

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 108

Autumn 2017

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



Admiring the Victorian workmanship at Papplewick

Arrangements for Trips

Coaches now depart promptly from **Brunswick Street** at the front of the Jubilee Baths. **The car park on School Street is now short stay.** The nearest long stay car park is the public car park next to the Borough Arms Hotel. We do not pick up members en route.

Please send a separate cheque, with the event name on the reverse, and a stamped addressed envelope for each event applied for, even if it is with the same organiser. People wishing to sit together should complete one form.

Non-members travelling as members' guests pay an extra £2 for Coach Outings and £1 for car trips. If circumstances dictate they have lower priority booking.

Please make cheques payable to "North Staffs National Trust Association". Cheques are normally not cleared until after an event. We will give notice if we need to do otherwise.

Refunds on cancellation are possible only if there is a waiting list. Please do not find your own substitute travellers: people on the waiting list have priority.

The Committee reserves the right to cancel any event that is not viable.

The personal accident insurance arranged by the Association through the Trust does NOT cover members over 80 years of age. However, our public liability insurance covers members at any age.

Whilst participating in an event please make sure that you carry the organiser's mobile phone number from the booking acceptance form in case you get lost. Please **DO NOT MAKE** alternative arrangements to get home without first telling the trip organiser.

This Newsletter is published by North Staffordshire National Trust Association to provide members with information on the forthcoming programme, reports on recent events, and other membership issues. The text and images are copyright and may not be reproduced without the owner's permission. Any views expressed by individual contributors are their own and not necessarily of the NSNTA or the NT.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. **Note:** you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer. To join the Association, please see the details and complete the Application Form on Page viii, or download the membership form from www.northstaffsnt.org.uk.

Copy and correspondence for the next issue, due for publication in December, should be addressed to Newsletter@jspriggs.com (01782 791360) by the **15th November 2017** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 108 Autumn 2017 Programme

A Note From The Chair



This being the first Newsletter since the AGM, the Committee and I would like to thank all who voted us back in office. Thinking of the General Election, I am pleased that in contrast, our manifesto of events set out here bears some relation to what we have been planning for some time! However there are certain parallels between NSNTA and the national situation.

This year we have struggled to make up the numbers to go ahead with some plans. We regularly seem to be about 10 short of viability for holidays or coach trips. We too have had to consider making alliances with other Associations or Centres. Fortunately it has not come to that and we have not suffered too much from cancellations. So far there have been enough people to organise

and participate in a full range of events, but we must not be complacent.

There is a noticeable trend for events not to be fully booked within the first ten days of advertising as they used to be. Reasons have been suggested such as rising costs, family, holiday and medical commitments. I know you are very busy, but committee members and I would like to hear from you directly so we can listen and adapt. What influences your decision on what and when to book? Also, don't forget to let us have your suggestions for walks, talks or places to visit. Can you tell I am keen to maintain your confidence? The Committee is keen to fulfil its mandate until at least next May, but I would settle for things going smoothly until the next Newsletter!

Best Wishes for a mellow and fruitful season.

Ralph.

Forthcoming Events

NB More applicants required to make the Charlecote Park & Stoneleigh Abbey trip viable. Non-members welcome! Please book a.s.a.p. so we can confirm numbers.

Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th September: Holiday in Bristol - Shipshape and Bristol Fashion

There are still places available if anyone would like to join us!

Autumn Holiday based in Bristol. Staying at the 4 star Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel & Spa. Cost £510 per person. Cost includes all visits and tours (NT members), Breakfast and 3 Evening meals, Boat cruise and lunch.

This five day, four night Autumn break has been designed to offer a relaxed and friendly holiday based in Bristol. Included is luxury coach travel throughout, the opportunity to enjoy the attractions of Bristol together with a private river cruise with lunch included. We also journey through the lovely North Somerset countryside for a visit to the beautiful, medieval City of Wells with a tour of the Bishop's Palace and Cathedral. On the journey down we will stop at NT Berrington Hall for lunch and then continue on to the Royal Mint, for a guided tour of the exceptional range of gold, coins and medals. Included is a day at the NT property Tyntesfield followed by a stopover at Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge museum. The return journey allows plenty of time to enjoy Slimbridge Wetlands. All trips have been planned to minimise any mobility difficulties whilst providing plenty of opportunities for those more energetic members. Sunshine would be a bonus but not essential.

