

The North Staffs National Trust Association

Newsletter 89 and April to September 2011 Programme



Presentation of cheques (see Page 4)
From L - R Rod Whiteman, Paul Baker, Anne Anderton, and David Watts

SEE PAGES 2 & 3 FOR INFORMATION OF OUR AGM

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.

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.

The North Staffs National Trust Association

NEWSLETTER No. 89

and

April to September 2011 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

After a long and severe winter I am sure members are ready to book many of the events in our summer programme. We try to ensure a range of outings to enable as many as possible to take part and most planned excursions seem to book up very quickly. This means that we raise money to donate to the NT for various purposes but we are aware from correspondence from HQ and frequent appeals that the Trust is facing increasing difficulties in maintaining such properties as Tyntesfield and Castle Drogo, to mention but two for which appeals have been made lately, and in keeping important works of art in its possession.

Policies with regard to visitors have changed much in the last few years, with more emphasis on attracting younger people and families, and using costumed guides to give a more authentic feeling to some rooms and to explain some of the period aspects of life in the property. This may mean that visitors are less aware of the value of collections of art or furniture or even the need to keep roofs in good repair or replace worn curtains. Certainly any money which Associations can donate is much needed and appreciated, so our pleasure in visits is enhanced by the knowledge that we are also helping to preserve some of the places we enjoy and cherish.

This is my last Note From the Chair as I shall step down as Chairman at the AGM in May. It has been a most interesting role and I have enjoyed the opportunities it has given me and the friendships I have made among the members and above all in the committee. They have been remarkably loyal, hard-working, cheerful and effective in carrying out their many duties and providing you with programmes which other Associations often comment on as being "most interesting". I hope to continue to give help with some of the activities and I sincerely thank all Association members for the support you have given me as Chairman. I am sure you will show the same level of encouragement to my successor.

With thanks and very best wishes to all – Anne Anderton

THE NORTH STAFFS NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

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

TUESDAY MAY 17TH 2011 at 7.00PM

AGENDA:

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 30th AGM**
- 3. Secretary's Report – Matters Arising**
- 4. Treasurer's Report – Matters Arising**
- 5. Setting of Subscription Level 2011 - 2012**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee 2011 - 2012**
- 7. Change of Name of the Association from "North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members" to "The North Staffs National Trust Association" this change is to reflect that members of the Association can be both Members of the National Trust and Volunteer Helpers.**
- 8. Donations 2011 (see note on page 3)**
- 9. Any Other Business**

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

This will be followed as usual by coffee and biscuits or wine from the bar – all available to purchase on the night.

Following the AGM at 7.30pm

TALK BY SUE GREGORY : A WALK ROUND TRENTHAM GARDENS IN 1858

Sue Gregory is a garden historian, specialising in Staffordshire gardens and Trentham in particular. This garden was considered as second only to Chatsworth on the list of places for aristocratic travellers to visit in the mid-nineteenth century. Using detailed descriptions given by contemporary horticultural journalists and primary source documents in the Sutherland papers, Sue will take us on a virtual tour of the garden at this time.

NOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 8 - DONATIONS 2011

The Treasurer has recommended we should give further significant donations as we have accumulated money from events last year, especially the holiday, and we still have some funds. As this money no longer earns anything in interest, the committee recommends 3 donations of £3,000 each and we have chosen projects for properties in the area which we know members enjoy visiting – the Peak District for maintenance of walls and pathways; Attingham Park for work on the woodland areas and the orchard; and Wightwick Manor for restoration of the William Morris wall coverings. We shall ask for the approval for these donations at the AGM.

NOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 6 - ELECTIONS

Members are invited to submit nominations for the 2011 – 2012 Committee and Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each nomination should be signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee, all of whom should be paid-up members of the Association. Nominations should reach Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT by April 28th 2011.

REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

Monday 15th November - Talks by Three Managers - How to Spend Birthday Money

The Chairman began by explaining that as a 'birthday gesture' at the end of the anniversary year, everyone was being offered a free drink after the three short talks.

