

THE NORTH STAFFS National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 95
and
SUMMER PROGRAMME
May to August 2013

Our Web Site – northstaffsnt.org.uk



*China Town in Manchester as seen on the occasion of the visit to
the Bridgewater Hall to hear the Hallé Orchestra
(Brian Wilson)*



ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS



Coaches depart promptly from **SCHOOL STREET**, Newcastle, behind the Jubilee Swimming Baths. Nearby there is long-stay parking. Should a member cancel a 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 our trips will pay an additional £2 for coach outings and an additional £1 for car outings. The committee has agreed that it is only fair that members should have priority when booking trips and holidays.

Members are asked to note that it is not possible for the coach to stop at places other than School Street to pick people up or drop them off on the outward or return journeys. The coach will not wait for members who are late, either at School Street or at other pick up points. Members are advised to take careful note of when or where they will be picked up. Anyone missing a coach will have no claim on the Association.

It will greatly help organisers if you will make cheques payable to the “**The North Staffs National Trust Association**” and note that normally cheques are not cleared until after an event. Please also send a **separate cheque** and a **separate self-addressed** envelope for each separate event even when these go to one organiser. People who wish to ensure that they **sit together** on a coach should use one booking form.

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.

SPECIAL NOTE Please note that the insurance carried by this Association through the National Trust does not provide Personal Accident cover for members aged 80 years and above, or for children under 10.

THE NORTH STAFFS National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 95
and
Summer Programme 2013



A Note From The Chair

This is my last Note as Chairman.

I will have served for two years by the time of the A.G.M. and I have been pleased and honoured to lead the Association which, I am pleased to report, is as strong now, if not a little stronger than when I took over. While this period of tenure is considerably shorter than my immediate predecessor's, it does correspond with the commitment I gave on election.

My time in office has been helped enormously by the enthusiasm, commitment and support of all the committee members and several others from the general membership; I thank them all sincerely for the work they have done in making my duties so much easier to perform. It is also very encouraging to be surrounded by friendly and welcoming members and I thank them all being such a happy and supportive group. I feel sure that we must be one of the most successful Supporters groups in the country in these regards.

I am of course not departing from the Association membership and will still be attending many of the wonderful events for which our clever Planning team are responsible; indeed, I may be organising some myself, including co-leading my wife Cynthia's London holiday in August.

Meet the Committee



Roger Cartlidge.

I was born in Bucknall and educated at Hanley High School being fortunate to commence in September 1953 when the newly built grammar school premises opened within walking distance of my home. Having to vacate its original site in Hanley in the 1930s, Hanley High shared premises during and after the war with Chell Secondary School. However, the facilities at the new school in Bucknall – gymnasium, music-room, science laboratory workshops and playing fields/tennis courts – made a big impression on a young boy moving up from a Victorian Junior School at Abbey Hulton complete with outside toilets. My abiding memory (apart from the gowned and mortarboarded masters) is the delights of sago pudding served for ‘afters’ in the dining hall.

I left school in 1958 when jobs were plentiful and one had a choice of a career. I had the opportunity of joining the Civil Service or working at Barclays Bank but made a parochial decision to start as a junior clerk in the Treasurer’s Department of Stoke-on-Trent City Council. After several transfers and promotions I retired some 42 years later from the post of Principal Administrative Officer in the Property Services Department.

My family of three children has expanded over the years to now include eight grandchildren and six great-grandsons. Whilst they bring much pleasure it becomes increasingly difficult to remember all their names, let alone birthdays! I am a lifelong but somewhat lapsed Port Vale Supporter and in recent years have followed the fortunes of Leek Cricket Club – weather permitting.

In 2007 I was introduced to the North Staffs. N.T. Association by Shirley Timmis who had previously been a member and was rejoining. At the A.G.M. in May 2011 I was elected to serve on the main committee. Both

Shirley and I attend the regular bi-monthly meetings of the Programme and Events Group chaired with efficiency and reassuring calm by Rose Wheat. To date Shirley and I have organised several car outings and coach trips which although harrowing at times is also rewarding when things go well and members enjoy themselves. As a relative newcomer, I would like to pay tribute here to many people who over the last 30 plus years have organised outings and events and it is pleasing to note that many of these people are still active members today

In addition to National Trust activities, Shirley and I enjoy local history walks and talks, theatre and concert visits, weekends away and holidays, but perhaps we gain most from the enduring friendships that have ensued from the membership of the local National Trust Association.

Roger Cartlidge.



Anne Beaumont

I come from George Eliot's town of Nuneaton, Warwickshire where I spent a very happy childhood despite growing up in war time Britain. I was educated at the local convent schools

leaving with the usual 'O' levels at 16. Home life was full of music.

My parents had a great love of theatre and were enthusiastic members of the local Amdrams-which I took part in when I was old enough. I spent a year taking a secretarial course in Coventry during which time I saw the new cathedral rising from the ashes of the Blitz. I worked as a secretary with the National Coal Board in the Lord Robbins era and latterly in a branch of the NCB where the famous 'Bronowski's Bullets' were pioneered – now known as Homefire Briquettes – all this in the nearby Warwickshire HQ. I met John there in 1966 over the Daily Telegraph

crossword and the rest they say, is history. In 1969 we moved to the Potteries. John was working for Michelin and I worked for Royal Doulton before our eldest daughter was born. We were then moved to Scotland when John was appointed Electrical Engineer for the newly built Michelin factory in Aberdeen. We lived for 7 years in a delightful town by the sea, Stonehaven, where I got involved in wine making, singing, theatricals and art. We returned to Trentham in 1979 with a very young baby.