We hope we have struck the balance between five days full of varied interesting experiences to suit all tastes, whilst allowing time to explore locally and to relax with friends, enjoying the 4 star facilities of our hotel.

See also article in previous Newsletter. For more detailed information and booking form contact:

Marion and Mike Lycett, Mill Stone House, The Green, Bagnall, ST9 9JR Tel: 01782 502919 Mob: 07481 817048 email: marionlycett@hotmail.com



Tuesday 26th September: Talk: "The Potteries' Parks." Mervyn Edwards.

Mervyn Edwards writes weekly columns on local history for The Sentinel's "The way we were" and is a familiar voice on Radio Stoke's "Good Times" programme. He has appeared on BBC's The One Show and is the author of 19 published books on local history.

His talk, "The Potteries' Parks" will conjure up many happy hours spent playing tennis, boating on the lakes and in earlier times, trying to avoid "The Parkie" as we committed the dreadful crime of running on the grass.

Thursday 28th September: Coach Outing: Charlecote Park & Stoneleigh Abbey

There is still availability for this trip and for full details please see the Summer Newsletter.

Charlecote Park is an NT property where we will arrive at 10.30am and have coffee or tea (own expense) before having an introductory talk and a self-guided tour of the house. The gardens and grounds are extensive and you can picnic there. The Orangery serves hot meals and snacks. Please indicate on the booking form if you would like either of these to assist staff with the catering.

We will leave Charlecote at 1.45pm and arrive at Stoneleigh at 2.15pm.

Stoneleigh Abbey is a recently restored Tudor mansion which was formerly a Cistercian Abbey. We will be given a guided tour of the Abbey after which we will have tea/coffee and cake.

Please bring your National Trust cards with you.

Depart Brunswick Street 8.30am. Return for 6.45pm (subject to traffic).

Cost: £28 (£30 for non-members) to include driver's tip, welcome talk at Charlecote; tour and tea/coffee & cake at Stoneleigh.

Please apply to Richard Mayer, 16, Shaldon Ave, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent, ST9 9PU enclosing cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 533476

Closing date 25th August when cheques will be cashed.

Wednesday 18th October: Coach Outing: Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall

BOLSOVER CASTLE was built in the early 17th century by the son of Bess of Hardwick, on the site of a medieval castle founded in the 12th century by the Peveril family. This once magnificent castle was used for entertaining by the Dukes of Newcastle and over the years had been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. With the advent of open cast mining in the late 1800's the decline was accelerated.

Since 1984, the castle has been in the care of English Heritage, who in recent years, have spent a considerable amount of money in restoring the property. Access is now possible on the newly restored ramparts with magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. There is also a splendid new exhibition centre in the old stable block.

HARDWICK HALL (NT) was built by the Countess of Shrewsbury, better known as Bess of Hardwick, in the late 16th century. Outliving four husbands, Bess gathered social status, land and fabulous wealth and was said to be the most powerful woman in England after Elizabeth I. This is reflected in the Hall's impressive symmetrical architecture and rich interiors which make it one of the most spectacular Elizabethan mansions in the country. Sitting alongside the Hall is the original Hardwick Old Hall, which was Bess's birthplace and is open to both NT and English Heritage members.

Lunch is available at own cost in the highly acclaimed and newly restored Great Barn Restaurant at Hardwick Hall.

The coach will leave Brunswick Street at 8.30am and departing from Hardwick Hall at 4.30pm, arriving back in Newcastle at 6.00pm.

Cost £25 for NT Members. £17 for members with both NT and English Heritage membership. Includes coach travel, admission to Bolsover Castle (note: free for members of English Heritage) plus driver's gratuity

PLEASE BRING YOUR NATIONAL TRUST CARD, PLUS YOUR ENGLISH HERITAGE CARD, IF YOU HAVE ONE.

