

The North Staffs National Trust Association

Newsletter 88 and January to April 2011 Programme



STRAWBERRY HILL FROM THE LONDON TRIP - PAGE 24

SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFORMATION ON 2011 HOLIDAY

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS

Coaches depart promptly from BRUNSWICK STREET, Newcastle, near the Jubilee 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 Brunswick 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 Brunswick 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.

SUBSCRIPTION

At the AGM members agreed to sanction an increase in the subscription level during the current financial year should it be considered necessary. Our accounts show that for the year 2009-2010 our income from subscriptions was £2321 and our expenditure was £2311, which is mainly for the 3 Newsletters each year and the necessary expenses such as postage and stationery. Therefore we have decided to increase the subscription by 50p . This will raise approximately a further £200 and enable us to continue to run the Association out of subscriptions. The new amount will be required next year when renewals are needed.

The North Staffs National Trust Association

NEWSLETTER No. 88 and January to April 2011 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

We are ending our anniversary year with yet another donation to the National Trust ! After we presented cheques to the three local properties for which the members voted, we received an appeal for money for the Trust to purchase part of the coastline of the Llyn peninsula in Wales to prevent unsuitable commercial development. Enterprise Neptune has been running for many years and has acquired over 700 miles of beautiful coastline and enabled everyone – not just NT members – to enjoy the natural beauty of these places, free from camp and caravan sites, shops, etc.

When the Loan Account money was returned to us, the Treasurer suggested we should keep back one quarter of it so that in the event of a sudden appeal we would have money available to donate and this was just such a request. We were happy to send £1,000 – indeed, two committee members had just returned from visiting that area and praised its beauty and we know many of our members frequently travel there.

In the current edition of the NT magazine, you may have seen the interview with the artist Maggie Hambling, renowned for her interpretations of the sea and the coast. She states that she is supporting the Neptune coastline campaign as “ it is a vital project which works to protect all our shores.” She has donated her painting Big Summer Wave in support of the current campaign.

The committee has worked hard to arrange an interesting and varied programme for the spring and I hope everyone will find the events appealing. Planning for the summer of 2011 is already well in hand and there are some dates to note for your diaries.

Best wishes for the coming year and I look forward to seeing you at many outings and meetings.

Anne Anderton

SAFETY ON COACH TRIPS

Please note that for the time being School Street is not available for our coaches and we will be picked up in Brunswick Street. Members are asked to pay due care on what is a fairly narrow pavement near a busy road.

LOCAL HISTORY DAY AT HARTSHILL

We received an invitation (at rather short notice) to mount a display about the Association at the North Staffs Conference Centre in Hartshill, as part of the celebrations of the Centenary of the Federation of Stoke on Trent. There were local history displays and several groups such as WI, RSPB and Staffs Wildlife were also represented. A small display of our activities was put together with some descriptions of recent outings, brochures, photos and some of our excellent archive material. We attracted quite a lot of attention but not many people indicated



interest in joining the Association. “ I’m too old for that sort of thing,” was one response and “ I’m too busy with family – perhaps when I’m older,” was another. It seems we need to appeal to the middle aged! However, at least more people are aware now of our existence and who knows, one day they may remember how interesting the Association appeared to be and decide to join.

BRIDGEWATER HALL CONCERT

There are still a few tickets available for the Halle concert on February 24th - Verdi, Mozart and Elgar. Depart Brunswick St 5.00pm. Cost £33 or £35 for non members. Apply to Penny Moore, 26 Parkway Trentham ST4 8AG tel 01782 657645

Another Dumbelton holiday, due to popular demand!

“ARTS AND CRAFTS AND THE SEASIDE”

Thursday – Monday, 1st-5th Sept 2011

This five-day holiday will include visits to William Morris’s houses, Kelmscott Manor in Oxfordshire and also Kelmscott House in Hammersmith. Other exciting venues include Charleston in Sussex, the home and country meeting place for the writers, painters and intellectuals known as the Bloomsbury Group. Another place on the list is the opulent Leighton House in London, one of the most remarkable buildings of the 19th century that re-opened in 2010 after extensive restoration. The centrepiece of the house is the Arab Hall containing over a thousand Islamic tiles evoking a compelling vision of the Orient.

We will be staying throughout at a four-star sea-front hotel in ‘arty’ Brighton and we are including a free day in this vibrant town.

For further information and a more detailed itinerary, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Cynthia and David Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY or for answers to questions, telephone 01782 641765.

REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

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

At the start of the trip we remembered Margaret Richards who was the inspiration for our visit today.

Grade I Mawley Hall was built in 1730 by “Smith of Warwick” in his restrained manner, for Edward Blunt, who, on his return from the Grand Tour desired an Italian style summer villa. In 1939 Mawley was requisitioned as a prisoner of war camp. Rupert Galliers-Pratt’s father rescued the dilapidated hall and its 1000 acres in the 1950’s using a government grant of £400,000.

The magnificent, bright entrance hall has three archways decorated with mouldings by Francesco Vasali. An oak staircase is embellished with finely carved ‘pursuits of man’. The carved mahogany handrail is a continuous serpent inlaid with ebony and rosewood stringing. In the marquetry room the plasterwork ceiling is of Goddess Diana. The marquetry panels (similar to those in the

Hermitage) show monkeys and red squirrels, which were kept as pets. Around the door frame are miniature cameos of inlaid woods e.g., cherry, pear and lime. A threadbare mid 18th century Aubusson Chinese carpet covers the floor of the oak panelled room. Thirty years ago Graham Ross was commissioned to paint the ceiling, illustrating 'Paradise Regained'. Paintings of the house by Marcus May hang in the Adam style dining room where modern Cenedese Murano glass sits beside Chinese porcelain.

In the gardens above the River Rea are a gothic summer house and an A-Z arboretum.

