

North Staffordshire Association
of
National Trust Members
Newsletter 81
and
September to December 2008

Programme

Last few
places left -
needs prompt
booking



Autumn Programme includes trips to the Ludlow Food Festival; The Lakes and Sizergh Castle; and Gloucester Cathedral as well as talks and the return of the Luncheon Club.



ADVANCE NOTICE SEE CENTRE PAGES

SPRING HOLIDAY 2009

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS

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.

For Your Safety and Enjoyment

Please look carefully at what is involved in an outing or a holiday before booking. 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. so that you can enjoy the day to the full by being able to participate in all aspects of the outing. **If you have a problem with mobility or hearing, for example, please let the organiser know as soon as possible and we will try to arrange some help but we cannot guarantee to do so.**

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.

Supporters for Trips

Our coach trip organisers need sometimes to be in two places at once. We hope for each trip that there will be a supporter who can help them.

All our trips this summer need a volunteer supporter. Please help if you can - speak to the trip organiser.

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

NEWSLETTER No. 81

AUGUST 2008

and September to December 2008 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

The Summer programme will be nearly over by the time you read this and once again we have had a full and varied programme of events, which has produced some notable highlights and delighted those who have taken part. Our thanks for all this go to the many people, both committee members and others, who have done all the organising. They cheerfully undertake all the planning, preliminary visits, arranging refreshments, calculating costs and being in charge on the day to ensure that all goes smoothly. The sincere tanks they receive when the trips are over are their real reward.

Also deserving thanks are those who write the reports. They sometimes have to be 'persuaded' that they have sufficient literary skills and often profess themselves unworthy of such a momentous task – yet the pieces they produce remind us of the pleasures of an outing and reveal their powers of observation. I have frequently been amazed at what they have seen during a visit that has escaped my notice, or the details of a talk they recall which I have forgotten. Perhaps making occasional notes increases ones attention and enjoyment, so more of us should volunteer for the task! I believe that those members who did not attend the events are also interested to read about what took place, which is another justification for the excellent reports we publish. We must also acknowledge the splendid job done by our Newsletter Editor who collates and arranges all the copy and liaises with Roy Chesworth, our printer. Copies are then handed over to Keith Walker for putting in envelopes and posting.

LUNCHEON CLUB MEETINGS

The popular Luncheon Club restarts with a mouth-watering selection of hostelrys.



From the complimentary copies of other local Newsletters which our Secretary receives, we know that other Associations sometimes use our ideas for outings or talks, as we do theirs, and that like us they rely on a band of volunteers for all the necessary work to keep the Association in being. However, we read an increasing number of pleas for more help and new committee members. As one Chairman succinctly put it in a recent Newsletter – “No committee – no outings!” At the moment our Association is in good health, although total membership is slowly falling, but we do need younger people to join us and as much help as possible to maintain our successful programme.

I hope you feel that the Autumn programme looks as interesting as ever and deserves your support.

Best wishes, Anne Anderton

REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

Tuesday 11th March – Talk by Jane Bradney : Follies and Grottoes

The evening began with a warm welcome, from Anne Anderton, to members who had recently joined our Association.

Jane Bradney, our speaker, from Ross-on-Wye, is currently doing research into aspects of garden history and design at Bristol University.

Her talk, illustrated by some excellent slides, traced the history of follies and grottoes from beginnings in the 16th Century up to the present day. She explained the tradition of follies was to deceive the eye, and many were built in memory of a loved one. The origin of the grotto, a small picturesque cave, came to this country from the Palace on Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore, Italy.

We were shown some fascinating buildings, many eccentric, as we journeyed through time. To mention but a few: the 16th Century triangular lodge at Rushton Hall, depicting religious symbolism. On into the 17th Century we saw the Dunmore Pineapple described as the most beautiful of garden buildings, you may not visit it, but you may rent it as a holiday home! The high point of folly building in this country came in the 18th Century. We were shown the landscape garden at Stowe, described as the grandest of garden buildings. On into the 19th Century we were given examples from our local area – the valley garden of Alton Towers and the

unique pyramid topiary and rockwork of Biddulph Grange. The 20th Century marked a decline in folly building which has seen a revival since the Millennium.

