

North Staffordshire Association
of
National Trust Members

Newsletter 75

and

September to December 2006

Programme



Durham Cathedral and memorial

Land of the Prince Bishops

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS AND MEETINGS

Coaches depart promptly from SCHOOL STREET, Newcastle, behind the Swimming Baths. Nearby long-stay parking. Should a member cancel their booking it is regretted that reimbursement is only possible if there is a waiting list. There will be a £2 per cheque handling charge. Members are requested not to find their own replacement. Non-members taking part in coach outings pay an additional £1. The committee has agreed that with rising numbers it is only fair that members should have priority when booking trips and holidays.

Members are asked to note that it is not possible for the coach to stop at places other than School Street to pick people up or drop them off on the outward or return journeys. The coach will not wait for members who are late, either at School Street or at other pick up points. Members are advised to take careful note of when or where they will be picked up. Anyone missing a coach will have no claim on the Association.

Cheques to be made payable to the “**N. Staffs. Association of NT Members**”. Due to current banking procedure, please note that cheques are not cleared until after an event. Members are asked to write a separate cheque for each event they book.

Note: The committee does not consider it proper that an event should incur a loss and therefore reserves the right to cancel should there be insufficient support.

BOOKING FOR OUTINGS - Reminder from last Newsletter

The committee would like to urge all members to look carefully at what is involved in booking for an outing or a holiday. Consider the starting time, the length of the day, the amount of walking and stair-climbing involved, the number of times of getting on and off a coach, etc.

Please be sure you can manage all these independently and without help so that you can enjoy the day to the full by being able to participate in all aspects of the outing.

If you have not received acknowledgement of a booking within 2 weeks, please enquire as we believe that some bookings have recently gone astray in the post.

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

NEWSLETTER No. 75

AUGUST 2006

and September to December 2006 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

One of the principal purposes of all NT Associations is to raise money through social events and outings to donate to the National Trust. Those of you who attended the AGM on May 16th will have heard about some of our recent donations but I would like to explain to all our members just how much our donations are appreciated and to what good uses the money is put.

Prompted by our Vice- Chairman, Penny Moore, and also by Pat Bentley, who both work every week at Little Moreton Hall, we became aware of the urgent need for a sturdy ramp, with safety rails, that can provide the necessary access for disabled visitors which is now required by legislation. We were happy to send a cheque immediately for this so that the ramp could be available all summer, and we received a letter of grateful thanks.

They also need a new book display stand for the shop, where the present stand in such a small area presents problems for people in wheelchairs; again, we

were happy to donate the amount needed. Little Moreton Hall is the nearest NT property for most of us and many members feel a special affection for that beautiful house.

We also donated in the previous year £500 each to Moseley Old Hall, and Little Moreton Hall to



Anne Anderton, Penny Moore and Angela Davies investigate the new ramps

provide transport for two primary school visits to these properties. On the morning of the AGM Penny and I went to Moseley to see children from Crescent Primary at Meir enjoying a 'Living History' day. It is difficult for schools to afford coach transport and these children would not have made this visit without our help. The pupils, aged 7 and 8, were engaged in activities such as weaving, cooking, dancing and military drill (under the stern gaze of a very fierce-looking drill-sergeant!) all of which was carefully structured to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum to learn about Tudors and Stuarts. Their concentration was evident and they were simultaneously learning and enjoying themselves.

We felt that a relatively small amount of money had provided many children with an enriching experience and some of them may become NT members in the future!

Since then I have received a selection of letters which children from Friarswood Primary School wrote to Little Moreton Hall following their visit in May. It is clear that these children had great fun while learning about life in Tudor times. The covering letter from the Head Teacher states:

"Super visit; appropriate activities; excellent guides; organisation and management brilliant"

I make no excuse for a much longer 'Note' than usual as I'm sure members will be pleased to read about these visits.

Best wishes Anne Anderton



History Lessons NT Style

Sorry you will not be able to see this in colour; the drill sergeant and the 'recruits' are all wearing red uniforms.

HELP NEEDED

We have two opportunities for people to help on an occasional basis which would be very valuable for the Association but would not mean joining a committee! If either appeals to you, please contact any member of the committee as we do need 'More Hands'!