After lunch we visited the Grade I 12th century All Saints Church at Claverley, to view the "Best of British" Flower festival. Restoration in 1902 uncovered a frieze of wall paintings circa 1220 of similar style to the Bayeux tapestry representing the Knights of the Cross. The magnificent stained glass East Window was installed in 1857. Tea was taken in a marquee lined with ancient gravestones!!



Best of British depiction of
Delia Smith

Thank you Ralph for your humour and superb organisation.

Lynda Berrington.

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

After receiving our visitors' passes we were introduced to Kevin Whittaker the Curator of the Centre who would be our guide.

The centre has grown from a collection of memorabilia held by ex-AVRO employees to what we see today. It is staffed entirely by volunteers. Keith informed us that he was the exception in not being an AVRO employee, his background was the military. However, his knowledge of the AVRO Company and its traditions was outstanding,

Five rooms make up the centre with every available space on the floor, walls and ceilings taken by photographs, models and diagrams of the AVRO aircraft. Each room depicts a different era in the company's history.

Over the years the company has produced some of the world's most famous aircraft. It's a tradition that goes back to 1910 when a young man called Edwin Alliott Verden Roe was inspired to set up his own aircraft business under the name

of A.V.Roe and Company. This was a mere seven years after the Wright Brothers made the first successful powered flight. He had been inspired by his experiences spent working with the Wright Brothers some years earlier on the principles of flight.

A model of his first experiment with flight, a rubber-powered glider, is suspended from the ceiling in the entrance hall. Beneath this is his actual workbench. From a basement workshop at Brownsfield Mill in Ancoats A.V.Roe spent his early years building aircraft. His first aircraft the Roe 1 triplane made its maiden flight in 1909. A replica has been made by ex-AVRO employees and is undergoing flight tests.

With the First World War looming A.V.Roe produced the AVRO504 biplane which was used extensively in the war. It is believed to be the first aircraft to bomb the enemy during the conflict. It was used by the RAF after WW1 as a basic trainer for many years, and some 8000 were produced. The only flying survivor is at the Shuttleworth Collection in Bedfordshire.

We then moved to a room depicting the company's involvement during WWII. The Lancaster Bomber and its variants all designed by Roy Chadwick are displayed. The Lancaster was probably the most successful bomber of WWII with more than 7000 being produced.

The AVRO Company was absorbed into Hawker Siddeley Aviation in 1963. The AVRO name was dropped and production continued, now with BAE Systems.

The plant is currently building nine Nimrod MR4A surveillance aircraft. The contract will be completed by late 2010 after which the plant will close.

Thanks to Peter Thompson for arranging this most interesting visit which was so popular that two separate visits were necessary, and thanks also to Roger Cartlidge and Shirley Timmis for managing the second visit.

Ken Amos

Thursday 12th August – Coach Outing to Lancaster.

The weather was wet as we left Newcastle but no one noticed as Roger Cartlidge our organiser kept us fully engaged and occupied during the two hour journey to Lancaster. We learned of famous Lancastrians, were issued with a street map of Lancaster and given full written details of the Lancaster Maritime Museum, Lancaster Priory & Parish Church, the Judges' Lodgings and the City Museum.

Our first port of call was Lancaster Castle where we met our guide Dr. Graham Kemp, who, in a witty and theatrical manner guided us around the castle. The castle is owned by the Duke of Lancaster (i.e. H.M. The Queen) and we saw the

Shire Hall with its magnificent display of heraldry, spanning more than 800 years, the Crown Court - once the "Hanging Court" of the country - and the "Drop Room" which was the prelude to the scaffold. We then visited the old cells and the Grand Jury Room with its wonderful collection of Gillow furniture.

Leaving the castle we were free to visit the 15th century Lancaster Priory and Parish Church, which is in the castle grounds, with its medieval interior, a Jacobean 'three - decker' pulpit and the most complete collection of Regimental Colours in the country.

The coach then transported us to The Borough, a Georgian Building once the home of the Mayor for a very enjoyable two course lunch. After lunch the afternoon was ours to visit all the places Roger had briefed us on.

Before departing from Lancaster we returned to The Borough for a welcome cup of tea.

Many thanks go to Roger for a most enjoyable day, for his excellent organisational skills and also to Shirley Timmis, who was always there as his unobtrusive helper.

Peter Thompson

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

We were welcomed to the bunker by Rod Siebert, the museum curator, who gave us a brief history of Hack Green over coffee in the NAAFI style canteen.

Hack Green was requisitioned by the War Office in 1941 where a Starfish site was established. All major railway centres had Starfish sites built close to them during WW2. The plan was to build replica local railway stations and marshalling sites, which would confuse the bomber pilots and navigators into bombing farm land thus safeguarding real railway centres-in this case Crewe.

In the 1950's, the site was modified into a substantial semi-sunk reinforced concrete bunker and was designated the name RAF Hack Green. It was also known as Mersey Radar and provided air traffic control service to military aircraft crossing civil airspace.

The site was abandoned and remained derelict for many years until the Home Office took it over to rebuild the Bunker as a Regional Government Headquarters - designed to enable government to continue in the aftermath of a nuclear attack. In the early 1990's, following the end of the cold war, the site was declassified and sold to a private company.

We were conducted through a labyrinth of underground passages to see the largest collection of decommissioned nuclear weapons in the world and a portion of the

UK's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System equipment. We saw an office with 23 desks for Civil Servants. On each desk there was a telephone and a name plate showing the government department or agency represented. The adjacent BBC studio was part of the wartime broadcasting service designed to keep the civilian population up to date on the state of hostilities.

As 135 civil servants and military personnel would have to stay underground for long periods, the bunker was totally self contained with sanitation facilities, single sex dormitories, electricity generators, air purifiers, medical facilities and decontamination showers.

This was a fascinating visit and to consider what might have been does not bear thinking of.

Thanks to Rod for showing us around and also to Lucy for providing our refreshments and for keeping us all in order at the rear of the group.

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

It was a mild morning on the day of our visit to Liverpool; as we journeyed to the city centre the towers of the Anglican and Catholic cathedrals seemed to dominate the skyline, until the magnificent splendour of St. George's Hall came into view.