Please apply to: Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8ED, enclosing a cheque and SAE.

Tuesday 24th October: Talk: "A Laugh on the Ocean Wave". Brian Price.

Brian had a forty-four year career at sea. After working as Assistant Purser on Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, he transferred to The QEII in 1970. In 1974 he was appointed as Cruise Director and remained with the ship for 21 years.

Brian takes a humorous and light-hearted look at life from his long and varied 44 years at sea.....Climb aboard!

Sunday 29th October: Walk: Nantwich countryside with NO stiles

The clocks go back in the night, so enjoy your lie-in, then we'll meet up in Nantwich for a 5-mile stroll into the lovely countryside just outside the town. It's all on level ground, and there are no stiles to slow us down. I do like Cheshire County Council, who have done a great job of replacing their stiles with gates!

Please meet at 10.30am on the free car park at the back of the Black Lion pub in Welsh Row. We'll set off along the banks of the River Weaver, then across fields and quiet country lanes, passing by Dorfold Hall, to the small village of Acton. Here we find the Shropshire Union canal, which will bring us back to the edges of town. Finally, a walk down Welsh Row, passing many of Nantwich's 132 listed buildings on the way, will end up at the Black Lion (which lays claim to being the oldest pub in town – and is a listed building, naturally).



An optional Sunday lunch is booked for us at 1.00pm, and we will have exclusive use of their first-floor dining and lounge area – two courses for £13.00.

Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests.

Children and dogs are welcome, at no charge. (No dogs inside the pub though)

Please book your place with Richard Adams, by email, rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or by post with an SAE: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT

Thursday 9th November: Car Trip: Macclesfield Silk Museum & Paradise Mill

Macclesfield and Leek were pre-eminent in the silk manufacturing industry in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the Macclesfield Silk Museum provides a fascinating insight into the history and development of this industry. Equally intriguing is the neighbouring Paradise Mill, which retains the character and

atmosphere of a real working mill in the heyday of the industry, including the oldest example of the Jacquard weaving process still in its original location.

Our visit starts at the Museum (located in Park Lane – SK11 6TJ – with parking available at Park Green or Duke Street) at 11.00 am. We will split into two groups for the Mill Tour – while the first group visit the mill, the second group will have coffee or tea and biscuits and then look around the Museum, then the second group will tour the Mill while the first group have their refreshments before exploring the Museum. The whole visit will take about two hours (although anyone wishing to remain in the Museum for longer will be able to do so), and we will then be free to find lunch and explore Macclesfield further.

Please note that the Museum is wheelchair accessible, and has an accessible toilet, but the Mill which is on three floors **does not have wheelchair access** (the Mill has a lift, which we would need to request in advance, but which cannot accommodate a wheelchair).

The cost is £10 for members (£11 non-members) to include entry to the Museum and Mill, and tea or coffee and biscuits.

Please apply to Peter Wilson, Greenbank, Church Lane, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent (ST9 9HF), email peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com, tel 01782 502150, including cheque and SAE, by September 30th (numbers are limited).

Tuesday 21st November: Talk: "At Loggerheads with The Enemy". Eric Pemberton.

Did you know that Loggerheads took its name from that of the public house which used to be known as The Three Loggerheads, meaning, "The Three Fools". It is now simply called The Loggerheads.

I'm sure that Eric will know about that and may even know who the three were, however his talk tonight will be of a more serious nature and will centre on being "At Loggerheads with the Enemy", the story of the T.B. Sanatorium that used to stand on, or near to, where Eric now lives.

As children we were all aware that T.B. existed and of its serious implications. Thankfully, it has been almost eradicated but tonight we will hear in some detail about the Sanatorium and the treatment that it provided.

Wednesday 29th November: The Association Festive Meal, Aston Marina

Christmas starts early this year!

In 2017 we plan to be ahead of the game. We will be holding our annual festive meal on Wednesday 29th November and the venue will once again be the Boat House at Aston Marina. It proved popular last Christmas but this year, eating at *lunch* time, we can take advantage of the views over the water.