Although Paul Baker is no longer Property Manager at **Biddulph Grange**, he spoke about what a challenge repairing the Chinese Wall had been. The project had been more difficult and taken much longer than originally intended but it is now almost complete. Our donation will fund further garden developments, including the purchase of bulbs to enhance the dahlia beds in spring.

David Watts was honest in reporting that the past season at **Little Moreton Hall** had been difficult with visitor numbers and shop takings down. However, there are plans to develop some aspects of the interior and he spoke with pleasure about links that have been developed with local school and college pupils. The money we donated had been used to purchase and install a wood-burning stove in the Great Hall to provide much needed warmth in winter.

Finally Rod Whiteman spoke of the success of using cattle to graze part of **Downs Banks** to restore what had been a bracken-covered area to true heathland, with the resulting return of appropriate flora and fauna. Our



Clouds over Downs Bank

donation will enable him to extend that area by installing necessary fencing and introducing land-managing projects.

The three speakers were presented with symbolic 'cheques' by Penny Moore, Richard Adams and Anne Anderton. Another presentation was made by David and Cynthia Dumbelton, who handed a cheque for £825 to the Treasurer, Madeleine Hopley. This was the surplus raised on their recent and very successful London holiday, which was enjoyed by all who took part. This money will be used in a future donation.

Afterwards we all enjoyed looking at the splendidly organised archive material and talking with friends while having our birthday drinks.

Tuesday 14th December 2010 Talk by Cathy Shingler: "Mrs Butters at Work and Home"

For our Christmas meeting, Cathy Shingler of the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery gave a presentation as Mrs Maud Butters, about her life and work in 1910 as a correspondence clerk at the Gladstone Pottery in Longton, now familiar as the Gladstone Pottery Museum. Mrs Butters and her family lived in Minton Cottages, Hartshill, which remain as a familiar group of historic buildings on Hartshill Road, not far from our meeting venue. Minton Cottages, which were, like nearby Hartshill Church and the adjoining school, designed by the notable architect George Gilbert Scott, were originally provided by the Minton pottery for the accommodation of some of their employees. Mrs Butters' husband was a Minton employee, and even though he was at the time too unwell to work, the family were still allowed to remain in their cottage. Fortunately Mrs Butters enjoyed good health, and her work at Gladstone, dealing with export orders from America and elsewhere, enabled her to provide for the family.

By 1910 the pottery towns of North Staffordshire, or "the Potteries", were well established as the centre of the pottery industry in Britain, with many large pottery factories producing ware on a large scale, and numerous smaller potteries, together supplying the home and empire markets, and a thriving export trade. The pottery industry provided the main source of employment locally, with many pottery workers living close to the workplace in terraced streets, though not all as distinguished

architecturally as Minton cottages. Mrs Butters' journey to work in Longton was perhaps longer than many of her colleagues, but was easily accomplished via the electric tramways which served most parts of the district.

The year 1910 was also significant for the Federation of the pottery towns and villages to form the Borough (later to become the City) of Stoke-on-Trent. This process was not without controversy, especially for some local politicians, as exemplified by the rivalry between some of the towns for designation as the main centre of the new borough. Many Potteries folk, untroubled by the machinations of local government, continued to identify with their own towns or localities, a tradition which survived long after 1910, and can still be found today. The pottery towns also continued to retain their distinct identities (and rivalries), although Mrs Butters and her contemporaries would probably find little to recognise in most of them today.

Although in many respects the early twentieth century might have been regarded as the heyday of the Potteries, not everything was good. Pottery workers were generally not well paid, housing conditions for many were poor, and the smoke from hundreds of bottle ovens and thousands of domestic grates and kitchen ranges was not conducive to a healthy environment. Workers in the pottery industry, along with local coal miners, were exposed to serious risk of respiratory disease caused by the inhalation of mineral dust. Lead was also used extensively in the glazing, colouring and decorating of pottery. Those engaged in these processes, many of whom were women, were by 1910 given regular medical checks so that symptoms of lead poisoning could be identified at an early stage. The detection of symptoms led to the employee being immediately laid off, and the absence of alternative employment caused many to try to conceal their symptoms for as long as they could, with predictable consequences.

