

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

NEWSLETTER No. 66

SEPTEMBER 2003

and SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2003 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

I'm sure that by now you are all aware that Prince Charles has agreed to become the President of the National Trust. With his well-known interest in all matters agricultural and horticultural he is likely to be closely involved in all the discussions about the Trust's large holdings of coastal and agricultural land and supportive of its policies which broadly fit with his own views on land management.

Members of the Association continue to show good support for most of our outings to a wide variety of places, but surprisingly few were interested in the visit to Tynesfield, which had to be cancelled. Was it the early start that deterred people from booking... or the long journey... or some other reason? Do let me know, as this will give the Committee some help in planning future trips. We are always pleased when one of our members suggests an outing and we always look into whether a suggested venue is suitable.

I have been impressed this summer by the stamina of members who have cheerfully coped with tropical heat on some of the outings or been prepared to walk or stand throughout some of the visits. We have been pleased to welcome new members on some of our trips and hope they feel they have been travelling with a company of good friends.

I do hope you will all support our autumn programme of talks and events.

With all good wishes,

Anne Anderton

ASSOCIATION NEWS

VISIT TO THE "SENTINEL".

Many members were disappointed when the visit to the Sentinel Offices had to be cancelled, and asked if it could be re-arranged when the renovations were complete. We have contacted the Sentinel, and they tell us that they can no longer undertake guided visits because of Health and Safety regulations. Sorry!

TALK

Monday, 24th March: Tracey Clements: “Wightwick Manor”.

Tracey Clements is the Property Manager of Wightwick, and some 80 of us heard her interesting talk about this Victorian-built house in Wolverhampton. We were treated to close-up views of details of the construction and decoration of this house that would not normally be seen on a visit, and views of the garden at different times of the year. Despite being close to the industrial area of Wolverhampton, the property is secluded, with beautiful views towards Shropshire. Well worth a visit if you have not already been.

VISITS

Tuesday, 27th March. Twyfords Bathroom Factory, Alsager. The reception area is a small museum containing Thomas Twyford's own enormous bath from his home at Whitmore Hall.

The factory is a large 70 acre site, 16 of which are covered. 920 people are employed and only the ceramic ware is made here, seats, handles and other extras being brought in. We first visited the huge, high warehouse holding 760,000 pieces, all on pallets which are moved by fork lift truck. Next the complexities of the transformation from design to manufacturing were explained. In the manufacturing moulds are filled with clay slip by the casters and allowed to dry either by leaving for several hours or by pressure casting in a machine. They are now ready to have the glaze, mainly white these days, sprayed on, be loaded onto trucks and passed through the kiln. The kilns use the same amount of gas per day as 2,500 houses.

A most interesting morning culminated in a welcome coffee and biscuit. Many thanks to Peter Moxon for organising this excellent car outing.

Jean Nicholas.

Wednesday, 23rd April. Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington, and Gawthorpe Hall.

A rather smaller than usual party of us set out on a pleasant morning for the Haworth Art Gallery, where we were greeted by the curator, who had formerly worked at the Hanley museum. Formerly the home of Thomas Haworth, the house was bequeathed to the Corporation of Accrington by his children and became the town's public art gallery in 1921. Unfortunately the rooms housing the pictures were being re-arranged, but the main exhibit, the Tiffany Glass collection, was present in all its glory. This comprises four rooms full of vases, tiles and mosaics from the New York studios of the late Louis Comfort Tiffany. This is the largest public collection of Tiffany Glass in Europe.

In the afternoon we moved on to Gawthorpe Hall (NT) This was the home of the Shuttleworth family until it was given to the National Trust in 1970. It houses the Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth Collection of needlework, lace and associated items of costume. In addition to this and the other rooms of the



Hall, we were shown the Great Barn by the Warden, which had formerly been used for the storage of hay and grain. His explanation of how the dimensions of the barn were dictated by the distance material could be thrown from a cart brought inside was most revealing.

Many thanks to Sue Willson for organising this trip, and telling of her childhood spent close to Haworth.

Monday, 28th April. St Mary's Church & Dorfold Hall, Nantwich. Car.

