

# North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

**NEWSLETTER No. 64  
and JANUARY to APRIL 2003 PROGRAMME**

**DECEMBER 2002**

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

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas celebrations and I wish all our members a very happy New Year. When in the spring of 2002 we decided to arrange a trip to Chatsworth to view the Christmas decorations, we had no idea that the lure of this grandest of all country houses would be so great. The response in terms of bookings was amazing and I am very sorry that so many of you were disappointed.

By contrast, far more people expressed an initial interest in the Prague holiday than finally sent in completed applications and cheques. It is very difficult making precise arrangements and setting exact costs when working so far in advance and organising this particular holiday has not been an easy task. Of course, the news and TV pictures of the floods may have deterred some people from booking. However, we are assured that there is now very little evidence of flood damage and we are confident that the holiday will prove to be most enjoyable and worthwhile.

I'm sure you will all be aware by now that Bassetts have decided to end their coach travel business. The news came as a great shock to the committee and at the time of writing I do not know what our alternative will be. We have been well served by this local family firm who have provided us with their best coaches and drivers and we are sorry to be saying goodbye to them.

Despite this, I hope we shall have as many comfortable, safe and enjoyable outings as usual in the year ahead.

All good wishes,

*Anne Anderton*

## **COST OF OUTINGS**

We have many new and welcome members of the Association since this matter was last mentioned in a Newsletter and it may interest them to know how outings are costed. There is obviously the cost of hiring a coach, and this varies according to whether we go on a weekday or a Saturday and also whether we leave Newcastle after 9.00 a.m. when the coach will have done a school run and so earned part of its 'keep' for the day. Any entrance fees or payments for guides are also included in the total, and if refreshments are arranged, the cost of those is added in.

Committee members willingly give their time in organising events, but any postage, phone or travel costs which they incur are re-imbursed. We also include a small surplus to enable us to continue our donations to National Trust properties and projects.

This total sum is then divided by 40, the average number of bookings we need to make an outing viable. If more than 40 book, then that provides extra profit to support the work of the Trust. We always try to keep costs at a reasonable level and consider carefully whether we think an outing offers good value for money.

Members enjoy the benefit of having everything arranged and simply have to turn up for the coach on time – we can rely on them to do that!

## **P.A.P. One of our occasional items on the work of the Committee.**

This, to some mysterious, acronym stands for Programme Advisory Panel. Its five members set up the programme for visits, talks and holidays, and present it to the Committee for approval.

We meet once a month. We plan about 6 months ahead. This gives us flexibility if special occasions turn up and enables us to meet the Newsletter deadlines. At the moment, therefore, we are well into deciding the April – September programme. We have already had brainstorming sessions where members have come full of ideas of places to go, prompted by visits they have made, reports from other associations, publicity mailings and the invaluable Hudson's Directory. We have gathered information on distance, opening times and prices and have already done several recces. As a result we now have a rough draft of the programme, based on two coach visits and one car visit per month.

Next we shall get coach quotes for all visits, establish who is organising and leading the visit, fix dates, work out the costs – based on 40 – make provisional bookings, work out the routes and exact timings and do the copy for the April Newsletter.

We try to offer a fair range of prices and different days on which to go, but have to bear in mind that costs are affected by choice of day and time of travel. We aim at a variety of destinations – a mix of gardens, stately homes, museums and an "industrial" visit seems to be popular.

As the date of the proposed visit approaches bookings are confirmed, as is the coach. Deposits are paid, coach seats allocated, routes and times checked yet again – and toilet locations – and prayers are offered up for good weather and no road works.

At PAP meetings we always review events and feed-back. The latter usually applies to the quality of guides (variable) and the food on offer. Letters of thanks or complaint are sent out – nearly always the former.

From April onwards we are casting round for speakers for winter talks. They can be elusive in the summer months, but persistence pays. We settle dates and fees, book the Wade Hall, and send out road directions.

Holidays – planning starts at least 12 months ahead. Choose your area, find your hotel, negotiate a good price, try for a maximum of single rooms at a reasonable supplement, fight off demands for deposits, work out the itinerary, go and have a look and try out the hotel.

All this adds up to a steady amount of work year round, bursts of great activity, encounters with interesting people and the agreeable discovery that the words “National Trust” open nearly every door.

## NOTICES

1. Georgina Pritchard has found it necessary to resign from the Committee. The Committee thank her for her past work on behalf of the Association and look forward to seeing her at talks and outings in the future.

