, hyacinths and daffodils. Swathes of colour amid rivers of blue scilla stimulate the senses. My favourite area was a short canal closely planted with vibrant azaleas reflected in the water under a canopy of cherry blossom. The periods of heavy rain and stinging hail stones were short-lived and there were interesting pavilions to visit which provided shelter.

Our evening boat trip on one of the many vessels which provide canal tours was fascinating, as an excellent guide/commentator told us the history of Amsterdam, a city which grew up at the mouth of the River Amstel which was dammed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to provide a sheltered harbour. He pointed out many old buildings which were built on piles driven into the marsh land.

The next day we were to visit the Floriade, the great celebration of Dutch horticulture held every 10 years. We wakened to pouring rain, wind and dull skies. Everyone rejected the option to spend the day in Amsterdam and suitably dressed, we set off for the short journey to the south entrance to the Floriade. We were at the lake end and set off to walk round it. Shortly we came to a development of houses and gardens of Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia and Japan, beautifully sited with wonderful vistas from their outside seating areas, but soggy paths and freezing cold conditions were not conducive to imagining hot sunny sultry conditions.

After circling the lake we crossed a high bridge where it was difficult to keep one's balance in the gale force wind, and reached the Northern end. Here there were glass houses where one could see the development of plants from seedlings to fruiting maturity. It was interesting to see the great number of plants being grown hydroponically. A pavilion nearby displayed a variety of magnificent well-produced plants impeccably planted to a very high standard. Further on an elevated platform provide a view-point to see the main theme of the Floriade "feel the art of nature" set out in broad rows of assorted coloured tulips. Our overall impression was that like the Curate's egg 'it was good in parts' – the horticultural standard was lower than expected.

On our final day we went to Delft where we had an interesting guided tour of the Royal Porcelain Factory and learned of the Oriental influence on the factory and the development of faience, a tin glazed earthenware. Needless to say we ended the tour in the factory shop where seconds were available and many of us brought "coals to Newcastle". There was time to explore the old part of Delft which had a network of canals crossed by attractive bridges,

mediaeval and renaissance buildings and houses with doors leading straight into the canal.

From Delft we travelled to the Hook of Holland to board our ship for the cruise home. In spite of the strong wind the journey was comfortable although walking around the ship was difficult. The final stage of our journey home was smooth, safe and fast thanks to Perry's skilful driving. The weekend had provided new experiences, visual and sensory delights among like-minded people and the chance to renew old friendships and to forge new ones. Our gratitude to Penny and Terry for a superb, memorable weekend.

Jean Foden.

***Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April. Car outing to Gladstone Pottery Museum.***

Of all the artefacts displayed in museums perhaps among the last you would expect to find are water closet bowls – and then only two or three at the most. To spend an evening surveying a profusion of such objects seems like the ultimate in eccentricity. Those who did just this at the Gladstone Pottery Museum will testify that the recently mounted permanent exhibition of toilet ware repays the visitor with gloriously profound information and enjoyment. The celebration of a major feature of the pottery industry is part of the thinking behind this exhibition, of course, but the dramatic entry point to the gallery reinforces the fundamental importance of sanitary ware to civilised life. The mechanics of water closets and ceramic basins of all types and ornamentation are but the surface evidence of the huge investment made in a little over a century into sewage disposal systems. It is courageous of the Gladstone Museum to remind us of this mundane and easily ignored fact, and to make a major feature of the Museum's enlargement such a significant item in improving urban living conditions. It was encouraging, too, that Association members did not consider this visit too near home, or too far from the usual centres of interest for their liking. Perhaps those who supported it were also attracted by a 'lobby' supper, which, like the arresting experience of consulting a late Victorian physician in his surgery, gave further food for thought about just what is required for maintaining a civilised life, and what might be only of peripheral significance.

Paul Anderton.

***Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May. Nostell Priory.*** An unimpeded journey brought us to Nostell Prior, near Wakefield, Palladian home of the St Oswald family, in time to walk round the lake in sunshine, and have lunch before viewing the house.