Our welcome to the Hall began with coffee and biscuits before we were ushered into Court No.1, where our guide gave us an interesting account of the history of the hall, delivered in a most colourful and dramatic manner. Widely regarded as one of the finest neo-classical buildings in the world, it represented the prosperity of Liverpool in the 19th Century. It was possibly the only building where one could be tried for murder, have a ball or listen to a concert all under one roof.

Our tour continued through to the Great Hall, the central masterpiece of the building, and a feast for the eyes. We saw stained - glass representing Britannia and Neptune, columns of granite porphyry, and we glimpsed the priceless floor made up of over twenty thousand Minton tiles. The hall is also home to a concert organ complete with 7,000 pipes, second only in size to the organ in the Albert Hall. We next moved on to the beautiful small Concert Hall; a regular visitor to this hall was Charles Dickens, who held many of his readings here. Finally, we passed through the restored Entrance Hall to reach the end of our tour.

After a short drive through the industrial suburbs of Liverpool we arrived at Speke Hall in time for lunch. The famous local dish of scouse was enjoyed by many of us.

A rare Tudor Manor house, set in verdant surroundings, gave us a choice of options; a walk in the fragrant gardens, on to the Bund with fine views over the

Mersey, or a tour of the house, learning of its turbulent history, secret priest's hole, and the lives of the families and their servants.

On the last day of summer, this proved to be a most memorable end-of-season outing. Our thanks go to Rose Wheat for her excellent planning.

Sue Pitt and Margaret Jones.

Sunday 3rd October. Walk: Broughton and Fairoak

It rained and we all got very wet, but somehow it was still fun.

Some 20 of us and a dog set off from the Peel Arms in Ashley and were soon in to pheasant shooting country. Fortunately the sound of guns stayed in the distance, so no threats to our health or safety. We stopped briefly alongside Broughton Hall, a half-timbered Elizabethan manor house, with a ghost from the Civil War, more recently a school, then a convent and now in private ownership. We carried on past Broughton Church and down the hillside into Fairoak valley. Then a steady climb uphill to where the views would have been lovely if we could see far enough (did I mention it was raining?). Richard stopped us at the top of the hill to point out that we were standing on the "Great British Divide", where the land to one side of us was draining away towards the River Trent and the North Sea, whereas the other side led to the River Severn and the Bristol Channel. We carried on to a brief stop at the Robin Hood pub, where the group split into two. The sensible majority took a short cut back to our starting point, while a smaller group (all male!) kept to the original plan for a stroll up the Ashley Dale. Back at the Tardis-like Peel Arms, we had room to spread out, dry off, and enjoy the Sunday Roast and a glass or two.

Thank you Richard, for a memorable day out.

Nicky Adams

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

Rudyard Lake was built in 1797 over five years, in order to supply the Caulden canal (like Stanley and Knypersley pools) to take supplies to the Potteries.

Hugh Henshall, brother-in-law to James Brindley, was the engineer. It was fed by streams from the surrounding hills, and also a feeder from the river Dane. It was dammed at its south end, and another feeder took it 5k to join the canal.

In 1849 the Churnet Valley railway linked Uttoxeter with North Rode and the Manchester line and stopped at Rudyard Station. This boosted visitors to the lake and the Rudyard Hotel on its opposite side for leisure activities. Fanny Bostock,

who inherited Cliff Park Hall, a castle built by her cousin on the west of the lake, blocked all leisure activities on the lake for 50 years. Later on some plots on the west side were sold off, and dwellings built, and this also blocked access.

In 1863 Rudyard Kipling's parents met by the lake and now the Kipling Society has lakeside walks. In 1864 Mr Blondin walked a tightrope between two towers across the lake, with a wheel barrow, and also fried bacon and eggs while he was up there! This attracted huge crowds. In the Edwardian age there was a golf course along the lakeside.

The lake now attracts walkers, has a visitor centre and a miniature railway and is a great tourist attraction.

Ray Perry gave us a very well illustrated talk which provided a good social history of the lake and perhaps many members will be inspired to pay a visit to this beauty spot.

Rhona Lindup

Staffordshire North and Centre Holiday, Friday 15th to Monday 18th October.

After a great weekend in London David and Cynthia (perhaps this should read Cynthia and David) were thanked profusely for their varied and packed programme that was so enjoyable. Many asked at the time when they would be doing their next trip. Encouraged by this they have plans - see page 3 for more information.

Friday Afternoon - Swalcliffe Great Barn

At Lichfield the last of us joined the coach that had started much earlier from Biddulph on a cool but dry morning, so we set off for an interesting London weekend. Reaching Junction 11 on the M4 we turned west off the motorway towards our first scheduled stop at Swalcliffe where two local volunteers were waiting to introduce us to the history of the barn.

The great barn at Swalcliffe is one of the first 15th century half-cruck barns in England and owes its existence to William of Wykham, Bishop of Winchester. He funded New College Oxford in 1379 and Swalcliffe was one of its estates and benefices. In 1401 New College set about the building of a new barn on their property at Swalcliffe. A group from the college travelled from Oxford to Bewdley Woods to select the oak trees which were felled to form the roof timbers, specifically the beams, which still form the nine pairs of half-cruck trusses, the main feature of the barn.

The walls are of ironstone quarried close to the site. During the building of the walls holes were left to accommodate the wooden scaffolding poles. These remain and were used in 1990/91 by the scaffolding company when the barn was restored. All the timber in the barn is oak, all major beams are original and even some of the rafters. The end gable walls have lancet openings. The two original stone threshing floors remain and there is a display of Oxfordshire wagons and other trade vehicles.

Following the visit we walked the short distance to the Stag's Head, at the end of the green surrounded by limestone cottages. Here a quick sandwich lunch had been provided.