St Mary's is a most impressive church and full of treasures. The nave is mostly 14th century, but based on and including earlier work. It has a rare stone pulpit as well as a later (1603) wooden pulpit: this is the top tier of a "three-decker" pulpit. Another rare feature is the bread oven in the chantry chapel (now used as the choir vestry). The church has two beautiful memorial windows as well as a Kempe window.

There is exceptionally fine needlework in the church, not only the Jubilee Curtain over the main doorway, but also the kneelers: these have different themes for each row of seats.

After lunch the group reassembled at Dorfold Hall, a most attractive house and still a family home. The present house, built in 1616, is on the site of an older one. Of the four rooms open to the public and all with interesting pictures and furnishings, the drawing room is most unusual with its 1621 barrel vaulted plaster ceiling with pendants and strapwork.

The group then went into the garden and into the dell made into a spring garden and looking at its best. Some of us visited the magnificent Spanish chestnut, which is more than 1000 years old and the sole survivor of the Delamere Forest.

This was a well-planned and varied outing and Peter Moxon's unobtrusive and kindly guidance was much appreciated.

Mary Yardley.

Tuesday, 6th May. Anderton boat lift, Northwich, Daresbury Church and Dunham Massey (NT). A prompt departure from Newcastle saw us arriving at the site of the Anderton Boat Lift in good time for our 10.00 a.m. boat trip up the lift. After an apology for a slight delay and a short introduction from our guide, the Edwin Clark Boat (named after the designer of the lift in 1875) edged out into the river Weaver and rounding the bend entered the caisson of the lift that was to take us 50 feet up to the Trent and Mersey Canal. The rear gate was dropped. The guide then explained that in the original design, interlinked rams under each of the two caissons used hydraulic power to raise one caisson while lowering the other. The salty water used in the hydraulics had caused corrosion so that between 1906 and 1908 the lifts had been converted to electrical power. The lifts fell into disuse some 19 years ago and in the current restoration the hydraulic rams had been brought back into use, coated to resist corrosion and using oils within the system controlled by

computer. About this time the guide realised that we were not ascending. Men in fluorescent jackets and hard hats could be seen moving about the structure and messages were being passed back and forth. After sitting for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour with the guide improvising, the decision was taken to lift the gate and back out of the caisson and to take us on what turned out to be a very pleasant trip up the river, in the sunshine. On return to the quay a very embarrassed Centre manager apologised that the computer system had failed and the lift could not operate that morning. Victorian technology - 10, computer technology - nil.

A very enjoyable luncheon at the Ring o' Bells allowed us to visit the Daresbury Church opposite the pub. The bright sunshine, which we enjoyed all day, caused the colours of the stained glass in the Lewis Carroll memorial window to glow at their best.

The same bright sunshine enhanced our visit in the afternoon to Dunham Massey, where the small windows sometimes make its rooms seem rather dark. The volunteer room stewards were particularly friendly and willing to chat and explain everything. Stephen Adams (now Property Manager here) was unable to greet our party, as he was trapped in a meeting with the Health & Safety Executive. He made contact with Penny later, in the house, to express his thanks for the Association's donation of £300 towards the restoration of the State Bed. Stephen's influence on the property can already be seen.

Our thanks to Mary and Penny for yet another well organised day.

Colin Clowes.

HOLIDAY IN PRAGUE, 9th to 12th May. Our holiday began at 5 a.m. on the Friday, and after a trouble-free journey to Birmingham Airport, and a relatively short wait, we were airborne.

Our journey was a smooth one, and our arrival in Prague was without incident. The reward for that early start was that by lunch time our Prague experience began. Following the warnings about taxi-drivers, pickpockets, not carrying passports and only small amounts of cash, we collected our tram tickets, or walked towards the city.

Mike and I walked down the hill towards the centre of Prague, but were quickly diverted by a lovely building on our left, the Loreto Church. This church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and was the most famous pilgrimage church in Prague. Building began in 1620 and was completed in 1725. In the tower is a glockenspiel of 27 bells which play a Czech hymn every hour.

During our first day, which was warm and sunny, many of the party were finding their way to the Old Town. Some joined a string quartet playing in the street, and others were seeking a past workplace in Prague. The following day, Saturday, we had a more detailed walk with our two guides, Martina and Renate, which lasted about three hours. It was a drizzly day, but one which was interesting and very helpful. We walked to the Castle where we had

coffee, followed by a whistle-stop tour with our guides so that later we could wander at leisure and visit the many buildings inside the Castle compound.

