

The North Staffs National Trust Association

Newsletter 86 and May to August 2010 Programme



NT award for Penny Moore - see page 4

ON PAGE 10

SEE NOTICE OF OUR AGM ON 11TH MAY

ON PAGE 3

***WE ARE GIVING AWAY MONEY (TO THE
NATIONAL TRUST) YOU ARE INVITED TO SAY WHERE IT GOES.***

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 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.

The North Staffs National Trust Association

**NEWSLETTER No. 86 and April 2010
May to August 2010 PROGRAMME**

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

First the good news! Years ago the Trust required all Associations which arranged holidays to keep a sizeable sum in a Loan Account as a financial safeguard and to meet the requirements of Group Travel arrangements. Now that the laws concerning group travel have changed, the Trust has decided to release the money to Associations so that they can donate to properties and appeals. Please consider the information on page 3 and let us know where you would like the money to go. We shall present the voting results on this for confirmation at the AGM on May 11th.

And more good news! This year we are celebrating 30 years of the North Staffs Association with a birthday party in the countryside on June 22nd. All details can be found in the separate booklet which is enclosed. Special guests will be a trio of Davids – David Brown who helped to establish the Association; David Watts, the current Property Manager of Little Moreton Hall, and David Riddle, our speaker from the National Trust on their countryside activities. We expect a high level of interest in such a splendid occasion so please study the booking forms carefully and book early. We need as many members as possible to make this a most enjoyable and happy day

Finally, the sad news. Many members will already know of the death of Margaret Richards in late January. Margaret was a founder member of the Association and contributed so much to the successful running of many programmes. She will be much missed and we extend our deep sympathy to her family and her partner, John. There is a separate tribute to Margaret on page 2.

I'm sure the summer programme will provide many interesting opportunities to explore lovely places in the company of good friends. Never mind what the weather forecasters predict – send in your bookings and enjoy the trips!

Best wishes, Anne Anderton

REMEMBERING MARGARET RICHARDS

Margaret's death in January had a particular poignancy coming, as it did, in the 30th Anniversary year of the foundation of the North Staffordshire Association for she was indeed one of the founders. Answering a small advertisement in the National Trust magazine, she joined the steering group and became the first Secretary from 1980 – 1991, Chairman from 1991 – 1994 and served on the Committee until 1997. In recent years she had renewed her formal links with the Association, helping on the Programme Planning Committee.

None of these statistics tells of Margaret's infectious enthusiasm for that fledgling Association, encouraging friends, acquaintances and even perfect strangers to join. Nor do they show her incredible organisational skills. First alone, then with a sub-committee, she co-ordinated the programme of outings, rambles, car excursions and on one memorable occasion a caravan rally to Yorkshire! Association holidays were her idea and she organised and led twelve. Everything Margaret arranged bore her trademark – interesting and unusual places to visit with good food, and all impeccably timed.

Thank you, Margaret, for those wonderful holidays, those special days out and, above all, thank you for the laughter and friendship so many of us have enjoyed in belonging to the Association you helped to establish. How glad we all are that, in her own words in the Foreword to the 20th Birthday celebration programme, launching an Association in 1980 “seemed a good idea”. Indeed it was!

Penny Moore



THE NORTH STAFFS NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

Our sharp eyed members are probably thinking that our Association is 30 years old this year and already we are changing its name. We have delayed this change as long as we could but in keeping with national policy our association membership is open to National Trust Members **and** the Volunteers who help it to function. Rather than extend our name to include all that we have decided to call ourselves simply The North Staffs National Trust Association. For the time being the name of our Bank account will not change and so cheques should continue to be made out as shown inside the front cover.

ODDS AND ENDS

Luncheon Club

Many thanks to Mary Malcolm for setting up this most enjoyable club and for organizing so many excellent venues in the past.



Welcome to Georgina Pritchard who has volunteered to take over Mary's role- we look forward to further tasty and sociable outings in the Autumn.

Outings

If anyone feels they could run a car outing or coach trip please contact Rose Wheat on 01782 616113- help will be given; you will be contributing to the success of the Association and it's fun! Volunteers and ideas are welcome.