In 1983 I started work at Wedgwoods and was there for 18 years. So many celebrities came to the factory- I have even met the delightful and unassuming David Attenborough when he came to plant a cherry tree as a special memento of the Millennium.

Always having a keen interest in the things historical, there's a wealth of history within our own parish church at Trentham and the fascinating local St. Werburgh, who could have lived in the time of the Staffordshire Hoard. On retiring we became members of the North Staffs Branch of the NT. Now I'm a member of the Committee and have become increasingly involved with the Planning Team. In May I am arranging a trip back to the George Eliot Country and Arbury Hall, visiting an area with many memories for me.

I'm still singing in choirs at Eccleshall and Gnosall, belong to an art group, love walking, continue to be involved in many activities at Trentham Parish Church and delight in my two lovely granddaughters.

Anne Beaumont.

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAMME ORGANISER

The committee is aware that on some occasions members are disappointed when they fail to get on an outing due to the popularity of the trip. When it is possible we do repeat car outings, but it is more difficult to do this when a coach is fully booked as, even if the venue is able to accommodate a larger group, we need a minimum of 93 people to make booking 2 coaches financially viable and we have never achieved anything like these numbers.

Some members have been confused by the ‘last date for applications’ given to all trips in the Newsletter. This date is because we sometimes have to pay a deposit or even the full amount before a certain date and so we need to know that the trip will run. We always operate a first come, first served policy towards applications so we recommend that you book as early as you can to ensure your place.

We are delighted that our car and coach outings, walks and talks are so popular. None of this would be possible without commitment and enthusiasm of those who volunteer to arrange these events. I am sure you would want to join me in thanking them for all their hard work. If anyone would like to be part of the planning group and perhaps organise an event themselves I would be thrilled to hear from you on 01782 616113.

Incidentally, we shall be using Leon’s/ Happy Days coaches for the foreseeable future so please do not get on a Bakers coach in School Street from now on apart from the London Holiday.

**Tuesday 14 May 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
followed by a talk at N.S. Conference Centre by Andrew Lound**

THE NORTH STAFFS
NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WADE HALL, NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE
HARTSHILL

Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 7.00 pm.

AGENDA.

1. Apologies
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Minutes of the 32nd AGM
4. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising
6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2013 - 2014
7. Nominations for Chairman and Committee
8. Election of Officers and Committee for 2013 – 2014
9. Any Other Business

The formal business will be followed at 7.30 pm by a dramatic presentation (see facing page).

The evening will finish as usual with coffee and biscuits or wine from the bar - all available to purchase on the night.

NOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 7 – ELECTIONS

Members are invited to submit nominations for the 2013 - 2014 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.

Please send nominations to Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT by 13 May 2013.

MAY 14 7.30 pm following the AGM business

To See The Beginning Of Time *A Dramatic Presentation* *By Andrew Lound.*

Many members will remember the superb presentation which Andrew gave us about the Titanic, using many different audio-visual techniques. We have invited him to return and take us on a journey into space!

The Hubble telescope is giving humankind a view of the universe never previously imagined. From dust clouds to the star-studded galaxies, our minds have been opened to a universe that blends outstanding beauty with mind-boggling scales. Looking into deep space, we are seeing even further back in time, as light from the most distant objects has taken many millions of years to reach the mirrors of the Hubble.

This lecture is illustrated by some of the most beautiful images one will ever see and is accompanied by music and video. Sit back, relax and let your mind drift into the far reaches of the universe.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 8 May: Car outing to The Heath House, Tean, Staffordshire, ST10 4HA. Minimum 20, maximum 40.

The visit to Heath House last September proved so popular that a large number of members were disappointed as the visit was over-subscribed. A further visit has been arranged, but a minimum number of twenty visiting members will be needed for the trip to be viable.

Priority will be given to members who were disappointed last September provided they apply before the 20th April. PROMPT BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

The Heath House is a spectacular mansion that bridges the Regency and Victorian periods. John Burton Philips (1785-1847) and Joan Philips (1795-1858) began building the present house in 1836 which replaced an earlier dwelling occupied by the Philips family since the 1680s. The new house has more than sixty rooms.

Members should arrive at The Heath House not later than 2.30pm when they will be given a guided tour of the house and garden and afternoon tea / coffee and cakes.

Cost £12 (non-members £13) to include entrance, tour and afternoon tea and cakes.

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

Thursday 16 May: Coach outing to George Eliot Country and Arbury Hall.

For many, the name of George Eliot is synonymous with schooldays, English Literature and tales of *Adam Bede*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Silas Marner* and perhaps her most memorable book, *Middlemarch*. The main thrust of our excursion to the wilds of Warwickshire is to visit the wonderful Arbury Hall which is said to be the finest example of Gothic Revival architecture in the country. We understand, from a most reliable source, it has plaques and cameos by the famed John Flaxman.

George Eliot was so inspired by her surroundings and childhood experiences that she was able to bring real depth and life to the people and places in her novels and on this tour we will be investigating the very places which inspired her.

We will be welcomed at The George Eliot Heritage Centre (formerly a Free School built over 200 years ago by Sir Roger Newdigate) by our guide for the day, John

Burton, Chairman of the George Eliot Fellowship founded in 1930. After tea/ coffee and biscuits and the all-important comfort facilities we will visit (on foot and just across the road) the Parish Church where at just one week old George Eliot was baptised Mary Ann Evans.

