

The North Staffs National Trust Association

Newsletter 87
and
September 2010 to January 2011 Programme



Speke Hall
see Page 19



FOUR THINGS NEED URGENT BOOKING -

DONT BE LATE IF YOU WANT GO!

SEE PAGE 17, 19, 20 AND 24

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.

The North Staffs National Trust Association

NEWSLETTER No. 87 and

September 2010 to January 2011 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

First I would like to thank all those members who voted for which three properties should receive donations from the Loan Account money in our Anniversary year. From a membership of just over 400, 262 people voted and – perhaps not surprisingly – the results were as follows: Biddulph Grange 71 votes; Little Moreton Hall 67; Downs Banks 51; Peak District 42 and Enterprise Neptune 31. The first three property managers have been informed and of course are delighted to have such unexpected presents. We have invited them all to visit us in November and tell us of their plans for spending the money (see page 23)

Most people will know by now that sadly we had to cancel all the Anniversary celebrations planned for June 22nd as bookings numbers were so low. It is hard to know why the day did not appeal to many members; however, I would like to give grateful thanks to Angela Davies, who did a great deal of work, ably assisted at times by Penny Moore, to make all the arrangements for the day. Special thanks are also due to John Beaumont who did such an excellent job of organising all the details into booklets and booking forms while still not exceeding the size and weight of the Newsletter for posting at the usual rate.

The summer programme has otherwise proved to be popular and we are grateful for the help of some members who are new to the running of outings but have proved adept at selecting interesting venues and showing efficient organising skills. We are always grateful for help with any aspect of running the Association and would welcome enquiries from members to discuss with any of the committee how they might be able to assist.. There are many jobs which do not involve attending committee meetings but which need the ability to plan, write, use computer skills, help with leading an outing, etc. and would help to spread the workload.

I hope you find plenty of interest in the forthcoming programme which is varied and has something for everyone!

Best wishes, Anne Anderton

WHO WILL BE OUR NEXT CHAIRMAN?

Do you know someone who would enjoy being our next chairman? Could it be you?

When Anne Anderton announced that she will be stepping down at the 2011 AGM, we all felt a sense of shock. She has been the chairman for many years, and has held the role so well that we wonder who could possibly succeed her.



The search is now on!

We are looking for an individual who will approach the job in their own way, have a passion for the Association, and who has the style and personality to represent us. He or she is guaranteed to find challenges, excitement and a lot of job-satisfaction along the way.

Anne is of course more than happy to discuss the job with anyone interested. She admits that she has perhaps allowed herself to become too involved in the past, and the other committee members are willing to take on parts of her work, if that is what the new chairman wants.

For an informal chat, more information, or even to make a nomination, please phone Anne Anderton on 01782 613024 or Richard Adams on 01782 646054.



LUNCHEON CLUB MEETINGS

The popular Luncheon Club restarts in September. Georgina Pritchard has now taken over and her selections can be found in the programme.

NEWS FROM BIDDULPH GRANGE GARDENS

Calling all Alan Tichmarsh Fans!

Biddulph Grange will be featured in a new series for BBC that will be broadcast in September.

Bee Part of it!

Biddulph Grange have teamed up with BBC Radio Stoke as part of the 'Bee part of it' project run in conjunction with Springwatch. A hive in the garden will be featured in news and updates over the rest of the year.



This project is a tangible way we can all be involved in helping the honey bee and educating and inspiring everyone on how they can help bees.

The initiative is in response to the alarming recent decline in numbers of honey bees.

Shop news

Laura, Biddulph Grange Retail Manager, has lots of new ranges coming into the shop that reflect the different countries represented in the garden. They were launched on the 23rd July, and we are all welcome to go along and see what's new.



REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

Trip to Derby Museum, Cathedral and Pickford's House.

I have to confess my ignorance of the paintings by the artist Joseph Wright but on arrival at the Art Gallery within Derby Museum, I was totally enamoured by his work. His use of light and shadow was illuminating and masterful, especially with reference to the dramatic painting depicting the presentation of a lecture on The Orrery.

With the help of the Keeper of the Gallery, Lucy Salt, we were able to decipher many of the metaphors hidden within his paintings and to emerge "out of the shadow of ignorance into the light of knowledge." Lucy shared her enthusiasm

for the artist, whose portraits brought together a collection of men who were the technologists, entrepreneurs and great thinkers in the exciting time of the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment.