The Newsletter

Overheard recently two of our trip organisers were discussing the difficulty of getting volunteers to do a write up of a trip. We all enjoy the trips and appreciate the arrangements made for us. Surely an occasional write up is a good way of saying thank you - so please volunteer.

VOTING FOR DONATIONS 2010

As Anne has said in her note from the chair we no longer need the high level of reserves that we were expected to keep a few years ago. This means that in our Anniversary year we have £15,000 to donate. This money has been returned to us from the loan account, which has now closed.

The committee has decided to give an amount of £5,000 to each of three properties so that each property supported has a significant sum to enable a much-needed improvement to be made. The committee are also keen that the money is disbursed in a way that the members would wish. We have selected a list of five 'properties' that we believe will reflect the interests of all our members. They include three local properties and two from further afield. They include houses, the countryside and the coast.

The five properties are all known to be in need of funds for projects that fall outside the scope of their current budgets and so would really welcome this money.

Continued on next page

The five properties we are suggesting are :

Little Moreton Hall is both local and popular with members. The Trust describes it as the icon of English Tudor domestic architecture.

Biddulph Grange Garden described by the Trust as one of Britain's most unusual gardens, and again local.

Downs Banks our nearest 'property'. Members who have visited recently will have seen the heath land restoration activity as it is progressing.

Peak District Appeal is again directed at land management but mainly in the northern Peak District, an area much enjoyed by many members.

The Neptune Coastline Campaign - the Trust manages around 700 miles of coastline and has plans to acquire more sites in the future.

Amongst the booking forms you will find a voting slip and we ask all members to send in a postal vote for their three top choices. Audrey Aubrey has kindly agreed to count the votes and will report the final totals at the AGM. The AGM will be asked to approve the awarding of £5000 each to the three properties that get most votes from our Association members.

Please send your voting form to Audrey Aubrey, 10 Paris Avenue, Newcastle ST5 2RQ by May 1st.

CONGRATULATIONS PENNY

At the end of February Penny Moore got her National Trust 30 year long service award. The photo on the front cover shows her with David Watts at Little Moreton Hall. It is great when people we value so much locally get recognition in the bigger picture. Penny has been and still is an enthusiastic volunteer. She has enjoyed it so much that she recommends it to others - see below in her own words.

"I started 30 years ago doing illustrated talks on N.T. subjects to local groups such as W.I and Rotary. Initially, this was to raise interest in the newly formed North Staffordshire National Trust Association and then became extended into recruiting new National Trust members and fundraising.

I was recruited as a National Trust speaker and my area was enlarged to cover requests for talks anywhere in the



West Midlands covering subjects as diverse as Gardens and Plants of the National Trust, Housekeeping and Conservation and Enterprise Neptune. I did these talks for over 25 years during the course of which I became the Chairman (twice), Vice-Chairman and Programme Organiser of the local Association. In the latter role, I organised day trips and holidays at home and abroad which hopefully increased peoples' enjoyment of their National Trust membership (and also raised quite a bit of money!!) Since 1997, I have worked as a Shop Volunteer in the shop at Little Moreton Hall.

So an offer to do 'a few little talks' led to an unexpected 30 years of enjoyable volunteering. I have had great fun, made lots of new friends, met people from all over the world and, hopefully, have also been a bit useful to a wonderful organisation. Volunteering is to be recommended!"

REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

Wednesday 9th December Talk by Eric Newton: The Life and Times of a Busker

We were entertained by music and anecdotes on the life of Eric Newton, a well known local musician, by the man himself. He was the fifth of six children who had an impoverished childhood in Burslem but after hearing the Ceramic City Stompers when he was in his early teens he fell in love with jazz and his grandfather bought him a clarinet for £16. Schoolwork was neglected as Eric painstakingly taught himself to play by listening to records. He soon began playing with the Stompers and had an amazing variety of jobs in order to earn money, even being a second to a wrestler, Lord Topham, for a while. The story of how he won a place at music college, then succumbed to drink, but later by an extraordinary chance got into contact with a man called Dick Whittington in Australia and began to turn his life around, amused and moved us all. Now Eric regularly visits Australia and busks in city centres.

