

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

Newsletter 83

and

May to September 2009

Programme

Lady Lever Gallery
Wedgwood Museum
Cholmondeley Castle
See inside for details



SEE CENTRE PAGES FOR DETAILS OF THE AGM

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 £2. 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 two 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 by perhaps collecting tickets or escorting people to entrances.

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

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

NEWSLETTER No. 83

March 2009

and May to September 2009 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

I am sure we are all glad to have seen the last of the winter snow, ice and frosts which have made 2009 the coldest winter for about 20 years. The National Trust has apparently lost many plants, especially in gardens in the south and south-west, where in recent milder years more tender specimens have flourished. The phrase 'global warming' does not seem very appropriate now but 'climate change' does sound more accurate. However, these losses, while to be lamented, also provide the opportunity for new planting schemes.

Remember the dreadful gales of 1987 when properties in the south, notably Nymans, lost an alarming number of mature trees and at the time it seemed a devastating blow? But the gardeners soon realised that areas which had been impossible to plant under the trees, once cleared, offered interesting new vistas and places for different types of plants. Lessons were also learned about the way to deal with the results of such damage, which was not to clear away everything tidily, but let nature take its course with the fallen trees.

Many members will have read with interest that the Trust is to make land available at some properties for the creation of allotments. This is certainly a response to the economic challenges of these times, though I'm not sure how quickly gardeners will be able to get their peas or cabbages from the plot to the plate if the plot is at the end of a long, elegant carriage drive, while the plate is some miles away in the town centre! Sit-on wheelbarrows with engines, perhaps?

Next year will be the 30th Anniversary of our Association and we hope to celebrate this important occasion in some appropriate way. I wrote to Sir

Simon Jenkins inviting him, as our new Chairman, to be our guest of honour in that year but sadly he declined as his calendar is already full. However, the Committee would welcome suggestions for a celebration – should it be a lunch, an outing, or a special visit somewhere? We eagerly await your ideas. Perhaps while you enjoy some of the summer outings you will have an inspired thought – pass it on to us!

Best wishes for the coming summer – and, as always, book early!

Anne Anderton

COMMITTEE CHANGE

Penny Moore announced at the last AGM that this year she would resign as Programme Organiser. Penny has been the most energetic, efficient and loyal member of the Association since its inception and has contributed so much to the excellent programmes we have been able to run. She has set a very high standard of organisation and we are pleased that Rose Wheat, who has already arranged and led several of our outings, has agreed to become Programme Organiser. Fortunately Penny will remain on the committee, if re-elected, and will advise Rose if necessary.

FREE OFFER FROM BIDDULPH GRANGE



Paul Baker at Biddulph Grange writes that the damage caused by vandals last year has been largely repaired now, though the police are still hunting the culprits; there will be special deals at the tearoom throughout the next few months and an Easter egg hunt from April 10 - 13 with prizes. The gardens will be open 7 days a week during July and August. Talks at the Geological Gallery will be especially topical this year of celebrating the anniversary of Darwin's book.

This information and much more comes from an interesting e-newsletter. Paul has offered to send this to members who are

interested AND have an email address. Please write to biddulphgrange@nationaltrust.org.uk with Newsletter as your message title and he will add you to his distribution list.



Little Moreton Hall Continues to Improve

David Watts the Property Manager (writing in February) keeps us up to date on one of our local properties.

Friday 28th February looms large on the calendar; the start of the new season and the end of our preparations – well almost!

As with all properties we shall be open from 11.00 am, so that has meant changing lots of signs, but it does reflect what our visitors have been asking for and it is a positive move. As readers can well imagine, the final days before opening can seem really frantic. Today we have met a group of consultants who are writing an interpretation audit that will form the basis of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to revitalise the interpretation at Little Moreton Hall, making the visitor experience even better. We are also meeting to discuss our final preparations before a walk through of the property to double check everything is in order. Staff are busily painting signs, installing new equipment and doing final batches of baking. Pre-season recruitment is almost complete and we are delighted to say that we have 15 new volunteers starting to help us, particularly in the schools' programme, conservation in action and as garden guides, although we are still hoping to recruit more garden guides.