Jane's lively presentation gave us a most entertaining evening.

Sue Pitt.

Tuesday 8th April 2008 Coach Outing to Belvoir Castle and Woolsthorpe Manor

This was a day of contrasts, not least the ever-changing spring weather! As we approached Belvoir across the greening Lincolnshire countryside it was easy to see why the magnificently-commanding site had been chosen by the castle's original Norman builder. Yet this was also a disadvantage, for Belvoir became a prize to be fought for, or destroyed, during the Wars of the Roses and the Civil War. And the castle we now see is a relatively modern 18th C and 19th c building.

Members spent the morning either touring the castle with an expert guide who gave us fascinating details of the history, buildings, furnishings, paintings and weaponry on display, or strolling at their own pace around the many rooms and grounds open to the public. Lunch was taken in the Stewards Room Restaurant or as a picnic in the gardens, dodging the showers.

After lunch a short ride took us on to Woolsthorpe Manor, the solid 17thC farmstead where Sir Isaac Newton was born in 1642. The enthusiastic Education Team welcomed us and, after dividing us into smaller groups more suitable to the smaller property, showed us a brief information film and then took us on a guided tour.

No opulent furnishings here but rather the plain and serviceable trappings of farming life. Here the family portraits were replaced with graffiti showing wool-production tallies and farm hands wages. In the large kitchen one could imagine the busy life of the successful sheep farm.

Perhaps most intimate was the room used by the young Newton on his return from Cambridge, and in which he did his most ground breaking work in mathematics and Physics when he was "in the prime of my age for invention". Just beyond the house was the orchard containing a descendant of the apple tree under which he sat when first formulating his ideas about gravity.

Many of us would have liked to stay longer, playing with the wonderful Newtonian gadgets in the Science Discovery Centre, where we were also provided with tea and biscuits, but time ran out. Our thanks must go to Keith

and Judith Walker for organising such an interesting day out to these two very different but complementary properties

Chris Francis

Tuesday 22nd April Car Outing to Apedale Heritage Centre, Loomer Rd, Chesterton, Newcastle, Staffordshire (40 members max)

The Heritage Centre opened in 2001 on the site of the Apedale Mine and is run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

After a short introductory talk by Barrie Collinson, we split into two groups, one going down the mine while the other toured the Museum. We swapped over after a cup of tea in the cafe.

Having been kitted out with the necessary equipment, the mine group set off with an experienced miner. Initially, the ceiling height is quite low but it gradually opens up. You get the impression that the miners have just gone off shift and left all their equipment ready to start the next day. It is cold and in places damp but under normal working conditions would have been very hot. Coal is obvious all around you. We heard of small children pushing/pulling coal wagons, later this was done by ponies. You leave the mine in no doubt about the dreadful and dangerous conditions in which miners worked. Between 100 and 140 men were employed there and it twice broke National records for output. This is where the last coal was mined in Staffordshire, the mine closing in 1998.

The Museum gives you a clear picture of why the Apedale Valley was so important. It had rich coal deposits along with ironstone and clay, resources the Romans were using in the first century AD to make pottery and iron goods. You can follow the history of the area from Roman times; see archaeological “finds”; discover the lost canals of North Staffordshire; and see a reproduction of a miner’s cottage. There are examples of everything connected with mining, including accounts of pit disasters.

Also on display are some locomotives belonging to the Moseley Railway Trust who are gradually moving to Apedale. They have examples of locomotives used on the industrial narrow gauge system – now almost extinct.

Apedale is well worth a visit, particularly if you can find a volunteer to pass on their wealth of knowledge.

Finally, thanks to Peter Moxon for arranging another fascinating and enjoyable trip.

Joan Hawe??