His story was illustrated with his music and he played to us afterwards while we enjoyed wine and mince pies. Oh yes, did I say that he has also run many marathons for charity, playing his clarinet all the way?

Cynthia Dumbelton

Sunday 13th December Bridgewater Hall Concert.

What a super evening this proved to be with so much better playing than Beethoven would have endured at the first performance of his 5th symphony more than 200 years ago (Dec 1808). Just as his genius is beyond our comprehension, it would probably be beyond his imagination to conceive of an orchestra in which as many as half of the accomplished players were ladies and quite beyond belief to have such a gifted lady conductor as Ewa Strusinska. It would be foolish to add more to David Cairns' excellent programme notes.

However, for us Ewa Strusinka guaranteed an outstanding occasion with her conducting of Dvorak's 'The Water Goblin'. This comparatively late work abounds as usual with Dvorak's great tunes and the oboes and clarinets were a great joy. All this prepared us for the contrasting beauty and excitement of Mendelssohn's violin concerto. It seems that gifted young players come forward to delight and astonish us each season. Certainly Jennifer Pike lived up to her reputation from the BBC Proms and her chamber music engagements in London. It will be a pleasure to anticipate future performances – will they lean more in style to her musical inspiration, Fritz Kreisler?

We must again thank Penny Moore for arranging such a memorable evening.

Charles Coutts and Bernice Mulliner

Tuesday 12th January Talk by Randle Knight: William Salt and his Library.

Congratulations to the many members who turned out on a cold, snowy evening! We were well rewarded with a most interesting and copiously illustrated talk from Randle Knight, who shared with us his knowledge and enthusiasm for a man who seemed from the inaccurate details in his obituaries to be little known, yet whose name is now honoured in the county he loved. It was money from earlier generations of the family, who were bankers in London and had land in Staffordshire, that enabled William to purchase huge quantities of books and documents relating to the county, which now are preserved in Stafford.

Born in London in 1808, he was a banker in the Bloomsbury area. His interest in collecting began when he was young and through some of his letters and diaries we know something of his travels, his interest in archaeology and his many visits to Staffordshire. He amassed manuscripts, books, pictures and artefacts throughout his life and became so well-known as a collector of documents about the county that he was once the victim of a deliberate hoax when he was sold fake pictures of Staffordshire ruins!

He married at the age of 49, and when he died a few years later his widow was persuaded to donate the majority of his collection to form the library in Stafford which now bears his name. It is open to the public, free to use, next door to the County Record Office, and is now supported financially by the County Council. It still welcomes donations of documents and books as well as cash. William Salt was described after his death as “...indefatigable in collecting and arranging this collection” and the Staffordshire Advertiser referred to him as “..this great patron of research”. The Library is not unique nationally, but it is a Staffordshire hoard beyond price for family and local historians, archaeologists and artists to name but a few.

Paul Anderton

Wednesday 10th February Talk by Pamela Sambrook: The Staffordshire Oatcake, a History

What could be more enjoyable than a Sunday breakfast of oatcakes filled with bacon and cheese?.

Answer: an example of the Staffordshire Oatcake that is so enjoyed by the population of North Staffordshire and in particular within the Potteries Six Towns.

Dr. Sambrook gave an interesting and amusing talk into the origins and history of this much-loved staple food.

Oatcakes originated in medieval times from the hill farms of North Staffordshire where oats were produced for the baking of this staple food. The oatcake has never been more popular, being produced in vast quantities and sold in leading supermarkets and small oatcake shops within the streets and towns in the area.



Pamela's extensive research has taken her centuries back in time, on the way dispelling the myth that claims oatcakes were initially brought back by the Staffordshire Regiment from the Indian Raj. It is reported, however, that supplies have been sent to our troops in Iraq.

