

# North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

**NEWSLETTER No. 65**

**APRIL 2003**

**and APRIL to SEPTEMBER 2003 PROGRAMME**

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

On some of the cold, dark, winter evenings a few members of the Committee have been enjoying trips in the sunshine, tours of beautiful gardens, castles and museums and seeing some of the treasures in grand houses or art galleries. Have we run off with Association funds to the Mediterranean to escape the rigours of an English winter? No, we have been planning the summer programme of outings and holidays!

In our minds the sun always shines, the gardens are always at their best and the cream teas invariably delicious – and the brochures, guide books and internet information we use in our planning aid us in imagining such perfection as they never show pictures of places in the pouring rain or say that the herbaceous borders are usually a sad mess by the middle of July!

As you enjoy your summer visits to NT properties, I'm sure you will admire some newly-restored pictures or curtains or be impressed by replanted garden areas, or at the end of a visit be thankful to find a comfortable seat or a conveniently placed picnic table somewhere. Many such improvements and facilities are made possible with the money donated by a Centre or Association such as ours and without such generous funding these projects would simply not be carried out. Much NT money is needed for the repair and maintenance of the fabric of properties, or the improvement of farms or coastline, so it is good to know that donations from members actually make a significant difference in ways that we notice and from which we benefit on our outings.

I hope you will enjoy many of the trips we have enjoyed planning for you this summer and I look forward to seeing you as we wander round beautiful gardens – in the sunshine, of course – and sit down to a welcome cream tea or take a rest on a shady seat donated by an Association.

*Anne Anderton*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Committee has discussed a suggestion from some members that the organisers of Association holidays should have a free place in the hotel. Different associations have different policies on this matter, and not all hotels do in fact offer free places (e.g. one per 20 guests) and that such a free place might be used by the driver. If an organiser did wish to, they have the option to take up a free place, and no stigma would be attached to it. Visits and the coach are not included in this, only the hotel cost. Organisers can reclaim necessary expenses such as travelling, postage and telephone incurred while planning the event.

### ***Donations by the Association.***

One of the objects of the Association is to generate funds that can be donated to the National Trust. Your Committee has decided that such donations should, in general, be made to properties either in our area, or which we have visited. However this does not preclude our making donations elsewhere within the National Trust should this be deemed appropriate.

The Committee has decided on the following for this year's donations: Earlier in the year £1000 was given to the Tyntesfield appeal; more recently to Clumber Park, £200 for the purchase of an apple press with which they can process the apple crop in the autumn; Dunham Massey, £300 towards the refurbishment of a bed; Dudmaston, £1000 to rebuild a bridge in the Dingle; Greyfriars House, £1000 for the purchase of garden chairs and a summer house chair; Croft Castle, £500 towards tree surgery. In addition, the interest due on the Loan Account (money on deposit with the National Trust, which gains interest) will be given to the Biddulph Grange appeal for the Chinese wall.

## EVENTS

### ***Christmas Lunch. Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. 2002.***

Christmas Lunch at Slaters is always a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and 2002 was no exception. Renewing longstanding friendships and making new ones was a particular pleasure.

Madam Chairman's well chosen words of welcome preceded the meal, which was then followed by the usual Raffle. This raised £96 for Association funds (a very big "thank you" to all those members who supplied the prizes). Christmas good wishes from Anne concluded the proceedings.

Finally, congratulations to Sally and Mary for the apparent cool, calm, collected manner in which they coped with last-minute seating re-arrangements. Instead of ten tables laid for eight guests, they arrived to find – you've guessed it – eight tables laid for ten!!

Pat Bentley.

## TALKS

**Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr Chris Wakeling: “Architects of North Staffordshire.”** Dr Wakeling gave us an illustrated talk charting the history of architecture in North Staffordshire (north of Stafford) from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. In the early days the builders did their own designs, but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Bethesda chapel in Hanley, for example, had a rebuild designed by a schoolmaster with mathematical skills, who produced an unusual roof with a very big span. The Catholic church in Ashley and the one in Newcastle were designed by the priest.