2. One of the yellow tokens used for coffee at meetings, No. 26, is missing. If found please return – no questions asked! – to Mary Malcolm.

## TRIPS

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> August. Meols Hall, Churchtown.** The usual prompt start for a meticulously planned day in Churchtown near Southport. Armed with map and information leaflet, most members went first to St Cuthbert’s Church, built on the site of one of the resting places for the Saint’s bones en route from Lindisfarne to Durham. The interior is not over-ornate but full of interest. A large box-pew for the Fleetwood-Hesketh family; a heavily carved wooden reredos, panels and altar rails from the pro-cathedral church in Liverpool demolished in 1922; a brilliantly painted Royal Coat of Arms found in a junkyard; three wardens’ staves (normally only two) and much more.

Then a short walk to the Botanic Gardens and the sight of glorious, deeply coloured flower beds and fountains; a small but fascinating fernery; meandering paths through trees; ducks and geese on the lake plus plenty of seats on which to sit and eat lunch. Within the grounds, the Museum was also well worth a visit if only for the “Victorian Period Room” containing collections, amongst others, of Goss China, jams, Valentine cards and assorted toys,

books and games from 1850-1950 (the founder of The Eagle and Dan Dare's creator were Southport men) plus a superbly furnished Victorian parlour.

Then off for an interesting walk around the village ending at Meols Hall (silent "o") a solid unimposing building that has seen many structural changes since the 17<sup>th</sup> century — comfortably furnished for family living with a wide selection of paintings by a variety of artists. The well-mown lawns led to a ha-ha and splendid country views beyond. A thoroughly enjoyable visit culminating in a gluttonous tea! Many thanks to Mary Malcolm for her organisational skills.

Pat Bentley.

***Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August. Market Harborough and Rockingham Castle.***

We were making good time to Market Harborough when about 1 mile from our turn off the M1 we hit the tail-back from an accident that caused us to be about 40 minutes late arriving. However, we still had time to enjoy the mediaeval town and members visited the 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church, the Grammar School (which looks more like a butter cross) and walked around the town admiring its architecture. The local museum was very interesting and we learned (among other things) that while one branch of the Symington family was responsible for the liberty bodice, corsets, etc., another branch went into food and produced soups, etc.

After duly refreshing ourselves with lunch at various establishments, we set off for Rockingham Castle where we were ably taken through its history by our excellent guides. The Castle has many interesting pictures, papers, artefacts and furniture besides connections with Charles Dickens and Christopher Robin. After a cream tea we had time to explore the extensive gardens, including lawns, a wild garden and a yew-lined walk which was shaped to resemble elephants and other animals, but one needed to use one's imagination!! There was also a formal rose garden surrounded by a circular yew hedge reflecting the castle walls and there were panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. The lovely sunny day added to our enjoyment of a good day out. Thank you Mary.

Madeleine Hopley.

***13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September. LONG WEEKEND IN YORK.***

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and despite taxis turning up late or not at all and a grid lock of traffic around Newcastle, about 36 NT members were at the coach at the appointed time of 8.30 a.m. We were then able to sit back and relax on a trouble-free journey to our first port of call, Harewood house, the Yorkshire home of the Lascelles family since 1772.

On arrival we were greeted by a member of staff and then our visit of approx. 6 hours was free flow, to enjoy the many attractions Harewood had to

offer – house, gardens, bird garden, gallery, church and lakeside walks. The café in the courtyard seemed to be the immediate necessity for most of us.

After coffee we decided to visit the Gallery to see the Leeds Millennium Tapestry. The tapestry is made up of 15 delightful panels depicting Leeds landmarks, flora and fauna, personalities and cultures. It took 10 years to complete, using many forms of needlecraft. Many hundreds participated to create the thousands of intricate pieces.

The Bird Garden was next on our list. It was opened in 1970 on the sloping 4-acre site going down to the lake, and is the home to some 120 species of exotic non-British birds. Some of the birds are considered to be vulnerable or endangered in their native habitat. Emus, coloured pheasants, parrots, owls, doves, peacocks, flamingoes, storks and penguins. The settings amongst the trees and shrubs were so natural that we were not always aware that the birds were caged. The penguin pool was particularly interesting since we could view them above and below the water. Down at the lakeside the flamingos, storks and the many geese and ducks made a very pleasing sight.