Time: 12.30 for 1pm. After lunch we will be entertained to 'A Tudor Christmas'. See the website for pictures - fromtimetotime.co.uk.

Cost £30 to include 3-course meal and a welcome drink. Also tea or coffee to follow. Please book early.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01782 641765.

Advance Bookings

The following events are scheduled for future programmes, but due to the advance notice needed, booking or pre-booking may be required before the next Newsletter is published.

17th – 21st May 2018: London Holiday

David and Cynthia will once again be running a holiday to London, details to be announced later. We're aiming for some time in May 2018, hopefully 17th-21st. Please put this forward planning into your diaries now.

As usual we aim to find interesting places you would not normally visit but, as planning has only just started, we can't commit ourselves to particular locations yet. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Please register your early interest without commitment by contacting David or Cynthia, 01782 641765, dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com, or completing the booking form, as we may need to take bookings before the publication of the next Newsletter.

Photographic Archives

Not all members may be aware that Kay Williams, our archivist, has been managing a collection of photographic prints and other material dating back to the start of the Association – some of you may have seen her latest album at the AGM. She would be grateful for some photos/leaflets from visits when she is not there herself; prints or digital images are equally acceptable. Kay's email for sending photos is williakay@gmail.com (note the spelling!) and her address for posting is 3 The Spinney, Madeley Heath, Crewe, CW3 9TB. Telephone 01782 751018.

On the subject of photographs, we also welcome them for the Newsletter, particularly when the editor is not present at an event. Any photographs submitted will also be passed on to Kay for possible use in the archives, and may be used on the NSNTA website for record or publicity purposes. Copyright (which must be owned or obtained in writing by the submitter) is acknowledged for all images even if not stated in the magazine. Please contact the editor if more details of any item are required.

For amusement here are a few reminders of the past year so (in no particular order). See if you can remember where they were!





Booking forms

Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th September: Holiday in Bristol

Contact: Marion & Mike Lycett, Millstone House, The Green, Bagnall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST9 9JR, Tel: 01782 502919 Mob: 07481 817048.

marionlycett@hotmail.com / lycettmichael@hotmail.com

Thursday 28th September: Coach Outing: Charlecote Park & Stoneleigh Abbey

Cost £28 (non-members £30*) to include entry fees, tea/coffee & cake at Stoneleigh, coach and driver's tip.

(*Non-members of the National Trust will also need to pay NT admission charges)

Please apply to Richard Mayer, 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent. ST9 9PU enclosing cheque and SAE.

All Cheques will be cashed 25th August

Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th September: Holiday in Bristol

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total

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.....

Telephone No. email



Thursday 28th September: Coach Outing: Charlecote Park & Stoneleigh Abbey

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total

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Telephone No. email

Do you require at Charlecote Hot lunch: Yes/No Snack lunch: Yes/No

Numbers



Wednesday 18th October: Coach Outing: Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall

Cost £25 for NT Members. £17 for members with both NT and English Heritage membership. Includes coach travel, admission to Bolsover Castle (note: free for members of English Heritage) plus driver's gratuity.

Non-members of NSNTA add £2 p.p.*

(*Non-members of the National Trust will also need to pay NT admission charges)

Please apply to: Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8ED, enclosing a cheque and SAE.

Sunday 29th October: Walk: Nantwich countryside with NO stiles

Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests, pay on the day.

Please book your place with Richard Adams, by email, rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or by post with an SAE: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT

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Address	Total
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Telephone No.	email	



Sunday 29th October: Walk: Nantwich countryside with NO stiles

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
.....
.....
Address	Total
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.....		
Telephone No.	email	
Do you intend stopping for lunch: Yes/No		
Numbers		



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Wednesday 29th November: The Association Festive Meal, Aston Marina

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
.....
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Address	Total
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Telephone No.	email	



17th – 21st May: Proposed London Holiday

Please register your early interest without commitment by contacting David or Cynthia, 01782 641765, dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY

Further details and a comprehensive booking form will be sent when available.

