

# North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

**NEWSLETTER No. 67**

**DECEMBER 2003**

**and JANUARY to APRIL 2004 PROGRAMME**

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

I'm sure we have all heard numerous times during September and October someone say: "There's no need to go to the USA to see the colours of the Fall when we have such wonderful colours on our trees here." Autumn has been quite remarkable for the vivid colours everywhere, probably the consequence of both the dry, hot summer and the changing climate and some of the best colours have been seen in the gardens and woodlands of famous NT properties.

Our recent visits to Berrington Hall and Dudmaston have prompted the Committee to make donations to both these properties. We have given to Berrington Hall for the provision of a 'virtual tour' so that disabled visitors can look around the property; our donation to Dudmaston was for the purchase of a digital camera and also a wheelchair. The camera will be especially useful for recording changes and the progress of alterations and will produce archive material in a form which can be easily stored. We have received letters of thanks from both Property Managers expressing their delight and gratitude for these donations.

We have also given a substantial donation to the Peak District Appeal. This is a contribution to a fund which is needed for the constant upkeep and improvement of an area which is so much used and appreciated by many people, not only members of the National Trust. We feel that many of our Association members have enjoyed the scenery or the walking opportunities of the Peak District for many years so we wished to support its maintenance.

I hope the forthcoming programme is attractive to you and look forward to seeing you at the talks and outings.

*Anne Anderton*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### SALLY CALLEAR

Many of you will by now have heard of the recent death of Sally Callear after a short illness. Sally was a loyal and hardworking member of the Committee for many years and was a meticulous and excellent Treasurer. We all appreciated her forthright views, good sense of humour and her commitment to the business of the Association. She will be much missed at talks and outings, but remembered with great affection.

## DONATIONS

As mentioned in the Note from the Chair, your Committee has seen fit to make a number of donations to National Trust properties. A total of £2250 was given to Berrington Hall for the provision of the Virtual Reality Tour. Because they had received another donation towards this, the surplus will be put towards the maintenance of a small flock of sheep – including one from Orkney, where the local sheep are kept on the sea shore and eat mainly sea-weed. The Berrington sheep will be given some sea-weed to keep it happy. Dudmaston was given £750 towards the wheel chair and digital camera; the Peak District Appeal £2500; Dunham Massey £300 towards the restoration of the state bed, and Clumber Park £200 for some slate shelves for fruit storage.

## CAR VISITS

Peter Moxon, who organises the car visits, has compiled the following statistics, which may be of interest to members.

During the summer of 2003, 86 members took part in the six separate car visits to Twyfords (max 25) Patshull Hall (max 30) St Mary's and Dorfold Hall (max 25) Upton Cressett (max 30) Chillington Hall (max 30) and Chatwins Bakery (max 30).

Of those members:

1 attended 6 visits, 1 attended 5 visits, 9 attended 4 visits, 13 attended 3 visits, 18 attended 2 visits and 44 attended 1 visit.

The total attendances of members was 166 out of 170 available places.

## THE NATIONAL TRUST

The Trust has been given planning consent for its new central office in Swindon. Work on the brownfield site of the old Great Western Railway Works will begin in January for anticipated completion in the spring of 2005.

For the first time more than 400 of the central office staff will work together in one building, which, with its long pitched roofs and engineering brickwork, reflects the influence of Brunel's railway architecture. The National Trust chose Swindon because of its accessibility by rail and road, and its

relatively easy connections to London, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire where the Trust has its current head offices (in spite of our pointing out that Stoke-on-Trent fulfils these criteria!)

## **FILMING AT TRUST PROPERTIES**

The latest BBC Trollope adaptation *He knew he was right* was filmed on location at a number of properties including Hughenden, Waddesdon, the George Inn and Stourhead, whilst a film with the working title *White on white* was also filmed partly at Waddesdon.

Channel 5's new series *Britain's Finest* featured the National Trust in all four programmes, with half the gardens shown being Trust gardens.

Trust properties were also in demand for documentaries, including *Whatever did the Industrial Revolution do for Us*, *Every Home should have One*, *History of the Novel* and *Byron*. In *The Darien Venture* the River Fal masqueraded as Panama.

It is not only the Trust that benefits financially from filming. Even a small crew spends at least £3,000 in the local economy.