Following lunch and a visit to the shop we took the shuttle up to the House. It was designed by John Carr in 1759 and has a magnificent Robert Adam interior. There is a noteworthy collection of English and Italian paintings and State Rooms lavishly furnished by Thomas Chippendale. Throughout the house there are many portraits of generations of Lascelles who have lived in this very beautiful, bright, sparkling and welcoming house. From the house there are lovely views over the landscape designed by Capability Brown.

On leaving the house we walked on the restored Victorian Terrace with its marvellous Italianate parterre. The intricate flower beds, sparkling fountains (the central fountain having a statue of Orpheus with a leopard) statuary and lovely herbaceous borders was a very pleasant place for us to end our visit.

Six hours had seemed a long time, but not long enough to see everything. 5 p.m. and time to be on our way to York and our hotel, the Monkbar, just outside the city walls at Monkgate.

Saturday. A good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast and we were ready for the guided walk, "The Snickleways of York". We were divided into two groups and eighteen of us and our guide started our walk at Monkgate – the only gate to still have a working portcullis. As our walk started along the walls there were lovely views up to the Minster, the Chapter House being very prominent from this point. Walking along the walls to Bootham Bar our guide told us some of the history of York/Eboracum from Roman times. He pointed out the sites of two Roman roads and various landmarks and places of interest to visit later. We visited the ruins of St Mary's Priory, looked at King's Manor where Henry VIII and Catherine Howard resided in 1541. James VI of Scotland and Charles I also stayed here at various times. After passing the Mansion House and Barley Hall and walking along some interesting little streets, our tour came to an end.

Following coffee and a rest we used our free time for a stroll through the large market – lovely displays of fruit and vegetables – along Coppergate and Castlegate and so to Clifford's Tower, built on the orders of William the Conqueror in 1069. As we were just outside the Regimental Museum with an hour to spare, we thought we would pop in – and found it really fascinating. Three hundred years of military history on display. The men, the regalia and the story of wars that were fought through the centuries are revealed. The silver and brassware treasures of the Royal Dragoon Guards and the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire are among many magnificent military items on view. We particularly liked reading the stories of individual soldiers although some were very sad.

2 p.m. and time for our visit to Fairfax House, the beautifully restored Georgian house which Viscount Fairfax had built for his daughter Anne in the 1750s. Over the centuries it was misused and neglected. At one time the first floor was a public dance hall. In 1980 it was rescued by York Civic Trust and restored to its Georgian glory. It was then used to house the outstanding collection of Georgian furniture, silver and ceramics left by Noel Terry. Fairfax House is thought to be the finest example of a furnished Georgian town house in England. We found the dining room particularly magnificent.

On our way back to the hotel we walked along The Shambles, said to be one of the most famous and best preserved streets in Europe. We called in at No 35 which is the shrine of St Margaret Clitherow. She was martyred there in 1586 for the unlawful hiding of a Catholic priest. In Goodramgate we visited Holy Trinity Church. This church has a rare pitched roof, 15<sup>th</sup> century glass, 18<sup>th</sup> century box pews and a two-decker pulpit. It has 12<sup>th</sup> century foundations and is one of the oldest churches in York – a truly peaceful place.

Sunday. Our first meeting today was to be at 11 a.m. at Treasurer's House giving time for members to attend church services if they wished. Some of us went to Sung Eucharist at York Minster. The service took place in the majestic setting of the Quire, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in the Perpendicular style. During the singing of the first hymn the procession of choir and clergy took place. There was plenty of congregation participation – prayers, responses and well-known hymns – during the service. Lovely music from the organ and beautiful singing by the choir made for a very uplifting experience.

Following Sung Eucharist there was the Battle of Britain Parade and a Thanksgiving and Re-dedication Service and some of our members attended that. Meanwhile we went off to the 13<sup>th</sup> century Chapter House for coffee and then out into Minster Yard to Treasurer's House for our group visit.

In medieval times the house on the site belonged to the Treasurer of York Minster until 1547. The present house was mainly built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Frank Green bought Treasurer's House in 1897 and created a series of period rooms to house his fine collection of antique furniture. It is a very interesting house to visit with some real treasures – a mock medieval hall with half timbered gallery, Flemish tapestries, floor to ceiling panelling, Venetian

chandeliers and ornate lavatories. An added bonus on the day of our visit was a Yorkshire cheese and fruit-wine tasting – very nice.