North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Membership Application

We are always delighted to welcome new members. **Note:** you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer.

Annual subscription, for the first member £10.00. For each additional member at the same address £7.00.

Please complete the form overleaf and send, with your cheque, payable to “North Staffs NT Association”, to the Membership Secretary: Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, Email: riadams@doctors.org.uk Tel: 01782 646054. Additional membership forms may be downloaded from www.northstaffsnt.org.uk. Thank you very much.



North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Membership Application

I/We wish to apply for membership of the North Staffordshire National Trust Association.
I/We are NT members or volunteers.

Name(s)	Association number	Cost:
.....
.....

Address	Total
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Telephone No. email



Reviews of Recent Events

Tuesday 25th April: Talk: Andy Tomkinson: "A Himalayan Odyssey." Travelling and working in The Nepal Himalaya.

Another sizeable audience greeted Andy Tomkinson, who proceeded to enlighten us not only on the wonders and beauty of the Nepalese Himalayas but also the rigour of life spent in the mountains. With the help of a wonderful collection of slides he showed how roads and lorries gave way to rough tracks and mules. He emphasised the importance of armies of porters without whom no expeditions could take place. The past, poor welfare of these porters was of particular interest to Andy and he explained the aims of the International Porter Protection Group to obtain better pay, clothes, footwear, shelter and personal insurance for the porters.

Andy has made many visits to Nepal, both to trek and to volunteer in mountain medical centres.

His love of the mountains and his commitment to improving the conditions for the porters was evident in both his storytelling and his excellent photographs. Altogether, an informative and enjoyable evening.

Anne and David Cooper

Wednesday 26th April: Coach Outing: Southwell Minster and The Workhouse, Southwell. (NT).



It seems quite incredible that such a very small town is the location of two amazing and historically important buildings, Southwell Minster and The Workhouse, one illustrating the power and grandeur of the Church, the other the power and authority of the state.

After enjoying refreshments on arrival we had a guided tour of the magnificent minster with its world renowned Chapter House and wonderful stained glass windows, my personal favourite being the most modern one dedicated to those who lived and died during the First World War.





In the afternoon, with the aid of audio guides, we learnt about the hard lives endured by the nineteenth century poor in the 'Bastilles' erected under the New Poor Law which were intended to deter anyone who applied for poor relief by making life inside them

'less eligible' than life for the poorest labourer outside their gates. The fact that The Workhouse was barely furnished did not detract from the experience but rather served to emphasize the harshness of the conditions. Small wonder that the shadow of the workhouse persisted in folk memory long after it had been replaced by a more humane system.



This was a day of contrasts – the sublime and the terrible, each evoking different emotions, so a good day out!

Jacquie Byrne.

Tuesday 16th May: AGM and Talk: Gaye Blake-Roberts

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE HARTSHILL

Minutes of the AGM at the N Staffs Conference Centre, 16th May 2017 at 7.00pm

Richard Adams welcomed members to the AGM and recorded apologies from Mrs. Okey, Mr. & Mrs. Anderton, Mrs. Hall-Petite, Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Pedrazzini.

Chairman's remarks: Ralph reported that we had had a very successful year with many events. The current bookings have been rather slow and urged members to sign up as soon as possible. Our membership is higher than many other associations. He praised the high standard of our talks and thanked Sue Till for organising these. Sue will be retiring in May 2018. He also invited members to show appreciation of the work done by John Spriggs (newsletter editor) and Jane Mayer (programme organiser). He asked members to give us feedback so we can improve events.

Secretary's report: Membership is currently 366, including three people who have joined at this meeting. We have had a busy year, with a total of 27 events to enjoy, including 8 coach outings, 6 car trips, 3 walks, 8 talks, the Christmas dinner, and our

holiday to Portsmouth. Thanks to Jane Mayer and Sue Till and all the others who have organised events, and to members for attending, to John Spriggs for the newsletter and website, and to Kay Williams for maintaining our archive.

The Minutes of the 36th AGM: Richard asked that these should be accepted; proposed by Richard Mayer and seconded by Jenny Wright. All present agreed.