Afterwards there was still time to cross the road and climb the steps to the church of St Peter and St Paul. There has been a church in Swalcliffe for about 1,000 years and there's still evidence of Saxon times in deep slit windows above the Norman round headed aisle arches on the north side of the nave. Having appreciated all that Swalcliffe offered, we were back on the coach and on to London and the Palace of Westminster.

Jean Humphreys

Friday Evening - Palace of Westminster

What better way to start our London holiday than by visiting the Palace of Westminster?

After being photographed and passing through airport-style security checks we found ourselves in Westminster Hall where our group was met by Visitor Assistant, Mr John Gillan. We marvelled at the hammer-beam roof and the enormity of the hall with its impressive flights of steps. What we were to see on the rest of our tour was built from 1837 to the design of Charles Barry, who used the symbol of the portcullis and A.W.N. Pugin in Gothic Revival style.

From the Norman Porch we went into the Royal Apartments and in the Robing Room admired the large frescoes depicting scenes of the semi-mythical King Arthur. In the next room we were fortunate enough to see the Turisden Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, also known as the Armada Portrait, on loan for an exhibition from the collection of Mark Pigott O.B.E.

Pugin's majestic interior designs are much in evidence in the House of Lords. There is a lot of gilding but the angels on each side of the throne are made from 24 carat gold. For the Queen's speech at the State Opening of Parliament, a replica throne is brought in for the Duke of Edinburgh; an important difference – it is one inch shorter. We were told that during debates, peers who do not wish to participate, but just listen, sit on the steps leading up to the throne. It was interesting to learn that during refurbishment in 1938, the Woolsack, the seat of the Lord Chancellor, was found to be full of horsehair. It was replaced with wool

from different parts of the Commonwealth. Almost unnoticed, high up between the windows, are statues of barons who forced King John to sign the Magna Carta.

We entered the House of Commons from behind the Speaker's chair. Reminiscent of Christmas Eve and the expectation of presents, there is a bag hanging on the back of the chair. More seriously, this bag is for petitions. As in the House of Lords, we stood between the benches – no sitting allowed. Symbolism plays a large part in both Houses. In the Commons, members speak from behind red lines which are two sword lengths apart.

Our visit concluded where we began, in Westminster Hall, which has witnessed trials for treason, greetings for sovereigns on the occasion of their jubilees, lying-in-state and addresses given by people of renown. We made our exit via the Carriage Gates.

Thank you Cynthia and David for contacting Mr. William Cash, M.P., and making the arrangements for an informative and inspirational introduction to the capital.

Frances Paget

Saturday Morning - Tower Bridge

Saturday morning saw nearly half the party going just across the road from the hotel to “The Tower Bridge Experience”, and what an experience it was! Blue skies and sunshine lit up the London landscape as we walked across the enclosed upper walkway, enjoying the stunning views outside and the fascinating information within. The Walkways made excellent galleries for three photographic exhibitions: the history and construction of the bridge itself; the story of the Thames from its source to the estuary; and a series of beautiful pictures of iconic bridges from around the world, demonstrating many different methods of bridge construction.

Then down to the engine rooms to see the huge, beautifully maintained steam engines that were originally used to lift the two bascules, allowing large vessels to pass up-river. Even to a very non-technical person like me these massive machines and the whole amazing structure were thrilling.



Hotel through Tower Bridge

Saturday Afternoon - The Ragged School Museum

On Saturday afternoon we drove out along the Mile End Road to the Ragged School Museum. It was while teaching here as a young man that Dr Barnado encountered the grinding poverty of so many Victorian Eastenders, and which led him to establish his homes for children. While one group looked at the displays of East End life from the 19th century until the present the other group trooped up the bare wooden stairs to the first floor classroom. Surrounded by blackboard, slates, canes and dunces caps, we squeezed into wooden double desks to listen to the curator Erica Davies recount the history of the Ragged School and Dr Barnado's connection with it. It was a very moving visit, serving as a reminder that history is not only about power, wealth and beauty. Poverty and compassion have also shaped us.

Chris Francis

Saturday Afternoon - Visit to the Olympic Site

The journey from the Ragged School to the Olympic site was accompanied by an interesting commentary on the buildings we passed, given by our Blue Badge Guide, Diane Burstein, with her precise diction.

The Olympic site is well underway and it was good to find that public access to the adjoining area had been provided complete with a display of information boards. From the raised pathway (built over a main sewer) there was a fine view of the whole site where the main stadium and the aquatics centre are advancing nicely.

It was good to learn that it is planned to open the site 12 months before the scheduled start of the Olympics so that events can be held and any problems ironed out beforehand to avoid the panic experienced before the opening of the Delhi Games. It was also pleasing to learn that most of the infrastructure is to be retained, the athletes' accommodation being modified later to provide permanent housing.

An interesting fact that was not revealed during our visit is that one of the proposed entrances to the site is via a railway arch, the very arch which was rented by Alliot Verdon Rowe who founded Avro Aviation - one of Britain's most successful aeroplane manufacturers. Here he constructed the Triplane Rowe 1 which was the first all British aeroplanes to fly, when it left the ground for 100ft on 13th July 1909.

This was an exciting and impressive tour and we could feel proud of the progress being made towards the dream of the 2012 Olympics.

Mike Lycett

**BACK OF
BOOKING
FORM**

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.

✕-----

Monday 28th February Car Outing to Hanley Library

Name	Association No.	£
.....
.....
	TOTAL	£.....

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

.....TEL. NO.

Please apply to Mrs. A. Anderton 14 Berne Avenue Newcastle Staffs ST5 2QJ Tel: 01782 613024 enclosing cheque and SAE

Closing date : Feb 18th

BACK OF BOOKING FORM

Tuesday 8th March - Coach Outing to Coventry

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

Name and address:

.....
.....Tel. No.

Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 777513 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications: Monday 14th February

✂-----

Sunday 20th March. Walk: Deep Hayes Country Park

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 24th March Car outing to the Avro Heritage Centre, Woodford.

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

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

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

Please apply or re-apply to Peter Thompson, Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs. ST5 3LS telephone: 01782 613397 enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque (if one has not been forwarded on the previous application).