On a lighter note, Mrs Butters described the opportunities for recreation which were available in 1910, to enable workers to enjoy whatever free time they had, between long hours of work which usually extended to six days per week. Not surprisingly they looked forward to the annual "Stoke Wakes", when they enjoyed a week's holiday, albeit usually unpaid. Some were lucky enough to be able to afford a day or more at the seaside, perhaps

in Blackpool or North Wales; others relied on local facilities such as the various parks or "Trentham Thursday".

Cathy gave us a fascinating insight into local life and work a century ago. Those of us in the audience who were brought up in North Staffordshire in the middle decades of the last century found it salutary that we were able to recall a few of the local ways and traditions which Cathy described, which shows how slowly some things changed. With the demise of much of the local pottery industry, it all seems very different today, which emphasises the importance of the work which Cathy and her colleagues in the local museums service do to keep such memories alive for the benefit of younger and future generations. Let us hope that this will continue, despite the current financial stringencies.

We concluded the evening in festive style with mince pies, mulled wine and convivial conversation, as we looked forward to a new year of Association activities.

Peter Wilson

Tuesday 18th January Talk by Alannah Tomkins - Madness and the Medical Profession

Dr Alannah Tomkins, Senior Lecturer at Keele University, spoke on the subject "Madness and the Medical Profession". Dr Tomkins attracted an appreciative audience of more than 80 members of the Association and visitors to hear a most stimulating lecture on a subject very different from usual National Trust fare.

In the course of her research Dr Tomkins has examined the detailed records of patients admitted to the lunatic asylums of selected Midland counties during the nineteenth century, focusing on doctors who had found themselves patients in these institutions.

She outlined the legislation which had led to the building of County Asylums, being permissive from 1808 but compulsory from 1845.

Dr Tomkins distinguished between patients who were stricken with an acute disease, some apparently returning to health, some rapidly declining, and others who spent many years in an asylum, released only by death.

Perhaps the most interesting patient was Dr Francis Fox, a physician at Derby, who in 1835-6 took violently against the quality of care offered by his colleagues on the staff of the Infirmary there. The role of a “whistle blower” is always contentious, was he performing a public service, was he obsessed or was he just mad? Whatever the truth of the matter, after extensive enquiries Dr Fox was dismissed.

Dr Tomkins concluded by discussing the changing pressures on doctors as Medicine became increasingly professionalised with all that implies for both them and their patients. Living as we are at a time of great turmoil in the health service it is salutary to be reminded that continuous change is nothing new and has been with us for more than 200 years.

AOD

Tuesday 8th February Presentation by Andrew Lound - Titanic - The Midlands Connection

Whilst the story of the Titanic is familiar, few of us were aware of the extent to which the industries of the Midlands contributed to its construction, nor of the number of Midlanders who were involved in its fate. Andrew Lound gave us a dramatic cinema-style presentation, telling the story from a Midlands viewpoint, with a great deal of informative detail which the large audience of members and guests found fascinating.

Many of the fixtures and fittings for the largest ocean liner of its day were produced in our own region. We heard of and saw, for example, the massive anchor chains, produced by the firm of Noah Hanglely of Netherton, transported from their modest Black Country workshops to the local railway station by a team of 20 heavy horses. By contrast, the impressive factory of Elkingtons of Birmingham produced vast quantities of plated tableware and cutlery - the order for supplying the Titanic was so large that they had to employ numerous outworkers who were able to produce items at home. Many were women who used their children's prams to transport their products back to the factory!

The variety of products commissioned by the White Star Line for their flagship liner ranged from

iron and brass bedsteads

NEWSLETTER CONTINUES ON PAGE 17

**BACK OF
BOOKING
FORM**

Thursday 26th May Car Outing to the Lyceum Theatre, Heath Street, Crewe, CW1 2DA and Woodhey Chapel, Faddiley, Nr Nantwich CW5 8JH

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 cheque and a LARGE stamped addressed envelope (9" x 6½). Closing Date Monday 9th May.