Helping with just ONE event would be most useful.

- 1 A SUPPORTER is needed to assist the organiser of each day's outing, to count numbers, check off names, help people on and off coaches, go to collect tickets from a venue and generally know what the arrangements for the day are. This could be a different person for each outing.
- 2 LUNCHEON CLUB - some Associations run a Luncheon Club which is purely a social event. The Organiser publishes a list of dates and venues (perhaps once every 2 months) and members contact that person to book places then simply turn up on the day and pay at the venue for their lunch. Very little work is involved – it might appeal to a couple or two friends who would enjoy researching possible venues and taking bookings.

We look forward to hearing from some Volunteers.

CHANGE TO OUR CONSTITUTION

At the AGM two amendments to the constitution were passed; please insert these in your copy -

- i) Amend K from end of line 5 onwards to read: "All surplus funds shall in due course be donated to the National Trust or to specific National Trust appeals. The Committee may from time to time in the absolute discretion of a simple majority of the whole Committee make donations on behalf of the Association to the National Trust or to specific National Trust appeals. Funds must be disbursed in accordance with this constitution".
- ii) Amend M (v) to read: ".....receive a report upon any funds donated during the financial year to the National Trust or to specific National Trust appeals by the Committee in accordance with clause K and to approve the Committee's recommendations for donating the balance of any surplus funds to the National Trust or to any specific National Trust appeals".

The purpose of these amendments is to clarify what is already existing practice.

SPRING PROGRAMME

REPORT ON TALKS

Tuesday 16th May 26th AGM 7.00 pm Medical Institute Hartshill

TALK: RICHARD KEMP: THE RESTORATION OF THE WALLED GARDEN AT SHUGBOROUGH

Following the A.G.M. we had a most entertaining and provocative talk by Richard Kemp who is General Manager at **Shugborough**.

He is employed by the Staffordshire County Council and has taken on a huge restoration project of a walled garden and more general work to make it a more popular visitor attraction. He began by giving us a short history of the Estate. The Anson family purchased Shugborough in 1624 and from 1693 the house was transformed. The 1st Earl of Lichfield led an extravagant life which led to his financial collapse in 1842 and the estate was heavily mortgaged. On the death of the 4th Earl, the park, house and contents were offered to the National Trust in lieu of death duties. The property was then leased to Staffordshire County Council.

The National Trust had no control over specific events and Richard Kemp felt that many of them were inappropriate. He realised that Shugborough isn't the greatest stately house, nor does it have the most wonderful of contents, but its unique point is its completeness, which he intends to emphasize along with its monuments, Doric Temple and amazing landscape.

Today Shugborough is the UK's only **Complete Working Historic Estate**, encompassing working kitchens, laundry, dairy, water mill, brew house and farm, where you can enjoy multi-sensory experiences which operated in the 1800's. The last part of the project is to restore to glory the walled garden of Thomas Anson 1805 due to be opened by the Earl of Lichfield on June 16th 2006.

It was once a horticultural centre of excellence, renowned across the country for its revolutionary gardening techniques. It was designed by the architect Samuel Wyatt. Gardeners (as characters in 1805) will plant varieties of fruit and vegetables, using historically accurate tools, and experiment with fertilisers and pesticides in use in 1805.

A new entrance is being installed, and the visitors' first experience will be the walled garden leading to the farm, dairy, brewery, servants' quarters and house - in fact '**from fork to fork**'.

The Café's food will relate to its surroundings and be inspired by the past, and hopefully the Estate will not continue to lose £1/2 million of the tax payers' money, and will put Staffordshire on the map.

REPORTS ON VISITS

Wednesday April 5th 2006 STOKE-ON-TRENT Waste to Energy Plant (Incinerator) Campbell Road, Sideway, Stoke-on Trent

As members gathered in the Conference Room at the **incinerator**, through the windows they witnessed an endless queue of refuse lorries waiting to discharge their loads into the gigantic receiving hopper.. The plant Maintenance Manager gave members a brief history of the plant which was built 8 years ago at a cost of £50 million by a French Company, MES Ltd who still own and operate the plant.