Pre-season training went really well – it was a pleasure to see old friends and outline how we have done in the last season and our plans for the next. It also gives us the opportunity to explain what has happened during the

closed season (virtual tour completed, Great Hall floor re-pointed, floors cleaned , stained and polished, Withdrawing Room fireplace completed, new family trail written, discovery trail produced for the estate walk, taste testing new cakes - the best bit!) As you can read, it has been a busy period but we are ready and waiting for the doors to be flung open on a lovely February morning and welcome, once again, our visitors.

REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

Tuesday 9th December - Talk by David Morgan: What The Butler Did Next

David Morgan took up his post as Property Manager at Lyme Hall just two years ago, after having worked in New York in the Regis Hotel on 5th Avenue for many years as a butler and then as Assistant Manager . He emphasised the value of an English butler in such an establishment, which was originally built by Lord Astor as accommodation for his visitors to New York . The hotel was refurbished shortly before David's arrival and , in his words, "gold-leafed to death", as he showed in his slides of some of the interiors of the sumptuous place. He entertained us with anecdotes of some of the rich and famous guests, including royalty, film stars and politicians, and explained how the talents he had developed in dealing with guests were most useful in helping visitors to Lyme Park to benefit fully from their time there. He learned that impressions on arrival and departure are most important, that being prepared in advance is always advisable and that thanking staff for their efforts is appreciated.

He mentioned some of the changes he is bringing to Lyme Park and especially the refurbishment of the library. It is planned to allow visitors to sit there and even read the books, and to that end the chairs are being re-covered in velvet woven in France to the original design. The donation we gave him will go towards that project.

After the talk, we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and members studied the Archive files which Kay Williams had brought along, now splendidly updated.

The Raffle raised £74.00

Wednesday 14th January —Talk by John Honeysett: Reginald Mitchell and the story of the Spitfire.

Many of the large audience may already have been familiar through TV and Film with the story of the Spitfire, but Jon Honeysett, the speaker, soon demonstrated a personal contact. He started with a brief reference to Reginald Mitchell's childhood, with pictures of his birthplace and schools, and his interest in mathematics and engineering. But then his explanation of Mitchell's 1916 move to the Supermarine Co. (later Vickers Armstrong Supermarine) revealed that the speaker, although now living in Talke Pits, was in fact a Southampton man.

Alongside the story of the Supermarine world-beating sea planes and the emergence of the prototype Spitfire with many photographs, pictures and paintings, we learned that his 'Mam' had been a maid in the house next door to the Mitchells and had become friendly with Mrs Mitchell — sometimes looked after the children and had helped bake Reginald's favourite blackberry and apple pie with the blackberries the children had picked. His aunt had worked in the offices, his uncle in the factory. He related the awe his aunt had felt on going into the heavily wood panelled boardroom and how she would look out of the window at the sea planes at anchor in the harbour. Later in life she was to be a nurse to the chief test pilot.

The speaker's enthusiasm for his interest had led him into a lifetime of research, so that we saw, among the many pictures, copies of the specification for the early Spitfires and pre-war aerial photographs taken by the Luftwaffe in preparation for the later bombing of the factory which caused production of the Spitfire to be moved to West Bromwich. We heard how his uncle had told him of the workers running out of the bombed buildings to what they thought to be safety only to be strafed by planes on their return flight path. We also heard of conversations with test pilots and the engineer at Radway Green where the cannon for the later marques of the Spitfire were developed and produced.

And finally if the surviving 53 Spitfires capable of flight needed spare parts, the owners have to come to a small engineering works in Burslem, who still have all the blue prints and technical specifications for every version of the Spitfire.