Closing date for applications: Friday 4th March

✂-----

Thursday 7th April - Car Outing to Biddulph Old Hall ST8 7SD (Max 30)

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

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

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

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 851436 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday 14th March

**BACK OF
BOOKING
FORM**

Tuesday 19th April 2.30pm. Car Outing to Tissington Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1RA

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

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 4EB. Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Bookings close 26 March.

✂-----

Saturday 14th May, 2.30pm. Car Outing to Oakley Hall, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4AG.

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

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 4EB. Tel: 01782 616337. Please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Bookings close on 23rd April.

BACK OF BOOKING FORM

Saturday Evening - A Fishy Tale

Our Saturday evening excursion for dinner began with a return drive through London's back streets, circling the Olympic site, to arrive at H.FORMAN & SONS – “Purveyors of the World's finest Smoked Salmon”. Their new premises overlook the Olympic Site, from where they have been evicted and rehoused, and are situated on the appropriately named Fish Island, the building especially designed to resemble a darne of salmon.

The company was started in 1905 when Harry Forman arrived in London's East End from Russia, pursuing the trade he knew best – curing fish and in particular the salmon. The company remains a family concern run by Harry's great grandson Lance Forman and it shows in the meticulous attention to detail, to hygiene and the warm welcome from all the staff – with the possible exception of Darren – who entertained us and demonstrated the preparation and curing of salmon and smoked salmon – in his VERY COLD high tech kitchen.



Darren and his salmon

After our visit to the curing area we were invited to thaw out with alcoholic beverage and a fascinating buffet meal in their modern restaurant. The meal included samples from the extensive range of dishes served in their restaurant and available online and included “tartare shots” of citrus salmon or beetroot gravadlax, an abundance of differently cured smoked salmon, with chocolate brownies, lemon pistachio cake and individual sherry trifles to finish a great evening. Most were glad they weren't driving home!

Marion Lycett

Sunday Morning - The Red House

We left our hotel in bright sunshine after breakfast to visit The Red House at Bexley Heath, the home of William Morris from 1860-1865, which was purchased by the National Trust in 2003. In 1858 Morris had chosen the site for his first home and asked his friend Philip Webb to help him design a house with medieval influences. Morris is said to have planned it from the inside outwards, each room was designed separately with windows to suit it which resulted in a quirky mixture of sizes and styles giving an asymmetrical appearance externally. Our guide informed us that there have been nine subsequent owners of the Red House who

applied their own tastes but wallpaper and curtains by Morris & Co are now hung although the firm did not exist when the house was new. The walls were originally covered with murals by Edward Burne-Jones who also designed some of the stained glass. Our guide pointed out small areas where the Trust has removed layers of paint to reveal the murals beneath. Morris had become interested in medieval textiles and together with his wife Janey made wall hangings and covers, Webb designed the furniture and fittings much of which are now at Morris's later home, Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire.

The house was built in an orchard and Morris wanted it to be 'clothed with a garden' so Webb's designs specify climbing roses, jasmine and honeysuckle for the walls. Morris retained many of the old fruit trees and planted the kind of flowers, which he had seen in medieval tapestries, in square enclosures separated with wattle trellis. The garden, which later became the inspiration for his company's wallpaper and fabric patterns, was restored by the last owner in the 1950s and helpful displays by the Trust show the 1862 and 2010 plans together with plant lists. Additional land was purchased in 1903 and this part is now an organic kitchen garden planted according to the phases of the moon. A nature trail and bee hives have recently been introduced.

We just had time to visit the shop before travelling the short distance to Danson Stables, built along with Danson House in 1766, where we had a sandwich lunch before travelling on to Eltham.

Sue Gregory

Sunday Afternoon/Evening - Eltham Palace and Prospect of Whitby

First impressions of the exterior of Eltham Palace are of a sombre building, in a wonderful setting, with distant views of the London Eye. But - the interior - wow! We were first shown the mediaeval Great Hall, with its magnificent false hammerbeam roof, built for Edward IV as a dining hall for the court. We were then taken into the main 1930's house, built for Stephen and Virginia Courtauld by the architects Seely and Paget. Perhaps the room with the biggest wow factor was the entrance hall, with its marquetry panels with scenes from Italy and Scandinavia, the rug by Marion Dorn, furniture by Engstromer and the glass and concrete domed roof. Striking features of the drawing room by Malacrida were the beams with pseudo-Hungarian folk art and the paintings hung as they would have been in the Courtaulds' time. In Ginie Courtauld's boudoir, with the concealed lighting found throughout the house, was the extraordinary leather map depicting Eltham Palace and its surroundings, including, as our very witty guide said, the 'beacon of hope' which was Charlton Athletic football club! The library, lined with mahogany, holds copies of the original 14 Turner watercolours, concealed behind

shutters. Stephen's bedroom was memorable for its wallpaper depicting Kew Gardens and the blue tiled bathroom. Ginie's bedroom gave the impression of a temple and we all gasped at the opulent bathroom, with its gold taps. In the amazing dining-room I was particularly struck by the doors, with their decorations of animals. Though this is a quick tour of this unique house, we have to mention Mah—Jongg, the lemur bought from Harrods, a much-loved pet who had his own quarters and free run of the house, and who, after his death, followed the Courtaulds round the world.

In the evening we all enjoyed the excellent meal in the Prospect of Whitby, with its views of the river and the gruesome hangman's noose dangling above the water. A somewhat inebriated customer caused mirth by gentlemanly escorting ladies across to the coach.

Kay Williams

Monday Morning/Afternoon - Strawberry Hill and Canons Ashby

The day of our return journey featured two contrasting properties which produced different personal reactions. Nonetheless, Strawberry Hill House and Canons Ashby have some things in common: Horace Walpole (of Strawberry Hill) was related to the Drydens (of Canons Ashby).