In brief, most local authorities in North Staffordshire pay MES a charge per ton to deposit their refuse in the incinerator. The refuse is burned at a temperature in excess of 1000 degrees centigrade. The refuse is self combustible and no fuel is required. The heat drives turbines which generate 25% of the electricity consumed in the Stoke-on-Trent area and which is sold to and fed into the National Grid. The residual ash is sold by MES for use in the construction of motorways and for the manufacture of breeze blocks. A small amount of unconsumed metal is extracted from the ash magnetically and sold separately. The emission from the chimney is negligible, mainly comprising a little water vapour on a cold morning.

The plant, mostly computer operated, is manned 24 hrs per day by a workforce of 31 during daytime and 4 during the night time.

In the years ahead as members discard their rubbish in their wheely bins, they will reflect upon a most interesting visit and be comforted by the knowledge that at least in Stoke-on-Trent the nation's refuse is being disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

Saturday, April 29th, 2006 BLETCHLEY PARK –World War II Secret Intelligence Establishment

What a fascinating day! We had an early start in fine weather, which was a real blessing. I had a vague mental picture of **Bletchley Park** - a large house set in extensive grounds, which became "Station X" during WW2, and was home to a number of highly intelligent people including Alan Turing, famed for having broken the "**Enigma**" code. Little did I know what an amazing story was about to be revealed!

As the coach wound its way carefully through the Park, we began to realise the scale of the site, with its "blocks" of concrete buildings, cottages and outhouses - and a lake and gardens. The coach drew up outside the Mansion, where we were given audio guides and welcome refreshments in the NAAFI. Afterwards, most of us opted for the guided tour, given by Nick Miers, who began with a short history of the house, and an explanation of the mind-boggling complexity of the Enigma machine. We then toured the site, learning amazing facts and figures about the work which, by Churchill's estimate, shortened the war by two years.

At its height, Bletchley had over 10,000 people working in shifts round the clock, including some 40 dispatch riders per hour bringing documents from the radio receiving stations all over the country. No-one lived on site, and everyone was sworn to complete secrecy - so intense that no "hut" knew what went on anywhere else. The complexity of the decoding task inspired the design of special machines - first the "Bombe", and then the "Colossus", which was the forerunner of modern computers.

After a delayed lunch (faulty toaster automatically called the Fire Brigade!) we spent the afternoon visiting just some of the exhibits, including a cinema showing WW2 newsreels and a museum of Churchilliana, and after further welcome refreshments we made the return trip in a smooth 2 hours. Many thanks to Keith Walker for organising a wonderful day.

T Cliffe

Northumbria and the Land of the Prince Bishops

Sunday 7th–Thursday 11th May 2006

This holiday was notable for spring sunshine, broad vistas of hills and gorse, and inspiring buildings. **Sunday** brought us to **Durham**. We walked through

ancient streets to explore the largely Norman, pillared **cathedral**. Then Tom, a most articulate student, introduced us to the **Castle** (founded in the 1070s, now part of the University) and its history, including the ghost and the ingenious incumbent who ensured himself a hot dinner by causing the necessary blessing for every diner's platter to be carved over the serving hatch obviating the need to utter it himself. A final surprise was the semi-subterranean Norman chapel, bricked up for many years, and used as an RAF ops room during the war.

On Monday we drove to **Newcastle** to meet Blue Badge guide, Jan Williams, for a tour of the city, its river, bridges, modern and 18th century buildings. The area, which includes **Grey Street**, was designed and developed as a unity, and built surprisingly quickly. We walked across the new bridge whose design is based on a human eye blinking, towards the **Sage Centre** and the **Baltic Exchange** where we found lunch.

Then to **Wallington** (1688) buff stone frontage facing wide lawn and open country. Inside, was the porcelain collection, family portraits, a central court with wall paintings by Pre-Raphaelites where Northumbrian pipes were being played, some remarkably elaborate door pediments and the dolls' house collection including one which was four or five rooms long on two floors, and two rooms deep, each furnished and peopled for different purposes. The walled garden was a delight of small enclosures differently planted.

Jan Williams returned after dinner to talk interestingly about **Northumberland**.