Tuesday 17th February Talk by Andrew Dobraszczyk : Trentham in the Edwardian Period

Judging from the numbers of people passing into the N. Staffs Conference Centre, it was obvious that both subject and speaker were a major attraction. Despite not feeling fit, Andrew gave a riveting insight into Trentham during the Edwardian period, illustrated by postcards, newspaper advertisements, posters, private letters and maps.

He described the road and rail improvements taking place between Trentham and the surrounding area at that time. Local politics too were an issue including the federation and creation of the unified city of Stoke-on-Trent.

We learnt of the attractions to be enjoyed when visiting the Park (Admission 6d - Attractions extra) such as angling, boating, bowls and many more. The ballroom and the swimming pool were from a later period than Andrew was covering. The gardens themselves remained private.

What would the Duke say if he could see Trentham now?

Pat Bentley

Luncheon Club Meetings:

Our thanks go again to Mary Malcolm for continuing to organise the lunches, which have provided such pleasant social occasions.

There will be another programme of lunches in the autumn.



SUMMER PROGRAMME 2009

Tuesday 5th May 11.00am. Car Outing to the Leopard Hotel. 21 Market Place, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent (40 maximum).

Neil Crisp and Neil Cox, the landlords of the Leopard Hotel, have kindly offered to give members a guided tour of the Hotel.



In 1711 Ellen Wedgwood knocked together three cottages and established the Leopard Inn. In 1850 Charles Darwin enabled his head cook and Butler to buy the hotel upon their marriage. The couple added a wing and the Leopard became a hotel with 138 rooms including 58 bedrooms spread over six floors. Many famous people including HG Wells, Charles Darwin, Dirk Bogarde and Ava Gardner have stayed at the Leopard. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the accommodation was gradually closed until in 1951 the entire wing was closed and abandoned.

Our hosts will enlarge upon “her” history and members will be astonished to see the extent of this hotel whose frontage belies its size. This is a unique opportunity to see first hand a truly historic property in the old town of Burslem.

Members should arrive at the Leopard Hotel not later than 11.00am. Please find car parking in the town.

Members should note that much of the property has not been modernised since it was abandoned and members should be cautious of uneven floorboards and staircases and poorly lit areas.

Cost £10 to include a donation and coffee and a sandwich following the tour. Members may purchase other drinks at the bar at their own expense.

Please apply to 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 20th April.

Friday 8th May. Coach Outing to Malvern Spring Gardening Show

The Malvern Spring Show, at the Three Counties Showground, is the first national RHS show of the year. It boasts the largest floral marquee in the country, and we are promised innovative, inspirational and creative ideas from over 500 large and small stands. At least a hundred nurseries will be exhibiting.

The theme for this year's show is fashion. Friday is the designated Spring Fashion Day, when a range of designs will be modelled for us on a "contemporary garden catwalk".

Also new for 2009 is the Eco Home and Garden Area, where eco-friendly garden products, home water saving, wildlife in the garden and herb growing are just some of the delights on offer.

Chef Felice Tocchini will be demonstrating flavours of the world, and ways of being creative with plants and flowers in cookery.

Depart from School Street at 9.15am prompt, and return at 6.30pm approx.

The cost is £28.00, or £30.00 for non-members including coach, entrance fee and driver's gratuity.

Apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT. Tel: 01782 646054 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 27th April.

Thursday 14th May Car Outing to The Wedgwood Museum, Barlaston - An evening visit in the company of the Director 7.00pm to 9.30pm

The new Wedgwood Museum opened this year tells the story of the Man, the Company he founded, and the many people whose skills and artistry made the name of Wedgwood famous world-wide. The Museum is arranged chronologically from 1730, the birth of the founder, until today. The collection houses paintings, documents and some of the finest pieces all relating to the history of Wedgwood.

This is an exclusive after-hours private visit to see both the magnificent new building and its imaginative and beautiful displays. The Director, Gaye Blake-Roberts FMA FSA, will meet members on arrival and then give a short talk about the Collection followed by an opportunity to view the Museum at leisure.