Strawberry Hill is a *fantasy*. Canons Ashby is the site of a genuine 12th Century Augustinian Priory. Both were second homes. One was a plaything for entertaining in the country, the other *seems* somewhere to put poor relations. Strawberry Hill was begun in 1749, has had nine million spent on it in the last two years, and is not finished yet. Canons Ashby was begun in 1550 and had nothing spent on it after 1710. The former was inspired by several elaborate tombs, the other was like *being in one!*

At Strawberry Hill our knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides battled valiantly with the competing



Strawberry Hill and above an electrician ignoring our visit

efforts of carpenters, painters and fire-alarm testers. The catering manager never lost her sang-froid, despite being faced with lunch for 60 and no electricity.

Having read how Walpole liked to be an active supervisor I could feel his mischievous spirit abroad. This was a mark of approval for the National Trust visitors because, if the workmen and tourists became too much, he was known to decamp to a "chapel" sulking house, or to a cottage in the grounds he had let to an actress.

Walpole's wish to play tricks on his visitors' emotions was well demonstrated. His gothic castle was a complete contrast to current classical fashion and we went from pseudo-mediaeval 'gloomth' (Walpole's term) through 'noith' and 'duth' (my terms) to the truly spectacular Round Room and Long Gallery used for entertaining.

At Canons Ashby no disembodied spirits told us how long the splendid needlework or the plaster work took them but, at Strawberry Hill, [in response to a question, a highly skilled modern day craftsman told us the gilding of the Long Gallery took nine months.](#)

The guides at Canons Ashby were knowledgeable when prompted but, given the ecclesiastical origins of both houses, I felt that at Strawberry Hill they were apostles for someone who might return quite soon. At Canons Ashby they were more like temple guardians where the [lamp had gone out a while ago.](#)

To redress the balance at little I must say that the grounds at Canons Ashby were peaceful and beautiful. At Strawberry Hill we should really have been there before 1920 when they built on most of the meadows. Still I suspect that Walpole wouldn't have got on with the Huntin', Shootin' and Fishin' Canons Ashby set. He used to enjoy annoying his Norfolk relations by saying that he chose his livestock for their pretty colours.

Can you tell that on this last day we found so much to enjoy in so many different ways? We had privileged access to such contrasting houses and for that, and so much more, we are extremely grateful to Cynthia and David.

Ralph White

Thursday 21st October – Car Outing and Walk: Penkrige

Twenty five of us met Rose Wheat on a sunny autumnal afternoon for a walk around the pretty village of Penkrige – built on the banks of the river Penk. Rose explained that the Littleton family used to dominate the village and showed us the evidence to substantiate this.

We visited the imposing sandstone church of St Michael and All Angels with its beautiful stained glass windows, which is awash with memories of the Littleton family – possibly the most memorable being the ornate tombs. I don't think any of us could visit a church again without looking for signs of it being used for sharpening arrows.

Dominating the village is the Littleton Arms and Rose explained that the building had been used for collecting rents, a tax office and mortuary amongst other things. Another of the many hostelries in the village is the George and Fox, a coaching inn before the days of road widening. We walked further where one of our stops was made outside the appropriately named 'Golden Oldies' antiques shop and this was located opposite one of two privately owned fire stations.

After a thoroughly informative afternoon we ended our talk at the local Gaol for refreshments and an enjoyable and informal talk by David Calcroft. This building is now the Penkridge Heritage Centre, home of the Penkridge Civic Society, and at present has a wonderful photographic display showing how it was and how it is now.

A thoroughly pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all and walking back to the cars, so many people were saying that they would be revisiting Penkridge and next time would also be browsing its unique little shops.

Jacque Byrne and Chris Bailey

SPRING PROGRAMME 2011

Tuesday 18th January 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference Centre : Dr Alannah Tomkins - Madness and the Medical Profession

Dr Tomkins is a Senior Lecturer in history at Keele and specialises in social history, concentrating on the poor and medical matters. We usually think of doctors as being the ones who diagnose mental illness, but this talk will deal with doctors who themselves were admitted to asylums in the West Midlands in the nineteenth century. Perhaps being involved with insanity drove them mad!

Do remember, you are welcome to bring non-members to the talks ; they pay just £1.

**Tuesday 25th January 12:30 for 1pm Luncheon Club Meeting:
Swan with Two Necks, Nantwich Road, Blackbrook. (A51) Max
20**

All three pubs chosen this time are issuing new menus in the Spring. Judging by their current offerings these will be interesting and varied. Prices are roughly £4 - £5:50 for starters, £9 - £13 for main courses.



So when ringing to book, please be sure to leave your name AND phone number to ensure that you get the list of choices. Please book by phone before Tuesday 18th January, giving name AND phone number to Georgina Pritchard – 01782 627367

**Tuesday 8th February 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference
Centre : Andrew Lound - Titanic - The Midlands Connection**

Andrew Lound, a writer and broadcaster, has been highly recommended by some other Associations and this talk promises to be a star turn. He points out that although the towns of Belfast and Southampton claim the Titanic as their own, in fact over 70% of the interior was manufactured in the Midlands. He has conducted extensive research and will tell the story of the Midland industrial work on the ship and the fate of local passengers. This will be a dramatic presentation, using full AV facilities and props. As he says, 'Climb aboard and experience the voyage of a lifetime'. Non- members welcome as guests.

**Thursday 17th February 12:30 for 1pm Luncheon Club Meeting:
Hand and Trumpet, Wrinehill. (A 531) Max 20**

A new menu is being issued in the Spring. Judging by the current one the offerings should be interesting and varied. Prices are roughly £4 - £5:50 for starters, £9 - £13 for main courses.

So when ringing to book, please be sure to leave your name AND phone number to ensure that you get the list of choices. Please book by phone before Thursday 10th February, giving name AND phone number to Georgina Pritchard – 01782 627367



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

There are a few tickets still available for this concert. Full details were in the last edition of the Newsletter.