Wednesday 8th June. Evening Car Outing to Blithfield Hall

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

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

Please apply to Mrs. A Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 2QJ enclosing cheque and stamped addressed envelope Closing date Monday 9th May 9

BACK OF BOOKING FORM

Sunday 19th June. Walk and Picnic at Froghall Wharf

NAME	ASSOCIATION NO.	
.....
.....

PAY ON THE DAY

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....
.....TEL. NO.

Please 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.
Tel: 01782 646054

Tuesday 5th July. Car Outing Wine tasting evening at Little Moreton Hall

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

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....
.....TEL. NO.

Please apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT (Tel: 01782 646054), enclosing your cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.
Closing date Friday 17th June.

Tuesday 12th July Car Outing to Biddulph Grange

CELEBRATE THE BATEMAN ANNIVERSARY!

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

NAME AND ADDRESS:

.....

.....TEL. NO.

Please apply to Mrs. Rose Wheat, 12 West Avenue, Newcastle ST5 ONB Tel: 01782 616113 enclosing cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Closing date Tuesday 28th June .

Sunday 24th July Coach Outing to Eaton Hall Gardens (near Chester)

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

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

Please apply to Penny Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8AG, Tel: 01782 657645 enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date Saturday 9th July

**BACK OF
BOOKING
FORM**

Tuesday 16th August Coach Outing to Compton Verney

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

Name and address:

.....

.....Tel. No.

Please apply to: Mrs. A.Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 2QJ Tel:
01782 613024 enclosing cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Closing date
Monday 1st August .



in support of **National
Trust**

BACK OF BOOKING FORM

with various grades of comfort, to glittering chandeliers for the first-class saloons, and included such mundane items as door hinges and coathooks. We were disappointed to learn that china tableware for first-class diners was supplied by Crown Derby, but at least the second and third-class passengers enjoyed the products of the Potteries. It was reassuring to know that White Star were noted for providing their 'lower class' passengers with higher standards of comfort than their competitors; sadly they were not so generous when it came to safety.

The Titanic left Southampton on 10th April with 1,310 passengers, including many from the Midlands, and 898 crew, including the Captain, Edward Smith, a native of Hanley. At 11.40pm on 14th April, on a calm sea and in clear weather, the ship hit an iceberg, and it was soon obvious that the Titanic could not survive, despite its 'practically unsinkable' design. Within three hours the ship had sunk, and 1,503 of those on board had been lost.

Although the design of the ship had allowed for sufficient lifeboats to carry everyone on board to be accommodated, White Star had decided to provide only the 16 boats and 4 collapsibles which regulations then required. Even those lifeboats could have taken in total 1,178 people, but many were only partly-filled when launched, and most did not return to try to rescue any survivors from the icy water. All of the lifeboat passengers were picked up by the liner Carpathia, whose crew responded heroically to the desperate telegraph distress signals sent out by the Titanic.

Among the Midlanders lost were William Henry Hipkin, head of Avery's, whose factory in Milwaukee had won a contract to supply weighing-machines to the US government.

We also heard of the Davies family of Shropshire, three brothers and their uncle, who almost missed the train from Birmingham to Southampton. Once established in the USA, they were to send for their parents to join them. Sadly all four of them were lost, yet the parents still emigrated to the USA, with help from the Titanic Memorial Fund.

One of our own members told us of his grandfather, who was one of many crew members from Southampton lost with the Titanic. His widow was able, with help from the Memorial Fund, to send our member's father and his brother to college to train as engineers.

Whilst the story of the Titanic has now almost become a legend, it remains, for many, a real part of their family history.