Sunday 27th April Ramble “Norbury and beyond”

In his report on the ramble around Country Parks and Biddulph Grange in November 2007, Peter Wilson wrote that he hoped that more than 9 ramblers would follow Richard Adams’s lead for the next ramble. Well, Peter’s hopes were certainly realised and 25 ramblers reported to the car park of the Junction Inn at Norbury Junction ready and eager to undertake a 6 mile walk around Norbury and the Shropshire Union Canal. The weather forecast was predicting rain but it proved to be excellent walking weather both warm and dry. Richard set off in the lead, rather like the pied piper, with a queue in crocodile formation following him through open country and along the banks of the canal. As he gained confidence in the group’s rambling abilities he slipped further down the queue and directed us from the rear for the rest of the ramble.

In no time at all we had a pit stop at the Anchor Inn. We sat at picnic tables on the pub lawn enjoying our drinks and marvelling at our guide dog, Stella, who enjoyed a packet of crisps straight from the bag! After a further 20 minutes walking we arrived back at the Norbury Junction Inn for a fine carvery lunch.

A ramble and a lunch around a large table is an excellent way to meet other members of the Association in a relaxed and an informal manner. Many thanks to Richard Adams for making all the arrangements and ensuring that we did not get lost!

Peter Thompson

Wednesday 7th May 2008 Coach Outing to Princes Rd. Synagogue and the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

If you are only going to see inside one synagogue a good one to choose would be that on Princes Road in Liverpool. Built in 1847 from a design by William and George Audsley in the Moresque style, in it’s grander days it boasted minarets adorning this magnificent brick and red granite house of worship. Inside it is laid out like a Gothic basilica with an ornate platform or “bima”, a colonnaded pulpit and a Byzantine Ark to hold the Scrolls of the Torah, a vision of polished marble decorated with gilded acanthus.

We were greeted warmly and given an informative talk by Naomi Hoyland who told us she had worshipped there all her life and sung in the choir since the age

of three. She gave us a picture of the Jewish community in Liverpool and also an insight into their culture and religious beliefs.

Staying in the 19thC for our afternoon visit it was all aboard for the Walker Art Gallery and “Art in the Age of Steam”, a celebration of trains in art featuring works by Frith – who popularised art and trains - Monet, Manet and Hopper among others as well as snippets of train related films such as Brief Encounter. The addition of 21stC technology meant that we were also able to view “Rain, Steam and Speed” by JMW Turner which is considered too fragile to travel but was visible on a webcam from it’s home in the National Gallery.

Liverpool is wearing its best clothes this year as European City of Culture and we were treated to an excellent day out, thanks are due to Rose for her efficient organising and Colin for his professional driving.

Sarah Akhtar

Thursday 14th May 2008 10.00am. Car Outing to the RAF Museum at Cosford.

Sufficient numbers for a guided tour around the National Cold War Exhibition gathered at RAF Cosford for morning coffee and Danish Pastries in two distinct groups. One group being cheerful and enthusiastic about the day ahead and the other group, who were mainly partners of members of the first group, who felt that they had been brought to Cosford under duress! After all, to see military aeroplanes that no longer fly and to hear all about cold war topics is probably not every ones idea of a good day out.

The cold war hangar is a magnificent, inspiring, silver building filled to the brim with aeroplanes and other military equipment connected with the cold war era (1947 - 1991). We all lived through that period and it was quite chilling to discover how close we were to a third world war especially at the time of the Cuban missile crisis. The exhibits were all in excellent condition and were either parked or suspended from the ceiling to give us a good view of them all. Everyone, including those who arrived under duress, was pleasantly surprised and impressed by the exhibition and considered that the tour had been a very worthwhile experience.

After lunch we were free to continue exploring the remainder of the exhibits at the RAF Museum on our own. There were experimental, second world war and post cold war aircraft to be seen in 2 other hangars. There was also an educational section to learn practically about the principles of flight, aviation

medicine and there was an opportunity to drop a load from a model aeroplane onto a target and to see where it landed!

All enjoyed an interesting and educational day and the excellent sunny weather made the drive to and from Cosford an absolute pleasure.

Tuesday May 20th AGM and talk by Steve Bartlett Echoes of the Stage

The Chairman reported on another successful year with a total of 36 outings taking place. With some relief it seems that we are not liable for Corporation Tax which means that the subscription for the coming year remains at £6. The present committee were re-elected en bloc. The AGM closed with Paul Baker from Biddulph Grange thanking the Association for their support for the developing Educational Programmes being undertaken.