Please meet at the Museum at 7.00pm

Cost:£11 adults, £10 concessions, £13 non-members to include a glass of wine/fruit juice on arrival, admission to the Museum and the Director's talk.

Please apply to Mrs Penny Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, ST4 8AG. Tel 01782 657645 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing Date for applications is Friday 8th May

Monday 1st June Walk: "A Short Back and Sides of Betley"

Hands up all those who think of Betley as a long 30mph stretch with some pretty buildings on either side of the road. You are right, but this short walk will show you a bit more, round the back and down each side of Betley.

We will meet at 10.30 in the morning at the Hand & Trumpet pub, and set off to discover some fine English countryside, passing by Betley Mere, the church and the village cricket ground. If we are lucky, we will also see a field of llamas (or possibly

PROGRAMME CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS**

**TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WADE HALL, NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE,
HARTSHILL**

TUESDAY MAY 12TH 2009 at 7.00PM

AGENDA:

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 28th AGM**
- 3. Secretary's Report – Matters Arising**
- 4. Treasurer's Report – Matters Arising**
- 5. Setting of Subscription Level 2009 - 2010**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee 2009 – 2010**
- 7. Any Other Business**

Followed at 7.30pm by a talk (see facing page)

Members are invited to submit nominations for the 2009 – 2010 Committee and Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each nomination should be signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee, all of whom should be paid-up members of the Association. Nominations should reach Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT by April 28th 2009.

The present committee is listed on the back cover of this newsletter and are all prepared to stand for re-election for 2009-2010.

Talk by James Rothwell of the National Trust on the LYME MISSAL (following the AGM business).

This unique prayer book, the sole surviving copy of the Sarum Missal, was printed in Paris in 1465 for William Caxton. It is printed in red and black and is the first book that was printed in colour. It was in the ownership of the Legh family for several centuries then was at Lyme Park until 1946. We shall hear how the National Trust acquired this exceptional book and what it cost when James Rothwell tells us the story of this volume and explains its importance. In an age when the death of the printed word is sometimes predicted and communication is by texting or emailing, and when 'e-books' are suggested as the future of literature, it will be most interesting to understand why such an old piece of printing has such significance.

The talk will be followed by the usual buffet supper.

Cost: £7.50 Please apply to Miss Audrey Aubrey, 10, Paris Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 2RQ Tel: 01782 623214

Members wishing to partake of the buffet supper should use the special booking form which appears with the booking forms for outings. Please send this with your cheque for £7.50pp and SAE to Audrey Aubrey, 10 Paris Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 2RQ by 28th April 2009.

alpacas) - they were out in the sunshine when I explored this walk in February!

The walk is easy, about 4 miles in length, no hills worth mentioning, though there are about a dozen stiles to climb. Some parts are through marshy land, so shoes should be waterproof.

Tables are reserved for us back at the Hand & Trumpet for lunch at 12.30.

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 Addressed Envelope.

Thursday 11th June 11.00am Car Outing to Casterne Hall Ilam Derbyshire (Max 30 members)

It is a sheer delight to drive out of Ilam along a road running up an isolated valley and to come upon this charming house built in stone in the Queen Anne style but Georgian in date, 1730.

The Hall has been in the Hurt family for approximately 500 years and Mr Charles Hurt, the present occupier with his wife, has kindly offered a guided tour. The Hall offers magnificent views over the beautiful Derbyshire countryside.

The visit will last for approximately one hour. Thursday is Market Day in Ashbourne and members may wish to visit Ashbourne approximately 4 miles from the Hall to find lunch and browse around the market and town, or just explore the countryside.

Members should arrive not later than 11.00am Directions upon application.

Cost £7.00 per member.

Please apply to 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 25th May.

Wednesday 24th June: Coach Outing to Port Sunlight Garden Village, Museum and Lady Lever Art Gallery.