Peter Wilson

Monday February 28th Car Outing to Hanley Library Archives

We were welcomed by Chris Latimer, Head of Archive Services, who first told us something of how the service operates in terms of acquisitions, storage and making items available to the public. We then divided into small groups to study four displays at different tables. One was of artefacts from the 'Titanic' collection, including some of the Spode pattern books; another showed a large copy of a map, hand-drawn from memory by Enoch Wood, of Burslem in the mid 18th century. There was an Admissions and Departures book from the Stoke upon Trent workhouse in 1837, which included comments on some of the inmates such as 'indolent vagabond', 'a shuffling man' and 'a middling good girl'! Undoubtedly the largest item on display was an extremely heavy and handsome volume presented to George Melly, MP for Stoke-on-Trent from 1868 to 1875. Each page was beautifully hand-painted in different designs with a panel in the centre where his Liberal supporters had signed their names. It was so bulky that we wondered whether Melly would have preferred a small plate or a vase!

We were also shown around the storage areas where we inspected various maps and glimpsed the many shelves containing the Spode pattern books and other items. It inspired some members to vow that they would search out stuff from cupboards and attics and hand over collections of programmes, newspapers, letters or any other interesting bits of paper to the archive service, and surely some of us will wish to return to follow up some of the many interesting themes to which we were introduced.



in support of **National
Trust**

SPRING PROGRAMME 2011

Thursday 26th May Car Outing to the Lyceum Theatre, Heath Street, Crewe, CW1 2DA and Woodhey Chapel, Faddiley, Nr Nantwich CW5 8JH Maximum 40.

Members are invited to visit the Lyceum Theatre, Crewe, when they will hear a short talk about its history and ghosts and will be given a tour of the stage, auditorium, gallery and backstage. At the conclusion of the tour members will be offered tea/coffee. Members should arrive not later than 11.00am. Please park in the town.

After the tour of the theatre members should find their own lunch or take a picnic and re-assemble at Woodhey chapel in Faddiley (approx. 4 miles from Nantwich) at 2.30pm.

Woodhey Chapel is a Grade 1 listed private chapel; the listing describes the chapel as ‘a handsome and intact example of a chapel from a period when few were built’. The chapel, now disused except for three services each year, stands in fields near the site of the demolished Woodhey Hall. In a Will dated 1537 there is a possible reference to a domestic chapel at Woodhey. The present chapel was built around 1690 by Lady Wilbraham. It stands in beautiful Cheshire countryside and was restored in 1926.



Detail from Lyceum Theatre

Cost: £7.00 to include Lyceum tour and tea/coffee at the theatre and a donation to the Chapel.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 4EB (Tel: 01782 616337) by Monday 9th

May enclosing cheque and a LARGE stamped addressed envelope (9" x 6½"). Upon application members will be sent directions and information about the Chapel.

Wednesday 8th June Evening Car Outing to Blithfield Hall

Blithfield Hall has been home to the Bagot family since 1360 and the current owners will show us around their house which has grown over the centuries from its medieval core to the romantic nineteenth century additions. After the conducted tour we shall have a delicious 2-course buffet supper followed by coffee or tea. The house is reached by a short walk from the car-park by the church – there is some uneven ground and returning may be difficult if the light is not good. (Torches would be useful). There is no lift to the second floor rooms – access by stairs only.

Full details for route and parking will be sent with confirmation of booking. MAX 25 PEOPLE

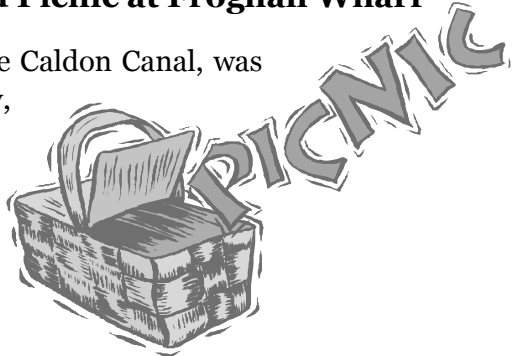
Arrive by 6.15pm – depart 9.00pm

Cost: £ 13.00 per person – to include supper and a donation to the church.