Tuesday was an outdoor day, first at **Beamish Open Air Museum** (buildings of various dates) where you can travel round the site by tram. The Manor House, Home Farm, village street and so on have people in costume working, chatting with visitors and generally being part of the scene. The hardware shop was fascinating – many conversations on the lines of " We had one of those". The row of houses furnished for the occupation of solicitor, music teacher and dentist was full of contemporary objects, though only the bravest went into the dentist's.

Next destination was the **Souter Lighthouse** (1871) where some climbed up to the lamp and all found the explanatory film of interest.

We drove back via the **Angel of the North** and there was time for an idyllic walk in evening sunshine to **Causey Bridge** (c.1725), near the hotel.



A picture from Beamish Village Tearooms

On **Wednesday** we were at **Alnwick** (owned by Percy family since 1309), pale gold stone and black shadows set against curving hills. We first saw the new garden through the lofty modern entrance, the cascade seen across grass, making glittering shapes against the leafy background. In the **Serpent Garden** water swirls and ripples in and around smooth stainless steel structures; in the **Poison Garden** many dangers lurk.

After supper our driver, Dave, gave us a tour of **Newcastle illuminated at night**.

Leaving our hotel on **Thursday** we drove to **Raby** (built mainly in 14th C). Here the family possessions had been much depleted by a reluctant and vengeful mother-in-law. The chapel, now accessible, had been bricked up for 200 years. Social history was revealed in the housekeeper's room which had a hip bath, unlike rooms for other servants; also she could keep her own clothes in her room.

Our final visit was to the **Bowes Museum**, built in French chateau style, with furniture, ceramics and the intriguing silver swan that moves. A bonus was the exhibition of Turner's paintings of the North East, with excellent explanatory panels.

After a strengthening tea we drove in evening light through rolling countryside to the M6 and home.

Our grateful thanks are due to Dave and especially to Penny Moore who once again had given us a memorable trip.

Georgina Pritchard

Wednesday 24th May Car Outing to Henbury Hall, Henbury, Nr Macclesfield & Adlington Hall, Nr Macclesfield.

Torrential rain and flooded roads as we set out were replaced by sunshine beyond Macclesfield, resulting in **Henbury Hall** standing out white against a blue sky. Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, of the well-known engineering family, explained that when he pulled down the original house, riddled with dry rot, he replaced it with a French stone house in the style of Romano, a predecessor of Palladio, a smaller house which he described as 'a retirement cottage'. Over the original cellars, kitchens and utility rooms on the ground floor gave way to a central hall with living rooms off, and four bedrooms, each with bathroom and dressing room, above. Some approached these by way of the chinoiserie-decorated lift, others by a spiral staircase.

We were struck by the light which poured in, and the marvellous views in every direction. In addition to perfectly restored furniture (horsehair fabric to cover chairs, as Chippendale used, for instance) and attention to detail throughout, the collection of art work took the breath away, from the Edward Lear landscapes, the Graham Sutherland on the landing and John Piper in the hall to the Zefferelli sketch in one of the guest bathrooms.

In the gardens, bright with azaleas, we discovered the ornate conservatory which concealed a swimming pool with jacuzzi and the gravity-fed fountain in the lower of two lakes. We left just as rain began to fall.

Meeting up after lunch, we were able to contrast **Adlington Hall**, the Great Hall on the site of a hunting lodge dating from the Norman Conquest and the Hall having been in the ownership of the Legh family since 1315. Two oak trees, carbon-dated 800 AD, support the restored and fully-working double organ, c.1690 in the Great Hall. Here we also saw 16-17th Century wall paintings showing the siege of Troy, uncovered behind the plaster and remarkably vivid in colour. Handel visited several times, playing the organ and writing a hunting song, words by Charles Legh, the manuscript being on show upstairs.

After a delicious afternoon tea, some of us were able to walk off the effects by exploring the maze or walking down to the shell house in the grounds. A lovely day of contrasts. Thank you, Peter, for organising it.

Cath Hayes

Tuesday 6th June 2006 Car Outing to Barlaston Hall

It was a beautiful summer's evening when Mr and Mrs Hall welcomed us to **Barlaston Hall** and we enjoyed a glass of wine as Mr Hall told us something of the history of the house. As most local people know, it had fallen into a considerable state of decay and was also undermined by coal workings but was saved from demolition in the 1980s by a strong local campaign and the support in parliament of Michael Heseltine.