The next development was the design of buildings by trained architects - usually the builder's sons. This was followed by the emergence of architects working in their own right. Designs were more competent, and more elaborate. Sons of architects tended to follow the family tradition, establishing what Dr Wakeling termed “dynasties”. Finally came firms of architects and City architects, further refining the designs, and extending their work to places outside the county.

This was a joint meeting with the Historic Buildings Trust, and it was pleasing to see the Wade Hall so full.

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Diana Perone: “Soho House and the Lunar Society”.** Many of us have visited Soho House, the home of Matthew Boulton, where meetings of the “Lunar Society” were held from 1766-91. Boulton built the nearby “manufactory” where he produced high quality cut metalwork. He obtained power from the adjacent stream, but this proved inadequate so he teamed up with James Watt who invented the steam beam engine. Boulton then organised the sale of such engines throughout the world.

Other members of the Lunar Society were Josiah Wedgwood, well-known to most of us, and John Whitehurst, an instrument and clock maker, who was interested in geology and obtained ores for Wedgwood on his travels. Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles, was a skilled physician and interested in the weather and how it was produced. He was a warm and generous person and held the group together. William Smal was also a doctor but in addition taught other subjects such as mathematics. William Withering was another doctor who found how to extract digitalin from foxgloves and worked out the dosage. Richard Lovell Edgworth was a gentleman who brought his best friend Thomas Day to the meetings. Day was very rich, but very serious. James Kear was another manufacturer of innovative metalwork, and finally there was Joseph Priestley, a preacher who experimented with gases, discovering carbon dioxide and ammonia among others. His religious and political views were not popular with some and led to his house and papers being destroyed.

The 50 or so of us who attended this talk were captivated by the detail of knowledge that Diana Perone displayed, and will want to re-visit Soho House, which we will view in a new light.

## VISITS

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January. Leeds & Countdown.** After waiting 18 months for us to be allocated tickets, a full coach of happy faces left School Street on the dot of 8.30. Just over two hours later a downpour as we disembarked outside the DSS in Leeds did not dampen our spirits. Like homing pigeons most of us made for Harvey Nichols, admiring the splendid Victorian arcades en route.

At 1 p.m. the coach collected us from the drop-off spot and conveyed us to the Yorkshire TV Studios. We willingly laughed at the patter of the warm-up man, Dudley, and clapped enthusiastically at his direction and that of the floor manager. The six cameras moved silently, the make-up girl powdered yet again the faces of the contestants and celebrities – and we were recording. We had been given notepads and pens to keep pace with the contestants but most of the audience were happy to watch a benign and colourful Richard Whiteley, Carol Vorderman sparkling at the cameras, Richard Stilgoe making up limericks, and the remarkably calm contestants.

It was a surprise to see one man had the job of removing the letters from the board at Carol Vorderman's signal. Another wrote the numbers on a clipboard for her to do her lightning calculations before she wrote on the squared board. A third man's sole duty seemed to be changing that board for a fresh one, and yet another dealt with the 'conundrum' boards.

After seeing three programmes recorded, and a few retakes to cover the mistakes – for example when a letter fell off the 'conundrum' board – we were escorted back to our coach and an exceptionally helpful driver (our first from Bakers since the demise of Bassetts) got us home in good time. Many thanks to Margaret Slaney, whose idea it was that we should have this event and who obtained the tickets and took the bookings, and to Mary Malcolm who led us on the coach.

**Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. A day in Manchester.** The refurbishment of the Art Gallery cost £35 million pounds and led to a longer period of closure than had been hoped for. Was it worth it? I believe members will agree that it certainly was. The 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, the original Art Gallery and the Athenaeum, have been elegantly united by a link of steel and glass which leads to a new extension, more than doubling the available exhibition space. Both the older buildings have been lovingly restored, and the new additions follow the Manchester tradition of using the best in design and materials. The Art Collection now has much more space than was previously available, but the revelation is the former theatre of the Athenaeum, which has a magnificent

display of glass, silver and pottery and other crafts with Wedgwood being particularly well represented.

Some energetic members included a visit to the Urbis exhibition, but most were well content with the Art Gallery. This is a “must see” site. Better, it is a “must revisit” site.

Alun Davies.