In the pipeline are a one-hour special on Hardwick, a William Morris homage featuring the Red House, and *Eroica*, a drama documentary about Beethoven, which was shot largely at Osterley.

## **OPENING DATE SET FOR BACK TO BACKS**

Building restoration work is underway at the Back to Back houses in the centre of Birmingham to prepare the property for opening next July. Built between 1802 and 1831 this complex of buildings is the last surviving courtyard of Back to Backs in Birmingham and is Grade II listed. There are eleven small houses, with one room on each floor, built around a central paved courtyard with shared washhouse and lavatories. The Birmingham Conservation Trust is currently managing the site, which will be handed over to the National Trust in early 2004. The National Trust will restore the interiors to show four of the dwellings at different periods in their history. Each dwelling will focus on a family who lived around the courtyard, from the Levy family who lived there between 1840-1850 to the Saunders family who rented a shop between 1960-70

## **ACQUISITIONS**

Amongst the recent acquisitions by the National Trust is Land at Hopesay Hill, Hopesay, south of the Long Mynd in Shropshire.

## **TRIPS**

**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August. Beckford Silk Workshop and Tewkesbury.** The first stop on this beautiful summer morning was the Beckford Silk Workshop.

Here a highly-skilled workforce produce lovely screen-printed fabrics. The talk was excellent, allowing us to understand and appreciate the design techniques, printing and finishing processes displayed on a walk through the production area. The cloth is made up into clothes, ties and scarves which are to be found in NT shops and many other prestigious venues. Excellent coffee and shortbread completed a well-spent morning.

Onwards then to Tewkesbury – for some of us this was a return to see an old, familiar friend, and for those for whom it was new I hope they found a modest, historic and fascinating place. Throughout the afternoon we crossed paths with our members en route to the Abbey, the Museums, the river and of course the numerous streets and alleyways so much a part of the town.

Refreshment in the Abbey Tearooms led to a quiet, restful journey home – not that anyone was asleep, you understand – but just reflecting on a most enjoyable day. Thank you, Anne.

Sally Callar.

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August. Chillington Hall and Brewood Church. Car outing.** Members were welcomed to Chillington by Charlie Giffard in the absence of his parents, John and Crescent Giffard, who were on holiday.

Two excellent guides gave members a very interesting and informative tour of the Hall which has been the home of the Giffard family for more than 800 years. The earliest member of the family came to England with William, Duke of Normandy in 1066. The interior of the house is of great magnificence with clear evidence of a family in residence including a recent portrait of the present owner, John, Chief Constable of Staffordshire. Members saw the entrance hall, the main staircase, the morning room, the dining room, the drawing room, the long room and the saloon or main central hall which has no external walls and thus no windows. The design of the roof in the saloon is that of a great ellipse coving upwards to a smaller oval which is given clerestory lighting. The present house is Georgian and is the third house to have been built on this site. Sir John Soane was involved in the design of the house.

Some members walked approximately three quarters of a mile to the beautiful lake through the landscaped parklands designed by Lancelot (Capability) Brown.

Members also visited the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and Saint Chad in Brewood which houses the magnificent tombs of the Giffards, namely Sir John Giffard who had 18 children, Sir Thomas 17 and another Sir John who had 14. The Church is medieval and is larger than most parish churches as the Dean of Lichfield once lived in Brewood and many important services and processions were held in Brewood. It is believed that a church has stood on this site since AD 750.

We are grateful to Peter Moxon for arranging this interesting outing.

***Holiday in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August.*** On a beautifully cool, summer morning 47 NT members set off for a holiday in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Few of us had heard of our first port of call, Rodmarton Manor near Cirencester. It is said to be one of the last great country houses to be built and a shrine to the Arts and Crafts movement. What a gem! The house belongs to the Biddulph family and the present owner's grandfather commissioned Ernest Barnsley to build in 1909 and it was completed in 1929. Most of the work was done by hand and local materials and craftsmen used whenever possible. Much of the furniture was made in their own workshop and some in the workshop of Sidney Barnsley and Peter Waal. There was wonderful furniture that we were encouraged to touch, wall hangings, ironwork, stained glass, appliqué work, and pottery. Oak tables with hay rake stretchers and double dovetails and a decorated Bluthner piano painted inside as well as outside with exquisite flowers by Louise Powell.