Mr Hall explained that the necessary underpinning and some restoration work had already been completed when they bought the house in the early 1990s. Research suggested that the architect was Robert Taylor and in his archive were sketches which gave them the inspiration for restoring the entrance hall of this Palladian-style building and also for introducing some rococo plasterwork decoration into the dining room. In here are also two large portraits, one an 18th century style family group and one a companion piece of the Hall family.

From the elegant saloon we had extensive views over the Trent valley and in the library we heard the story of the silver cigarette-box given to Mr Hall by someone who had lived there when the Bank of England staff were evacuated to Trentham during World War Two!

Finally we saw the wonderful stairwell with its rebuilt, delicate-looking stairs and banisters and we were more than ever impressed that the owners had the vision and determination to oversee such an extensive programme of reconstruction. Many thanks to Anne Anderton for arranging the visit.

Thursday 15th June Coach Outing to Oundle & Elton Hall, Northamptonshire

A market has been held every Thursday since 972 AD in **Oundle**, just west of the A1 and south of Stamford. In this quiet part of the UK - 'like the Cotswolds without the crowds' - we ventured forth to appreciate the gleaming white 17th century buildings under their darker Collyweston tiles, and to admire in particular the Talbot Hotel, the wonderful church, and the magnificent buildings that comprise Oundle School.



We then journeyed a few miles north to visit **Elton Hall**, home of the Proby family for over 350 years. Set in fine gardens, this part Gothic mansion incorporates a 15th century mediaeval chapel amongst its interior of many styles. Another claim to fame is a superb collection of 18th and 19th century furniture and paintings, including ones by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Alma Tadema. The library contains a copy of Henry VIII's prayerbook, annotated in his own hand, as well as instructions to Proby from the then Earl Spenser on how to prepare for and grovel suitably during a visit of Queen Mary. Ending with a cream tea in the garden centre at Elton, this trip was one of considerable contrasts. Our thanks to Penny for organising such a splendid day.

JH & RW

Friday 30th June Car Outing to Clifton Hall, Clifton Campville, Nr. Tamworth

Thanks to Peter Moxon for organising such an interesting visit to **Clifton Hall**. Once Mr Blount had driven up and opened the gate for us (we were early of course!), we were onto an enthralling afternoon visit. Mr Blount had

bought the house when it was a ruin and unoccupied for 30 years and had restored it to its Georgian best (with a few bits of Victoriana). His 'before and after' photographs emphasised the hard work that had gone into achieving his home. We had a tour of the exterior first with Mr Blount explaining the finer points of the building. We admired his fountain and the walled garden before being led inside to tour the house. Mr Blount was an informative guide and pointed out where he had been able to retain original features. Although not an overlarge house, it still had 48 windows so everywhere was light and airy. Over tea and biscuits Mr Blount answered many questions and explained that his father (a young 72) had restored Staunton Harold while he worked on Clifton Hall and other projects. Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon and it was a pleasure to be guided by such a knowledgeable owner who showed what could be achieved by an enthusiast.

Madeleine Hopley

Thursday 20 July Car Outing to Pradoc, West Felton, Oswestry, Shropshire

Colonel John Kenyon, OBE MC was a genial, amusing and informative host, who obviously highly valued his family's association with **Pradoc** and delighted in telling family anecdotes, recalling family history and ancestors. Pradoc was built as a Vicarage property in 1785 which proved to be too costly and so the Colonel's great great grandfather bought the house which still contains most of the original furniture. Colonel Kenyon has lived at Pradoc for over 70 years since the age of 7 years. The house has not always followed the direct family line as his grandfather acquired the property from his uncle, whose children did not wish to live at Pradoc; similarly upon Colonel Kenyon's death the property will pass to his nephew as neither of Colonel Kenyon's sons wish to inherit, one living in Australia and the other has made his own life as a Principal Librarian in the South West.