Please apply to Mrs. A Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 2QJ (Telephone 01782 613024) enclosing cheque and stamped addressed envelope Closing date - Monday May 9th

Sunday 19th June. Walk and Picnic at Froghall Wharf

Froghall Wharf, the terminus of the Caldon Canal, was once a place of noise and industry, where limestone from the quarries was transported downhill on tramways to be loaded onto canal barges and rail wagons. Coal mining, iron works and brickmaking also took place.



Nowadays nature has reclaimed the site, and Staffs County Council has a small Visitor Centre, complete with toilet facilities.

We shall meet at 10.45am for a 5-mile circular walk, returning to the picnic area for a sociable lunch.

The walk starts easily along the canal, then gets a bit tougher as we turn up into the hills. Nothing too steep or difficult but there are a couple of long ascents, and about a dozen stiles. The reward is the views from the top, and the hidden valleys in between. We shall pass through the villages of Ipstones and Foxt, stopping briefly at the Fox and Goose in Foxt for light refreshment. Following the line of one of the old tramways, we aim to be back at the start for 1.30pm.

So dig out the picnic basket and fill it with your favourite goodies. There are public picnic tables and benches, or you may prefer to bring your own tables and chairs.

As ever, children and dogs are welcome. Non-walkers could explore the visitor centre and around the wharf, then settle down with the Sunday paper until we return, or simply join us for lunch at 1.30.

The cost is £2 for members, £2.50 for guests – pay on the day - children and dogs are free.

Please 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. Telephone 01782 646054

Tuesday 5th July. Car Outing Wine tasting evening at Little Moreton Hall

An opportunity to explore the world of wine without ever leaving the familiar surroundings of Little Moreton Hall. In association with Whitebridge Wines of Stone, we will present a selection of ten wines from the Old World and the New, northern and southern latitudes, whites, reds and in-betweens. Each will be accompanied by brief tasting notes and information. Please note that this is not a formal tutored tasting, but a chance to sample at your own pace, and to mix socially with other members.

A final “mystery bottle” to be identified by sight, nose and taste, will give you



the chance to see how much you have learnt through the evening.

And should you get carried away and want to order a case or two from Whitebridge, the Association will benefit from a 5% return of whatever you spend!

Water and juices will be available for the drivers; car-sharing is clearly a good idea!

Please arrive between 6.30 and 7.00pm, carriages at 9.

The cost is £10 for members, £11 for guests. Please apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT (Tel: 01782 646054), enclosing your cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Closing date Friday 17th June.

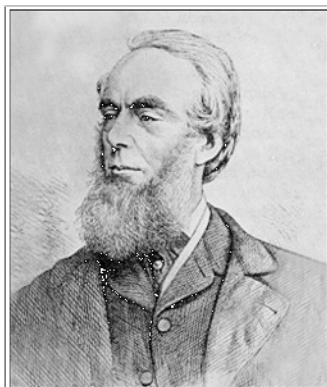
Tuesday 12th July Car Outing to Biddulph Grange

CELEBRATE THE BATEMAN ANNIVERSARY!

July 2011 sees the 200th anniversary of the birth of James Bateman and the occasion is being celebrated by several local events from July 12th – 14th. At the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery there will be a foyer exhibition, and afternoon talks by various speakers on a variety of related topics, while at Biddulph Grange there will be guided walks each morning. For more details and booking information, contact the Museum or email biddulphgrange@nationaltrust.org.uk

In addition we are arranging a special evening event for members only on Tuesday July 12th. There will be a guided tour of the garden led by the head gardener with special emphasis on Bateman's interest in plants, and this will be followed by light refreshments and drinks. Members will travel by car to Biddulph and appropriate footwear and clothing should be worn for touring the garden.

Cost £10 per person for the tour and refreshments.



JAMES BATEMAN

Please apply to Mrs. Rose Wheat, 12 West Avenue, Newcastle ST5 0NB
Tel: 01782 616113 enclosing cheque and stamped addressed envelope.
Closing date Tuesday June 28th.