James Paine, who worked there for 30 years, and Robert Adam combined to produce a house and interior which is a glory of neo-classical design and decoration, combined with more fanciful rococo themes. Visitors enter by the Lower Hall where welcoming wood fires were burning on the day of our visit. After a brief introductory talk given in front of the superb picture of

Sir Thomas More and his family we could take our time enjoying the generous number of rooms open to the public.

The Top Hall, designed as a formal entrance hall, has particularly delicate and lovely plaster work on ceiling, walls and alcoves. The Crimean Room and Breakfast Room were two areas destroyed by fire in 1980; they have been beautifully restored with typical NT thoroughness, research and attention to detail. Nostell contains about a hundred examples of Thomas Chippendale's work, designed for the house, and with documented histories; for example, there is a clothes press – a large mahogany serpentine-fronted cupboard with three sets of drawers – which was one item which Chippendale insisted should be sent from London by land, rather than by sea, since the “damp of the ship” would damage the work. It is hard to imagine the difficulties of packing and transporting such a piece in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Museum Room houses among cases of “curiosities” a wonderful dolls' house, the decoration and furnishing of which reflect the style of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Each item and figure is exquisitely made with minute attention to detail, including a grandfather clock and prints displayed on the walls.

A number of us wished, as one often does in houses visited, that it was easier to get a good view of the paintings. The journey home was, happily, as serene as the outward one, thanks to our driver, Gloria.

Georgina Pritchard.

### ***Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.***

The business part of the evening was quickly and efficiently dealt with. The Hon. Secretary was able to report on a successful year, and the Hon. Treasurer reported on a firm financial position that had enabled the Association to make donations totalling £5,500 to a variety of projects.

Anne Anderton thanked Kay Harris, who is retiring from the Committee, for her many years of work for the Association. The other members of the Committee, with the addition of Georgina Pritchard, were re-elected.

### ***Talk after the A.G.M.***

We were disappointed that Philippa Spackman, the recently appointed Associations Liaison Officer, was not able to attend. Instead, Sue Lewis, the Associations Liaison Coordinator, came in her place.

After stressing the importance of the 197 local Associations and Centres to the National Trust, Sue gave an illustrated talk, “The Power of Place”, about some National Trust properties which had special significance for her, not always for the obvious reasons. The places she chose were nearly all in the Wessex region, and were a mixture of town, country and coastal properties. They included Kingston Lacy with its herd of Red Devon cattle, Badbury Rings and the rare orchids growing there, Corfe Castle, Lacock village and its associations with early photography, Hardy's Cottage, Clouds Hill (home of T.E.Lawrence), Prior Park in Bath which is reachable only on foot, Barrington Court – the first house acquired by the Trust - Courts Garden

and its arboretum, Studland Beach with its nature reserve, Golden Cap, Ramsey Island, the woods of Avon Gorge, Avebury Manor and its gardens, and the Workhouse at Southwell which is the Trust's most recent acquisition.

Sue answered questions, and gave the latest information on the Trust's appeal to save Tyntesfield. Afterwards a buffet supper was enjoyed by those members attending.

Keith Walker.

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. Coventry Cathedral and Charlecote Park.** The tranquillity of the ruined Cathedral and its surroundings was a fitting start to our visit to the New Cathedral. It is a place of reconciliation and unity, represented by the fine mosaic floor in the Chapel of Unity. Basil Spence's cathedral is a spectacular expression of the best of 1960's art – John Hutton's West Screen, with its ranks of etched images of saints and angels, links the old and the new cathedrals. John Piper's Baptistry Window with its central blaze of light illuminates the Font – a boulder from the hillside above Bethlehem, with a shallow bowl curved like a scallop shell. Graham Sutherland's tapestry "Christ in Glory" dominates the interior. Woven in France, its seemingly uniform green background contains many shades of the colour. It also attracts quantities of dust, our guide told us. Elizabeth Frink's mitre, pulpit and lectern, Hans Coper's huge pottery candlesticks, Geoffrey Clark's gilded altar cross containing The Cross of nails, made from 3 mediaeval nails found in the ruins of the old Cathedral, the Nave Windows revealed on looking back from the Altar, as if looking back on one's life, examples of beautiful lettering – all these made our visit an uplifting and memorable experience.