We crossed the Charles Bridge, a bridge like none other. It connects the Lesser Quarter to the Old Town. The first bridge on this site was built in the 12th century, and replaced a wooden one. The present bridge was begun in 1357 but not completed until 1399. It is the sculptures on the bridge which make it unique; St Adalbert, St Wenceslas, St Vitus, Charles IV, and coats of arms of the Holy Roman Empire, Bohemia and Luxemburg. The statues were added over a period of 250 years. Many are replicas and the originals are kept in the National Museum. This bridge is the beginning of the Old Town with its Town Hall which dates from 1338. Next to the Hall is the famous astronomical clock which attracts the crowds during the day. Every hour two windows above the clock face open and we see a procession of the twelve Apostles. The windows close, a cock crows and Death turns the hour glass over.

Renate left us for the rest of the day to explore independently, and everyone went in search of lunch and the rain stopped!

Music is played everywhere in the city. Much of the music is played in churches, and excellent music can be heard in the streets. Small groups of musicians played classical music outside the Castle each day, into the evening. The music on the Charles Bridge was mainly Trad Jazz. Great.

On Sunday the sun was shining and it was a day to walk along the river. We began on the Charles Bridge and then took the steps along a very attractive street to the river. Here we saw some of the damage to the buildings caused by the flood earlier in the year. The lower parts of many houses and cafés were drying out ready for new plaster. A museum nearby was closed and being repaired and it was very near the river.

Eventually we arrived at the National Museum, a very imposing building on a hill overlooking Wenceslas Square. This is a wonderful building; light and spacious and beautifully decorated. After spending most of the afternoon there we walked down the elegant street back towards the old town.

Our last day and the whole group gathered together and were taken on a trip down the river by our guide Renate. After a dull start, the weather did improve and I think we all enjoyed being together and having this relaxing day before we departed for home.

This was a wonderful "long weekend", and many thanks must go to Penny and Terry Moore for all their work and care on our behalf on our Prague Holiday.
Josie Thomas.

Tuesday, 20th May. 23^d AGM. As usual, Anne Anderton conducted the business part of the meeting with graceful expedition. Among several apologies for absence were those of Penny Moore and Mary Malcolm; Mary's secretary's report being read by Sue Willson. Two members of the Committee have resigned: Georgina Pritchard and Sally Callear. As Anne remarked,

Sally has served the Association for many years, not least as Treasurer for several years, and has been “the purveyor of sound judgment in many a critical situation”. The reports reflected the Association in good heart, with 435 members, and an excellent range of coach trips, car outings, holidays and talks had been enjoyed during the past year.

After the business meeting there were two speakers. The first, David Brown from Attingham, recalled that he had acted as mentor for the fledgling Association when it was first set up 24 years ago. David gave us a run-down of his present job, and those of his associates. However, he enthusiastically described the expansion of facilities and events at Attingham and elsewhere, and especially remarked upon the recent acquisition of a courtyard of back-to-back houses in Birmingham, which will become a great resource for learning about Birmingham’s industrial past.

Our second, and main speaker was Keith Holmes from Derbyshire. Keith gave us a wonderful photographic journey across Dorset and Hampshire, from Lyme Regis to Portsmouth, under the title “Defence of the Realm”. The defences ranged from the chain of castles build by Henry VIII to withstand feared threats of invasion by the French and the Spanish; through fortifications against Napoleon’s potential expansion; to Mulberry Harbours of the 2nd World War; and finally to Centurion tanks drawn up on a secret MOD location. Besides the military tour we were also treated to some marvellous photography of the countryside, seascape, towns and villages along the route. Many shots remain in the memory: particularly a wonderful slide of Chesil Beach, of evening light across the sea, and of the whole of Portsmouth Dockyard buildings, including the 1,095 ft long Rope House taken from high above.

The evening was rounded off with a splendid buffet supper and much happy conversation.

Eunice Mortimer.