Steve Bartlett then delighted us with a showing of excellent quality slides taken from his extensive collection of early 20th C postcards connected with the West End theatre. His interest dating from a visit to a Postcard Fair.

We were shown street scenes of Central London with the horse drawn cabs, tableaux from the shows themselves and many of individual beautiful actresses in elegant dresses and hats.

The Gaiety Theatre (sadly no longer in existence) was of the most famous and put on shows ranging from Shakespeare to Pantomime and Musical Comedy, a tradition which continues today with the likes of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The theatre was popular with gentlemen from the West End clubs and middle class families. People came to see the Stars whose names were known countrywide. They were often educated girls and it was not uncommon for them to marry into the Aristocracy. Their names are largely forgotten now though perhaps those of Gladys Cooper, Gertie Miller and the composer Lionel Monkton are three that do survive. Sheet music was available for sale, vast numbers of postcards were produced and the girls were 'pin ups' for the troops in the first World War.

A fascinating presentation which evoked visions of a bygone age. The evening ended with a buffet supper.

Joan Parrack

SPRING HOLIDAYS

SURREY

14 - 18 MAY

Some of the National Trust's most spectacular properties are to be found in Surrey, the quintessential Home County.

Join us for a few days exploring the homes of the rich and famous across the centuries and the beautiful surroundings in which they are set.

Our **provisional** itinerary includes:

Hughenden Manor, the home of the Disraeli family

Polesden Lacey, the home of the future George V spent his childhood at Petworth Park, with the famous collection

Ham House, a unique 17th century and 18th century house

Loseley Park, an Elizabethan house with panelling from Henry VIII's reign at Nonsuch.

Complementing the historic gardens we also hope to visit

RHS Wisley and

Denbies Wine Estate and its vineyard.



HOLIDAY 2009

SAMPLER

May 2009

ary includes:-

home of Benjamin

Regency house where
ent his honeymoon;
e Trust's finest picture

e survival from the 17th

abethan house with
VIII's palace of

eme of homes and
o visit:-

e, England's largest



We shall stay at the comfortable **Tudor style Ramada Jarvis hotel** in the Surrey Hills between Guildford and Leatherhead.

For further details please send large s.a.e. to Mrs. M. Richards, 5, Rugby Close, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 3JN.

Wednesday 21st May 2008 2.30pm Car Outing to Willey Park, Broseley, Shropshire

On a bright sunny day we arrived on time thanks largely to Peter Moxon's precise directions.

Willey Park lies deep in the Shropshire countryside and is the home of Lord and Lady Forester. The hall is a spacious mansion built C1815 at a cost of £47K in the classical style by Wyatt. It is situated in 150 acres by heavily wooded parkland and gardens and has a series of five lakes.

We entered beneath a high portico (or porte-cochere to be more correct) into a large oval vestibule, the principle feature of which is some fifty or more animal trophies. These had been shot by the previous Lord Forester during expeditions to Africa in the 1930's and had been carefully selected as the best examples of each species.

We split into two groups, one led by Lady Forester and the other by her daughter Selina. The double height grand hall gave access to various ground floor rooms. The Dining Room contained portraits of the Forester and Manners families together with many hunting pictures and a long rectangular dining table of note. The Green Drawing Room was lit by an ornate chandelier which had been illuminated in turn by candle, oil, gas and electricity and had been painstakingly dismantled, cleaned and reassembled piece by piece.

The library has some 2000 books but an attack by bookworm meant they had to be individually removed, disinfested and carefully put back in their correct places. This room had been redecorated by the present Lord Forester and a fine job he has made of it. The Morning Room boasts an unusual piece of furniture made from calamander wood which is usually used to make small items only. In this room a leaking immersion heater had severely damaged the fine plasterwork and decorations. A master plasterer spent many months on painstaking restoration. Some extra repair work he carried out unpaid as he loved his work so much.