Editor’s note: We must thank Penny Moore for taking over the running of this trip from Mary Malcolm, who was unable to attend on the day.

The Urbis exhibition is housed in a most impressive glass-faced building, but the exhibition was not worthy of its building – being lacking in real content.

## APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2003 PROGRAMME

### **Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April.**

#### **HAWORTH ART GALLERY, Accrington, and GAWTHORPE HALL.**

Recently refurbished, Haworth House is a Tudor-style Edwardian mansion with an Arts and Crafts interior and a good collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings. However, its glory is Tiffany Art glass – the largest public collection in Europe of Favrile glass, tiles and mosaics. Our private visit will start with coffee on arrival and be followed by a guided tour, chiefly of the Tiffany glass collection.

At 12.30 approx. we shall go on to Gawthorpe Hall (NT). There is a tea room but with limited facilities, so members may prefer to take a picnic to eat in transit or on arrival at approx. 1.15 p.m. Gawthorpe Hall is an Elizabethan gem in the heart of Lancashire. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was restored by Sir Charles Barry. It contains a splendid collection of paintings on loan from the National Gallery and a nationally important needlework collection assembled by Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, the last family member to live at Gawthorpe. **NT card needed.**

Depart: 8.30 School Street, Newcastle. Return 6 p.m. approx.

Cost: £17 (£18 non-members). Price includes coach, gratuity, entry, coffee and tour of Haworth House.  
Booking closes 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Apply to: Mrs S. Willson, 7 Sandon Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 3QB  
Tel: 662693 enclosing SAE.

### **Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April. CAR OUTING 25 maximum.**

**ST MARY’S CHURCH, NANTWICH and DORFOLD HALL, NANTWICH.** The Church has been called “The Cathedral of South Cheshire” built mostly in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Coffee and biscuits will be

served on arrival followed by a guided tour (1½ hours approx) when members will see the wonderful wood and stone carvings, a 15<sup>th</sup> century stone pulpit, exquisite choir stalls, old and modern stained glass windows, together with the Jubilee curtain and hand created kneelers. A Church shop and Visitor Centre are located in the porch.

Members are requested to bring a picnic lunch or find lunch in the eating houses in the town.

After lunch members are requested to make their own way to Dorfold Hall which lies one mile west of Nantwich on the A534. Further directions upon application. Dorfold was probably built on the site of the Manor of Edwin the last Saxon Earl of Chester, who was a grandson of Lady Godiva. The present house was built by Ralph Wilbraham in 1616. Members will be taken on a guided tour of the house (45 minutes) and afterwards may explore the garden in their own time.

There is ample parking for cars at the top of the drive in front of the Hall.

Time: Please meet at the Parish Church of St Mary's in Nantwich not later than 10.30 a.m. and at the Hall not later than 2.30

Cost: £8.00 to include coffee on arrival, donation to church and entry to Dorfold Hall.

Bookings close 21<sup>st</sup> April.

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

### **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May**

**ANDERTON BOAT LIFT, Northwich, DARESBURY CHURCH and DUNHAM MASSEY (NT)** The Anderton Boat Lift, designed in 1875 by Edwin Clark, was the world's first and provided a link between the river Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal. Now it has been restored we have arranged a ride on **The Edwin Clark Trip Boat** up the Lift. On site there is an exhibition centre, with a video that tells the story of the Lift and its restoration, and a gift shop where refreshments are available.

At midday we have booked a copious Ploughman's Lunch at the Ring o' Bells, Daresbury, where members can buy their own drinks, tea and coffee. After lunch there will be time to visit the Church, with its Lewis Carroll window, so well described in her talk by Irene Rutter.

Then we shall move on to Dunham Massey (NT), now in the care of Steven Adams (formerly at Little Moreton Hall). An early Georgian house, Dunham Massey was reworked in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and has a sumptuous Edwardian interior with fine furniture, Huguenot silver and paintings. In the servants' quarters you can hear tales of the people who lived here. The gardens have richly planted borders, an orangery, a bark house and a well house. **NT cards needed.**

Depart: 9.00 a.m. School Street, Newcastle, return 6.30 approx.  
 Cost: £17.50 (£18.50 non-members) Price includes coach, gratuity, Boat Lift and lunch.  
 Booking closes April 26<sup>th</sup>.  
 Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.  
 ST5 3RG Tel: 613451 enclosing SAE.