Thursday, 22nd May Car outing to Patshull Hall, Burnhill Green, and St Mary’s church. The visit to Patshull Hall resulted in one of the most enthusiastic responses from our members that I have come across, and with complete justification. Patshull is an eighteenth century house which is at present undergoing a sensitive restoration. There was a huge and unexpectedly hot log fire in the beautiful Entrance Hall. Timothy Reynolds, whose company owns the house, said that to his surprise he was now using this hall as a living room as it is so comfortable and congenial. A superb extra touch was the vase of Queen Anne’s lace and two magnificent displays of some sort of bamboo fronds.

We were given a friendly welcome and enthusiastic, informative tour by Mr Reynolds and his assistant Ian – the latter’s wonderful flowing hairstyle gave him the air of a Victorian or Edwardian artist.

Apparently although the house is only about twelve miles from

Wolverhampton, no lights whatever can be seen from it at night and hardly any traffic or aircraft noise can be heard. They must in some moods truly be able to imagine that they are back in the eighteenth century, for example in the elegant blue Dining Room, with its lovely Worcester floral china, which used to be a staircase until 1878 when the present imposing staircase was put in, or in the rather dark and enclosed yellow Boudoir where Queen Mary slept in 1936 with a vaulted ceiling which then, apparently, could be considered rather vulgar.

We were impressed by the huge contrast of these handsome rooms which have been restored with the ones still to be worked on, looking bleak, cold, featureless, and to most of us most unpromising. The immensity of the project to restore the whole house impressed us all, as did the short time in which so much had already been achieved.

There was another welcoming log fire in the room where we had our elegantly served tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Here members speculated as to how much money all this restoration was costing – there was a rumour of £2 million spent in the past two years. I wonder if any of us will book the holiday accommodation in the grounds or hold a function in the Hall, which are one of the means of raising funds.

What a wonderful visit! Many thanks to Mary Malcolm for finding the Hall, and to Peter Moxon for arranging the visit. May I recommend a follow-up visit in a couple of years to see what else has been done, and to enjoy the lovely house and grounds once again.

Sue Willson.

Wednesday, 11th June. Stockton Bury Gardens and Berrington Hall. “Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun”. N. Staffs NT Members meander around a garden in the rain – but what a garden! Whether a dedicated knowledgeable person or merely one who enjoys admiring colour and design, Stockton Bury Gardens are for you. The original gardens were laid out over a century ago, then redesigned in the 1990s. Attended to by just two men, they now cover approximately 4 acres.

After an excellent lunch we continued on to Berrington Hall. This has an austere exterior which belies the beautiful decorative interior. The ceilings are a particular joy. Berrington is one of the Trust’s more intimate houses with a warm friendly feel, every room a delight. By now the sun was shining and we all appreciated the outstanding views to the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons. A thoroughly enjoyable day. Many thanks to Penny Moore for discovering this place and organising our visit.

Pat Bentley.

Thursday, 28th June. Upton Cressett Hall. Car outing.

Thirty intrepid members ventured forth into the wilds of Shropshire, the final 2½ miles of their journey being along a very narrow single track road with

passing places and steep inclines and sharp bends leading to Upton Cressett Hall, the home of Mr Bill Cash MP for Stone, and his wife Biddy.

Members received a warm and friendly welcome from Mrs Cash. She and her husband had purchased the Hall 30 years ago when it was unoccupied, used (literally) as a pig sty, and had had much of the panelling and fittings torn out. They had the builders in for a full year, and have spent the ensuing 30 years in refitting and furnishing the Hall to bring it up to its present impressive state. It is a splendid example of an English manor house at its most evocative, having been built by Hugh Cressett (1398-1449) It is one of the finest manor houses in Shropshire with its medieval origins mostly disguised by a major Tudor remodelling. It had been adapted to a more modest farmhouse by the 19th century.

The gatehouse is of equal magnificence, with two octagonal turrets on either side of the central archway. It was built in the 16th century, its brickwork reflecting the same diaper pattern on the west front of the house. This has been refurbished to provide two flats inside. There are also farm buildings and a renovated tithe barn.

In the garden is the Norman Church of St Michael, now vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.

After our visit, members were able to spend the rest of the day finding lunch, and exploring Much Wenlock and its surroundings.