Cost £33 (£35 non-members)

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

Monday 28th February Car Outing to Hanley Library

Private visit to the Archive section of Hanley Library to see a variety of documents of local interest. The library is not open to the public on that day so we shall have an uninterrupted visit and put out for our inspection will be some of the Spode designs for the ware for the Titanic. This will be of particular interest following the talk earlier in the month on the midlands connection to the fated ship.

10.30 - 12.30 am. Cost £5.00 Maximum number 25. Further instructions with booking acceptance.

Please apply to Mrs. A. Anderton 14 Berne Avenue Newcastle Staffs ST5 2QJ
Tel: 01782 613024 enclosing cheque and SAE

Closing date : Feb 18th

Tuesday 8th March - Coach Outing to Coventry

With a history going back to Roman times through to its post-war art and architecture, Coventry has much to offer the visitor. Despite the devastation of the Blitz many historic sites and buildings remain, some having been rediscovered in the 20th Century.

On arrival in Coventry, we shall be joined by our Blue Badge Guide, Roger Bailey, for an introductory coach tour of the City. Roger will then lead us on a walking tour of the second and third Cathedrals (more about the first one later) followed by a walk down Bayley Lane where many medieval buildings remain.

Lunch will be taken at the 14th Century St. Mary's Guildhall where we shall tread in the footsteps of Mary Queen of Scots and Shakespeare as we are shown around this historic building. Note: there will be a menu comprising both hot and cold food and sweets for members to choose from and pay for individually on the day.

After lunch there will be a choice as follows:

EITHER (a) a short tour guided by Roger Bailey of both the Priory Undercroft where in 1999 and again in 2002 Channel 4's Time Team unearthed remains of Coventry's first Cathedral dating to the 14th Century (this will include parts of the site not normally open to visitors) **and** the Holy Trinity Church to view (amongst its many medieval features) the renowned "Doom Painting" as featured on the recent BBC "Seven Ages of Britain" series:

OR (b) have the afternoon free to explore at leisure some of the other sites and attractions which include the world famous Transport Museum which also affords a sociological history of Coventry; the £20m Herbert Art Gallery and Museum housing numerous galleries, collections and exhibits: or perhaps a peaceful interlude in Lady Herbert's Garden, a City Centre refuge of acclaim along with the adjoining Garden of International Friendship.

(Please note that the escorted tour referred to in (a) above will be limited to 40 persons.)

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served at 4.30.pm before leaving for home at 5.00.pm

Sensible walking shoes are a must and reasonable care must be taken when visiting the medieval buildings although there are no undue hazards.

Coach departs from BRUNSWICK Street, Newcastle at 8.30.am arriving back at approx 7.00.pm

Cost: £26 (non-members £28) to include coach fare, driver's gratuity/toll fee, cathedrals entrance fee, the services of our Blue Badge Guide for tours listed and refreshments prior to leaving.

Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 777513 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday 14th February 2011.

Sunday 20th March. Walk: Deep Hayes Country Park

Deep Hayes Valley was once a scene of industry, with iron works and brick-making. By 1848, the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board needed a supply for the mills on the River Churnet and for the growing towns of Tunstall and Burslem, so they built a dam and flooded the area. Then in 1979 Severn Trent Water demolished the dam and left us with a glorious park to explore.

This walk starts and finishes at the Holly Bush Inn at Denford, near Leek, and is about 5 miles in length. We start along the Cauldon Canal, then head uphill across farmland. There is a range of stiles for the stile connoisseur, from the ladder variety, to V-shaped pinch stiles, and stone wall crossings. Larger dogs may need to be carried at some of them. Great views at the top of the hill, then we descend into Deep Hayes itself, and back to the pub for lunch.

Walking shoes and average fitness required.

We will meet at the Holly Bush for a 10.00am start, and aim to be back there by 12.30pm.

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

Wednesday 23rd March 7.30pm Talk at the NS Conference Centre : Marcus Chilton-Jones - The Work of a Garden Manager

Most of our members will have visited the Dorothy Clive garden at Willoughbridge and enjoyed the seasonal beauty of the many different areas. Marcus is the current garden manager and his talk will give us an insight into his job. He has previously worked at NT gardens in London and the south and also at Trentham Estate when it was being re-developed and now at Willoughbridge. He will explain some of the challenges and difficulties of managing a garden which is open to the public and describe the pleasures and opportunities of the position as well. No horticultural knowledge is required to enjoy this talk but it will interest the gardener and the non-green fingered alike.

Thursday 24th March Car outing to the Avro Heritage Centre, Woodford.

As a result of the many requests from members who were unable to visit Avro last year due to restricted numbers a further trip to the Avro Heritage Centre at BAE Woodford has been arranged.

The Avro Heritage Centre, Woodford 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.

There are two main gates. Please enter the aerodrome through the gates on the right as you face the airfield. Report to the kiosk in the centre of the entrance road and then make your way to the Lancaster parking area. You will be directed to the main reception to collect your Visitors' Pass. A tour of the centre will last until approximately 3.00pm. This allows for a lunch break in the restaurant on site where a wide range of hot and cold meals are served (at members' own expense) at a minimal cost.

The distance from Stoke is about 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 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. There will be a considerable amount of standing throughout the day

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

The cost for members will be £2.50 and £3.00 for non members.

Members who applied for the original visit to Woodford but were not successful and wish to re-apply will be given priority and need not forward a further cheque. (At Woodford these members will be required to re-date their original cheques and initial the alteration.)

Please apply or re-apply to Peter Thompson, Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs. ST5 3LS telephone: 01782 613397 enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope and a cheque (if one has not been forwarded on the previous application).

Closing date for applications: Friday 4th March 2011

Tuesday 29th March 12:30 for 1pm. Luncheon Club Meeting: Combermere Arms, Burleydam. (A525, west of Audlem) Max 20

A new menu is being offered in the Spring. Judging by the current one the offerings should be interesting and varied. Prices are roughly £4 – £5:50 for starters and £9 - £13 for main courses.