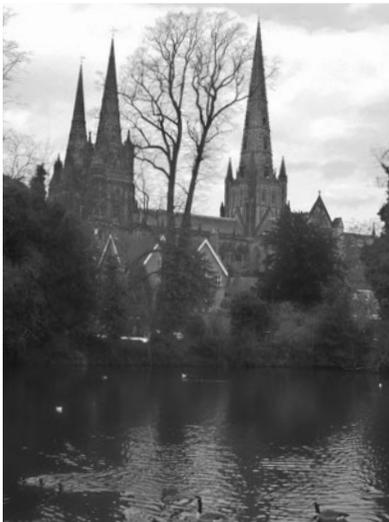
It was a thoroughly enjoyable and well attended talk, which is supported by Pamela's recently published book, "The Staffordshire Oatcake, A History". This can be obtained direct from Dr. Sambrook via the following Email address: pamela.sambrook@btinternet.com

David Wright

Friday 19th February. Car outing to Lichfield Cathedral.

We assembled by the Great West Door where we split into two groups. Our guides were Keith Hardwick, Adam Johns and Kath Toothill who were both informative and entertaining. We first went outside to view the impressive west face where, above the huge doors, is a figure of Mary and Jesus, and above this one of St.Chad. He was Bishop here for just three years from 669 to 672 AD when he died of the plague. He obviously made a big impression as the Cathedral is officially known as that of St.Mary and St.Chad. Higher still is a figure of Christ in Majesty.

Across the frontage are several rows of statues, the first row being of Saxon and Norman Kings whilst above these are various saints, biblical figures and monarchs one of whom is Queen Victoria!



The reason for this is that not all of the 113 statues are original as the ravages over the centuries of weather, the Civil War and three sieges of the Cathedral meant that many needed to be replaced in the late 1800s and Victoria duly took her place. The two towers at either side are topped by two of Lichfield's three famous spires and these two "Ladies of the Vale" rise to almost 200 feet.

Back inside and looking down the nave to the Lady Chapel towards the east there is a noticeable "bend" from right to left. This is because in 600 AD two Saxon churches were built on the site and in 700 AD the

Anglo Saxons built the first Cathedral around them. The present Gothic Cathedral built and extended over the period from 1195 to 1340 was again built around the existing structures and had to be slightly "bent".

In the nave is a mechanical altar platform which retracts underground when not in use. During excavations for this in 2003 the Lichfield Angel (believed to be Angel Gabriel) and carved in limestone circa 800 AD was found. It was at this point we were told that most of the stained glass windows, successively damaged by three sieges, had been replaced over the period from 1700 to the late 1800s. At the end of the nave is the crossing where can be seen the two-staired Skidmore pulpit and George Gilbert Scott's decorative choir screen. Here it was pointed out that worries over the weight of the stone roof led to it being replaced in the 18th century with a roof of wood and plaster.

The South Transept houses a small chapel dedicated to the Staffordshire Regiment and many of its own (and captured) standards hang beneath the stained glass window depicting Jesus King of Kings. Opposite is the North Transept with the font on which are carved successively Moses in Egypt; Noah's Ark; The Resurrection and finally John the Baptist. It is above the Crossing that the central spire (the tallest of the three) rises heavenwards to a height of 258 feet.

As we continued down the north choir aisle and returned via the south one, we saw St. Chad's Head Chapel where until the reformation his head and bones were kept; a 14th century coloured wall painting of the Holy Trinity only discovered in 1979; the Shrine to St Chad and a place for contemplation; the Pedilavium where feet washing took place; an Epstein statue of Bishop Woods and the octagonal Chapter House where one finds the aforesaid Lichfield Angel and the 8th century linenfold Lichfield Gospels.

Restoration is ongoing as evidenced by the current closure of the Lady Chapel for major renewal work by modern day stonemasons and one can see samples of their dedicated work in an outside display area.

Following afternoon tea in the College Hall, we made the short journey home intrigued by the fact that as the first Cathedral was being built and dedicated circa 650 to 700 AD, the Staffordshire Hoard was being buried in a field not far away! After 1300 years we are indeed privileged to be able to see both.