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> A.G.M., Medical Institute, Hartshill. 7.00 p.m.**

After the A.G.M. which will start promptly at 7.00 p.m. **David Brown, Communications and Marketing Manager for the West Midlands Region** will give us a brief outline of the latest news of the NT region to which we now belong.

This will be followed by:

**“IN DEFENCE OF THE REALM”**

an illustrated lecture by **KEITH HOLMES**. Mr Holmes is a skilled photographer and a highly recommended speaker with an international reputation. This lecture will allow us to explore the coast and castles of Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as well as aspects of today's army and navy and HMS Warrior, the first Ironclad battleship, now moored at Portsmouth.

This promises to be a splendid talk and will be followed by our usual Finger Buffet supper.

Time: A.G.M. 7.00 p.m. Talk 7.30 p.m. Buffet 8.30 p.m.  
 Buffet supper with coffee/tea. Bar open from 6.30 p.m.

New members are especially welcome.

N.B. Please submit nominations for Committee to the Hon. Sec. Mary Malcolm, before April 20<sup>th</sup> 2003. (See note at the end of the enclosed A.G.M. agenda.)

**For the £5.65 Supper Ticket** please apply on the form provided **at the foot of the AGM Agenda before May 8<sup>th</sup>** to:

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

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May CAR OUTING 30 maximum  
 PATSHULL HALL, BURNHILL GREEN, South Staffordshire, and  
 grounds; and ST MARY'S CHURCH.**

The Manor of Patshull had been owned by the Astley family since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century until it was sold by Sir John Astley in 1765 to Sir George Pigot who was created Lord Pigot of Patshull in 1776. Apart from minor alterations the house was little changed until sold in 1848 to the Earl of Dartmouth. After the death of the Earl of Dartmouth in 1958 the estate passed to the Crown in lieu of death duties. During the war and from 1940 to 1988 part of the house was used as a rehabilitation centre, and subsequently passed through several hands until March 2001 when it

was acquired by the present owner, Mr Timothy Reynolds, who is sympathetically restoring the property to its former glory. Members will be shown around the house by Mr Reynolds and there will be an opportunity to see the grounds and the Church.

Afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion of the tour.

The house and grounds are not suitable for people with walking difficulties.

No photographs are permitted inside the Hall.

Full names of members and registration numbers of cars in which members will travel to the hall are required by the management. Please include these on the application form.

There is ample parking space in front of the Hall.

Time: Please meet at Patshull Hall not later than 2.00 p.m.

Cost: £11.00 to include entry and afternoon tea.

Bookings close 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Directions on application. Not easy to follow, please allow plenty of time to find the Hall.

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

### **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June**

#### **STOCKTON BURY GARDEN and BERRINGTON HALL (NT) Herefordshire.**

A private morning visit to Stockton Bury Gardens owned and developed over the last 20 years by Raymond Treasure and containing an extensive collection of plants, many rare and unusual, set among medieval buildings including a pigeon house, tithe barn and ruined chapel. A splendid kitchen garden, Elizabethan garden and recently completed grotto are all surrounded by unspoilt countryside. Hopefully the magnificent display of wisteria should be out.

Delicious lunch included in the Tithe Barn. **Please indicate your choice of menu on the booking form:**

- A. Home-made Cheese, Tomato & Basil Flan (v) (Made with local cheeses, tomatoes, double cream, fresh basil and farm eggs. Served warm, with a full mixed salad.)
- B. Home cooked Honey & Mustard Glazed Ham. (Locally bought ham simmered with spices, then baked in oven with honey & mustard glaze. Served with a large mixed salad.)
- C. Herb & Mushroom Pancake (v) (A herb pancake enveloping a mixture of field mushrooms, peppers, mature cheddar & courgettes. Served with a full mixed salad or vegetables.)
- D. Stockton Bury Cheese Platter (v) (A platter of 'White Stilton with Apricot & Ginger' served with a home-made red onion marmalade. Served with a full mixed salad.)