After lunch we decided to go to the National Railway Museum. Unfortunately the Land Train was not running so should we walk or take a taxi? The taxi won. The museum displays 200 years of railway history from the heyday of steam locomotion to the latest technology involved in the high speed trains of today. There are beautifully restored locomotives powered by steam, diesel and electric. The sounds and smells of steam trains got us reminiscing of travelling in our younger days. It was good to see the holiday/camping coaches which were popular in the 1950s and 60s—redundant carriages fitted out as holiday homes. Our favourite exhibit was the splendid Royal Trains display, with the grandeur of the Victorian and Edwardian carriages and the simplicity and clean lines of those used by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Monday. Our last day dawned and after breakfast, cases packed, some of us made our way to York Minster for an optional tour of this beautiful cathedral. As this was a “free flow” visit, members were able to come and go as they pleased. Some of us had attended Services there on Sunday and were enthralled by the grandeur of the High Altar and Sanctuary which are the focal points of worship in the Minster. Others went to the Battle of Britain Memorial Service later.

We left the City of York for the short journey to Castle Howard to arrive in time for lunch. First impressions left one feeling that there was an air of “end of season” about the place. Nevertheless, it is a great house, a Palace in fact, designed by Sir John Vanbrugh in 1699. It was built for Charles Howard, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Carlisle, whose descendants still live there.

We toured the house at leisure and found the room stewards welcoming and knowledgeable. One of the many highlights of the tour was to meet Lady Georgiana (or rather, an accomplished actress in period costume) in her bedroom. She was extremely interesting and answered questions put to her about her life in Castle Howard during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Finally, we visited the gardens which are vast – 1,000 acres in total. As time was getting short, we decided to see the walled rose gardens first. Sadly they were very overgrown and neglected; however, one could imagine their former glory. The only gardener we saw was a young man who said that there were six gardeners for the whole of the estate but two had been off sick for some time. What a Herculean task they had.

Our grateful thanks must go to Mary Malcolm for organising such a splendid weekend.

Nesta Garratt and Hilary Astley.

### ***Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The World of Glass, St Helens.***

On a beautiful morning in September we took our coach up to St

Helens, perhaps feeling that it was a pity to be indoors on such a lovely day. However, our time in *The World of Glass* changed any such feelings. We were greeted by coffee, always a good sign (some of us were tempted by the cakes too!) in the spacious and light cafeteria overlooking the Sankey canal. Most of us had our first of many surprises when we saw the washing facilities in the loos: none of your ordinary ceramic basins, but slightly sloping glass shelves! In fact it took an effort of will and logic to turn on the taps at all as it seemed so likely that we would all get soaked, but no, the water ran away towards the wall as intended. . We then went through double doors into the glass blowing demonstration, where we were treated to theatre in the form of two young women making a vase and telling us about their work at the same time. Sounds a bit dull? Not at all, as this was not just an ordinary presentation – one of our members said that their performance was almost like a ballet done in jeans and big boots. I personally didn't like the vase they made, but was most impressed by the skill and professionalism of the glass blowers.

Then we went through double doors into another world, i.e. the audio-visual presentation. We were warned that there would be strobe lighting and smoke effects, and indeed this was not just an informative film about glass making. We were dazzled by dramatic lighting, startled by loud noises, mesmerised by looking at three screens – and given a lot of interesting information too.

After lunch we were free to wander through the galleries showing the history of glass making which were, like the rest of the Centre, beautifully put together and presented, with artefacts from the ancient world onwards – how had these delicate glass objects survived? we asked ourselves. Another gallery, over a canal bridge made of course from glass, showed the many tunnels and ventilation shafts used in a previous and at the time innovative part of the works. An audio-visual glass worker explained that this sort of kiln was invented here by one of the Pilkingtons after years of debate and experimentation, and opened in 1878. As Mary said on the coach coming home, we knew much more about glass than we did on the way up, and everyone seemed to have had a most enjoyable day. Our thanks to Mary for all her work in organising this event. Sue Willson.

***Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.***

Royal Treasures: A Golden Jubilee Celebration. "The inaugural exhibition in the newly refurbished and enlarged Queen's Gallery celebrates the individual tastes of monarchs and other members of the Royal Family who have shaped one of the world's finest collections of art." So runs the introduction in the brochure for the Queen's Gallery.

We had an early start, 6.45, for our journey to the capital. The coach was quiet and we snoozed to our stop in Northampton. Heavy traffic slowed us, but we reached the Palace almost by our entry time of 11.15 a.m.