Thanks are due to Peter Thompson for organising this fascinating outing.

Roger Cartlidge.

REPORTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 12

THE NORTH STAFFS NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

**THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WADE HALL, NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE,
HARTSHILL**

TUESDAY MAY 11TH 2010 at 7.00PM

AGENDA:

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 29th AGM**
- 3. Secretary's Report – Matters Arising**
- 4. Treasurer's Report – Matters Arising**
- 5. Setting of Subscription Level 2010 - 2011**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee 2010 2011**
- 7. Donations 2010 (see note on page 3) confirmation of 3 donations of £5000 as per members' voting.**
- 8. Any Other Business**

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

Talk by Dr David Barker: Of Hoards, Heroes and Kings - Archaeology and the Lure of Treasure (following the AGM business).

Inspired by the discovery in 2009 of the Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold, one of the most spectacular finds in this country for a generation, this talk will examine the appeal of treasure, its effect upon the popular imagination and its impact upon archaeological thought. The talk will highlight the Staffordshire Hoard, as well as some other significant treasure finds, and will consider the ways in which we have used these to shape our view of the past.

David Barker is a free-lance archaeologist, writer and lecturer, formerly Senior Archaeologist for Stoke on Trent City Council and has worked not only locally but also in far-flung places so his illustrated talk will have a wide range and will increase our appreciation of what is dug up from the past.

In view of our anniversary celebrations this year the talk will not be followed by the usual buffet supper but coffee and biscuits will be served as usual (pay on the night) and wine is available from the bar. We hope people will still take this opportunity to linger and chat afterwards.

Members are invited to submit nominations for the 2010 – 2011 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 2010-2011.

Sunday 7th March 2010. Walk “Wybunbury and Hough”

After a seemingly interminable winter it was great to gather together under a cloudless blue sky with the church bells pealing (from the tower of the demolished church) and an invigorating walk ahead. It might still have been a touch chilly but over 40 well-wrapped-up members and 5 well-behaved dogs followed Richard along the country lanes, ploughed fields and meadows around Wybunbury and Hough. Thankfully we saw no snakes despite a warning sign and Richard’s (tongue in cheek?) excursion notes or, more significantly in my case, herds of frisky cows, but we were fortunate enough to pass by Wybunbury Moss, a national nature reserve and SSSI previously unknown to most of us. Richard was full of information about its remarkable status as one of just three floating mosses in the UK and also of its dangers to the unwary: apparently parts of it float over a hidden lake over nine metres deep and trees disappear into the depths when they become too heavy for the shifting ground beneath. No-one felt tempted to stray from the marked path!

It was brilliant to get out into the fresh air after so many weeks (months?) stuck inside and Cheshire was looking delightful as it prepared for Spring. Many thanks to Richard for planning and leading the walk once again- he has a talent for choosing routes which combine the picturesque with the unusual and which are suitable for most ramblers even me, not known for my agility, fitness or stamina. I look forward to the next outing.

Rose Wheat



in support of **National
Trust**

SPRING PROGRAMME 2010

Thursday 29th April 1.00pm. Car Outing to Derby Sewage Treatment Works, Megaloughton Lane, Nr Raynesway, Derby. (This trip was included in the December edition of the Newsletter. There are a few places left. Please contact Peter Moxon ASAP if you are interested.)

A visit has been arranged for members to the **Severn Trent Water Authority's** new fully operational site at **Derby** when members will be offered an illustrated talk and a guided tour of the sewage treatment works where they will be able to see the processes used to clean sewage before returning it to the river.

The visit will last between two and three hours. Members will be required to wear hard hats and yellow vests provided by the STA and members should wear stout shoes.

Members should arrive not later than 1.00pm. Directions upon application. The sewage works lies about three miles off the A50.

Cost £5 per member.

Apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 4EB. Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Monday 10th May 2.30 - 4.30 pm Car Outing to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum

Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, near Weston on the way to Crewe, is an important shrine to the 19th century revival movement, Primitive Methodism, which had its origin in the open air meetings at Mow Cop. It houses memorabilia of the leaders and activities of the early Primitive Methodists, and has visitors from all over the world. It has a library of more than 7,000 books and important documents, and has a shop selling books and toys.