Afternoon visit to Berrington Hall (NT) - an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century house designed by Henry Holland with park by Capability Brown and containing fine furniture and pictures and an interesting nursery, Georgian dairy recently restored and Victorian laundry.  
Tea available (at own cost).

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street. Return 6.30 p.m. approx.  
Cost: £24 (£25 non-members) Price includes coach, coffee, admission charges, lunch and gratuities.

Booking closes June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**NT card required.**

Apply to: Mrs P. Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham. ST4 8AG Tel: 01782 657645 enclosing SAE.

### **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June**

#### **SOUTHWELL WORKHOUSE (NT) & CLUMBER PARK (NT)**

This is a chance to visit the charming little market town of **SOUTHWELL** and see the **MINSTER**, the Mother Church of Nottinghamshire, founded in Saxon times and with an impressive 13<sup>th</sup> century Chapter House. **We need to have an early lunch:** there is a Refectory in the Minster, numerous eating places nearby to purchase lunch or take a picnic. We board our coach at 12.15 p.m. for the very short journey to the Workhouse, described for us in a recent talk and already a major NT attraction. **Please note there are toilets and a drinks machine at the Workhouse, but no other facilities.** There will be a short video presentation and then a self-guided tour with audio guides and the whole visit will last about 2 hours. We shall then travel to Clumber Park where the Head Gardener will show us around the walled vegetable garden and may be able to offer us tastings of some of the produce. We shall have a Clumber Cream Tea before departing.

**NT cards needed for both properties.**

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street, Newcastle. Return 7.00 approx.  
Cost: £17.00 (£18 non-members) Price includes coach, gratuity, donation to Southwell Minster, tea.

Booking closes June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Apply to: Mr K. Walker, 49 Stockwood Road, Newcastle. ST5 3LQ  
Tel: 613813 enclosing SAE.

### **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June CAR OUTING 30 maximum.**

#### **UPTON CRESSETT HALL, MUCH WENLOCK, Shropshire.**

Upton Cressett is the home of Mr and Mrs Bill Cash, M.P.

The Hall is one of the finest Tudor Manor Houses in Shropshire and is set in unspoilt landscape on a high wooded ridge. The Hall is a splen-

did example of the English Manor House at its most evocative. It has medieval origins which were disguised by a major Tudor remodelling. It was adapted to a more modern use as a farmhouse by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was unoccupied and part derelict by 1960 when it was rescued by the Cash family.

No refreshments are available at the Hall.

Members are invited to make their own arrangements for lunch and they may wish to spend the afternoon exploring Much Wenlock and the neighbouring area.

Time: Please meet at the Hall not later than 10.30 a.m.

Cost: £4.00 per head.

Directions on application.

Bookings close 21<sup>st</sup> June.

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

### ***July 1<sup>st</sup> – Final payments for the Hants/Wilts holiday due.***

#### ***Tuesday, 3 July***

**PERSHORE ABBEY and CROOME PARK (NT)** Pershore is an old-fashioned, genuine English Market town with some fine Georgian buildings. After coffee and a guided tour of Pershore Abbey, one of the finest examples of Norman and Early English architecture, there will be time to explore the town (map provided) and get lunch in one of the many pubs and cafés.

Close to Pershore is Croome Park, the grounds of which were acquired by the Trust in 1996. One of the most significant landscapes in England and the first commission of “Capability” Brown, it contains park buildings by Robert Adam and James Wyatt as well as a superb “Gothick” church. A guided walk to see the continuing restoration work being undertaken by the Trust will be followed by tea in either the Adam Temple Greenhouse or the old Carpenter’s Workshop. Please note that this walk will last 2 hours, often over uneven ground. Suitable outdoor clothing and stout walking shoes are essential.

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street. Return 6.30 p.m. approx.

Cost: £23.00 (£24.00 non-members) Price includes coach, coffee, guided tours of Pershore Abbey and Croome Park, Tea, donation to Croome Park restoration fund and all gratuities.  
Booking closes 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**NT card needed.**

Apply to: Mrs P. Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham. ST4 8AG Tel: 01782 657645 enclosing SAE.