Treasurer's report: Madeleine presented the accounts of which copies had been distributed.

She reported that our income was similar to the previous year but expenses were up slightly. Donations have been made as listed and we continue to support local properties. Madeleine thanked Mr. Adam Ferrington for examining the accounts. She suggested that the subscriptions remain the same, i.e. £10 for one and £7 for each additional member at the same address. There were no questions, and Peter Wilson proposed and Gwen Wilson seconded that the accounts be accepted. All agreed.

Re-election of Committee: In accordance with the constitution, committee members who had served for more than 5 years must seek approval to stand for re-election; there are 4 such who were standing again – Richard Adams, Roger Cartlidge, Madeleine Hopley and Rose Wheat. John Spriggs had been nominated to join the committee, and 8 further committee members and officers stood for re-election: Ralph White, Jane Mayer, Cynthia Dumbelton, Sue Till, Sue Corlett, David Morgan, Peter Wilson and Bob Winter. All the above were elected or re-elected unanimously.

AOB: Jane Mayer proposed a vote of thanks for Ralph for his hard work despite his health, and Jenny Wright asked that thanks of the members for the hard work of the committee be recorded.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm, followed by the talk.

Talk: Josiah Wedgwood by Gaye Blake-Roberts.

Gaye is Director of The Wedgwood Museum, Barlaston. Her lecture was a tour de force. It was full of the results of years of research, insights, was wide ranging and lavishly illustrated with brilliant pictures from unfamiliar sources.

The audience was entranced by the scope of Wedgwood's technical development, entrepreneurial energy, diplomacy and response to evolving fashion in art, architecture, interior design, jewellery, clothes and table etiquette!

Gaye has given lectures all over the World to many prestigious organisations and combines the scholarly with the entertaining. It was a remarkable performance and hugely enjoyable.

Ralph White.

Thursday 18th May: Local History Walk Around Stafford.

Until Rose Wheat guided us around Stafford I had had no idea how rich and varied its history is and just how many of its old buildings remain. We heard about the Royalist prisoners who were imprisoned in the Ancient High House during the Civil War and the outbreak of plague which accompanied them; also about the disgusting state of the streets due to the inadequate sewage system and Charles Dickens's unflattering words about the town and the Swan Inn, in particular. It was a special treat to gain access to the wonderful St. Chad's church with its Saxon carvings and our stop outside the Shire Hall was enhanced when an employee appeared with leaflets for us all containing further information about the building and its uses. We started with the parish church and ended with the town gaol and heard and saw much of interest in between.

Mick Wheat

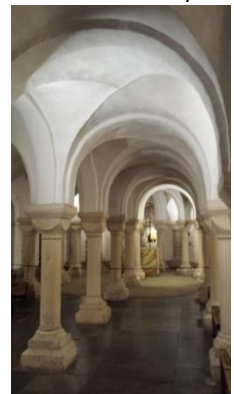
Tuesday 23rd May: Coach Outing: Worcester - The Greyfriars, Cathedral and Elgar's Birthplace

The original Cathedral was founded in 680 then rebuilt by St. Oswald in 983 with a monastery attached. St. Wulstan rebuilt it in 1084 and it was restored by the



Victorians although nothing of the original church has survived. The key features are the transepts crossing the nave, the cloister and chapter house, the many stained glass windows and the Norman crypt with cushion capitals which date back to 1084. King John's tomb lies in the Cathedral as does the Chantry of Prince Arthur.

The latter was next in line to the throne and it was for this reason that his brother Henry VIII spared Worcester Cathedral from destruction during the Reformation. Other notables buried here include former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. The tower features 16 bells which gives one of the finest tone rings ever cast and boasts of being the fifth heaviest ring in the world. There are 39 misericords dating from 1379 including a complete set of The Labours of the Months whilst the Library contains 55 incunabula, 300 medieval manuscripts and 5500 post-medieval printed books.