We shall visit on a day when the chapel is not open to the general public, and will have a lecture, a guided tour and time to browse. Refreshments will be provided.

Members should note that there are a few steps to climb and that there is no wheelchair access.

The cost is £4.00 (£5.00 for non-members).

Please apply to Keith Walker, 49 Stockwood Road, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 3LQ (tel:01782 613813) enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications is Friday 30th April.

Monday 17th May Coach Outing to Hill Close Gardens, Warwick and Charlecote Park.

Join us to enjoy a spring outing to visit two contrasting venues. **Hill Close Gardens**, hidden away in the centre of Warwick, are a set of plots originally for town dwellers who had no gardens of their own. The owners grew produce and flowers and many built charming summer houses. Gradually the plots fell into disrepair but these “secret gardens” and summer houses have recently been restored by a Trust. On arrival we shall have coffee and cake followed by a private tour of the gardens. There are often plants for sale. The coach will then take us the short distance to **Charlecote Park** where members can buy lunch in the restaurant or take a picnic.

Charlecote Park has undergone considerable improvements to both house and gardens in recent years and this year the Victorian



kitchen will be in use with cookery demonstrations each day. See the treasures in the house and take walks in the grounds and to the river. There is also an excellent plant stall by the car park, which usually has local produce for sale. There is a short walk from the car park to the house but a buggy will be available for those who prefer.

PLEASE BRING NT AND VOLUNTEER CARDS. PROMPT BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Depart School Street 9.00am and return at approx. 6.00pm

Cost: £19.50 (non-members £21.50) including coach, gratuities, garden tour and refreshments.

Please apply to Mrs. A. Anderton, 14. Berne Avenue. Newcastle. Staffs ST5 2QJ Tel 01782 613024 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications is Saturday 8th May .

Wednesday 2nd June. Arrive by noon. Car Outing to Shipton Hall, nr Much Wenlock, Shropshire,(Max 50).

This interesting **Hall** was built around 1587 and stands in the beautiful Corvedale Valley about six miles south-west of Much Wenlock. There are Georgian additions to the Elizabethan Hall which contains some fine rococo decoration attributed to the Shrewsbury architect TF Pritchard. Other features are the offset tower, possibly a belvedere, with an unusual entrance, and a rare Georgian gentleman's library. Also to view are a walled garden, dovecote and parish church dating back to Saxon times.

Shipton was in the ownership of the Mytton family for 300 years but is now the home of the Bishop family. There are two interesting stories pertaining to the Hall, firstly, that Queen Elizabeth slept here- and apparently there is proof! Secondly, there is the tale of a sad love affair.

The cost includes a guided tour of the Hall and a sandwich lunch with tea or coffee. Lunch will be taken at 12.30pm in the stable block prior to the tour which lasts for approximately 45 minutes. After the tour members can explore the grounds and church at leisure. The ladies might like to know that Stanway fabrics have an outlet at Shipton Hall where silks, crewels and heavily discounted designer materials are available to purchase.

Will members arrive no later than 12 noon. There is ample parking on the site. Sensible walking shoes are advisable. There are some steps up

to the Hall which have no handrail but once inside there are handrails to all the stairs.

The cost is £13.50 per member (£14.50 for non-members)

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3, the Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3HY. Telephone: 01782 851 436 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Full directions will be sent upon receipt of application.

Closing date for applications is Monday 10th May.

Sunday 13th June. 8.00am Walk: "Breakfast on the Canal"

Wakey, wakey! Rise and shine for a summer Sunday early morning stroll, the perfect excuse for treating yourself to a full English breakfast (lighter option available).

We will meet at **Hassall Green** (between Alsager and Sandbach) at 8am, and set off along the "Salt Line". This was once a part of the North Staffordshire Railway, linking the coal mines of the Potteries with the salt works of Cheshire, but is now a scenic path through woods and farmland. We cross to the Trent and Mersey canal for the return leg of the walk.