A short stroll through one of Derby's recently pedestrianised streets brought us to the Cathedral Church of All Saints; a light-filled, welcoming place of worship. The two modern stained glass windows echoing the play of darkness and light as seen at the gallery, were quite beautiful and the wrought iron screens only served to re-iterate the delicate, airy feeling that the building engendered. One was left with a sense of simple modernity, albeit the start of construction dating from 1511. I liked it.

After an enjoyable lunch at the Cathedral Centre, we set off for the final visit of the day to Pickford's House, which was built in 1769 by Joseph Pickford, a local architect and builder, as a family home and base for his flourishing business. On an interesting note, we discovered that Pickford was instrumental in the design and construction of the factory and hall at Etruria for our prestigious local potter, Josiah Wedgwood. Over four floors, we were able to view a snippet of Georgian life as well as several collections of ephemerae from subsequent ages.

We ended the day realising what a rich interconnecting web of important individuals we had been privileged to learn about and our thanks go to Rose Wheat for organising such an interesting visit.

Susan Till

Tuesday 9th March Talk by Shaun Farrelly: "The first transatlantic telegraph cable"

Anne Anderton introduced our speaker as a man with a passion for his topic - a passion I share - my wife once asked me why I'd brought a hacksaw on holiday, only to find out when I proceeded to "retrieve" a section of exposed cable from the beach! Shaun gave a humorous and informative insight into the trials and tribulations of trying to introduce a new technology before even the names and sizes of the electrical units such as the volt, amp or ohm had been decided. The "electrician" appointed for the project was a surgeon more interested in making money from his own unsuitable equipment than in the success of the venture. His refusal to sail with the ancient cable vessel, however, resulted in his place being taken by the 22 year old Professor Thomson, who was later knighted and made Lord Kelvin for his many technical innovations. Telegraph cables were the glue which helped bind the

empire together and as such were more important to Britain than any other country. Thus Britain became pre-eminent in the design, manufacture, financing and laying of submarine cables. Today these cables contain optic fibres instead of copper and operate billions of times faster to bring us the telephone, internet and international TV. We owe a great debt to the colourful and enterprising giants of Victorian industry, commerce, and science who took these first steps, and to our speaker for explaining it all in a non-technical way.

Pat Wilson

Thursday 29th April Car Outing to Derby Sewage Treatment Plant

The visit started with a welcome by our guide for the day, Edwina Woodland, and an illustrated talk about the collection and use of water and the treatment of sewage. Edwina gave members interesting statistical information, mainly concerning the quantitative consumption of water by households.

Next members were adorned in white plastic safety helmets, orange waistcoats and blue disposable rubber gloves and they set off around the plant.

Whilst the process of treating sewage is not overly complicated, members were impressed by the vast quantity of sewage treated by the plant and the size of the treatment tanks. Members saw how the raw sewage was processed into clean water that was discharged into the adjoining River Derwent. The discharged water is said to be of the same quality as the natural water flowing in the river,

Edwina was impressed by the large number of questions from members as they toured the plant, which is perhaps indicative of the interest generated by the visit.

Peter Moxon.

Monday 10th May Car Outing to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum

On Monday 10th May, a cool, grey but dry day, 19 local N.T. members arrived at the Englesea Brook Primitive Methodist Chapel to find tea, coffee and biscuits awaiting us in the well-maintained building, now a Museum.

Kevin Watson, full-time Curator, greeted us and gave us an informative introductory talk, before dividing us into 2 groups to watch, in one small room a "Magic Lantern" show, and, in the other two shorter videos, recalling some of the highlights of the Primitive Methodist movement. We were introduced to Hugh Bourne from Bucknall, that shy but impassioned convert, preaching to three thousand people of all ages, on Mow Cop, in the mid- 19th century religious revival. 250 years later, thousands again gathered to commemorate the first of these great "Camp-Meetings", again on Mow Cop. Preaching was followed by food shared and eaten together in the open – a re-enactment of what had gone on before.

In the Museum – high-ceilinged, light and pleasantly decorated – was a vast array of memorabilia connected with the birth of Primitive Methodism in the early 19th century, its growth, and final incorporation into mainstream Methodism in the 20th century. Around and above us were dozens of colourful, well-preserved banners, previously proudly carried in processions of witness through various northern and other towns. The centrality of the Bible and its teachings and the necessity of bringing up children to be God-fearing and disciplined, featured in a number of those on display - the biggest collection of such banners in the U.K.