From there we will be transported to nearby Griff House (now Griff Hotel) where she grew up from 1820-41. We will be having lunch here at own cost, (Good menu ranging from £5 upwards).

After lunch we will set off for Arbury Hall for our guided tour. Arbury Hall has been the seat of the Newdigate family for over 400 years and is the ancestral home of Viscount and Viscountess Daventry. This beautiful Elizabethan house was built on the site of a 12th century Augustine Priory and transformed in the 18th century. George Eliot's father was the agent for the estate and Arbury Hall features in several of her novels, especially *Scenes of Clerical Life*. After leaving the Hall we will head for South Farm where George Eliot was born and from there we visit the very old Astley Church which features in *Mr Gilfil's Love Story* and where, next to the church, stand the ruins of Astley Castle, the former home of Lady Jane Grey.

Before heading home, we will be calling back at Griff House for final refreshments/loo stop and saying our goodbyes.

Coach departs School Street at 9.00am. To return by approx. 7pm. Cost £26 (non-members £28) to include coach, driver's tip, coffee/tea and biscuits at the George Eliot Heritage Centre Heritage, Guide for the day, admission and tour of Arbury Hall.

Lunch optional/own cost. Please apply to Anne Beaumont, 4 Barnsdale Close, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8TT. Tel. 01782 642618 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Closing date 30 April.

Wednesday 22 May: Car outing 'A Double Bill at Shugborough'.

This will be a full day's outing when we shall learn about the mythical and mysterious aspects of Shugborough's monuments in the morning and later get a fascinating glimpse of life below stairs while we enjoy afternoon tea with the housekeeper.

Assemble in front of the Mansion House to start the 'Myths and Mysteries' guided tour at 11.30am. We shall explore some of the places in the Park where visitors seldom go and hear about the history of its famous and intriguing statues and structures. We shall also get the chance to see the private arboretum planted by the late Lord Lichfield. The tour will last about an hour after which members will be free to get lunch in the licensed tea room (at own expense) and view the house, gardens,

servants' quarters as you wish . An outdoor picnic area is available if you prefer to take your own lunch.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO VISIT THE HOUSE PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR NATIONAL TRUST CARDS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FREE ENTRY.

At 3.30pm assemble under the clock tower, by the servants' quarters, where the housekeeper will collect us and take us to the tearoom when she will pass on some 'idle Victorian gossip' before serving a delicious cream tea.

Free parking passes will be issued on application [NT stickers do not entitle you to free parking at Shugborough] and a shuttle bus runs constantly between the car park and the tea room.

Cost: £18 (non- members of the Association £19 but £23.50 if not a member of the National Trust), to include entry, car park, guided tour, cream tea with housekeeper. Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12 West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 0NB, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Tel.01782 616113.

Closing date 12 May. Maximum number on trip: 45.

Thursday 6 June: Coach outing to the Morgan Car Company, Malvern Link and Hanbury Hall, Droitwich Spa.

The Morgan Car Company was founded in 1910 by HFS Morgan, producing light three wheel cars which gained a sporting reputation; four wheel cars appeared in the 1930s. The original concept using bought-in engines and other parts with hand built wooden framed bodies has continued to date. More recently a luxurious coupe and a three wheeler powered by a Harley Davidson engine have been introduced. Charles Morgan the founder's grandson now heads what is probably the only British owned car manufacturer; it employs circa 200 people, with a waiting list for its products.

At the visitor centre, tea, coffee, biscuits, etc will be available (at member's own cost). We will divide into three groups leaving the centre at ten minute intervals, taking the factory guided tour and the museum, to view exhibits about the company's history from Edwardian times until the present day. **Cameras are allowed throughout.** The tour ends at the souvenir shop!

After the tour, we will rejoin our coach and proceed to Hanbury Hall, where light lunches (soup, salads, sandwiches) will be available at the tea room, at members' own cost; as space is limited, we would ask members to stagger their visit.

Hanbury Hall is a William and Mary style house built in 1701 by Thomas Vernon,

containing a fascinating mix of interiors, including the restored Hercules rooms and re-created Gothic corridor, smoking room and staircase wall paintings. Surrounding the house are 20 acres of re-created early 18th century gardens and 400 acres of parkland.

Coach departs School Street at 7:45 am to return by around 6:30 pm.

Cost £28.50 (non members £30.50) to include coach, driver's tip and Morgan tour.

Please carry National Trust Cards for Admission to Hanbury Hall.

Please apply to John Pedrazzini, 18 Northgate Close, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8UN. Tel: 01782 644478 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date: 10 May

Tuesday 18 June: Car outing to Middleton Hall, Tamworth, Staffs. B78 2AE.

The Hall has an interesting architectural history with its earliest buildings dating from the 13th century and other parts dating from the 15th to early 19th century. Its most obvious attractions are the gracious eleven bay Georgian west wing and the impressive 15th century Great Hall, the restoration of which was completed in 1994.

In the 17th century the Hall was the home of Francis Willoughby, a founder member of the Royal Society, whose interest in natural history was inspired by John Ray, one of Britain's greatest naturalists. It has links with Sir Hugh Willoughby, the Tudor explorer, Cassandra, the 1st Duchess of Chandos, Elizabeth 1, Jane Grey and Jane Austen. Middleton Hall is now managed by a Trust which has a 75 year lease at a peppercorn rent. The Trust is now completely self-supporting and the Hall is managed and run entirely by the efforts of volunteers.