This is an easy walk of about 5 miles on mostly level ground. Only one stile!

Our breakfast tables are reserved for 10am at the **Lock 57 Brasserie**, by the canal at Hassall Green. Numbers are limited to 30, so early booking advised.

Donation £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.

Monday 19th July Coach Outing to Mawley Hall, Claverley Church and Flower Festival

In common with eighteenth century travellers who wanted to be at their best before arriving at the Hall, after one and a half hours, we shall pause at the 16th Century **Crown Inn** at Hopton Wafers for refreshment and attendance to necessaries.

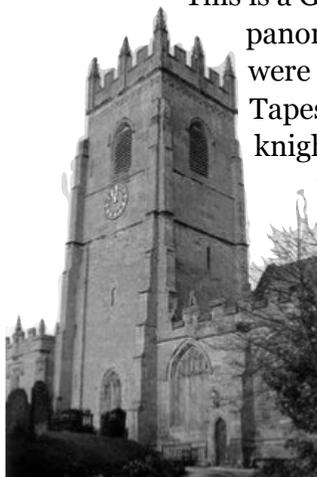
We shall be met at **Mawley Hall, near Cleobury Mortimer**, by the owners for an exclusive private tour of the house and be left at liberty in the pleasure grounds.

Mawley Hall, built in 1730 by “Smith of Warwick” was saved from destruction almost 50 years ago. The exceptional Grade 1 listing is a clue that the elegant restrained exterior is a complete contrast to one of the finest Baroque interiors in the country, featuring amazing plasterwork. This is not just “Mausoleum Baroque”, this is “Colefax and Fowler, I could live here, Baroque.” We will also be inspired by the gothic summerhouse, delightful flowers, landscaped gardens with an A-Z of trees, and the views!

After Mawley we return to The Crown for lunch. There are tables on the terrace for those taking a picnic or a convivial private room for those who have selected (via the booking form) some of the Inn’s delectable home made food.

From Hopton Wafers we journey to **All Saints Church, Claverley**.

This is a Grade 1 listed church founded in 1017 with rare panoramic wall paintings dating from 1200. These were inspired by embroidery similar to the Bayeux Tapestry, and feature seven mounted virtuous knights in combat with seven knights representing vices.



Our visit coincides with the **34th Annual Flower Festival** and the church will be adorned with floral interpretations of iconic British figures of 20th Century. Tea/coffee and cake will be served in a marquee reserved for us when we have viewed the flower

displays, plant and book stalls. Claverley was the Gold Award winner in the Heart of England in Bloom last year. This year's competition will be judged while we are there.

Depart School Street 9.00 am.

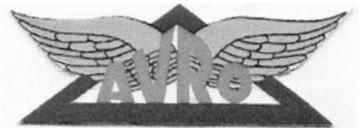
Return coach to Newcastle to arrive at about 6.00 pm.

Cost, including coach, driver's gratuity, morning coffee and biscuits, afternoon tea and all admissions £ 28.00 for members £30 for non-members. Details of lunch and prices see Booking Form.

Apply to Ralph White, c/o 13 Pear Tree Drive, Madeley, Crewe, CW3 9EN by 12 June. Tel. 01902 752833. Please enclose a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Tuesday 3rd August. 10.30am Car outing to the Avro Heritage Centre, Woodford

The **Avro Heritage Centre**, was created to bring together aviation artefacts which had previously been stored away from general view. The Aviation Centre shows how aviation progressed through the decades from Alliott Verdon Roe and his prize winning model in 1907 through World Wars I & II to the present day when Avro combined with other aircraft companies to form BAE Systems. The best known aircraft manufactured by AVRO are probably the Avro Lancaster, the Avro Anson, the Avro Shackleton and the mighty Avro Vulcan.