Founded in 1888 by William Hesketh Lever, later Viscount Leverhulme, for his soap factory workers, Port Sunlight is a lasting legacy of one of the most remarkable men of the modern age. It is one of Britain's finest and most picturesque garden villages. On arrival, after refreshment, we will visit the Port Sunlight Museum to watch an introductory film and see village memorabilia. We will then re-join our coach and be taken on a conducted tour, lasting an hour, around the village. From approximately 12.30 until the time we leave at 17.00 you will be on your own and free to have lunch, visit the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Christ Church and re-visit places of interest seen in the village during the tour.

For lunch you may bring a picnic, or visit one of the many places to eat in the village at your own expense. Places to eat are at the Lady Lever Art Gallery restaurant, the Port Sunlight Garden Centre Café, the village tearooms or at the Bridge Inn public house. Maps will be provided to help you find your way around the village.

The Lady Lever Art Gallery has many magnificent exhibits including one of the world's largest collections of Wedgwood china, sculpture, pottery and porcelain, tapestries and paintings by Reynolds, Wilson, Millais, Rossetti, Burne-Jones, Leighton, Etty, Turner and Constable. **Christ Church**, built in the Gothic Style, was opened in 1904 and a gift to the village from Lord Leverhulme. It is the largest church in the area.

There will be a considerable amount of standing and walking during the day and so sensible walking shoes should be worn and, regrettably, the visit would not be suitable for those with walking difficulties. For more information please visit www.portsunlightvillage.com.

You will all be presented with 1 **FREE** block of Sunlight soap as a memento of your day in the village!

Depart School Street at 8.30am returning at approximately 6.30pm.

Cost, including coach, driver's gratuity, coffee on arrival, guided tour of the village, entry to: Port Sunlight Museum, Lady Lever Gallery and Christ Church will be £20. (Non- Members: £22).

Please apply to: Peter Thompson, Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 3LS. Tel: 01782 613397 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date: Saturday 30th May.

Wednesday 8th July. Coach Outing to Madresfield Court and Malvern.

Romantic, turreted, ancient, Madresfield Court, with its 160 rooms, spectacular Tudor Hall and medieval moat, has been home to the Lygon family for over 900 years and is a lived-in family home where the sumptuous lives next to the threadbare, the heraldic next to the domestic.

The Lygons were the inspiration and model for the doomed Marchmain family in *Brideshead Revisited*; were litigants in the case of the disputed legacy which inspired *Bleak House*; and provided Elgar's secret love behind the *Enigma Variations*.

Join us for this very special day and a rare opportunity to visit, as Evelyn Waugh often did, this private family home. A morning in Malvern can be spent visiting Malvern Priory, with its fine stained glass and medieval floor and wall tiles, St. Ann's Well, Malvern Museum, or simply shopping. Afternoon will see us stepping through the 12th century doors of Madresfield Court, which have no locks or handles as the house has never been left empty since it was built in 1198, for a guided tour.

After a guided tour there will be chance to see the gardens before afternoon tea provided by a local church.

Depart from School Street at 9.15 am, return by 6.45pm (approx).

Cost: £26 (non-members £28) to include coach fare, entrance to Madresfield, guided tour, afternoon tea and gratuities.

Lunch is not included but there is a wide variety of eating places in Malvern, or bring a packed lunch.

Please apply to Margaret Richards, 5, Rugby Close, Newcastle, ST5 3JN
Tel. 01782 618909 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 3rd June.

Thursday 16th July 11.00am Car Outing to Cholmondeley Castle, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8AH (Max 40 members)

Whilst the beautiful gardens are regularly open to the public, access to the Castle is only offered on a very few days each year by special arrangement with Lady Cholmondeley who has agreed to welcome a party of members to the Castle, the original site of which has been a family seat and name since the 12th century. The present neo-Gothic



Cholmondeley Castle

Castle was augmented in 1829 by Robert Smirke, a practised supplier of castles to the discerning nobility.

The visit will begin in the Chapel followed by a tour of the principal Ground Floor rooms in the Castle, which is the personal and private residence of Lady Cholmondeley. Members may visit the gardens after the tour of the Chapel and Castle.