Members will be given a talk, tour of the Hall, time to explore the garden and tea/coffee and cake.

Members should arrive not later than 2.00pm. Directions on application.

Cost £10 (non-members £11) to include admission, tour and tea/coffee and cake.

Apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. ST5 4EB, enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 616337. Closing date for applications: 3 June.

Wednesday 3 July: Car Outing to St. Bartholomew's Church, Tong and The David Austin Rose Centre, Albrighton .

We have arranged a guided tour of St Bartholomew's Church, starting at 11 a.m. This church which is Grade 1 listed, was chosen in 1999 by Simon Jenkins (former Times editor and current Chairman of the National Trust) as one of the best 1,000 churches in England from a total of 15,000. St. Bartholomew's which was founded in 1406 by Isabel Pembrugge was originally a collegiate church but all the college buildings are long since gone. The church, which was built in the Perpendicular style, boasts a superb vaulted ceiling. It houses memorials to the Vernon family and has an unmatched collection of village tombs. It also has links to Charles Dickens. There has been a tradition for many centuries of placing roses on Isabel's tomb, which still continues today.

This leads us on nicely to our visit after lunch, starting at 2p.m. to the nearby David Austin Rose Centre. David Austin Roses are internationally renowned; I recently saw them for sale at a garden centre in Tasmania ! Here we will experience a behind the scenes tour which includes a short talk on the breeding programme, followed by a tour of the garden which should be at its best at this time of year.

A cream tea will round off the day but a visit to the shop might then be necessary for some of you.

There is adequate parking at both venues, which are only 4 miles apart. **Lunch is open to your own choice and cost.** The Bell pub opposite Tong Church may appeal to many but alternatively you can bring a picnic.

The cost is £12 including the cream tea (£13 to non-members).

We need bookings by Friday 31 May. Since David Austin Roses need paying 2 weeks before the visit, cheques will be cleared in mid-June and full refunds will not be available thereafter.

Please reply to Susan Till, Weston Barn, Bower's Court, Standon, Staffs. ST21 6RW enclosing a cheque and a stamped, addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 791120.

Tuesday 9 July: Coach Outing to Saltaire, near Shipley, West Yorkshire.

Saltaire was one man's vision of ultimate success - that man was Titus Salt, who, having made his fortune by buying and operating woollen mills in Bradford, wanted to build a mill of his own. In 1851 he was able to buy land near to the river Aire and by his 50th birthday his imposing new mill was up and running.

Titus was a religious man with philanthropic views so he also built a village to house his workers. Of the many terraced streets in the village, eleven are named after his children!

To enhance the quality of life of his employees and their families he also built a chapel, a Sunday school, a day school, an infirmary, a railway station and a large recreational park. There were shops but, not surprisingly, no public houses. By 1876 his model industrial village was complete. Titus was knighted by Queen Victoria and today Saltaire has UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

Our visit commences with tea/coffee and biscuits at the United Reformed Church which is Grade I listed and is also the site of Salt's mausoleum. We will then be taken on a walking tour of the village led by costumed guides. The tour lasts approximately one hour after which the rest of the day is free for members to visit the Mill, to further explore the village or perhaps stroll down to Robert's Park, crossing over the Leeds-Liverpool canal and the River Aire en route.

The Mill itself comprises three floors of which the ground and first floors will be open to us and they house many David Hockney paintings on permanent display - he being a local lad! Although many of the Mill's original features remain (for example Titus's private apartment is now the Visitor Centre) most of the space is given over to retail outlets including bookshops, antiques, jewellery, clothing and furniture. Admission is free and there is a lift to the first floor.

There is a choice of venues for lunch (to be taken at own cost) including Salt's Diner in the Mill, or one of the various cafes/restaurants in the village. If you prefer to take a picnic, Robert's Park is ideal with plenty of seating in pleasant surroundings. The Park also houses the Grade II listed Half Moon Cafe originally built by Sir Titus as a cricket pavilion to complement the cricket ground still in use today and, last but not least, his statue.

This outing should be an interesting one, but please note that some of the streets rise fairly steeply in parts and have their original cobbles so sensible walking shoes are a must.

Coach departs from School Street at 8.30am for an approximate two hour journey. We shall leave Saltaire at 4.30pm arriving back at approx. 6.30pm.

Cost: £23 (non-members £25) to include coach fare, driver's gratuity, refreshments on arrival and guided tour of the village.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY. Telephone 01782 851436 or 01782 777513 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 24 June

**Tuesday 16 July: Car outing to Chetwynd House, 144 Northwood Lane, Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4BZ.
Meet at 2.30pm.**

Professor Flavia Swann has kindly offered members a visit to Chetwynd House, a delightful property with approximately an acre of gardens.

Chetwynd House was built in 1899 by the Arts and Crafts architects Sir Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker. They designed not just the building but all the internal fittings and the furniture and also the garden. Some of this survives today. The two architects then went on to design Letchworth Garden City.

In 1926 Colley Shorter bought the house and moved there with his wife and daughters. After his first wife's death in 1940, he married Clarice Cliff and she moved into the Shorter family home. She continued to live in Chetwynd House until her death in 1972.

For the visit members should arrive at Chetwynd House no later than 2.30pm when they will be given a guided tour of the ground floor of the house by Professor Swann, followed by tea/coffee and an amble around the gardens. Please note car parking will be on the adjacent roads.