We will be met at the **Woodford Aerodrome Main Gate** and will be directed to the main reception to collect our "Visitors' Passes". A tour of the centre will last until approximately 2.00pm. This allows for a lunch break in their restaurant on site where a wide range of hot and cold meals are served (at members' own expense) at a minimal cost. After lunch we will be collected by a member of the Heritage Team and escorted through the Main Aircraft Assembly hangar where we will see the new Nimrod MRA4 under construction. Weather permitting there is every chance that a Nimrod might be doing flight trials on the day and so we could possibly see one in the air.

Woodford Aerodrome (Post Code SK7 1QR) is reached by taking the A34 to Wilmslow and the A5102 to Woodford. The distance from Stoke is 30 miles and it will take approximately an hour to drive from Stoke City Centre. No cameras are allowed on the aerodrome and for security purposes please let me have the names and addresses of all the people who wish to visit Woodford on your application form for the visit. As we shall be walking through a manufacturing aircraft hangar, please wear appropriate foot wear.

Meet at the Woodford Aerodrome main gate at 10.30 a.m.

The cost for members will be £2.50 and £3.50 for non members.

Please apply to Peter Thompson, Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs. ST5 3LS telephone: 01782 613397 enclosing a cheque and a stamped self addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications: Monday 19th July

Thursday 12th August – Coach Outing to Lancaster.

We shall first visit **Lancaster Castle** for a guided tour lasting approx. one hour. This historic castle, owned by the Queen as Duke of Lancaster, is both a fortification and Europe's longest serving prison and is where the Pendle Witches were tried and sentenced to death. It also comprises the Grand Jury Room, the Crown Court, the ancient dungeons and heraldic displays in the integral Shire Hall. Internally the Castle has three flights of fairly steep stone steps, however, these are fitted with secure handrails.



Following the tour we shall walk the short distance to the 15th century **Priory and Parish Church** which, like the Castle, overlooks the city. Whilst mostly medieval, its history dates to Saxon times and contains features and artefacts spanning 13 centuries notably the 14th century choir stalls, the hand-embroidered tapestries and a pulpit erected in 1619.

Lunch will be taken at **The Borough** (a Georgian building once the home of the Mayor) and will comprise a two-course meal, with a varied menu to choose from including vegetarian options.

The afternoon will be free for members to explore this compact county town whose attractions include the **Judges' Lodgings**, Grade 1 listed and boasting fine Gillow furniture in Regency settings which until 1975 provided lodgings for judges sitting at Assizes; the **City Museum**, housed in the former **Town Hall** with collections from the Neolithic age to the present day; the **Maritime Museum** housed in the Custom House in the pleasant riverside setting of **St George's Quay**, which tells the history of Lancaster as a port and canal town and highlights the fishing industry on the Lune estuary. There are also town centre shops, arcades and market. The town is easily walkable and mostly pedestrianised within the one-way ring road, however, many streets are quaintly cobbled and have old stone-flagged pavements so reasonable care needs to be taken and sensible shoes are a must.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served at the Borough prior to leaving for home at 5.00pm.

Depart from School Street at 8.30am; arrive back at approx. 7.00pm.

Cost: £25.50 (non-members £27.50) to include coach fare, driver's gratuity, guided tour of the Castle, two-course lunch and refreshments prior to leaving.

Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3, The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3HY;

Tel: 01782 777513 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for the receipt of applications: Thursday 15th July.

| Summary of 2010 Summer Programme | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 29th April | Car Outing to Derby Sewage Treatment Works |
| Monday 10th May | Car Outing to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum |
| Tuesday 11th May | AGM and Talk by Dr David Barker: Of Hoards, Heroes and Kings - Archaeology and the Lure of Treasure. |
| Monday 17th May | Coach Outing to Hill Close Gardens and Charlecote Park. |
| Wednesday 2nd June. | Car Outing to Shipton Hall, near Much Wenlock, Shropshire |
| Sunday 13th June. | Walk: "Breakfast on the Canal" |
| Tuesday 22nd June | Anniversary Celebrations: see separate leaflet |
| Monday 19th July | Coach Outing to Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Claverley Church and Flower Festival |
| Tuesday 3rd August | Car outing to the Avro Heritage Centre, Woodford |
| Thursday 12th August | Coach Outing to Lancaster. |



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