All too soon we had to move on, so after coffee and a quick walk round the garden we travelled to Broadlands in Romsey. This Palladian style house was the home of the late Lord Louis Mountbatten and now owned by his grandson Lord Romsey. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the manor house had many famous residents and it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Palmerston who employed 'Capability' Brown to rebuild the house and lay out the grounds much as they are today. The blue and white Wedgwood room was of particular interest with its neo-classical friezes and mouldings, ornate plasterwork ceilings and collection of Wedgwood china started by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount who was a friend of Josiah Wedgwood. After the splendour of the staterooms it was a treat to visit the Oak room, which had been turned into a family cinema with its comfortable armchairs, 2 settees and a double chair on the back row! There was also a video and exhibition of the life and times of Lord Mountbatten

The next day we spent in Salisbury, in the morning visiting Malmesbury House situated in the Cathedral Close. Built by the Church in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the house had many generations of the Harris family and it was James Harris 3<sup>rd</sup>, the tenant in 1733, who was responsible for the plasterwork and decoration of the house, in various Wedgwood colours. In 1968 John Cordle, formerly the MP for Bournemouth East and Christchurch, was approached to buy the house from the Church authorities as it was derelict and the Church could not afford the cost of restoration. It has been wonderfully restored and furnished. There is a King Charles II room with a priest hole, and yes, he did sleep there, and Handel's room and he stayed there too. The outstanding room was the library with its bay window decorated with a canopy of Gothic plasterwork and the patterns from it transferred round the room. For all its grandeur it was a very homely house and Mrs Cordle served coffee to us in the dining room. Mr Cordle at 91 was also very interested in the visitors to his house.

After lunch we spent time in the Cathedral with its high vaulted ceiling, slender columns and at 404 feet has the highest spire in England. It was

fascinating to watch a revolving glass prism, engraved in 1985 by Lawrence Whistler, in memory of his brother Rex, killed in Normandy. In the Chapter House we followed the medieval frieze of sculptures representing scenes from the Bible and studied one of the four original texts of Magna Carta. It was in the Quire that we met a Cathedral Guide, originally from Keele, who was keen to reminisce about Newcastle and the Potteries. Not wishing to miss an opportunity we managed a quick visit to Mompesson House, another Close house, a Queen Anne townhouse, built in 1701 and owned by the Cathedral until 1952 and now by the NT.

The following morning we visited Winchester College, the oldest continuously running school in the country, founded in 1382 by Bishop William of Wykeham. We heard all about the life of the school and were guided round the extensive grounds and buildings, including the original Scholars' dining room, the 17<sup>th</sup> century red brick schoolroom and the 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic chapel with its stained glass east window representing the stem of Jesse. This is a copy of the medieval window which has been lost, part of which has now been relocated, cleaned and restored at the back of the Chapel.

After lunch we moved on to the Cathedral. Dated from 1079 Winchester Cathedral has the longest nave in Europe and amongst its many treasures are the 12<sup>th</sup> century Winchester Bible and the largest surviving 'carpet' of 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval tiles in the country. William of Wykeham, responsible for remodelling the nave in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, is buried in a chantry chapel and there is the tomb, memorial tablet and window to Jane Austen.

We returned to our hotel and as we walked through the reception area the lights suddenly dimmed. We were part of the London and SE area affected by the National grid fault. The hotel coped admirably. The evening meal was on time, the public rooms lit by candles and a convivial atmosphere prevailed. Not all bedrooms were affected, but how we envied our friends across the corridor with 'facilities'!

Next morning we made our way to Wilton Carpet factory. There had been a weaving industry in this area for over 300 years, but in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the Earl of Pembroke brought a French weaver over to England to teach the local weavers his skills, thus creating Wilton Carpets. In more recent times the Earl of Pembroke helped to restart the factory after the take-over by an American firm from the Viyella group. First we were taken to the carpet making exhibition and told how carpets were hand woven and knotted and given various demonstrations. Then complete with earplugs we toured the factory. We saw the weaving, winding and mending sections with a lady darning holes and one looking for faults; we saw the sizing with latex and the shearing and steaming of the carpet before it was rolled into lengths. It was fascinating to see huge computerised looms weaving such intricate patterns and labelled with the name of well known customers. We then moved on and spent the afternoon at Wilton House, the home of the Earl of Pembroke, just a short drive away. There had been a Tudor House on this site since the mid

16<sup>th</sup> century and in the 1630s the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Pembroke commissioned Inigo Jones to remodel the house in the Palladian style. There is much to admire in this house from the famous double and single cube rooms, the double designed to display the family portraits by Van Dyke, to the lock of hair belonging to Elizabeth I; paintings by Rembrandt, Brueghel and Reynolds to the painting of the Palladian Bridge by Winston Churchill. We went to find the Palladian Bridge and enjoyed walking along by the river through the extensive grounds. We also found the latest addition to the garden, the Millennium Water Feature that looked like a huge set of steps.