Once inside the Gallery what a feast for the eyes, and food for the soul as we viewed this "Collection of Collections." Designed by John Simpson, and opened in May 2002 by the Queen, the four galleries and 2 cabinet rooms reflect the diverse interests of Monarchs over the last 500 years.

The equestrian portrait of Charles I by Van Dyck dominates the top-lit gallery with art works of the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries; Rembrandts, Agatha Bas and Vermeer's "Lady at the Virginals" are breathtaking in execution and style. The Nash Gallery has works of art by Gainsborough and Reynolds, sculpture by Canova, French furniture, Indian ivory chairs, English and French porcelain, European silver and gold objects, and Lucian Freud's portrait of the Queen. It is a small picture: that's its only redeeming feature! In addition clocks and cabinets stand as monuments to the genius of bygone artists and craftsmen. Beauty comes in miniature in the Cabinet rooms where diamonds blaze in jewellery, and Fabergé eggs and flowers are jewel-rich in exquisiteness. Lastly in the Chambers Gallery, drawings, books and manuscripts from the 18<sup>th</sup> century are displayed: studies of the human body by Leonardo and Michelangelo and Raphael are masterful in their detail.

It was a very memorable visit, so much to see and marvel upon. Thanks are due to Her Majesty for holding these treasures in trust and allowing us to see them. Thanks also to Mary Yardley for her firm and friendly guidance and our driver who drove with courtesy and delivered us safely back to Newcastle at around 8.30 p.m.

Joan Thomas.

**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Chatsworth in Winter.** In pouring rain on a gloomy November morning, 50 members set off by coach for Chatsworth House. Our driver Gloria chose the scenic route over the Staffordshire Moors, unfortunately an enveloping mist blanked out the scenery.

On arrival it was still pouring with rain so we went to the very attractive restaurant for a welcome cup of coffee. Afterwards we entered the house via the splendidly decorated entrance hall. A magnificent Christmas tree stood at the base of the superb main staircase with decorative swags on either baluster. Smaller trees were set in each of four alcoves with intriguing Christmas parcels underneath.

Candle and electric lights created a magical atmosphere in both dining rooms. Table and room floral decorations evoked the spirit of Christmas. I usually find Chatsworth House dark and gloomy but on this occasion it looked brilliant, warm and welcoming.

Part of Chatsworth's attraction is the garden which because of the weather we viewed from inside the house. The cascade, fountain and the parterres made their usual impact. We visited Chatsworth Farm Shop, an Aladdin's cave for Christmas food goodies. The butchery display was impressive.

There was a beautiful sunset on the way home as we reflected on the

magical atmosphere the Duchess and her staff had created at Chatsworth and looked forward to our festive creations in our own homes. Many thanks to Anne Anderton for organising this visit.

Jean Foden.

## TALKS

### ***Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Marion Wallwork: "Send them to the Workhouse".***

Marion Wallwork has been connected with the Southwell Workhouse project right from the beginning, thanks to her position on the East Midlands Regional Committee and also her membership of the National Board of the Trust. She therefore spoke with authority about the acquisition and development of the property.

First she gave us an informative and often grim account of the way 'The Poor' have been treated since medieval times, emphasising how the aim was always to blame them for their own destitution and keep any necessary costs for their support to the absolute minimum.

She then explained how the NT had settled on the purchase of Southwell and with the aid of slides she showed the building as she had seen it on the first day and the stages by which it became the handsome building it is today. It was the model for many workhouses, but the regime of separation of husbands from wives and children from their parents coupled with an inadequate and monotonous diet meant that these were harsh places. When we had heard her account we could well understand why the fear of going to the workhouse was so strong, though for the destitute it did provide a minimum of shelter and food in return for work.

Modern visitors to the property will have a good chance of understanding how the workhouse system operated and appreciating its place in the society of the not-too-distant past.

### ***Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Tony Green: "The Ordnance Survey, Past, Present and Future".***

About 75 of us were fortunate enough to hear this most interesting talk about the Ordnance Survey, presented with the aid of impressive computer generated sound and graphics. Tony Green, who was born in the Potteries, first trained in Southampton, and then worked in various parts of Great Britain, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. He told us that the first known map dates from 2,300 BC and was a Babylonian aid to tax collection. With William Roy in 1784 the accurate survey of this country was started, with the country-wide triangulation starting from a base-line on Hounslow Heath. Steady developments followed, culminating in 1973 with the first large-scale digital map, which paved the way for the present-day all-digital computerised system.