Members toured the house with Colonel Kenyon and toured the garden, outbuildings and immediate surroundings with an assistant from New Zealand. Every year 3 or 4 New Zealanders come to Pradoc for several months to assist with the -maintenance and running of the property. The property is gently and sympathetically maintained with loving care. Upon leaving Pradoc, members visited the family church which is filled with tombs, plaques and relics of past members of the family many of whom attained senior posts in the forces or

other professions. Members reflected with appreciation upon Colonel Kenyon's kindness and hospitality as they enjoyed their picnics in the garden or in front of the house enjoying the magnificent views over the parkland. Our thanks also to Peter Moxon for organising the visit

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

TALKS

Wednesday 11th October 2006 8.00 pm Medical Institute Hartshill

TERRY WOOLLISCROFT: THE TALE OF THE TOILET

You will laugh and learn simultaneously at this most interesting talk; after all, the subject is one with which we are all familiar several times each day. Terry Woolliscroft, who has a degree in Ceramic Technology, was formally trained at Wedgwood's and Staffordshire University and is now Customer Training Manager at **Twyford Bathrooms**, which some members visited a few years ago. He is responsible for the company archive, so has the opportunity to research the history of the sanitary ware industry, and he is also involved in product development work. In 2002 he led the team which helped bring the Gladstone Pottery Museum's sanitary ware gallery into being.

Terry has travelled the world presenting this history of the humble toilet and his talk takes us from Roman times to the present day and looks at possible future developments. He includes many early local photos of the industry and some early film of working at Twyford's in Cliff Vale. You will realise how much you do not know about this everyday topic from hearing and seeing his presentation.

Tuesday 21st November 8.00 pm Medical Institute Hartshill

MARK PARKINSON: RUBBISH! - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Because so many people found the trip to the incinerator fascinating, we are sure members will enjoy this talk. Mark and a colleague will talk to us on the regeneration of waste in the whole of Staffordshire from the wheelie bin at the kerbside to the final product. This is a lively and interesting look at this very

modern subject. Mark has some very unusual pictures of the processes involved.

We will be able to see the whole operation from start to finish and the use which is made of the results of this process.

Thursday 14th December 2006 CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Will be held this year at THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE (under its new guise as the North Staffs Conference Centre) is now able to offer Christmas Fare. This is a venue very well known and liked by everyone. Ann Bentley has promised an excellent lunch and festive decorations at the centre.

The menu will be:

Starter Creamy Vegetable Soup; Melon Fan with Raspberry Coulis; Paté Maison

Main Course Roast Turkey; Grilled Darn of Salmon; Roasted Vegetable Tartlet; all accompanied by Crispy Roast Potatoes, Boiled Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Sweet Christmas Pudding; Lemon Torte

Coffee and Mince Pies

Please state your choice of starter main course and sweet on the special booking form. 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 pm Cost £16.95 Members (Non Members £17.95)

Apply Miss A Aubrey 10 Paris Avenue Newcastle ST5 2RQ Tel 01782 623214

Please enclose SAE. Booking closes 4th December 2006

VISITS

Wednesday 13th September 2006 Coach Trip to Buxton

We will leave School Street at 9.30 am and travel to **Buxton**. On arrival at approx. 10.30 we will have coffee/tea and biscuits in the Pavilion restaurant. Richard Tuffrey, who came and gave us such an



Buxton Theatre

interesting talk on the history, architecture and aesthetics of this conservation area, and a fellow guide will collect us from the restaurant and take us on a conducted tour of the regeneration sites. Some members of the Historic Buildings Trust attended Richard Tuffrey's talk and may also wish to join us on a joint outing to Buxton.

After the trip we will be free to purchase our lunch at one of the many restaurants – perhaps in the domed building now used by Derby University – but is available for light lunches.

We shall leave Buxton at 4.30pm.

Depart 9.30 from School Street. Return approx 5.30 pm

Cost £10 (Non members £11) includes coach, gratuities, all admission fees and guiding charges, coffee/tea and biscuits on arrival.

Apply Miss A Aubrey 10 Paris Avenue Newcastle ST5 2RQ Tel 01782 623214

Please enclose SAE. Bookings close 4th September 2006

Thursday 28th September 2006 Coach Outing to Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall.