Next day we were homeward bound, stopping a few miles on the way at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens which has one of the largest collections of hardy trees and shrubs in the world. As this is an all season garden we followed the recommended route to see the plants of particular interest that week. Interspersed throughout was an 'Art in the Garden' exhibition, with amazing sculptures of all shapes, sizes and designs made from every type of material by artists from all round the country. Travelling on, and because of heavy traffic we only had limited time at Stourhead. We had lunch, walked to the lake, admired the view, hitched a ride back to the top on the buggy and boarded the coach home.

This was a wonderful holiday and we thank Mary Malcolm, who made all the initial arrangements, but was unfortunately unable to come on the actual holiday, and Myra and Ewart Okey who led it.

Hilary Baddley.

***Saturday, Sept 13th Birmingham Botanic Gardens and Barber Institute.***

The Botanic Gardens can rarely have looked more colourful or manicured than when we visited them on a day of wonderful late summer sunshine and blue skies. We took coffee and lunch on the terrace or picnicked in sheltered spots. We admired fountains, ferns and fuchsias and found our way to the gardens created for the BBC Gardener of the Year competition. The finalists had to design gardens inspired by favourite books and those representing *The Shell Seekers*, *The Hobbit* and *Gone with the Wind* were especially amusing and charming.

The afternoon provided a contrast when we were welcomed into the nearby Barber Institute by Dr. Arnold Franks. He told us something of the lives and generosity of the benefactors, Sir Henry and Lady Barber, and of the Art Nouveau building itself, designed by Robert Atkinson and now a listed building. Dr. Franks proved an informative guide who helped us to understand and appreciate some of the many masterpieces in what has been labelled "one of the finest small galleries in the world".

Several members who had never previously visited either venue are already planning return visits! Many thanks to Anne Anderton for organising this visit.

***Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October. Car Outing to Chatwin's Bakery, Nantwich.***

Chatwins only have parties occasionally, and so we have had to remain on their waiting list for six years for this visit. It was the first really wet evening for a long time when 30 of our members assembled at the Bakery, and were kitted out in white coats, hairnets (even the men!) and white hats. (Regretfully we had not brought a camera – otherwise we could have printed a most delightful group picture!) Thus attired we made our way to a room where the production methods employed were demonstrated to us by the managing director in charge of production, together with a team of enthusiastic bakers, cake makers and decorators. First the bread making: this takes place every night, and we were shown how to make plaits and farmhouse loaves. Several members were then able to make their own, which were baked in time to be taken home at the conclusion of the evening. Then we were shown how a chocolate and orange torte was made – with the help of Janet Clowes and Peter Moxon. This involved much spreading of cream – a process reminiscent of plastering a wall! Finally two ladies demonstrated how birthday cakes are decorated, and we marvelled at their dexterity – not exactly matched by the attempts of members to copy them.

The evening ended with coffee and an impressive selection of sandwiches, pork pies, quiches etc. and we were each given a goodie-bag to take home, which contained cakes and bread. It was a pity that Health and Safety regulations prevented our being able to go round the actual production areas, however it was an interesting and entertaining evening, and we gained some insight into the complexities of a business such as Chatwins. Our thanks to Peter Moxon for organising this trip.

***Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November. Chatsworth in Winter.***

We had an unforeseen delay at the start, but once on the road made good time, arriving at Chatsworth 10.45 a.m. It was then straight into the house to see the Christmas decorations which were bright and cheerful, giving a homely, relaxed and welcoming feel to every room, in sharp contrast to the mist and gloom of the cold November day.

The elegant staircases looked very impressive with festive garlands and swags extending over all floors and with candles glistening everywhere, the reflected light contributed to the atmosphere, as did the displays of 19<sup>th</sup> century costume.