Following the Cathedral tour we walked the short distance to Greyfriars in Friar Street, a Grade I timber-framed late medieval merchant's house with a walled garden. Built in 1480 by High Bailiff Thomas Grene, over the centuries it has undergone many changes of



owner and seen many uses particularly by well-connected Royalists. At the outbreak of World War II it was saved from demolition and faithfully restored by brother and sister Matley and Elsie Moore who in

1966 donated Greyfriars to the National Trust. A tour of the house led by an NT guide was followed by a stroll around the pleasant rear garden. We then had a break for lunch and time to wander some of the historical streets of old Worcester.



After lunch we travelled the short distance to the village of Lower Broadheath to visit Elgar's birthplace and museum. The latter is very much "work in progress" following the signing of a lease between the Elgar Foundation and the National Trust and is being overseen by a youthful but dedicated group of NT

employees and volunteers from nearby Croome Park. Following an introductory film/video complete with Elgar's music, archive film and his beloved Malvern Hills we were free to tour the ongoing work in the Museum which will be interactive and hold his manuscripts and musical scores together with a mock-up of his original study which will contain many original personal items. We then walked into the cottage garden wherein lies "The Firs" the humble cottage where Elgar was born in



1857. Although the cottage is undergoing extensive work to re-create it as it was originally, we were able (treading carefully!) to enter both floors to see the work in hand. Indeed, Elgar himself is keeping a watchful eye on the restoration work from his seated life-size bronze statue in the garden!



Thanks are due to Jane Mayer and David Morgan for arranging a most interesting day out in the Spring sunshine.

Deborah Johnston and Roger Cartlidge

Tuesday 6th June: Car Trip: A visit to NGS garden in Uttoxeter ST14 8BX



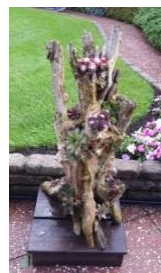
What a day to pick for a 'Summer's Evening' visit to these two splendid gardens, opened especially for our N.T. group. After a day of torrential rain and gales we all arrived early and Graham White had to rush his tea before giving us an introductory talk under one of his many gazebos, just in time for a light shower.

By magic the rain stopped and we were welcomed into 2 gardens, KARIBOU being the home of Judy and Graham and next door neighbours Helen and David living at APOLLONIA. Mere words cannot do justice to Karibou. Archways, bridges, steps and pagodas all leading to tranquil resting places.



Immaculate lawns with a non-ending background of trees and shrubs, unusual and interesting plants and some more delicate plants of all descriptions to the fore. A 10 foot Bell Tower built to fill the gap left after a dead conifer was removed. Then through a fruit arch, via a natural stream, to a stumpery and so many magnificent trellis and strategically fenced parts to the garden.

Numerous artefacts, antiques and old gardeners' tools discreetly painted to blend in to the whole.





Apollonia by contrast was more naturalised as any attempt to compete with Karibou would be futile. One felt this garden to be a bit more like the 'one at home'. Our hosts/hostesses made us so very welcome and selected plants were purchased by Members.

Our evening concluded with a feast of home-made cakes, tea and coffee.

Many thanks to Jane once more for her much tested organizational skills.

Richard Mayer



Wednesday 21st June: Coach Outing to Papplewick Pumping Station, Nottinghamshire and the Staunton Harold Estate, Leicestershire, including Gothic Church and privately owned Jacobean Style Hall.



2003 and 2005. My husband, having been an engineer, was fascinated by the place, especially the James Watt twin beam engines. The splendour of the station and grounds made it hard



to believe that this was built as an industrial site.

We left Newcastle promptly at 8.30 and had a pleasant journey to our first stop at Papplewick. This was our first time on a National Trust outing and I was very impressed with the way we were swiftly divided into two groups! We were in the first group to be shown around the Pumping Station which is a wonderfully decorated Victorian water works, extensively restored between





After a cup of coffee, taken sitting outside as it was a lovely day, it was back onto the coach and off to Leicestershire. When we arrived at Staunton Hall we decided to have lunch before visiting the church as Janet had informed us that we had to be at the hall at 2.0pm for our tour there. I would just like to mention that the coach driver did a magnificent job negotiating the narrow roads leading to Staunton Estate! There was a tea room and several small shops in the old stable block. One of the shops sold delicious ice cream which we had to sample!