Cost £8-50 (non- members £9-50) includes entrance, tour and tea/coffee.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.ST4 8ED enclosing a cheque and a stamped self-addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 642942. Closing date 1 July. **Urgent booking required as there is a limit of 30 people.** Directions provided with confirmation of booking.

Saturday 27 July: Walk - Alderley Edge to Hare Hill and back.

Last year's walk on Alderley Edge was cut short by the weather; this one takes in the parts we missed out on, and then goes on to Hare Hill garden, one of the National Trust's "hidden gems". We will start out through the woods of Alderley Edge which still bear signs of copper and tin mining activities over at least four millennia, passing through waterfall wood and the beech cathedral to reach the dramatic sandstone escarpment itself. Then it's onward across fields and woodland to Hare Hill gardens **(Bring your membership cards: NT.admission charge applies to non-members!)**

We will linger in the garden for half an hour or so - time to take in the "hare sculpture trail", fine shrubs and water gardens, and to relax in the walled garden. There is a limited selection of hot / cold drinks and snacks available from vending machines, plus the all-important toilets.

We return to Alderley Edge by a different route, taking in part of the North West Cheshire Way. This gentle walk is to be taken at a leisurely pace with a break in the middle. It is about five miles in total, with a dozen stiles and a couple of steepish slopes to go up and down.

We will meet at 10.30am on the NT car park by the Wizard Inn (parking is free if you are displaying your sticker), and expect to be back at the Wizard for lunch 1.30 pm.

Cost £2 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day). Children and dogs are welcome, at no charge.

Book your place with Richard Adams email to rjadams@doctors.org.uk - or by post to Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 646054.

Thursday 8 August: Textiles, People and Places : Car Outing to Leek and beyond. Maximum 30.

This is a chance to see the special exhibition of the Leek Embroidery Society and visit associated churches, in the company of Leek historian Cathryn Walton. We shall learn about some of the women who created these superb textiles and see many of them, some of which have never been publicly shown before.

Our first venue will be All Saints Church in Leek at 10.30am, a beautiful Norman Shaw Arts and Crafts church, where we shall have coffee and a short talk by Cathryn, then see the pieces on show there. A short walk will take us to the main exhibition of embroideries and designs in the Nicholson Institute and Art Gallery, where Cathryn will be on hand to guide us and answer questions. A buffet lunch of assorted sandwiches and savouries will be provided at Foxlowe, a handsome building at the head of the market place, now being run as an Arts Centre.

After lunch we drive to St. Edward's Church, Cheddleton where there will be more textiles items on show. Barbara Hutchinson, an expert on the church, the wonderful stained glass windows and the William Morris connection, will be our guide.

Cost £13.50 for members (£14.50 for guests), includes coffee, lunch, guide's fee and donations to both churches. Full details of times, a map and parking advice will be sent on application. Please be aware that a certain amount of walking is involved between the car park and the venues.

Please apply to: Anne Anderton, 14, Berne Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 2QJ
Tel: 01782 613024, with cheque and stamped, self-addressed envelope for instructions for parking etc.
Closing date: July 31.

Tuesday 20 August: Coach Outing to Croome Park, Worcestershire

The great 18th century house at Croome, former home of the Earls of Coventry, was close to destruction and its parkland, the first creation of Lancelot “Capability” Brown, overgrown, when the National Trust and you its members, came to the rescue, acquiring the parkland in 1996 and Croome Court in 2009. Come and see for yourselves how the Trust have brought the parkland, with its temples, statues, bridges and follies back to life and learn more about their current plans for the mansion.

The Court is closed to the public on Tuesdays, so we have been able to arrange an exclusive, private tour of the house. After a welcome from the property manager, we will make our way down to the Court for coffee/tea and biscuits in the Tapestry Room followed by a short lecture on The Trust’s exciting plans for the future of the property. You will then have chance to explore the grand ground floor rooms, the maze of rooms “below stairs” and the fascinating, yet modern, spaces on the first floor, currently closed to other visitors. In the afternoon you will be free to explore the park and gardens at your own pace and discover temples designed by Robert Adam and the statues by James Wyatt, along with enchanting shrubberies and the stunning lakeside paths. Learn about and experience the massive restoration projects that are returning this special landscape to its 18th century glory.

Lunch available (at own cost) in the excellent 1940s style licensed restaurant or bring a picnic, N.B. There will be a considerable amount of walking on this visit, much of it outside and on uneven ground, so please come suitably attired and shod. It is approximately a 15 – 20 minute walk downhill from the coach park and restaurant area to the Court. A limited buggy service (capacity 10) will be available.

Coach departs School Street at 8.15am and returns for 6.00pm (traffic dependant). Cost: £23 (£25 for non members) to include coach travel and driver’s gratuity, lecture and exclusive guided tour of Croome Court , and refreshments on arrival.

Please apply to:

Mrs Penny Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8AG, and please include a stamped addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 657645.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 6 August.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST EDITION

We warmly welcome them and hope that they will find our events a rewarding enhancement of their National Trust membership.

Mr and Mrs P. Mountain
Howard and Jane Bayley
Muriel Chester
Dorothy Naylor.
Mr and Mrs D. J. Morgan

Maureen Findlay
Mr and Mrs A. Pate.
Mrs S. Kirkham.
Bronwen Montgomery
Thelma Stewart-Dawson.

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS EVENTS

**Tuesday 13 November: Talk by Danny Wells on
Cook's Tours – The achievements of Thomas Cook and his Son.**

Danny Wells gave us a fascinating insight into the development of tourism in the 19th century.