An added attraction at Chatsworth this year is the exhibition to celebrate the life and work of Joseph Paxton, b. 1803. Paxton, as a young man, worked for the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke in the gardens at Chiswick and as a close friend moved with him in 1826 to take up the post of Head Gardener at Chatsworth. It was here that they worked together to create the lovely grounds and spectacular water features that visitors see today. Paxton's elegant 'wall' of greenhouses still stretches 331 ft up the hillside in a series of ascending steps but sadly his Great Conservatory (a forerunner of his successful design for Crystal Palace,



an essential part of the 1851 Great Industrial Exhibition in London) had to be demolished after becoming derelict during the first world war. A beautiful scale model of the Great Conservatory is on display at Chatsworth in the bi-centenary exhibition.

There was time for lunch and a quick visit to the shops where a selection of seasonal goods was available including examples of some of the decorations seen in the house, enabling visitors to recreate similar designs at home. Mid-afternoon our party made the short journey by coach to the Chatsworth Farm Shop in Pilsley village where more Christmas fare, of the edible and thirst-quenching variety, was on display to tempt the buyer.

Our visits to Chatsworth are always enjoyable and this was no exception – thank you, Josie, for arranging a lovely day out.

Margaret Thorley.

## TALKS

### ***Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. Jane Dew: “An Uncommon Thread”.***

The first talk of the season got off to an inauspicious start due to the erratic performance, or non-performance, of the projection equipment supplied by the Medical Institute. Jane Dew battled heroically despite the numerous forced asides whilst attempts were made to persuade the slides to change. She proved her versatility and we were treated to an account of the work of the Wardle family of Leek, and how they first produced dyed silk thread and then established the organisation to produce many fine embroidered textiles which found their way to churches, etc. both locally and further afield.

### ***Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. Colin Twist “History of the Liverpool Parks”***

A good number of members ventured out after one of the wettest and wildest days of the year to hear Colin Twist’s illustrated talk – and found it well worth the effort. He proved to be a good speaker with a wide knowledge of the local history of Liverpool and in particular of its parks. One tenth of the land area of Liverpool is parkland, and in 1767 the first park was established on the site of what is now the Anglican Cathedral. The first Botanic Garden was established in 1802, and included a greenhouse where plants could be cultivated after being brought back owing to the maritime connections of the port. In the mid 1830s the site had become encroached on and polluted by the town and was moved a couple of miles, only to be war-damaged and closed, before a third site was established in the 1960s.

We heard about the Liverpool Exhibition which was opened by Queen Victoria, about the Prince’s Park established in 1843, the Newsham house and park in 1868 (the house now being used as the Judges’ Lodgings), Stanley park in 1870, Sefton park, the largest park, in 1872 and many more. We were impressed with the wealth of parks available for visiting, and resolved to try to make a visit in the near future.

## JANUARY to APRIL 2004 PROGRAMME

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2004**

**Medical Institute 8.00pm**

**Arthur Slight: "A Journey Down the Gorges of the Yangtse River"**

Mr. Slight recently travelled extensively in China and made one of the last journeys down the gorges of the Yangtse prior to the flooding of the valley, so the views he enjoyed will not be seen again. In addition to describing this dramatic journey, he will tell us about his visit to the ancient city of Xian and the tomb of the terra-cotta soldiers, and his trip to the capital, Beijing, from where he went to see a section of the Great Wall. Come to Hartshill and be transported to the other side of the world!

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

**A DAY AT THE LOWRY. 45 max.**



**THE LOWRY**

The Lowry is set in a magnificent waterside location at the heart of redeveloped Salford Quays, Greater Manchester. An Arts Complex built for the 21<sup>st</sup> century it contains two theatres, bars, cafés, and restaurant as well as galleries housing a superb collection of the work of L.S. Lowry and changing exhibitions of contemporary art.

After refreshments on arrival there will be a guided tour of the award-winning building and a relaxed walk through the galleries led by a member of the gallery team. In the afternoon you are free to explore the Lowry further on your own, to visit the new **Imperial War Museum of the North** linked to the Lowry by a bridge across the Manchester Ship Canal or to shop in the newly opened **Designer Outlet** \*

Depart: 9.30 a.m. School Street, return 6.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £16.00 Price includes coach, gratuities, refreshments on arrival, building tour, gallery talk, VIP Discount Booklet with vouchers for use in the Designer Outlet\*.