Sunday 24th July Coach Outing to Eaton Hall Gardens (near Chester)

A treat for gardeners and non-gardeners alike, the Duke of Westminster's spectacular garden are only open for 4 days per year. Developed over 2 centuries by designers as diverse as Capability Brown, Nesfield, Lutyens and, recently Arabella Lennox Boyd, there are several different areas to explore: a 300' herbaceous border, the Dragon Garden with 6000 bedding plants, a large productive vegetable garden with beehives and a mushroom house, and a wildflower meadow and much, much more. Rides are available on the narrow gauge railway, there will be a parade of horsedrawn carriages and the Chester Wind Band will play. A perfect Summer's Day out!

Although refreshments will be available in the Garden, we will make a stop first at the award winning Grosvenor Garden Centre where lunch (at own cost) can be obtained or you may prefer to bring a packed lunch to eat on the bus.



Depart School Street 10.30 a.m. returning 18.00 approx subject to traffic and weather conditions.

Cost:£17 (£19 non-members) to include coach fare, driver's gratuity and admission to Eaton Hall Gardens.

Please apply to Penny Moore,26 Parkway,Trentham Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8AG, Tel:01782 657645 enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date : Saturday 9th July

Tuesday 16th August Coach Outing to Compton Verney

This elegant Robert Adam country house near Stratford on Avon now belongs to Sir Peter Moores, who has transformed it into an extensive art gallery. It is approached from the car park via a short walk across the beautiful grounds (shuttle mini-bus service available) and we shall have an introductory talk while we enjoy coffee and home-made biscuits.

There will be two special exhibitions during the summer: 'Capability Brown and the Landscapes of England' (featuring famous examples in our region, including Croome Park and Compton Verney) and 'Stanley Spencer and the English Garden' (featuring his gorgeous garden views and landscapes of the 1920s – 1940s). In addition, there are six fine collections of national and international importance, including works from Naples, Northern Europe, British portraits and Chinese works. There is also a whole gallery devoted to a charming exhibition of Folk Art, which is most unusual and amusing.

Lunch will be at own cost - there is an award-winning restaurant serving full meals, a coffee shop for light lunches, or members can picnic in the grounds. There will be time for those who wish to walk in the beautiful landscaped park and admire the lake, the bridge and the restored ice-house. There is a well-stocked gift shop.

This will be a special day to enjoy for many reasons so book early to be sure of a place!

Depart Brunswick Street 8.30 am and return approx 6.00pm

Cost £27.00 (non-members £29.00) to include coach, driver's tip, entrance, coffee and biscuits and talk.

Please apply to: Mrs. A.Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 2QJ
Tel: 01782 613024 enclosing cheque and stamped addressed envelope.
Closing date Monday August 1st.



in support of **National
Trust**

Summary of 2011 Summer Programme	
Saturday 14th May	Car Outing to Oakley Hall (fully booked)
Tuesday 17th May	AGM
Thursday 26th May	Car Outing to Lyceum Theatre and Woodhey Chapel
Wednesday 8th June	Evening Visit to Blithfield Hall
Sunday 19th June	Walk and Picnic - Froghall Wharf
Tuesday 5th July	Car Outing Wine Tasting - Little Moreton Hall
Tuesday 12th July	Car Outing to Biddulph Grange Celebrate the Bateman Anniversary
Sunday 24th July	Coach Trip Eaton Hall Gardens
16th August	Coach Trip Compton Verney
Future Dates for Your Diary	
1st - 5th September	Arts and Crafts Holiday (fully booked)
Wednesday 28th September	Coach Trip to Upton House and Gardens
Wednesday 5th October	Talk by Mavis Smith - The Tollet Family of Betley
Tuesday 18th October	Coach Trip to Crown Derby and the National Brewing Centre
Monday 14th November	Talk by David Becket - Recycling in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER IS DUE AT THE END OF AUGUST 2011. CONTRIBUTORS ARE ASKED TO GET COPY IN TO THE EDITOR BY THE 5TH JULY. THANK YOU.

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