Tuesday, 3 July. Pershore Abbey and Croome Park (NT) After an uneventful journey we arrived in Pershore to the sound of bell ringers practising in St Andrew's Church where coffee and biscuits were waiting for us. Afterwards one of the church ladies gave us a potted history of the building. We then moved across the road to the Abbey which has been a centre for Christian worship for over 1300 years with the oldest visible parts of the Abbey dating back over 900 years to Norman times. First impressions on going inside were the soaring majesty of the "ploughshare" type choir vault. We were then asked to sit while one of the Friends of the Abbey gave us a talk on its history. We then had time to wander around the building. Of the 41 bosses which enrich the vault no two are quite the same – some are decorated with grotesque faces. There are several interesting tombs and a unique bellringing platform which was erected by Gilbert Scott in 1864 when he removed the floor of the former ringing chamber to open up the lantern tower.

Having been spiritually refreshed in the Abbey we went our separate ways to find bodily refreshment in the delightful town of Pershore. We then travelled three miles to Croome Park which was commissioned by the 6th Earl of Coventry in 1747 and who employed Capability Brown to design the Park – this being his first assignment. The work involved an artificial lake and river and considerable movement of earthworks to obtain the best possible views. After many years of neglect the National Trust obtained funding to buy the park in 1996 and renovation is continuing all the time. We were fortunate to be

guided round the park by Brian Hartnell, a volunteer guide who has been involved from the beginning and is full of interesting information. We particularly admired the various buildings designed by Robert Adam and James Wyatt. We then went into the church, designed by Brown, which stands on the brow of the hill, the interior of which was designed by Robert Adam in 1761 and is very light and airy. By this time we were all gasping for a cup of tea so we boarded the coach once more for a short drive to the Estate Builders Yard where tea and delicious cakes awaited us in the Carpenter's shop!

Our thanks are due to Penny Moore for organising such an interesting and different trip and we would love to return to Croome in five years' time to see it having matured.

Heather Baxter.

Tuesday, 15th July. Honington Hall and Hidcote Manor Gardens. Sun hats were the order of the day as we arrived in good time for our guided tour round Honington Hall. We were welcomed into the refreshing coolness of the church by Mr Benjamin Wiggin, who regaled us with tales of previous owners of the Hall, who are commemorated magnificently within the church. Mr Wiggin's grandfather purchased the property, which dates from the early 1680s, and subsequent restoration was begun by his father in the 1970s. The Hall itself was fascinating, being at once grand – it has provided the settings for many film and TV productions – and intimate. It is a well-loved family home, for which Mr Wiggin proved an informative and amusing guide.

We moved on to Hidcote Manor gardens for the afternoon. The extreme heat had not affected the plants unduly, but every shady seat was occupied! Hidcote continues to delight the eye with unusual and imaginative plantings, such as the bank of white astrantia punctuated by orange lilies, which was so impressive beneath the trees. The treasures of the plant centre were hard to resist and the coach was well-filled with our trophies for the return journey.

Thanks to Penny Moore for the smooth running of the trip, which was very much enjoyed and well worth-while.

Ann George
Anne Beaumont

Friday, 20th June. Southwell Minster and Workhouse and Clumber Park. It was a surprise to find that the charming little market town of Southwell (pronounced Suth'l of course) contained a Minster, rebuilt after the Conquest in the Norman style. It has magnificent twin towers on the west face and is famous for its beautiful stone carvings of foliage, including maple, oak, hawthorn and vine, which are known as "The Leaves of Southwell". These carvings by an unknown medieval sculptor, the earliest of their kind in England, adorn the columns in the Chapter House. The new Great West Window, dedicated in 1996, is made from glass of similar colour and texture to

that used in the mid-fifteenth century when the original window was inserted .It lights the West end of the nave and must look particularly impressive in the early evening.

After lunching in the refectory we made the short journey to Southwell Workhouse amidst rumours that we would be expected to sample the gruel and take part in stone breaking and oakum picking. The Workhouse, built in 1824 at a cost of £6996 to house 158 inmates, introduced a harsh and revolutionary system, designed to cut the cost of caring for the poor, which was later adopted nationally in over 600 Union workhouses. In the words of its founder, Reverend Becher, it was to be: "A hospital for the infirm, an asylum for the aged, a school for the young but a terror for the idle and dissolute". The building was in very good condition and the dayrooms and dormitories gave a glimpse of how the poor were treated in the nineteenth century.