Lunch NOT provided but easily obtainable in the Lowry or in the Designer Outlet\*. Numbers strictly limited to 45. Early bookings recommended. All bookings **must be received by January 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Apply to: Mrs P. Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 8AG Tel: 657645 enclosing SAE.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**Medical Institute 8.00 pm**

**Stephen Adams: "Leaving Little Moreton Hall"**

Those of you who have met Stephen Adams, or heard him talk about his job when he was Property Manager of Little Moreton Hall, will need no persuading to listen to his account of his new responsibilities at Dunham Massey. In his

characteristically humorous yet informative way he will enlighten us about the varied duties he now has in managing one of the largest of the National Trust's estates. This talk will be a treat we shall all enjoy.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March** **Medical Institute 8.00pm**  
**John Cooke: "The Toastmaster Talks"**

Whether you have ever attended a grand, formal ceremony or not, you are sure to be intrigued by John Cooke's account of the history and protocol of his profession as well as the stories he will relate of some of the many occasions at which he has presided. He has been a Toastmaster for 27 years and was the National President in the Millennium year. He has carried out his duties in a number of countries and promises us a talk on a most unusual subject, enlivened with amusing anecdotes.

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

**ERASMUS DARWIN CENTRE, LICHFIELD and CATTON HALL**

Darwin House, Lichfield, was the home of Erasmus Darwin, the renowned physician and scientist, from 1758 to 1781. A founder-member of the Lunar Society, it was here he received many 18<sup>th</sup> century notables, including Josiah Wedgwood, Matthew Boulton and Benjamin Franklin. We shall have coffee on arrival. The tour of the house includes an introductory video, the use of audio-guides and a guided tour of the house cellars, not normally open to the public. We shall be divided into groups for this.

After visiting Darwin House members are free to stroll around Lichfield and to get some lunch – perhaps in the Cathedral Refectory.

In the afternoon we shall have a private visit to Catton Hall, near Alrewas. Mrs Katie Neilson will tell us about her home, the Chapel and the Gardens. The Georgian Hall, designed by James Gibbs and completed by Smith of Warwick, houses antique furniture and fine 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings. During our guided tour we shall no doubt hear amazing stories of previous occupants of the house. Our visit will conclude with tea.

Depart: 9.00 a.m. School Street. Return 5.30 p.m. approx.

Cost: £22.25 Price includes coach, gratuities, entry, coffee and cellar tour at Darwin House, guided tour and tea at Catton Hall. **Booking closes March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

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

## LAKE DISTRICT HOLIDAY      September 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2004

We are planning a 4-day, 3-night holiday based in Grasmere, staying at the Thistle Hotel, which has attractive views over the lake and is 5 minutes walk from the village centre. There will be visits to Holker Hall, Sizergh Castle (NT), the Quaker Tapestry in Kendal, Blackwell House and other places of interest. For further details please complete the special booking form and return to Mrs A. Anderton **as soon as possible, because deposits will be required by 20<sup>th</sup> February** to comply with coach and hotel requirements.

### RE-ANNOUNCEMENT: HOLIDAY IN DEVON 16-20 May

This holiday will now be based in TAVISTOCK, a delightful Market Town at the edge of Dartmoor. The BEDFORD HOTEL, built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as the home of the Duke of Bedford's Agent, is situated in the main square and is "a real find" with well-appointed bedrooms, comfortable lounges and superb (AA two rosettes) food.

The programme of visits will include The Lost Gardens of Heligan – Lanhydrock – Cotehele – Buckland Abbey – a City Tour of Plymouth including the National Marine Aquarium and the Plymouth Gin Distillery and a Harbour Cruise – Hestercombe Gardens and Cothay Manor as well as views of some of the most stunning countryside and coastline scenery in England.

Cost £325 per person, which includes:

- ✓ Travel by Luxury Coach (on-board toilet)
- ✓ 4 nights' accommodation
- ✓ 4 full English breakfasts
- ✓ 4 three course dinners
- ✓ Welcome drink on arrival
- ✓ Coffee and lunch on day one
- ✓ All admissions and guiding fees
- ✓ Gratuities and portorage

**Two twin/double rooms only remaining**

Apply for booking form and detailed programme to:

Mrs P. Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 8AG

Tel: 657645 enclosing a large SAE.