At the far side of the grand hall is a magnificent cantilever marble staircase rising from both sides up to the first floor galleried landing. All banisters and balustrades are of brass and ebony. We were shown the main bedrooms all with silk=draped four poster beds and intricate plasterwork and covings. These included the Kings Room (George IV), the Duchess's Room resplendent with yellow moire silk and the Buff room where, as Lady Forester said with a smile, one could be in the buff – in the buff!

We then took afternoon tea in the light and airy conservatory, following which we ambled down the long gravel path passing heavily scented azaleas and the

rhododendrons in full bloom to the estate church. This had been restored by Lady Adine Forester in 1899 complete with a William Morris window. Lady Forester informed us that whilst one can no longer be married in the church, the ceremony can be conducted outside!

After strolling back through the parkland and gardens we said our goodbyes and left with happy memories of a most pleasant afternoon.

Willey Park – surely one of Peter Moxon's great finds.

Roger and Shirley Cartlidge

Thursday 19th June 2008 Car Outing Construction of Well Dressing Frames at Youlgrave nr Buxton Derbyshire

A group of intrepid members ventured forth to Youlgrave in the wilds of Derbyshire to witness the construction of the Well Dressing Frames or Boards. The origins of the Custom of Well Dressing are lost in the mysteries of time but probably date back to Roman or even Pagan times. However in 1829 water was first piped to the fountain in the centre of Youlgrave and from this time dressings have been erected at the five wells in Youlgrave as a thanksgiving for water. Women did not take any part in the preparations until after the Second World War.

The process of well dressing takes the volunteers five consecutive days. However the boards or frames are soaked in the river for ten days beforehand. Clay from Denbigh is packed into the frames. The designs are placed on the clay and the materials, all natural, including flower petals, leaves, lichen, mosses, cones, wool, seeds and pods are pressed into the clay using fingers, tweezers and nail scissors. The volunteers were not only local, one couple we spoke to came each year for a caravan holiday from Hertfordshire to help with the work, which has been known to go on to four in the morning to be ready on time.

Each finished screen weighing from 10-15 cwt is transported to its site in the early dawn of Saturday for the Thanksgiving Service in the afternoon.

This was a memorable experience and some members resolved to revisit Youlgrave to see the five completed dressed wells. As we went round it became clear that the organisers had not made it easy

for Peter Moxon who arranged the trip. So well done Peter (pardon the pun) and our thanks for finding this gem of a trip.

Written by a number of members

Saturday 28th June 2008. Coach Outing to Bridgnorth and the Severn Valley Railway

Thursday July 3rd 2008 Car Outing Leek Town walk

The market charter was granted in 1208 by King John and sheep, cattle, meat, fruit and local produce were sold. The indoor Butter Market 1897 was built for hygienic reasons so that food was not exposed to the air.

Many buildings were black and white timber-framed or even stone but have since been encased in brick.

French Napoleonic prisoners, mainly officers, were housed in Leek and their descendants are here to this day.

The well known 'Greystones' is a glorious example of 17th century building, owned by Joshua Nicholson of the Silk Mill. The Queen Anne Institute immediately behind, built also by William Sugden, as are the best of the town's buildings, housed a library, two art galleries, a museum and later the textile school. William Morris, who came to Leek to buy *dyes* for his textiles, was instrumental in saving 'Greystones' from demolition when it was planned to clear the ground in front of the institute. The Sugden style of architecture includes pointed or arched windows, decorative chimneys and tiles and pargetted panels.

Queen Street is a good example of the mixed housing to be found - large, medium and small houses all together. Mill owners, managers and workers lived side-by-side, the workers' houses at right angles to the street, four or five deep.

Why did silk manufacturing come to Leek? No-one can be sure. It began as a domestic industry, then the mills were built to stop pilfering. Five or seven houses formed a terrace and the top floor, with larger windows, was one long workroom, with no dividing walls. Silk buttons, sewing threads and ribbons were first manufactured, then garments, commemorative badges and bookmarks.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Friday 12th Sept Coach outing to Ludlow Food Festival from the Spring Programme there are a few places left for this trip.