Members should arrive not later than 11.00am. Directions upon application.

Cost £14.00 per member to cover the cost of admission to the Chapel, the Castle and the Gardens.

The Tea Rooms provide light lunches and homemade teas at members' own cost. If members wish to bring a picnic this must be eaten in the car park.

Please apply to 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 Monday 22nd June.

Tuesday July 21st – Evening Visit to Wilkins Pleck Garden, Whitmore. 7.00-9.00pm

We are offering members the opportunity to enjoy a private evening viewing of this amazing garden where Chris and Sheila Bissell have created “6 acres of paradise” in a relatively short time and have only recently allowed any groups to see the results of their efforts. The garden, which has been featured in specialist magazines and on TV, is like a series of ‘rooms’ divided by box hedges and yew screens and there are many statues, bridges over a lake, and a developing arboretum. Herbaceous borders, roses, lawned areas and formal schemes near the house offer interesting contrasts and the vibrant colours of the ‘hot garden’ should be at their most dramatic when we visit. Tea or coffee and home-made cake are included in the price of the visit and there will be plants on sale.

Cost £10 (non-members £12) to include tea/coffee and home-made cake.

Please apply to Mrs. A. Anderton, 14, Berne Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 2QJ.
Tel: 01782 613024 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Full directions will be sent on receipt of booking form.

Closing date for applications – Friday 10th July

Monday 10th August 11.00am Car Outing to Bethesda Chapel, Hanley

The Friends of Bethesda have invited members of the Association to visit Bethesda Chapel.

The visit will include a short talk on the history of the Methodist Church in North Staffordshire during the late 18th century and early 19th century and the importance of Bethesda Chapel during that time. Members will be told about some of the local people involved with Bethesda who are buried in the Crypt and after any questions have been answered they will be shown around the chapel. Members will be taken up to the gallery which is not available to the public on open days. The visit will last approximately one hour.

Members should arrive at the Chapel not later than 11 00 a m and will find public car parking in Hanley within easy reach of the Chapel.

Cost will be £5.00 per member.

Please apply to Peter Moxon Millstone House Butterton Newcastle-under-Lyme Staffordshire ST4 5EB Tel 01782 616337 enclosing cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope

Closing date for applications Monday 20th July.

Monday 17th August Coach Outing to the 16th International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival, Buxton, Derbyshire

Amateur and professional lovers of G&S converge on Buxton in August each year. The full programme lasts for three weeks and on most days there are activities in the morning and afternoon, evening shows and then a cabaret till midnight. We cannot do all that but, as a taster, we have managed to reserve tickets for the performance by Trent Opera of ***Ruddigore*** (the one where the family portraits come to life). Trent is an amateur company who have performed consistently well over recent years, winning many awards. The setting of the Buxton Opera House is ideally suited to these fun operas and it is always a delight to sit in the auditorium with so many people who share a love for this music.

We should arrive in Buxton in time for members to find some lunch. At 2.30pm members can book for 'An afternoon of Music and Laughter, with Jill Pert' in the Paxton Hall (Jill may be better known by those who know the New Doyle Carte Company as Katisha, or perhaps the Duchess of Plaza-Toro). Other members may choose to explore Buxton during the afternoon. There will then be time to eat and visit the modest festival shop before the show starts at 7.30 pm. After the show we will wait a few minutes to hear the Adjudicator's remarks about the show and the performances before our coach journey home. Members should be aware that the coach will not stay with us in Buxton, and also the Opera House conveniences can, at times, be somewhat congested.

Depart from School Street at 11.30am, return by 11.30pm (approx).

Cost: £24.50 (non-members £26.50) to include coach fare, seat at the show 'Ruddigore' and gratuities. The afternoon talk is an additional £7.50 for those who choose this option.

Please note the early booking date and that cheques will have to be cashed in early May. This show is expected to be one of the most popular and we need to confirm our booking by then.