After lunch we visited the Holy Trinity Chapel which is a National Trust property. A beautiful church built in Gothic style between 1653 and 1655 with oak pews, painted ceilings and fine stained glass.



When we entered Staunton Harold Hall we were greeted by the present owner who informed us that he had purchased the hall in 2003 when it was in a state of disrepair after 50 years of institutional use. The present hall was rebuilt in 1763 for the 5th Earl Ferrers in Jacobean style. The original hall had been built by the first Earl Ferrers.



The Blunt family have done an amazing job restoring the Hall and grounds and I felt very privileged to be shown around their home. After our tour we had tea and cakes which were lovely and much appreciated.



It was then back onto the coach for the journey home. A most enjoyable day expertly organised by Janet (her first I believe!).

Pam Hirrell

Saturday 8th July: Guided Walk – WW1 Locations at Cannock Chase

The weather was glorious and a group of dedicated volunteers from The Friends of Cannock Chase kindly shared their knowledge with just ten of us that met at The Visitors' Centre and were guided over a part of The Chase. In 1914 Lord Lichfield gave permission for his bleak grouse moor to be used





as an army training ground and within eight months, two camps had been constructed and were up and running, each facilitating and housing 20,000 troops, plus a good number of horses.

The camps were based upon a complex of timber huts – picture Steve McQueen and The Great Escape. Each hut housed 30 enlisted men with one stove or 12 officers

with 12 stoves! Overall, 500,000 men were probably prepared here for trench warfare on the Western Front. With “health & safety” in mind, the natural shelter of the shallow valley on The Chase was the suitable place used for rifle practice and our devoted escorts helped us find spent bullets in the targets areas. It was fascinating learning to “read the landscape” and come to understand the positioning of the hillocks.

Following the Great War, the camp buildings were removed and now, eerily, all that can be seen are such as the foundations of the bath-houses and the concrete blocks upon which the huts sat. It’s advisable to keep to the paths as nature has



reclaimed the dishevelled landscape with trees and bilberry bushes. No longer is it a desolate and noisy place but a great space in which to enjoy open air recreations – caravanning, rambling, cycling, or Go Ape and swing through the treetops.

The one surviving hut exhibits memorabilia and here we were instructed on the intricacies of both British and German rifles and grenades, learned that Trench Fever was caused by lice and that JRR Tolkien suffered with it during his training here.

Our thanks to Peter Wilson for arranging this most informative outing and many thanks to the friendly and enthusiastic guides who packed such a lot into a morning’s tour.

Helen Mansell

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Summary of Autumn Programme September - November 2017

September	
Sun 10 th – Thurs 14 th	Holiday to Bristol
Tuesday 26 th	Talk: Mervyn Edwards on the Potteries Parks
Thursday 28 th	Coach Trip: Stoneleigh Abbey & Charlecote Park
October	
Wednesday 18 th	Coach Trip: Bolsover Castle & Hardwick
Tuesday 24 th	Talk: Brian Price - 'A Laugh on the Ocean Wave'
Sunday 29 th	Car Trip & Walk in and around Nantwich
November	
Thursday 9 th	Car Trip: Silk Mill tour and Museum, Macclesfield
Tuesday 21 st	Talk: Eric Pemberton on the Loggerheads Sanitorium
Wednesday 29 th	Christmas Lunch at Aston Marina, Stone
Dates for your Diary 2018	
January 23 rd	Talk: Flavia Swann 'A Staffordshire Find'
February 20 th	Talk: Derek Poulson on Dialects
March 8 th	Car Trip: Spode Visitor Centre, Stoke
March 20 th	Talk: Charles Hanson, Auctioneer
April 17 th	Talk: Martin Gee, Head Gardener at Weston Park
17 th -21 st May	Proposed London Holiday – 5 days – see info in this edition

***This Newsletter (and previous editions) is available on the website.
If required additional copies of booking forms can be printed
using 'Booklet' printing for multiple pages.***