We saw, too, a home-made pulpit, used not only by men, but also by WOMEN preachers, of whom there were several hundred at one period in Primitive Methodism's history. Indeed one, Elisabeth Evans, was the inspiration for Dinah Morris, in George Eliot's "Adam Bede".

A fine collection of commemorative porcelain, protected in well-lit glass cabinets; an original organ; an 1842 printing press, still in working order; as well as fine, white, cotton under-garments of the era, were just a few of the intriguing items to savour here – and savour them we did, as have so many of the increasing number of visitors who come to the Museum, these swelled further by the parties of primary school children who come with their teachers.

What caught my eye just before I left was the book of tickets, with stubs...Raffle tickets? Hardly! No! These were tickets issued to members of The Band of Hope who were prepared to "Sign the Pledge":

"I do hereby agree, the Lord helping me, to abstain from all Intoxicating Liquors as Beverages, and from the use of (Tobacco – crossed out!) and Snuff, and to discourage the use of them by others. Signed; Name; Date."

I thought of my Grandfather who had also, long ago, signed the same pledge, and held to it, life-long!

Warmest thanks to Keith Walker for organising this instructive and stimulating afternoon.

For those who couldn't make it, the Museum opening times are: April-July and Sept.-Nov Thurs. Fri. Sat. 10.30 – 5.15. In August also Tues/Wed.

Enid Nussbaum.

Report of AGM held on Tuesday 11th May

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and the Chairman welcomed all members. The business was conducted quickly but there were 2 important announcements. The first concerned the donations from the Loan Account money which members had voted for. The results were as follows - Biddulph Grange 71; Little Moreton Hall 67; Downs Banks 51; Peak District 42; Enterprise Neptune 31. The second announcement was a sad one in that the Chairman had to inform members that the planned Anniversary celebration had been cancelled due to very low bookings. She explained that the numbers were not financially viable, being mostly in the low 20s instead of the expected 80 - 100 and the committee did not wish to run the risk of any financial penalties so had reluctantly cancelled the event. She thanked all those who had helped in the planning, especially Angela and Alun Davies, Penny Moore and those who had made bookings.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

AGM Lecture Dr David Barker: Of Hoards, Heroes and Kings - Archaeology and the Lure of Treasure

A well-attended AGM enjoyed a talk on the lure of buried treasure by *David Barker*, a consultant archaeologist and formerly the City of Stoke-on-Trent's senior archaeologist. Despite some initial hesitation and apology, David led us on well-guided exploration: he started with the BBC's viewers 2003 "top ten treasures", illustrating each with well chosen slides of so many exquisite pieces, and culminating in the magnificent Sutton Hoo ship burial, found in 1938. He then went on to describe the intricacies of the law, formulated in the Middle Ages, on Treasure Trove, which were confined to finds of gold and silver that were judged to have been buried with intent to retrieve them. Further illustrations of finds followed, some of which were not, in the legal sense, treasure. A more inclusive and clear Treasure Act in 1996 replaced Treasure Trove. David mentioned the apparent initial problems provoked by modern metal detectors, but then paid tribute to the skill and professionalism of most amateur archaeologists, many of whom are responsible for a number of recent finds, including our own Staffordshire Hoard. He concluded with a mention of ship finds and the commercial undertakings that have evolved to exploit them. In all, David's tour of exploration, unlike most treasure hunts, was immediately successful, yielding a host of insights into the world of buried treasure. It well deserved our Chairman's accolade of an "interesting and enlightening" talk.

Peter Borrell

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

After a straightforward journey, we arrived for delicious coffee and cake at Hill Close Gardens. We were then given very interesting and informative guided tours of these delightful remaining 'detached gardens'. They were all used differently, some more decorative, and others with productive vegetable plots and ancient fruit trees. All had summerhouses of quite varying designs, some even with fireplaces, as they would have done when the original inhabitants spent their free time in their own private pleasure grounds. We were visited by some resident ducks and chatted to people working on their plots. How we envied those living nearby, some of whom even today had their own detached garden to tend. It was good to know the splendid open view of the racecourse

would always be there and that this oasis of delight was there for visitors, just below the town centre.