At Charlecote Park we were in familiar NT territory and enjoyed the fine views across the parkland – sadly without deer as TB had stricken the herd – the delightful little summerhouse by the orangery, the herbs in "the Shakespeare border", helpfully labelled with references to the plays. The interior of the house was gloriously Victorian with a fine collection of paintings and furniture. John Wilcox of Warwick's carved buffet in the dining room was a tour de force. Treasures included items from the Fonthill sale – notably a pietra dura table that had once been in the Borghese palace.

The sun shone as our visit ended with members happily buying plants from the well-stocked nursery.

M.M.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Benthall Hall and Dudmaston Hall. Car outing.**

Although both of these halls are still family homes, they vary greatly in size and style. Benthall Hall is the home of Mr and Mrs Richard Benthall as tenants of the National Trust, having taken over the tenancy of the hall from his twin brother upon his retirement. Members were invited to wander around the beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century stone house with its mullioned and transomed windows

and its stunning and intimate interior, aided by very detailed and easy to read guide sheets describing each room, its furniture, contents and pictures.

Between showers members could amble around the garden and particularly enjoy the well-maintained old kitchen garden within a mainly walled area and a delightful rock garden with many curious features. A peep inside the nearby church was very interesting.

Just after midday members drove on to the much grander and impressive Dudmaston Hall set atop beautiful open rolling mown grassland sweeping down steeply to an enchanting lake. Large groups of unusual and colourful rhododendrons and azaleas growing amongst the grass caught the eye. Members were free to walk around much of the ground floor of the Hall assisted by guide sheets. The library was the most outstanding room, painted white in 1967 giving it a lovely fresh and airy feel with five large windows on the wall opposite the fireplace with unrestricted views of the lake below and the woods and fields beyond. The Hall, the home of Colonel and Mrs Hamilton-Russell, also has several Art Galleries containing 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings and sculptures, topographical watercolours and botanical art.

Peter Moxon.

**Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June. Combermere Abbey.** The Abbey, hidden down a mile long drive, stands in undulating, well treed parkland and nearly surrounded by a lake said to be the largest in private ownership. Originally monastic, the buildings which survived the dissolution, together with 22,000 acres, were given to the Cotton family by Henry VIII. In the early C19 the buildings were Gothicised. The porch entrance is part of an earlier hall and leads into a wide corridor, one of the oldest in the house.

Upstairs the large chamber has dark wooden panelling with Tudor carving round the fireplace. Tudor portraits and heraldic devices record family connections. (You can hire this room for weddings!)

The extensive walled garden is a short distance from the house, and near the former stables, now converted to very high grade flats. The owners of Combermere (now Susan Callander Beckett and her husband, Peter Beckett) are using sections of the garden for such things as craft or antique fairs and wedding parties, and are bringing back herbaceous planting in others.

There is also the fruit tree maze, designed by Randall Coate. A most unusual concept, the shape is based on the iris of the eye, using espaliered fruit trees rather than the customary yew or holly. It is full of symbolism including Eve's bite of the apple, indicated by the intrusion into the basic shape of the maze of a semi-circular greenhouse, at present derelict but due for rebuilding.

We were given a particularly delicious tea which some of us took outside to enjoy the view of the serene lake and wildfowl.

Georgina Pritchard.

**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June. Castle Bromwich Gardens.** When the derelict and overgrown garden was discovered in 1982, its basic structure was found to be intact and as it would have been in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Garden Trust has now largely restored and replanted the unique ten acre walled garden to its 1740 condition, but the 22 acres of surrounding parkland await renovation.