Arriving at the Opera House

Meals are not included but there are many eating places in Buxton, and for those bringing a packed lunch the nearby Pavilion Gardens are a delight.

Please apply to John Beaumont, 4, Barnsdale Close, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8TT Tel: 01782 642618 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 6th May.

Wednesday 9th September 10.00am Car Outing to Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire: "Behind the Scenes" (Max 40)

Members are invited to a "Behind the Scenes" tour of Sudbury Hall which will take in the Attic via the Oak Stairs, all public rooms on the ground and first floors, the Billiard Room, the Kitchen, the Beer Cellar and Wine Bins.

Although Sudbury Hall is a National Trust property, the "Behind the Scenes" tour lasts two hours 10.00am to midday. The remainder of the Hall opens to the public at 1.00pm. Members wishing to visit the Hall at 1.00pm must show their N.T. Membership Cards.

Sudbury Hall lies at the junction of the A50 (Stoke to Derby) and the A515 and is well signposted. Ample car parking is available but members should note that the car park is approximately 500 yards from the Hall. A buggy is normally available if required so please allow plenty of time to park and walk or ride to the Hall for a 10.00 am prompt start.

Cost £7 per member.

Refreshments which include a good selection of light dishes may be obtained in the coach house at members' own expense.

Please apply to 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 Friday 7th August.

Saturday 17th October 11.00am Car Outing to Claymills Victorian Pumping Station, Meadow Lane, Stretton, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. (Maximum 40)

The Pumping Station is run and managed by enthusiastic volunteers who love and devote a great deal of their spare time to the Pumping Station. Although the Station will be open to the public on this day (a private steaming is unaffordable) members will be given a guided tour in groups of approximately 15 and they will see the magnificence of the pumps working in all their glory. Their size is colossal. Other engines will be in steam.

The station includes 4 Beam engines by Gimson of Leicester 1885, 5 Lancashire boilers, steam-powered dynamo house, a Victorian steam workshop and the blacksmith's shop.

During the second half of the 19th century Burton-on-Trent and its brewing trade grew rapidly with consequential increase in polluted waste. In the 1880s James Mansergh, an eminent engineer was engaged to advise upon disposal of the waste and subsequently the Victorian steam-operated Claymills Pumping Station was built.

Members are strongly advised to wear stout and flat shoes and should be aware of the many trip hazards, uneven floors and ground, and oil and other spillages. Members should heed all advice offered by guides and observe any warning notes and avoid contact with all machinery.



The station is on five different levels with steep spiral stairs and grating type floors. For reasons of modesty, lady members may prefer to wear trousers.

Members should arrive not later than 11.00am and park their cars in the car park. Sharing cars would be helpful. Please indicate on the application form your willingness to share.

Cost £7.00 per member. The Stokers' Rest Cafe offers limited refreshment at members' own expense.

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

Closing date for applications is Monday 21st September.



Summary of 2009 Summer Programme	
Tuesday 5th May	Car Outing to the Leopard Hotel, Burslem
Friday 8th May	Coach Outing to the Malvern Spring Gardening Show
Tuesday 12th May	AGM and talk by John Rothwell: The Lyme Missal
Thursday 14th May	Car Outing to the Wedgwood Museum
Monday 1st June	Walk: Short back and Sides of Betley
Thursday 11th June	Car Outing to Casterne Hall
Wednesday 24th June	Coach Outing to Port Sunlight and Lady Lever Art Gallery
Wednesday 8th July	Coach Outing to Madresfield Court and Malvern
Thursday 16th July	Car Outing to Cholmondeley Castle
Tuesday 21st July	Evening Car Visit to Wilkins Pleck Garden
Monday 10th August	Car Outing to Bethesda Chapel
Monday 17th August	Coach Outing to G&S Festival, Buxton
Wednesday 9th September	Car Outing to Sudbury Hall "Behind the Scenes"
Saturday 17th October	Car Outing to Claymills Victorian Pumping Station

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