We then proceeded the short distance to magnificent Charlecote Park, where most of us went straight to the Orangery restaurant for lunch and then were free to look round the house and grounds. I always find the family portraits interesting and Charlecote has an abundance of these, from all periods. All the rooms had fascinating contents, but I particularly liked the family touches, such as the embroidered upholstery done by Mary Elizabeth Lucy and her harp. Amongst the notable furniture was the amazing sideboard, generally thought hideous by modern visitors, and for me the cabinet decorated with superb floral marquetry at the foot of the stairs. The kitchen and its equipment was fascinating, as was the brew-house, where a small girl amused us by climbing into a barrel for a photo! We then strolled round the house to the river, which gives Charlecote such a wonderful situation. Many of us then repaired to the nearby garden centre and returned home with a boot full of excellent plants. All in all a lovely day. Many thanks to Anne Anderton for organizing this so well.

Kay Williams

Wednesday 2nd June. Car Outing to Shipton Hall, nr Much Wenlock, Shropshire,

It's not unusual to find that houses (or Halls) that we visit are well worth the journey, and Shipton Hall was no exception. But the visit started unusually with Mr Bishop showing a keen interest in the neatness of the car parking see picture. Early arrivals had the offer of having their car re-aligned, while later arrivals were given clear advice so that we could all have room to park. It was all done with great humour and helped to introduce Mr Bishop to us all before he introduced us to his Hall. The visit was a lovely mix of history, both of the buildings and the people as well as some of the local colour that we would all miss without the



opportunity of being on a NT visit. We were told the sad tale of the More children who were sent, in 1620, on an overcrowded boat called the Mayflower, along with the Pilgrim Fathers, to New England at the ages of 4, 6, 7 and 8. Their crime was that they embarrassed their father Samuel More by looking too much like a neighbour. His wife refused to deny adultery. Only one of the four lived more than a few months after the journey. On a more intimate level we were shown a lovely Meissen Monkey Orchestra (the only other I have seen was at Bamburgh Castle) that had been damaged when a bird flew down the chimney in the room where these lovely pieces were displayed.

After touring the Hall and taking lunch we explored the Saxon Church, the gardens and along with many other members took tea in the nearby Stanway fabrics outlet.

Thank you Shirley for organising such a lovely day out.

John Beaumont

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

30 intrepid walkers assembled at Lock 57 on the Trent and Mersey Canal at Hassall Green for a 5 to 6 mile breakfast walk, with an 8.00am start.

Weather conditions ideal — 13 to 14°C, little wind and a light cloudy sky.

We joined part of the long and very good "Cheshire Ring Canal Walk" at Lock 57 and proceeded along the good towpath to Rode Heath and Thurlwood — passing numerous canal leisure boats moored alongside and delightful Cheshire farmland on either side of the canal.



On reaching the Broughton Arms at Rode Heath we left the canalside and proceeded down Rode Heath Rise and then Lawton Heath End to join the Salt Line — a wide roadway/path through an avenue of a variety of deciduous trees (with seats along the route for those wishing to take a more leisurely walk and also

NEWSLETTER CONTINUES ON PAGE 17

BACK OF BOOKING FORM

Wednesday 15th September. Evening Car Outing to a Top Secret Nuclear Bunker somewhere near Nantwich.

Name	Association No.	£
.....
.....
Total		£.....

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

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

Closing date for applications: Monday 6th September.

□-----

Wednesday 22 September Coach Outing to St George's Hall, Liverpool and Speke Hall.

NAME	ASSOCIATION NO.	£
.....
.....
TOTAL		£.....

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

.....**TEL. NO.**

Please apply to Mrs Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB [Tel: 01782 616113] enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

The closing date for applications is Monday 13th September.

Sunday 3rd October. Walk: Broughton and Fairoak

NAME

ASSOCIATION NO.

.....

.....

PAY ON THE DAY

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

.....TEL. NO.

Apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope,

or by email to rjadams@doctors.org.uk

□-----

Thursday 21 October 2.00- 4.00pm Car Outing and History Walk around Penkridge.

NAME

ASSOCIATION NO.

£

.....

.....

TOTAL £.....

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

.....TEL. NO.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB (tel. 01782 616113) enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 11 October.

**BACK OF
BOOKING
FORM**

Tuesday 14th December 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference Centre : Mrs Butters at Work and Home

Please book for refreshments after the talk at £4 per person.

Refreshment	No of people	COST £
Mulled wine and mince pie		
Mulled fruit juice and mince pie		
Tea/coffee and mince pie		

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

.....TEL. NO.