The tour started with our guides showing us the church (now the local parish church) and its walkway from the hall built in 1599. We then strolled round the many different gardens, starting with the North Garden planted with clipped yews. Next came the Upper and Lower Wildernesses with their casual plantings. There was an impressive Archery Ground, which was a big status symbol in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century before the invention of the lawnmower. The 18<sup>th</sup> century holly bushes had grown into 50 foot trees by 1982 and so the Holly Walk was restored using cuttings. The tour continued taking in the orchard, the maze, the summerhouse, the 1729 greenhouse, the melon ground and the cold bath. After a most enjoyable afternoon with enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides, we all sat down to a well-earned tea.

Mary Yardley.

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Moseley Old Hall.** Although only 4 miles north of the centre of Wolverhampton, it is possible to stand in the garden or orchard round the hall, restored by the Trust to a design of 1640, and feel part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Of course one must not look at the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick-cladding around the half-timbered exterior or at the 20<sup>th</sup> century electricity pylons or listen to the traffic on the nearby M54, but Charles II, who spent two days and a night sheltering in the house after his defeat at the battle of Worcester, would not find the interior unfamiliar.

In the kitchen we had a talk on 17<sup>th</sup> century food, kitchen equipment and tableware by Mrs Monica Hartill, a volunteer with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. This was followed by a 'square meal' of Elizabethan Manchetts and Cheats. On the first day of high summer the weather could not have been kinder and the evening was a fitting recognition of our recent donation towards the new car park. Many thanks to Anne for organizing such an enjoyable outing.

Bill Holmes.

**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Garden Party.**

On a perfect summer's afternoon, over 80 members gathered in the lovely gardens of Millstone House to enjoy the colours and scents of the rose beds and borders and the delicious tea and cakes generously provided by Rosemary Moxon. We were entertained by Peter's account of the history of the house which was at various times one house, then three or four cottages, an ale house – of which Ralph Sneyd expressed strong disapproval on the grounds that it would encourage drunkenness, poaching and immorality –

then, more respectably, a vicarage. Peter recalled how the house came into the possession of his family and he remembered how as a boy he visited his two 'aunts' who lived there and who subjected him to a kindly interrogation on each visit.

The sunshine clearly inspired people to spend freely and we raised a splendid total of £603, £243 from tickets and £360 from stalls. Thanks to all who helped in so many ways, especially all the stall-holders, and above all to Peter and Rosemary for their kind hospitality.

### ***Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July - A visit to Worcestershire.***

The coach set off on a pleasant sunny day; our first stop was at Lower Broadheath to visit Elgar's birthplace cottage and the adjacent Elgar Centre.

In the cottage we saw many interesting personal items belonging to Elgar and his family, such as scrapbooks and musical items, giving many insights into his work and hobbies, and the cottage garden was delightful. The exhibition in the centre consisted of photographs, manuscripts and other items, beautifully displayed, giving a comprehensive view of Elgar the composer.

A short drive into Worcester took us to a very acceptable lunch in the impressive Assembly Rooms of the Guildhall; after lunch we took a short walk to our final visit of the day to the Greyfriars, a timbered merchant's house dating from the 1480's, lovingly restored since the second world war by its occupants, and given to the National Trust on condition that it continues to be used as a house.

We were welcomed by the resident Administrator, Mr Hemmingway, who gave an introductory talk, after which we toured the house, seeing many interesting items and strolling in the beautiful walled garden.

It was a very full and worthwhile day, splendidly organised by Penny Moore.

Judith Walker

## **SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2001 PROGRAMME**

### ***Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.***

***The World of Glass, St Helens.*** This 2002 award-winning attraction tells the story of glass through film, exhibits, displays and interactive shows. Our visit will begin with coffee on arrival, followed by a glass-blowing demonstration and an audio-visual presentation. You can buy lunch in the café or have a picnic lunch by the Sankey canal. Then there will be ample time to visit all the galleries, which incorporate the Pilkington Glass Museum, the excavated Victorian furnace which made flat glass, and the shop. For £25 you can have a glass cast of your hand!