Thomas Cook was born in Melbourne, Derbyshire in 1808. He left school aged 10 to work as a garden boy on the local estate. Later aged 13 he was employed by his uncle, a Baptist preacher, in his cabinet making workshop and became prominent in the Temperance movement, founding the Midlands Temperance press.

The development of the railways extended the opportunities for travel. In 1841 he organised his first Temperance outing by rail from Leicester to Loughborough costing one shilling. By 1846, 100,000 Britons were travelling to stately homes, the seaside, Scotland and on to the continent.

In 1846 his son John Mason Cook joined the firm. The following year the expanding business moved its HQ to Fleet Street in London, managed by John, while his mother was responsible for their Temperance Hotel.

By 1869 tours to the Middle East became available followed by the World Tours. In 1871 John became a partner in the firm henceforth known as Thomas Cook and Son.

There were disagreements between father and son and in 1879 John Mason Cook took over the business and the firm continued to prosper and expand. Thomas Cook died in 1892.

Joan Parrack

Tuesday 18 December : Christmas Social Evening at Gladstone Pottery Museum.

The night was chilly and damp but the welcome was very warm when we attended the Gladstone Museum for our Christmas 'get together'.

It was awe- inspiring standing on the cobbled forecourt with the massive bottle ovens towering above us into the night sky. It was quite atmospheric and eerie and we were certainly aware of the ghosts of hundreds of potters, not just the past but the present as well !

We were met by Janice, our tour guide, who vividly described the dreadful working conditions that the potters of old would have experienced. Men women and children slaved away for long hours and little pay.

We watched a short film and then were taken round the factory, starting at the 'Colour Room' where there were stacks of pottery jars with wonderful names written on them. We noticed one jar, labelled 'arsenic', was put safely away on the top shelf!

A 'lady factory inspector' was waiting for us in the office. She told us that even though over 70% of workers in the pottery industry were female, women factory inspectors were in a minority. She entertained us with a story written by Arnold Bennett about Sir Daines, a local pottery owner.

We moved through all the departments and were shown the many processes involved in producing a piece of ware. We particularly enjoyed watching the skilful hands of the flower modeller and admiring the beautiful work of artist Peter Graves.

We finished off the evening with mince pies, mulled wine and some good conversation, with plenty of time left to make our purchases in the shop.

A big 'thank you' to Cynthia and David for arranging our Christmas treat.

Lynn Hustwit and Jean Basnett

Tuesday 15 January: Talk by Vince Williams
K2, A Personal Pilgrimage

Vince started by showing up our ignorance of the mountaineering world- he asked a simple question: could we name any British mountaineers since Sir Chris Bonnington? Most of us failed. No one knew Alan Hinkes, the only British climber to have claimed all 14 of the world's summits over 8000 metres. A few of us remembered Alison Hargreaves from Derbyshire, who died on K2 in 1995. A Canadian climber, Jeff Lakes, was on the same climb, and he too died during the descent.

Jeff Lakes was a cousin of Vince Williams and two years later Vince and Jeff's father set out to lay a memorial plaque for him at the base camp for their ill-fated expedition. K2 is the world's second highest mountain, but considered the most difficult and dangerous to climb. Vince dismissed Everest as being nowadays almost part of mainstream tourism (£30,000 and average fitness and someone to take you to the top). K2 however is on the hard- to- reach border between Pakistan and China, is steep, exposed and subject to violent and sudden storms; just a few hundred people have reached the summit, and with a 1 in 4 fatality rate.

Vince's journey, by plane and 4x4, took him to the remote Baltistan province of northern Pakistan, then on foot all the way. Accompanied by local guides, they trekked through river valleys, having to climb the rocky walls when the way was blocked, to reach the Karakoram glaciers. They carried on through hot sunny days and sub- zero nights. They fixed their tribute, took their photos, and set off to retrace their steps all the way back.

Vince was an entertaining and engaging speaker, and had a wonderful collection of photographs of his trip to share with us. A great insight into a harsh and beautiful part of the world.

Richard Adams.

Thursday January 24: Coach outing to Manchester and the Hallé Orchestra

see below page 33.

February 12 Talk by Andrew Edwards on ‘The Staffordshire Saxon’

What an evening!

I said to David Dumbelton that I simply wanted to say ‘WOW’, and there certainly was a WOW factor about this evening. However, this statement would not have done justice to the presentation that Andrew Edwards gave.

This has to be one of the best talks that I have ever attended, anywhere. I know the Staffordshire Hoard and the statue of the Saxon Warrior very well indeed but I now know a lot more! I enjoyed hearing the little extras about building the statue, where it was built and why. It was good to hear that a local company, Wedgwood, has been involved. We now know why certain items were incorporated in the statue and understand the significance of them. I had no previous knowledge of hogs on heads!

At the Potteries Museum we are very proud of our ‘warrior’ and it was a tremendous relief to me, and will be to others, to know that there will be an additional statue in Stafford. We would not want them laying claim to ours! People are fascinated by him and sit in the foyer to watch the film about Andrew creating him. Children in particular love the sheer scale of him and the ‘giant’ by the side of the M6 would be wonderful. If Newcastle–on-Tyne can do it, why not us?

At the museum we see the Hoard every day and after three years it is easy to take the items for granted. Andrew has made me look at things in a different way, to see things that I had never noticed and to understand their significance. Because of this I can now train the Hoard volunteers to point out more to our visitors and to send people away full of the enthusiasm that I felt after being inspired by Andrew’s talk.