Apply Miss A Aubrey 10 Paris Avenue Newcastle ST5 2RQ enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications Friday 26th November

□-----

Thursday 24th February. Coach Outing The Hallé at the Bridgewater Hall

Name	Association No.	£
.....
.....
	Total	£.....

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

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

BACK OF BOOKING FORM

numerous information signs, depicting origins of the line, local fauna, bird life etc.).

Nearing the M6 motorway, we left the Salt Line and crossed over the only stile on the route, to rejoin the canal at Lock 57 in time for our sustenance at 10.a.m.

A very good and hearty breakfast was enjoyed by everyone at the Lock 57 Brasserie – tables reserved for us in the upstairs comfortable restaurant – a choice of smoked salmon and scrambled eggs on toast at £3.75 or full English breakfast, including toast and marmalade and tea/coffee at £4.75 – excellent value, all nicely prepared and cooked.

Many thanks to Richard Adams for organising another very good countryside walk.

Alan and Heather Hobson

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2010

Tuesday 7th September 12:30 for 1pm
Luncheon Club Meeting at the Fitzherbert Arms,
Swynnerton



(A519 from Newcastle, L at crossroads with A51, then 1st right to Swynnerton) Max 20

Choose from - **Starter:** Home Made Soup of the Day with half baguette/ Tomato and Goat's Cheese Tart with side salad/ Smoked Haddock and Spring Onion Fish Cake served with Lemon and Pepper Mayo. **Main :** Chicken Tikka Masala with Naan Bread, Rice and Mango Chutney / 'Fitz' Burger with slices of sweet tomato, cheddar cheese and red onion marmalade / Pan-fried Salmon with Lemon and Dill Butter served with new potatoes and fresh vegetables. 2 courses £12:95



Cheese cake or Raspberry and White Chocolate Pavlova -
 £3:50

Please note - **URGENT BOOKING REQUIRED**

Please book by phone before Monday August 30th giving your choices, name and phone number to Georgina Pritchard - 01782 627367

Wednesday 15th September. Evening Car Outing to a Top Secret Nuclear Bunker somewhere near Nantwich.

+++++ TOP SECRET+++++

RAF Hack Green was a WW2 operational radar station. This amazing concrete labyrinth built in the 1950s was converted into a secret Regional Government Headquarters in the 1980s at a cost of £32 million.

Had nuclear war ever broken out, this is where 130 civil servants and military commanders would have hidden and ruled north-west England. On the surface the bunker resembles an innocent utility building.



However, once through the massive blast doors, we will be transported into the top secret world of the Cold War. We will be taken on a two hour "behind the scenes" conducted tour of the communications centre, radio rooms, BBC studio, telephone exchange, scientists' fall out centre, Minister of State's office, fall out filter plant, decontamination room and much more.

We will view original TV broadcasts that would have been transmitted on all channels before a nuclear strike. We will also experience a real "4 minutes warning" and see tons of authentic equipment in its original setting which really brings home the awesome power of nuclear weapons and the government's state of readiness.

In the true spirit of the era, we will be able to sample a cup of authentic NAAFI tea or coffee (bromide can be added if requested) and assorted hard tack biscuits.

A stout pair of shoes should be worn for the visit. This visit is unsuitable for people who suffer from claustrophobia. Full details of how to find the secret bunker will be forwarded on edible paper to those applying to join the visit. Details should be committed to memory and the paper then eaten. Visit www.hackgreen.co.uk for further details if required.

Meet at Hack Green at 1800 hours (6.00pm).

The cost for members will be £12.50 and £14.50 for non members.

Please note - URGENT BOOKING REQUIRED

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



Closing date for applications: Monday 6th September.

+++++ TOP SECRET+++++

Wednesday 22 September Coach Outing to St George's Hall, Liverpool and Speke Hall.

St George's Hall is widely regarded as one of the finest neo-classical buildings in the world and is a Grade I listed building. On arrival we shall have coffee/tea and biscuits followed by a guided tour of the hall including opportunities to visit cells used by prisoners awaiting trial, the newly refurbished Criminal Court and the Judges' Robing Room. Those members with an engineering background will be interested to see part of the unique ventilation system, said to be the first example of mechanised air-conditioning in the world.

The coach will then take us on the short journey to **Speke Hall** where members can buy lunch in the restaurant or take a picnic. You will then be free to explore this rare Tudor manor house with its rich Victorian interiors, kitchen and servants' hall. The secret priest's hole is a reminder of the

passions of an earlier age when the devoutly Catholic family offered sanctuary to priests who lived in constant fear of capture by Walsingham's secret police.