Tony Green is presently working at Keele science park, where the work to update the Staffordshire part of the mapping is based.

## JANUARY to APRIL 2003 PROGRAMME

**Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.**  
**Dr Chris Wakeling: "Architects of North Staffordshire."**

This will be another joint meeting with the Historic Buildings Trust when Chris Wakeling, well-known to us all as an outstanding authority on art and architecture, will give an illustrated lecture on the work of local architects. While Sugden of Leek is well known, Dr Wakeling believes there are other local architects of equal merit whose names are not so widely recognised. We shall no doubt be alerted to some buildings of note and following up some of the leads provided may give us all a focus for our travels next year.

**Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**A DAY IN MANCHESTER.** Art Gallery, URBIS, shopping....

Extensively refurbished last May, **Manchester Art Gallery** now has a brand new space: **The Gallery of Craft and Design**, located in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century theatre. The permanent collection of art from the 1600s to the present day is internationally acclaimed. A free audio-tour of this is available.

We shall also have the opportunity of seeing a small exhibition: **Prints and Drawings from Picasso's Paris**, with rarely-displayed works by Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani and others.

The **Gallery Restaurant** and **The Gallery Café** offer refreshments. The **Gallery Shop** has an excellent range of books, prints and gifts.

There will be time, if you wish, to do some shopping or go to the newly-opened **URBIS** interactive museum in its dramatic glass building near the Cathedral. It focuses on the cities of Los Angeles, Manchester, Paris, Sao Paulo, Singapore and Tokyo. Your visit – £5 (£3.50 seniors), 1 ½ hours – begins with the Glass Elevator Sky Glide! There is a café, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors are a bar and restaurant.

Depart: 9.30 a.m. School Street. Return 6 p.m. approx.

Cost: £9.00 Price includes coach and gratuity. Booking closes January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.  
 ST5 3RG (Tel: 613451) enclosing SAE.

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.**  
**Diana Perone: "Soho House and the Lunar Society."**

Mrs Perone, a retired scientist and now working as a museum guide and Blue Badge Guide in Birmingham, will talk about this highly important group of people who often met at Soho House. She will initially show slides of the house, which many of us will remember visiting, and then discuss the

importance and status of such influential men as Matthew Boulton, Joseph Priestley and particularly Josiah Wedgwood and Erasmus Darwin. The Lunar Society has also recently been the subject of an acclaimed book by Jenny Uglow, who has subtitled her work 'The Friends Who Made the Future.'

**Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Medical Institute 8.00p.m.**  
**Tracey Clements: "Wightwick Manor"**

In recognition of our recent donations for picture conservation and outside seating, Tracey Clements, the Property Manager, will give us an illustrated account of the present state of the property which has had considerable improvements to the gardens in the last few years. She will no doubt also give us some insights into the pleasures and problems of managing one of the Trust's smaller but important properties, featuring, as it does, so much of the design and influence of William Morris and others of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. CAR OUTING. 25 Maximum**  
**TWYFORDS BATHROOMS FACTORY, ALSAGER.**

Members are invited to spend a morning watching the manufacture of the "loo" and other bathroom fittings. Unfortunately, due to Health and Safety requirements, numbers are restricted to 25 people. Twyford's recommend that members wear flat shoes and do not wear their "Sunday Best" or dark clothing. Please note that cameras will not be permitted.

Time: Meet at Twyford's Main Reception (toilets available) not later than 10.15 a.m. when tour guides will meet members and ensure that the sound equipment provided by Twyford's is properly fitted and in working order. The tour lasts for about 2 – 2 ½ hours. After the tour refreshments will be available in the reception area.

Cost: £5.00 per head. Booking closes on 27<sup>th</sup> February.  
 Directions on request.

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
 ST5 4EB (Tel: 01782 616337) enclosing SAE.

**A 4-night holiday in Hampshire/Wiltshire. August 26-30<sup>th</sup> 2003**

Based at **The Potters Heron Hotel, Ampfield near Romsey**, our proposed itinerary includes Broadlands, a day in Salisbury, a day in Winchester, Wilton House, Wilton Carpet Factory, Stourhead.

Full details available from mid-February, when prompt booking will be required to comply with the hotel's requirements. In the meantime please send SAE to register your interest and obtain provisional information from:

Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle. ST5 3RG (Tel: 613451)  
 (See booking slips).