Our final visit was to Clumber Park, 5 miles south east of Worksop, where the Head Gardener, Neil Porteous, gave us an excellent and entertaining account of how the kitchen garden had once been used to provide food all year round for the Dukes of Newcastle and their household (approximately 100 people). From 1899 to 1935 the Head Gardener was Samuel Barker and his importance within the estate can be gauged from the impressive house that was built for him and which still stands. At present the garden is managed using both traditional and modern techniques and is completely organic. Before departing we made our way to the Tea Room for a Clumber Cream Tea.

Many thanks to Keith Walker who ran the trip faultlessly.

Bill Holmes

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2003 PROGRAMME

Saturday, 13th 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 3rd.
Apply to: Mrs A. Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 2QJ
Tel: 613024 enclosing SAE.

Monday, 13th October. Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.

Jane Dew: "An Uncommon Thread" The work of the Leek Embroidery Society. Our first talk of the season is of special local interest, and we are fortunate to be able to learn about the work of this society from an expert in the field of historical and modern embroidery. Jane Dew is an embroideress who undertakes commissions, does restoration work, gives lectures and takes specialist tours abroad, so is well qualified to enlighten us on all aspects of her chosen topic. There will be an exhibition of some of this embroidery next year in Leek, for which Jane is to be the Curator.

Tuesday, 28th October. CAR OUTING 30 maximum.

Arthur Chatwin's Bakery, 4 Market Street, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Members are invited to meet at Chatwin's Bakery at 6.45 p.m. for a tour of the Bakery which will include various demonstrations. The tour will include some light refreshments and should finish by 9.00 p.m.

Due to strict hygiene policies all visitors will be required to wear white coats, hats and hairnets, all of which will be provided by Chatwins on the night.

Members will be asked to remove all excessive jewellery (watches, earrings etc.) so it is advisable to wear as little jewellery as possible. Chatwins particularly stress this requirement to avoid embarrassment on the night.

Time: 6.45 p.m.

Cost: £5.00 (non-members £6.00) Bookings close October 21st

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

Tuesday, 11th November

CHATSWORTH in Winter. Many members have enjoyed the winter visit to Chatsworth in past years, experiencing the colour and atmosphere of this beautiful house dressed up for Christmas. We are invited to walk through the House at our own pace, allowing about one and a half hours for the tour. There are about 60 steps up or down on the route.

After the tour which begins at 10.30 there will be time to walk in the Garden and to visit gift shops, the restaurant, or Jean Pierre's Bar.

After lunch we take the short journey to Pilsley, a village on the estate, where there are more shops, including a very good food shop and a small café.

So that as many people as possible are able to visit Chatsworth, a larger coach (57 seater) has been arranged. Members may want to take a flask of coffee as this year we have to enter the house immediately on arrival. We apologise to those who are not able to take part on weekdays, but coach parties are not accepted at weekends at Chatsworth.

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street, Newcastle. Return 6.00p.m. approx.
 Cost: £15.00 (non-member £16.00) Booking closes 1st November
 Apply to: Mrs J. Thomas, 16 Audley Place, Newcastle. ST5 3RS
 (Tel: 01782-617632) enclosing SAE

Friday, 14th November Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.

Colin Twist: "History of the Liverpool Parks. After a period of sad decline, public parks are in the news as their importance and historical significance are being appreciated once more; this is emphasised by the fact that Government money is at last being made available for the regeneration of some of them. Colin Twist has worked for many years studying, writing and lecturing about the natural history and the historical and environmental importance of the Liverpool area and he will give us an illustrated talk on the history of the Liverpool parks from 1767 to the present day, telling us of their founders, the plans and development of the sites and their subsequent history. There are many parks in Liverpool and we may try to organise a visit to one or two of them next year.

Sunday, 14th December. CHRISTMAS LUNCH at SLATERS.

Location: Maerfield Farm, Stone Road, Maer. On A 51.

The Menu will be:

Starter: Melon/Soup of the day/Pâté and Melba Toast

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

Sweet: Christmas Pudding/Trifle/Chocolate gâteau

Coffee, Mincepie, Mints.

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

Time: 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.
 Cost: £16.50 (non-members £17.50) Booking closes 6th December
 Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.
 ST5 3RG (Tel: 01782-613451) enclosing SAE