So, when ringing to book please be sure to leave your name AND phone number to ensure that you get the list of choices. Please



book by phone before Tuesday 22nd March , giving name AND phone number to Georgina Pritchard – 01782 627367

Thursday 7th April - Car Outing to Biddulph Old Hall ST8 7SD (Max 30)

Biddulph Old Hall is a wonderfully romantic ruin nestling in a quiet corner of Staffordshire. The Hall was badly damaged during the Civil War and lay unloved for some years until it was discovered by current owners Nigel Daly and Brian Vowels who are interior designers. The two have undertaken the huge task of restoration and have fought their own battle with English Heritage to get approval of their plans and to obtain funding to repair the unusual Hunting Tower. The Hall was featured in the BBC's 2005 series 'Restored to Glory'.

This is an opportunity to be enthralled by the Hall's owners who will take us on a tour of the buildings and grounds. The tour will commence at 2.00p.m. The cost is £8 (non-members £9) and includes refreshments - tea/coffee and cake - which will be served during the afternoon.

We shall meet on the car park at Biddulph Grange Gardens - postcode as above - at 1.20.p.m. As will be noted the maximum number for the tour is 30. However, only ten cars can be accommodated at the Hall so a degree of car sharing may be necessary for the short journey up to Biddulph Old Hall and will be arranged on the day. Some members may wish to arrive earlier and perhaps have lunch at Biddulph Grange prior to the tour.

As usual, sensible walking shoes should be worn since there will be uneven surfaces and the grounds could be muddy. There may be steps and stairs to negotiate too.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 851436 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday 14th March

Tuesday 19th April 2.30pm. Car Outing to Tissington Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1RA

Tissington Hall, (Website www.tissington-hall.com) situated about four miles north of Ashbourne, is the home of Sir Richard FitzHerbert Bt. The Hall was built in 1609 replacing a moated manor house. The Hall is a charming building

standing proudly in a superbly maintained estate village surrounded by delightful Derbyshire countryside. It is a pleasure to stroll around the village to enjoy the atmosphere.

Members will be given a guided tour and should arrive at the Hall not later than 2.30pm. Directions on application.

Members should make their own arrangements for refreshment (The Old Coach House in Tissington serves morning coffee, lunch and afternoon teas. Tel: 01335 350501).

Cost £10 per member (non-members £11).

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 4EB. Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Bookings close 26th March 2011.

Saturday 14th May, 2.30pm. Car Outing to Oakley Hall, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4AG. (For Satnav use TF9 4AH) 40 maximum.

Mrs Ann Fisher and her husband Freddy have kindly invited members to their home at Oakley Hall. The present hall is a fine example of a Queen Anne mansion house and was built on the site of an older dwelling mentioned in the Domesday survey in 1085.

Members will be given a potted history of the hall and a guided tour, mainly of the ground floor, and will be able to view the garden. Mrs Fisher has kindly offered members tea and cakes at the conclusion of the visit.

Members should arrive at the hall not later than 2.30pm. There is ample parking. Directions on application.

After the visit to Oakley Hall (approximately 4.30pm) members may drive a short distance to St Mary's church at Mucklestone, in which parish the hall stands. The church was erected in the 13th century and from its tower Queen Margaret of Anjou observed the Battle of Blore Heath in 1459. A member of the congregation will be in attendance to greet members.

Cost £7.50 per member, (non-members £8.50) to include a donation to St Mary's church.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 4EB. Tel: 01782 616337. Please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope. Bookings close on 23rd April.

Summary of 2011 Spring Programme	
Tuesday 18th January	Talk by Dr Alannah Tompkins - details in next newsletter
Tuesday 25th January	Luncheon Club Meeting at Swan with Two Necks
Tuesday 8th February	Talk by Andrew Lound - Titanic the Midlands Connection
Thursday 17th February	Luncheon Club Meeting at Hand and Trumpet
Thursday 24th February	Coach Outing to Bridgwater Hall to hear the Hallé Orchestra
Monday 28th February	Car Outing to Hanley Library Archives
Tuesday 8th March	Coach Outing to Coventry
Sunday 20th March	Walk - Deep Hayes Country Park
Wednesday 23rd March	Talk by Marcus Chilton-Jones - The Work of a Gardener
Thursday 24th March	Car Outing - AVRO Heritage Centre
Tuesday 29th March	Luncheon Club Meeting at Combemere Arms
Thursday 7th April	Car Outing to Biddulph Old Hall
Tuesday 19th April	Car Outing to Tissington Hall
Saturday 14th May	Car Outing to Oakley Hall
FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
May 17th	AGM
June 8th	Evening Visit to Blithfield Hall

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER IS DUE AROUND EASTER 2011. CONTRIBUTORS ARE ASKED TO GET COPY IN TO THE EDITOR BY THE 3RD MARCH. THANK YOU.

COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011

CHAIRMAN

Anne Anderton

14, Berne Avenue, Newcastle ST5 2QJ 01782-613024

Penny Moore

26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8AG
01782-657645

HON. SECRETARY

Richard Adams (Rambles)

Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT.
01782-646054

Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle ST5 4EB 01782-

616337

Peter Moxon

Bernice Mulliner (Minutes Secretary)

67 Chester Crescent, Newcastle ST5 3RR 01782-617211

Sue Pitt

196 Dimsdale Parade West ST5 8EA 01782-566871

HON. TREASURER

Madeleine Hopley

5 Sedbergh Close, Newcastle ST5 3JQ 01782-618821

Peter Thompson

'Westerly', 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 3LS
01782 613397

Andrey Aubrey

10 Paris Avenue, Newcastle ST5 2RQ 01782-623214

Rose Wheat (Programme Organiser)

12 West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 ONB 01782 616113

John Beaumont (Newsletter Editor)

4 Barnsdale Close, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8TT
01782-642618 email ajbeaumont@talktalk.net

Keith Walker (Membership Secretary)

49 Stockwood Road, Newcastle ST5 3LQ 01782-613813