Take a walk in the garden with its seasonal blooms and colour throughout the year or, if time allows, perhaps stroll in the woods or on the bund overlooking the Mersey estuary. The keen gardener will find that the well-stocked shop includes plants for sale in addition to the usual souvenirs and gifts.

There is a shuttle service between the Home Farm restaurant/shop/reception and the house if required. The formal garden has flat path surfaces but the circular estate walk [distance ½ mile] has some challenging slopes with steep drops and uneven path surfaces in parts.

PLEASE BRING NT AND VOLUNTEER CARDS.
PROMPT BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

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

Cost: £18.50 (non-members £20.50) including coach, gratuities, tour of St George's Hall and refreshments.

Please apply to Mrs Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB [Tel: 01782 616113] enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

The closing date for applications is Monday 13th September.



Sunday 3rd October. Walk: Broughton and Fairoak

This is a 3-hour round trip from the Peel Arms in Ashley, getting back there in time for lunch (Sunday roast a speciality).

The Ashley area has some of the highest arable farmland in England, so the views can be spectacular. We will pass close by Broughton Hall, a fine Elizabethan-style country house, and St Peter's Church opposite, before skirting the village of Fairoak, and a short section through the Bishop's Wood, then making our way back via Ashley Dale.

This is longer and more strenuous than some of our recent walks - 7 miles, 18 stiles, and some rough ground - so you will need walking shoes and long trousers. No exotic mammals on this one, but I did see a peacock walking

along a roof!

Meet at the Peel Arms for a 10am start, lunch is booked for 1.30pm.

Donation £2 for members, £2.50 for guests, please pay on the day.

Apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, or by email to

rjadams@doctors.org.uk

Tuesday 5th October. 12:30 for 1pm. Luncheon Club meeting: Chetwode Arms, Pipe Gate. (A51)



You could also visit Bridgemere, 2 -3 miles further on.

Spacious dining area. Carvery, and choice of dessert: apple crumble or chocolate fudge cake. £8:95. Coffee extra.

Please book by phone by Friday September 24th, **giving your choice of dessert, name and phone number**, to Georgina Pritchard - 01782 627367

Tuesday 12th October 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference Centre Ray Perry: Rudyard Lake — Past and Present

Our speaker for the evening is Chairman of the Rudyard Lake Trust. Ray will begin his talk with the first verse of the George Heath poem "Glorious Rudyard". This verse was to be found on many of the pottery souvenirs in the early 20th Century, some of which will be on display.

The lake covers 168 acres of land which was previously farmed. The pottery industry of the late 1700's needed a regular water supply. Josiah Wedgwood and James Brindley raised finance to build the Caldon canal which opened in 1779. Stanley and Knypersley reservoirs were used to supply the canals but were unable to cope with the demand.

In 1797 an Act of Parliament passed plans to dam the Dunsmore Brook and the dam was completed in 1801 resulting in Rudyard Lake.

Ray will give us a detailed and interesting account of the Rudyard Lake from these beginnings to the present day.

Thursday 21 October 2.00- 4.00pm Car Outing and History Walk around Penkridge.

In the pre-railway age, to the criminals of South Staffordshire 'crossing Bull Bridge' was shorthand for a spell of imprisonment in Stafford Gaol as their route inevitably led over the River Penk; to the modern day, law-abiding citizens of North Staffordshire (namely us), crossing the bridge will lead to a leisurely walk around some of Penkridge's treasures culminating in the local gaol for refreshments rather than punishment.

Despite extensive demolition along the A449 in the 1930s, Penkridge has an enviable number of half-timbered buildings, some dating back to the 15th century, elegant Georgian and Victorian houses and a magnificent church containing the ornate tombs of members of the Littleton family who dominated the area for three centuries.

The walk will be led by Rose Wheat, author of a recently published book on 17th century Penkridge, who will provide a commentary on the various landmarks plus an insight into the lives of the past inhabitants of this 'small but ancient town'.

Cost £5 per member (£6 for non-members) includes a guided tour of the 18th century lock-up and coffee/tea and biscuits.

Members should arrive no later than 2.00pm at the public car park adjoining the Bridge Inn, on the left after crossing Bull Bridge. Directions upon application. You are advised to wear sensible footwear and to observe the Green Cross Code!

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB (tel. 01782 616113) enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 11 October.