Pauline Mountain.

BOOKING DETAILS

Wednesday 8 May: Car outing to The Heath House, Tean, Staffs. ST10 4HA. 20 minimum; 40 maximum.

Members should arrive at The Heath House not later than 2.30pm when they will be given a guided tour of the house and garden and afternoon tea / coffee and cakes.

Cost £12 (non-members £13) to include entrance, tour and afternoon tea and cakes.

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

See over page

BOOKING DETAILS

Thursday 16 May: Coach outing to George Eliot Country and Arbury Hall

Coach departs School Street at 9.00am. To return by approx. 7.00pm.

Cost £26 (non- members £28) to include coach, driver's tip, coffee/tea and biscuits at the George Eliot Heritage Centre Heritage, Guide for the day, admission and tour of Arbury Hall.

Lunch optional/own cost.

Please apply to Anne Beaumont, 4 Barnsdale Close, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8TT. Tel. 01782 642618 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date 30 April

See over page

Wednesday 8 May
Car outing to The Heath House Tean. Staffs. ST10 4HA.
Min 20 Max 40.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total£

Tel. number ----- Email address-----
 For booking details see reverse of this form

Thursday 16 May Coach outing to George Eliot Country and Arbury Hall

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total

Tel. number ----- Email address -----
 For booking details see reverse of this form

BOOKING DETAILS

Wednesday 22 May: Car outing ‘A double Bill at Shugborough.’

Please assemble in front of the mansion by 11.30am at the latest.

Cost: £18 (non- members of the Association £19 but £23.50 if not a member of the National Trust)

To include entry, car park, guided tour, cream tea with housekeeper

Please apply to Rose Wheat 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 0NB, enclosing a cheque and stamped, self- addressed envelope.

Tel.01782 616113

Closing date 12 May. Maximum number on trip: 45.

See over page

BOOKING DETAILS

Thursday 6 June: Coach Trip to Morgan Car Factory and Hanbury Hall.

Coach departs School Street at 7:45 am to return by around 6:30 pm.

Cost £28.50 (non members £30.50) to include coach, driver’s tip and Morgan tour.

Please carry National Trust Cards for Admission to Hanbury Hall.

Please apply to John Pedrazzini, 18 Northgate Close, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8UN, enclosing a cheque and stamped, self- addressed envelope.

Tel: 01782 644478

Closing date: 10 May

See over page

Wednesday 22 May: Car outing to ‘A double Bill at Shugborough.’

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

Thursday 6 June Coach Trip to Morgan Car Factory and Hanbury Hall.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

BOOKING DETAILS

Tuesday 18 June: Car outing to Middleton Hall, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B78 2AE.

Members should arrive not later than 2.00pm. Directions on application.

Cost £10 (non-members £11) to include admission, tour and tea/coffee and cake.

Apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 4EB, enclosing a cheque and a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Tel. 01782 616337.

Closing date 3 June.

See over page

BOOKING DETAILS

Wednesday 3 July: Car outing to St. Bartholomew's Tong and The David Austin Rose Centre, Albrighton.

Please meet at St Bartholomew's not later than 11.30am.

There is adequate parking at both venues, which are only 4 miles apart. Lunch is open to your own choice and cost. The Bell pub opposite Tong Church may appeal to many but alternatively you can bring a picnic.

The cost is £12 including the cream tea (£13 to non-members).

We need bookings by Friday 31 May. Since David Austin Roses need paying 2 weeks before the visit, cheques will be cleared in mid-June and full refunds will not be available thereafter.

Please apply to Susan Till, Weston Barn, Bower's Court, Standon, Staffs. ST21 6RW enclosing a cheque and a stamped, addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 79112

See over page

Tuesday 18 June: Car outing to Middleton Hall.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

Wednesday 3 July: Car outing to St. Bartholomew's Tong and David Austin Roses, Albrighton

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

BOOKING DETAILS

Tuesday 9 July: Coach outing to Saltaire, West Yorkshire.

Coach departs from School Street at 8.30.am for an approximate two hour journey. We shall leave Saltaire at 4.30.pm arriving back at approx. 6.30.pm.
Cost: £23 (non-members £25) to include coach fare, driver's gratuity,
Refreshments on arrival and guided tour of the village.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY, enclosing a cheque and stamped, self-addressed envelope.
Telephone 01782 851436 or 01782 777513.
Closing Date for receipt of applications: 24 June

See over page.

BOOKING DETAILS

Tuesday 16th July Car outing to Chetwynd House, 144 Northwood Lane, Clayton ,Newcastle under Lyme ST5 4BZ

For the visit members should arrive at Chetwynd House no later than 2.30pm when they will be given a guided tour of the ground floor of the house by Professor Swann, followed by tea/coffee and an amble around the gardens. Please note car parking will be on the adjacent roads.

Cost £8-50 (non- members £9-50) includes entrance, tour and tea/coffee.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.ST4 8ED enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 642942.

Closing date 1 July. **Urgent booking required as there is a limit of 30 people.**
Directions provided with confirmation of booking.

See over page

Tuesday 9 July; Coach outing to Saltaire, West Yorkshire.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

Tuesday 16 July: Car outing to Chetwynd House, 144 Northwood Lane, Clayton ,Newcastle under Lyme ST5 4BZ

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

BOOKING DETAILS

Saturday 27 July: Walk – Alderley Edge to Hare Hill and back.