Bolsover Castle has a magnificent setting on a ridge and gives splendid views over the Peak District. The present buildings were begun by Charles Cavendish, son of Bess of Hardwick, using the same architect as Hardwick Hall, and on his death in 1617 by his son William. William Cavendish constructed an indoor riding hall and magnificent state apartments (now only shells)



Bolsover Castle

which in 1634 housed the court of Charles I, on which occasion Ben Jonson's "Love's Welcome" was first performed. The highlight of the castle is the "keep", designed with romantic intentions, still largely intact and being faithfully restored by English Heritage. Each room has a theme and has appropriate decorations, many of them erotic.

On arrival coffee and biscuits will be provided, and there will be an opportunity to pre-order a light lunch, although, weather permitting, there are ample facilities for picnics. A free audio tour is provided.

After lunch, we will make the short coach trip to Hardwick Hall (National Trust), Bess of Hardwick's magnificent residence with its splendid furniture and textiles. Members will be free to visit at will, and can also visit the shell of the Old Hall (English Heritage).

Depart 9.30am from School Street. Return by approximately 6.00pm.

Cost: £16.00 (non-members £17.00) includes coach, admission to Bolsover Castle, coffee and driver's gratuity. English Heritage members may deduct £4.50. N..T. Cards needed

Apply to Mr K.Walker, 49, Stockwood Road Newcastle, ST5 3LQ, Tel. 01782 613813,

Please enclose SAE and indicating if you belong to English Heritage. Bookings close Tuesday 19th September..

Wednesday 1st November-Coach Trip to Manchester and Chetham's School (Maximum 30 people)

Chetham's is a long established co-educational independent school at the forefront of musical education in the UK and abroad. Entry is selective and is based on musical expertise. It is also one of the highest ranked independent schools for GCSE and A-level.

Our afternoon visit, beginning at 1.35pm, will consist of a concert given by students in the school library. After a short break when tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, there will be a conducted tour of the buildings lasting about 45minutes.

The library is situated on the first floor of the building and is unfortunately not accessible to anyone using a wheelchair or with severe walking difficulties.

The morning will be spent at leisure in **Manchester**.

Depart 9.30am from School Street Return approx. 6pm.

Cost £16.50 (£17.50 for non-members) to include coach, gratuities, light refreshments at Chetham's, concert and tour of the buildings.

Please apply to Mrs J Scholes, Thornhill, Sandybrook Lane, Leek ST13 5RZ Tel 01538 388442

Please enclose SAE. Bookings close Monday October 16th

Monday 11th November 2006 Car Outing with a difference to Little Moreton Hall 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Little Moreton Hall says Thank You

The Administrator invites all members of the Association to a private view of the Hall decorated for Christmas in traditional Tudor style as a "thank you" for all our recent donations. Tea and delicious home made mince pies with cream will also be provided. The shop will be open all afternoon for your last minute Christmas shopping.. (Note:This event is available only to members of the Association.) Cost:£2.50

Apply to : Mrs.P.Moore 26 Parkway Trentham Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8AG

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Bookings close 4th November 2006

Saturday, December 2nd, ARLEY HALL CHRISTMAS FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA & CRAFT FAIR. COACH OUTING.

One of Cheshire's most charming country houses, the Hall was built between 1832 and 1845 by Roland Egerton -Warburton and is a fine example of the Victorian Jacobean style. Each of the main rooms is given its own individual character and traditional charm by the elaborate plasterwork, wood panelling, furniture, family portraits and porcelain.

Come and view the Hall magnificently decorated ,with fresh flowers, by the Cheshire ladies of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies. Members will be able to purchase gifts from the Craft and Gift Fair organized by Cheshire Fayre. The Hall also has its own Gift Shop.

Refreshments available (at own cost) in the Tudor Barn Restaurant.

Depart 10am School Street, returning to Newcastle at approximately 4pm.

Cost :-£14.00 (Non-Members £15.00) to include coach, entry to Hall and gratuities.

Please apply to Miss Sue Pitt, 196 Dimsdale Parade West, Wolstanton, Newcastle, ST5 8EA Tel: 01782 566871

Please enclose SAE. Bookings close on 20th November.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2007

We have an exciting programme being prepared for next year. In particular please note the holiday planned for May. Details have been included on the separate sheets with the booking forms

Thursday , February 22nd Talk by Ian Morison from Jodrell Bank

COMMITTEE 2005 - 2006

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