Thursday 11th November 12 for 12:30 PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIME. Luncheon Club meeting: the Broughton Arms, Newcastle Road, Balterley. (Junction of A531 and B5500) Max 20

Starters, £4:50 Soup of the Day, Pate Maison,/ Prawn Cocktail. **Mains**, £8:95: Whole Tail Scampi/ Steak and



Kidney Pie/ Chicken Supreme in Stilton and Leek Sauce/ Mushroom Stroganoff with Rice.(In all cases please say whether you prefer chips or new potatoes). **Desserts, £3:95**Please book by phone before Wednesday 3 Nov giving your choice of starter and/ or main course, your name and phone number to Georgina Pritchard - 01782 627367

Monday 15th November 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference Centre: How to Spend Birthday Money! Followed by 'Happy Memories'

David Watts from Little Moreton Hall, Rod Whiteman from Downs Banks, and a representative from Biddulph Grange will each give a short presentation about the 2010 season and in particular will explain how they plan to spend the £5,000 we have given them. Three of our members will present them with their cheques and we will probably have longer than usual afterwards to enjoy looking at the Archive material which Kay Williams will bring and set out for us to view while we have coffee.

Do come along and take part in this members' evening, browse through photos and other memorabilia from both recent and long past events and talk to friends. If you have photos, brochures or any other material, do bring it and share happy memories.

Tuesday 14th December 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference Centre : Mrs Butters at Work and Home

Mrs. Maud Butters, a Correspondence Clerk at Gladstone Pottery in 1910, will talk about her work and the conditions at the pottery, and also about her life at home in Minton Cottages, Hartshill. She has hopes that her children will aspire to higher things and escape from the sort of working life she and her husband experience.

She will answer questions about her life , but more up-to-date information about life at the Gladstone Pottery will be given by Cathy Shingler, Interpretation Officer at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

This will be followed by a choice of mulled wine and mince pie, mulled fruit juice and mince pie, or tea/coffee and mince pie at £4 per person - please send booking form to Audrey Aubrey, 10 Paris Avenue, Newcastle ST5 2RQ

Closing date for booking is 26th November

Thursday 24th February 2011. Coach Outing The Hallé at the Bridgewater Hall

Programme: **Verdi:** Overture: Luisa Miller

Mozart: Piano Concerto No.17

Elgar: Symphony No.1



Sir Mark Elder conductor / **Martin Helmchen** piano

Sir Mark Elder's acclaimed reading of Elgar's First Symphony, a work premiered by the Hallé, brings out the Edwardian nature of the music as well as its restless questioning and sometimes-despairing element, all cushioned in glittering orchestration. A former Radio 3 New Generation Artist, the German pianist Martin Helmchen, is one of the dazzling stars of today, praised for his imaginative interpretation, particularly of Mozart. This song-like concerto ends with a theme and variations supposedly inspired by the warbling of Mozart's pet starling! The overture to Verdi's opera Luisa Miller should be a thrilling opener.

Depart School Street 5.00 p.m. (promptly); arrive back 10.45 p.m. approximately

Cost £33 (£35 non-members) to include:

Centre stalls' ticket (face value £31)

Welcome by a member of the Hallé staff*

Concert Programme*

Coach travel and driver's gratuity

(*subject to availability)



Apply to Mrs.Penny Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, ST4 8AG telephone: 01782 657645 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Prompt application would be appreciated, as the tickets have to be confirmed and paid for by the end of October

Summary of 2010 Autumn Programme	
Tuesday 7th September	Lunch Club Outing to Swynnerton
Wednesday 15th September	Car Outing to Top Secret Location nr Nantwich
Wednesday 22nd September	Coach Outing to St Georges Hall Liverpool and Speke Hall.
Sunday 3rd October	Walk: Broughton and Fair Oak
Tuesday 5th October	Lunch Club Outing to Pipe Gate
Tuesday 12th October	Talk: Ray Perry on Rudyard Lake Past and Present.
Thursday 21st October	Car Outing and Walk: Penkridge
Thursday 11th November	Luncheon Club Outing to Balterley (note time)
Monday 15th November	Talk: How to spend Birthday Money. Also 'Happy Memories'.
Tuesday 14th December	Talk: Mrs Butters at Work and Home
Tuesday 18th January 2011	Talk by Dr Alannah Tompkins - details in next newsletter
Thursday 24th February 2011	Coach Outing to Bridgewater Hall to hear the Hallé Orchestra



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