Cost £2.00, for members £2.50 for guests (pay on the day). Children and dogs welcome, at no charge

Book your place with Richard Adams: emailrjadams@doctors.org.uk

Or by post to : Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 646054

See over page

BOOKING DETAILS

August 8: Car Outing to ‘Textiles, People and Places: Leek and beyond’. Maximum 30.

Cost £13.50 for members (£14.50 for guests. Full details of times, a map and parking advice will be sent on application. Please be aware that a certain amount of walking is involved between the car park and the venues

Cost includes coffee, lunch, guide’s fee and donations to both churches.

Please apply to: Anne Anderton, 14, Berne Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 2QJ

Tel: 01782 613024, with cheque and stamped, self- addressed envelope for instructions for parking etc.

Closing date: 31July.

See over page

Saturday 27 July: Walk – Alderley Edge to Hare Hill and back.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

August 8: Car Outing to ‘Textiles, People and Places: Leek and beyond’. Maximum 30.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----
For booking details see reverse of this form

BOOKING DETAILS

Tuesday 20 August: Coach outing to Croome Park, Worcestershire.

Coach departs School Street at 08-15 and returns for 18:00(traffic dependant).
Cost: £23 (£25 for non- members) to include coach travel and driver's gratuity,
lecture and exclusive guided tour of Croome Court , and refreshments on arrival.

Please apply to:

Mrs Penny Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8AG, and please
include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 657645

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 6 August.



Thursday 24 January: Coach outing to Manchester and the Hallé Orchestra

The menu, so elegantly presented by Penny and Terry Moore, was 'Manchester 'a la carte'. We could choose to take what we wanted of the City's entrepreneurial, social and cultural history and then, putting aside the cares of commerce or retail therapy, end with an entertainment of musical fireworks.

It was a compatriot of Herr Halle who first said that architecture is frozen music .This was certainly proven alfresco in the morning and by thawing indoors in the afternoon. Our expert guide, Andrew Derbyshire, was superb in the way he brought to life the City as Halle would have known it. His delivery was a model of clarity and he edited his information so as to be mindful of time constraints and the effects of the climate on blood circulation.

Those of us determined to have a bite of each course hotfooted it (thermal insoles) to the talk on the Archives. This was the inaugural presentation by the Archivist to the Halle society, Eleanor Roberts, of which we were guests. She was able to illustrate the history of one of the oldest professional orchestras in the country with anecdotes,

Booking Form

Tuesday 20 August. Coach Outing to Croome Park, Worcestershire.

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Name,	Address	Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----

Manchester continued

musical excerpts and artefacts. She highlighted the pleasures and problems of being responsible for conserving the past and recording the present in a most impressive way. We hope our applause will encourage her to enthral us again. The doodles in letters by Halle, correspondence and scores by Wagner, Elgar and other luminaries were fascinating.

The concert was superb, exciting, dramatic, lyrical and well attended. Halle would have been as thrilled as we were. We were home in time for tea too!

It was one of those days which unites us with Manchester's 19th century élite. It makes one grateful to have had the inclination, health, means and leisure to enjoy such a privilege. Thank you Penny and Terry.

Ralph White.

COMMITTEE 2012– 2013

<p>David Dumbelton (Chairman) david.dumbelton@virgin.net</p>	<p>32 The Lea Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY Tel 01782 641765</p>
<p>Peter Thompson (Vice Chairman) pdthompson@tiscali.co.uk</p>	<p>Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 3LS Tel 01782 613397</p>
<p>Richard Adams (Hon. Secretary and Membership Secretary) rjadams@doctors.org.uk</p>	<p>Gables End, Holly Bank Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT Tel 01782 646054</p>
<p>Madeleine Hopley (Hon. Treasurer)</p>	<p>5 Sedbergh Close Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 3JQ Tel 01782 618821</p>
<p>Rose Wheat (Programme Organiser) rose.wheat@sky.com</p>	<p>12 West Avenue Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 0NB Tel 01782 616113</p>
<p>Anne Anderton</p>	<p>14 Berne Avenue Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 2QJ Tel 01782 613024</p>
<p>Anne Beaumont</p>	<p>4 Barnsdale Close Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8TT Tel 01782 642618</p>
<p>Roger Cartlidge</p>	<p>3 The Mount, Scholar Green Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3HY Tel 01782777513</p>
<p>Peter Moxon</p>	<p>Millstone House, Butterton Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4EB Tel 01782 616337</p>
<p>Sue Pitt</p>	<p>196 Dimsdale Parade West Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 8EA Tel 01782 566871</p>
<p>Bob Winter</p>	<p>15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8ED - phone no: 01782 642942.</p>

Summer Programme 2013

Wednesday 8 May	Repeat Car Outing	The Heath House, Tean
Tuesday 14 May	AGM and Talk	N. Staffs Conference Centre Andrew Lound
Thursday 16 May	Coach trip	George Eliot Country and Arbury Hall
Wednesday 22 May	Car Outing	Shugborough
Thursday 6 June	Coach Trip	Morgan Car Factory and Hanbury Hall
Tuesday 18 June	Car Outing	Middleton Hall
Wednesday 3 July	Car Outing	Tong Church and David Austin Roses.
Tuesday 9 July	Coach Trip	Saltaire.
Tuesday 16 July	Car Outing	Chetwynd House.
Saturday 27 July	Walk	Alderley Edge.
Thursday 8 August	Car Outing	Leek
Tuesday 20 August	Coach Trip	Croome Park

Copy for the next Newsletter is due by 1 July 2013.

Please send to John Huson at john.huson25@btinternet.com