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July****HONINGTON HALL, Shipston-on-Stour, and HIDCOTE MANOR GARDENS (NT)**

Honington Hall was built in the early 1680s. It was modified mid 18<sup>th</sup> century when an octagonal saloon was inserted and the interior lavishly restored with exceptional mid-Georgian plaster-work. We shall have a private guided morning visit of the fine Caroline manor house and an opportunity to visit the church. Then we shall move on to Hidcote Manor Gardens (NT). This is one of England's great gardens, an Arts and Crafts masterpiece with a series of outdoor rooms that offer an interesting visit at any time. There is a restaurant and a tea bar, or you may wish to bring a picnic. **NT card needed.**

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street, Newcastle. Return 7 p.m. approx.  
 Cost: £16 (£17 non-members). Price includes coach, gratuity, admission and guided tour of Honington.  
 Booking closes July 5<sup>th</sup>.  
 Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.  
 ST5 3RG Tel: 613451 enclosing SAE.

**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**BECKFORD SILK & TEWKESBURY.** Beckford Silk is a small, family-run workshop in the Cotswolds where the hand-printing of silk and other fine textiles is done. About ten people – designers, colourists and printers – work at the centre. We shall be able to wander at leisure through the printing area and also be allowed to see the art studios (though this involves climbing a steep, narrow staircase). Past Times silk scarves are printed here and there is a shop where scarves, ties, fabrics etc. are on sale. We shall have coffee and biscuits at the centre then at about 12.30 p.m. we shall make the short coach journey to Tewkesbury. There are plenty of places to obtain lunch and tea and places of interest to visit, including the Abbey and the Museum or follow the Heritage trail or take a river trip. We shall leave at 4.30 p.m.

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street, Newcastle. Return 6.30 approx.  
 Cost: £15.00 (£16.00 non-members) Price includes coach, gratuity and coffee.  
 Booking closes August 4<sup>th</sup>.  
 Apply to: Mrs A. Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 2QJ  
 Tel: 613024 enclosing SAE.

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August      CAR OUTING      30 maximum**

**CHILLINGTON HALL, CODSALL WOOD, Wolverhampton.** The Hall was built in 1724 probably by Smith of Warwick and was extended and remodelled by Sir John Soane between 1786 and 1789. This is the third building to have occupied the site following a stone-built Castle and a 16<sup>th</sup> century Tudor Mansion House.

The Hall is set in Capability Brown parkland having one of the largest lakes created by Brown. The Giffard family have an unbroken line of occupation since 1178. The house is currently the home of Mr John Giffard, Chief Constable of Staffordshire and his wife.

Members will be given a conducted tour of the Hall and afterwards may explore the garden, parkland and lake. They may also wish to take this opportunity to explore the nearby village of Brewood and to visit the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and Saint Chad. The Church houses the beautiful alabaster tombs belonging to the Giffard family. The oldest tombstone dates from 1556. Although there is no guided tour, the Church is open all day and there is literature about the Church available.

Time: Meet at the Hall at 2.00 p.m.

Cost: £5 per head. Directions on application.

Bookings close 13<sup>th</sup> August.

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

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September****BIRMINGHAM BOTANIC GARDENS and BARBER INSTITUTE**

Enjoy a day exploring two of Birmingham's most prestigious attractions. We shall spend the morning at the extensive Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses where there are many different types of gardens, walks, a sculpture trail, tropical glasshouses and a shop. Lunch can be purchased at the Pavilion restaurant or picnics are permitted in the grounds.

For the afternoon we shall go to the nearby Barber Institute of Fine Arts which is housed in a Grade II listed building by Robert Atkinson and contains Renaissance masterpieces, French Impressionist works and the works of many modern painters, including Picasso. We shall have a talk about the art collection, followed by tea and biscuits.

Depart: 9.00 a.m. School Street, Newcastle. Return 6 p.m. approx.

Cost: £17.00 (£18.00 non-members) Price includes coach, gratuity, entrance and tea.

Bookings close September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Apply to: Mrs A. Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 2QJ  
Tel: 613024 enclosing SAE.