The Ludlow Food festival was started in 1995 with the aim of celebrating the quality and diversity of the superb food and drink producers that abound in Ludlow and the Marches. 120 independent producers will be exhibiting an abundance of REAL food from rare breeds and meat to real ale, cider and perry at the Food and Drink Fair held in the grounds of historic Ludlow Castle. Demonstrations, talks and, of course, plenty of tastings take place throughout the day. Outside the Castle, the Festival continues with Street entertainment, more food vendors and special displays in the many shops and cafes of this delightful town.

Depart School Street 9.15 am return 6.00 pm (approx.).

Cost £16.00 (£17 non-members) includes coach, admission to the Food Festival and gratuities.

Please apply to Mrs P Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, ST4 8AG. Tel 01782 657645 enclosing a cheque and Stamped addressed envelope.

Closing Date for applications is Wednesday 3rd September.

Supporter required (see inside front cover)

Thursday 18th September 2008 Lunch Club Meeting

Swan with Two Necks, Nantwich Road, Blackbrook Max 20. 12.30 for 12.45pm

This pub has been elegantly restyled (no more soft play areas) with an extensive menu. Order on the day. Starters £4-£5; Mains £9-£13; Salads small and large £6.45-9.95

Please book by phone no later than Sept 11th. Give your name and phone number to Mary Malcolm 01782-613451.



Tuesday 30th September 2008 Coach Outing to the Lakes and Sizergh Castle and Garden.

Sizergh Castle was originally built in the Middle Ages by the Stickland family, who still live here. This medieval house, extended in Elizabethan times, has a

series of oak-panelled rooms culminating in the Inlaid Chamber. On display are portraits, fine furniture and ceramics accumulated over centuries.

It is surrounded by a richly diverse garden which includes two lakes and an estate with limestone grassland fauna.

Before travelling to the Castle for our afternoon visit we shall have a lake cruise between Bowness and Ambleside returning to Bowness for a lunch break before boarding the coach to Sizergh.

There are many cafes, restaurants and pubs to cater for your lunchtime needs in Bowness or you may prefer to have a picnic by the lake.

Some parts of the castle may prove difficult to access for those who are less mobile. Strong footwear is essential for everyone.

Depart from School Street 8.30am and return at 6.30pm approx.

Cost £22 to include coach fare, lake cruise and gratuities Admission to the castle is free to NT members. (Remember your card!)

It is essential that immediate bookings are made.

Please apply to Mrs J Scholes 47 Sandon Road Cresswell ST11 9RB enclosing cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for application is Tuesday September 9th.

Sunday 5th October 2008. Ramble "A Cheshire Ringlet".

A small sample of the Cheshire Ring canal walk plus fields and woodlands to make a circular Sunday morning stroll. The walk is about 6 miles in total and will suit most walkers. Well-behaved dogs and children are most welcome.

We will meet at the Bleeding Wolf at Scholar Green (the thatched pub on the A34) at 10.15am, and aim to be back there for lunch in our reserved dining room at 1pm. We will head off across farmland and through the woods to the 800 year old All Saints' Church at Church Lawton. Here we pick up the Trent and Mersey canal and walk past a flight of parallel locks to the Red Bull pub for a refreshment break. The canal water here has a reddish colour from dissolved iron stone. At the multi-level junction with the Macclesfield canal, we will turn left and make our way back to the our starting point and a well-earned lunch.

Cost £2 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day). Apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT. Tel 01782 646054.

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Friday 10th October 2008 Car Outing to the Anson Engine Museum, Anson Road Poynton Cheshire. (approximately 40 limit) repeat from Spring Programme.

Poynton was once a thriving mining community. The museum is on the site of the old Anson Colliery. The pit was named to commemorate the marriage of the Vernon and Anson (Lord Lichfield) families.

The museum, manned by volunteers, houses one of the largest collections of internal combustion engines in Europe varying in size from desktop to 100 tons, also the museum has the largest running Crossley Atmospheric gas engine, the oldest diesel engine in the country, a steam engine area with a Stott cross-compound mill engine and a Fowler beam engine, the oldest running internal combustion engine and so on. Many of the engines will be running during the tour Members will be given a guided tour and may wander around the museum in their own time following the tour.

Members should arrive not later than 10.30 a.m There is ample car parking.