Depart: 10.00 a.m. School Street. Return 5.45 p.m. approx.  
 Cost: £11.00 (non-member £12) Price includes coach, admission, gratuity.  
 Booking closes September 13<sup>th</sup>.  
 Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle. ST5 3RG Tel: 613451. Please enclose SAE.

**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.**  
**Marion Wallwork: "Send them to the Workhouse".**

Our first talk of the autumn season will be about the Southwell Workhouse, one of the Trust's most recent and well-publicised acquisitions. Marion Wallwork will explain how the poor were dealt with in the past and how the workhouse at Southwell developed; she will also tell us something of the life of the inmates as well as giving an account of the way the Trust has taken over the property and is now running it. This illustrated talk will provide an interesting insight into the history of a property which we plan to visit next year.

**Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**"Royal Treasures" The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.**

We have secured tickets for the inaugural exhibition in the newly refurbished and enlarged Queen's Gallery which celebrates the individual tastes of monarchs and other members of the Royal Family. The Royal Collection reflects the diverse interests and tastes of the Royal Family over the last 500 years. There are no barriers, thus exhibits can be viewed from very close. In addition, computers enable you to see details of Fabergé eggs, secret drawers, jewellery settings and also to discover the provenance of furniture and paintings. All this makes an early start from Newcastle very worthwhile.

Our timed entry is 11.15 After viewing the collection and having lunch there will therefore be some free time before departure at 4.30 There are no refreshment facilities at the Queen's Gallery, but there are cafés near the Royal Mews and in the Victoria area.

Depart: 6.45 a.m. School Street. Return 8.30 p.m. approx.  
 Cost: £23.00 (non-member £24) Price includes luxury coach, on-board toilet, admission and gratuity.  
 Booking closes September 16<sup>th</sup>. Maximum number 45.  
 Apply to: Mrs Mary Yardley, 9 Paris Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 2RQ  
 Tel: 616752. Please enclose SAE.

**Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.**  
**Tony Green: "The Ordnance Survey, Past, Present and Future."**

Did you know that an important part of the work of the Ordnance Survey is carried out from a base at Keele University? It seems to be a well-kept secret

but we shall all enjoy this illustrated talk on the history and work of this national institution which is so well-known and whose maps I'm sure we have all used and relied on in our walks and travels.

**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Chatsworth in Winter.** Last year's winter opening of Chatsworth was so successful that it has been decided to open the House and Garden again this winter. So you will have a fine opportunity to see the magnificent rooms specially decorated with trees, foliage, lights and candles, the busts of the Roman emperors looking festive, and the Garden in autumn and winter colours. The gift shops will be open as will the restaurant with seasonal refreshments. We plan to visit the Farm Shop at Pilsley on the return journey. (Free mulled wine there last year!)

Depart: 9.30 a.m. School Street. Return 6.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £13.00 (non-member £14) Price includes coach, admission, gratuity.

Booking closes November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Apply to: Mrs A. Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 2QJ

Tel: 613024 Please enclose SAE.

N.B. No Saturday coach visits this year, unfortunately.

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Slaters.**

Location: Maerfield Farm, Stone Road, Maer. On A51.

The Menu will be:

Starter: Melon/Vegetable Soup/Egg Mayonnaise

Main Course: Roast Turkey/Roast Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian dish

Sweet: Christmas Pudding/Sherry Trifle/Banoffee Meringue Roulade  
Coffee, Mincepie, Mints.

Please state your choice of starter and main course on the special booking form. Places are limited to **80** this year, so please book early. If you wish to sit with friends please indicate this on your booking form. We shall be pleased to accept Raffle Prizes on the day.

Time: 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.

Cost: £16.00 (non-member £17)

Booking closes: November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Apply to: Mrs S. Callear, Heatherside, Church Lane, Betley, Crewe.  
CW3 9AX Tel: 01270-820445  
Please enclose SAE.