Directions upon application.

Cost £6.00 per member to include coffee on arrival

Members may wish to visit Lyme Park (NT Property - see members handbook) at Disley Approximately 5 miles distant under their own steam.

Apply Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 4EB Tel. 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 29th September 2008.

Wednesday 15th October 2008 Lunch Club Meeting

Egerton Arms, Astbury. A34 a little further than Little Moreton Hall. Max 20. 12.30 - 12.45pm.

Spacious pub, opposite Astbury Church (well worth a visit). Two courses £5.95p. Three courses £6.95p. Coffee £1. Please choose from soup or Garlic Mushrooms/ Roast Pork or Ham or Breaded Haddock (or Veg option)/

Chocolate Pud or Fruit Crumble. Please book by phone giving your choices no later than October 8th and giving your name and phone number to Mary Malcolm 01782-613451.

Tuesday 21st October. Coach Outing to Gloucester Cathedral. (Max 40)

Gloucester Cathedral is one England's finest cathedrals and a place of continuous Christian Worship for over 1300 years. The cathedral boasts medieval, Romanesque and Perpendicular architecture and has spectacular Cloisters (as seen in the Harry Potter films), the Chapter House, the Parliament Room and the Crypt. Lurking underneath the later 18th and 19th century alterations are the Wash House, the Bakery, the Prior's Lodging and the Cellarer's house.

The theme of the day is "The medieval monks of Gloucester: how they lived, worked and worshipped". The day will be lead by experienced members of the Cathedral's team of guides and will include visits to parts of the cathedral not normally seen by visitors.

On arrival coffee will be served in the Parliament Rooms (14th century rooms originally part of the Abbot's lodgings). The introductory talk will explain how the concept of life in a monastic community developed from the earliest times to the Dissolution ordered by Henry VIII. This will be followed by a walking tour discovering the remains of the monastery's buildings including the Infirmary, Herbarium and Abbey Mill.

Lunch will then be served and this will be followed by a guide-led tour of the cathedral including the stalls in the Quire, the Cloisters, the Chapter House and also the Crypt.

There will be a fair amount of walking and stair climbing and therefore, regrettably not suitable for those with walking difficulties or for people who have difficulty climbing stairs.

Cost, including coach, morning coffee, lunch, guided tour of the cathedral, lectures on the medieval monks and driver's gratuity will be £30 per person (non members £31). Spare seats will be available on the coach and members who would like to visit Gloucester and explore the city by themselves may do so at a cost of £15 per person.



<p>Sadly no mills or dye works remain, though there is one cloth-dyeing factory on the edge of town. We have, however, been left with a legacy of fine buildings, courtesy of the industry.</p>	
<h2>Summary of 2008 Summer Programme</h2>	
Tuesday 22nd April	Car Outing to Apedale Heritage Centre Ann Lowe.
Sunday 27th April	Ramble - Norbury Junction
<p>Saturday, 12th July - Ramble "Area around Fittesworth Reservoir"</p>	
Wednesday 9th May	Coach Outing to Liverpool
Wednesday 14th May	Car Outing to Cosford Air Museum
Tuesday 20th May	AGM
Wednesday 11th June 2008.	Coach Outing to Stokesay Court via Attingham Park.
Thursday 19th June	Car Outing to Youlgrave

Thursday 12th June	Walk - Leek Town
Saturday 28th June	Coach Outing to Bridgenorth and Severn Valley Railway
Saturday 12th July	Ramble - Tittesworth Reservoir
Sunday 27th July	Stokesay Court (of the film "Atonement" fame)
Tuesday 29th July	Car Outing to Tamworth
Tuesday 5th Aug.	Coach Outing to Browsholme Hall and Stoneyhurst School
Thursday 21st Aug.	Car Outing to Hawkstone Hall
Friday 12th September	Coach Outing to Ludlow Food Festival
Friday 10th October	Car Outing Anson Engine Museum
<h3>Dates for Your Diary</h3>	
Tuesday 30th September	Lake District Cruise and Sizergh Castle

COMMITTEE 2008 - 2009

CHAIRMAN

*Anne Anderton

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