

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 110

Summer 2018

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



Christmas lunch at Aston Marina

© Bruce Beard

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 – see further details on the inserts in the centre of this Newsletter.

The editor welcomes items of direct relevance to Association activities, and thanks all contributors, with apologies for failure to acknowledge any, particularly if sent by post.

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

Printed by Colourimage Printers, High Wycombe (01494 52999) colourimage@aol.com

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 110 Summer 2018 Programme

A Note From The Chair



I am writing this at Easter in an optimistic frame of mind. The clocks have sprung forward and the daffodils and crocus, like us, found their way through the ice and snow.

Soon the voice of the coach courier will be heard in the land. By the time you read this there will be masses of tulips and trips to which to look forward and the demands of Council Tax, Severn Trent, plus balance of London Holiday, forgotten.

I hope you will remember to come to the AGM. It will be an opportunity to give

details of the donations we have given the Trust, and for Andy Beer, Regional Director, to thank you personally.

In case you can't come, I will summarise where the surplus made on events has gone:

We have given £5,000 towards the quarter of a million cost of rewiring Little Moreton Hall later this year.

We have given £2,500 to Biddulph Grange to expand and update equipment in the propagation area and to acquire more stumps to replace the originals in The Stumpery and "China". Lastly, members visited the Birmingham Back to Backs fairly recently and The Committee was greatly taken with the benefits of a scheme to mentor and sponsor the training of a group of young people to be property guides. We sent £500 for this project.

Wishing you a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing you out and about.

Ralph.



Forthcoming Events

All talks commence at 7:30 p.m. at the North Staffordshire Conference Centre (the Medical Institute), Hartshill Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7NY unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 10th May: Car Trip to Adlington Hall, Macclesfield, SK10 4LF

This is now fully booked. See previous Newsletter for details.

17th – 21st May: London Holiday

David and Cynthia will once again be running a holiday to London, but as of the date of publication of this Newsletter this is now fully booked.

Should you wish to know further details or enquire after the unlikely event of a cancellation contact David or Cynthia, 01782 641765, dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com

Tuesday 22nd May 7:00 pm: AGM & Talk: Andy Beer, NT Regional Director

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE
HARTSHILL

TUESDAY MAY 22nd 2018 at 7.00PM

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Minutes of the 37th AGM
4. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising
6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2018 – 2019
7. Approvals for re-election to committee *
8. Nominations for Officers and Committee **
9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2018 – 2019
10. Any Other Business

7.30pm approx: We will invite our guest, Andy Beer, Regional Director for the NT, to entertain and inform us with his talk on the work of the National Trust.

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

* Under our constitution, committee members should normally stand down after 5 years. Richard Adams, Roger Cartlidge, Cynthia Dumbelton, Madeleine Hopley and Rose Wheat have served 5 years or more, and wish to continue in post. They therefore require the approval of the AGM to stand for re-election this year

** Members will be invited to submit nominations for the Committee and Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each nomination should be signed by the proposer, a seconder and the nominee, all of whom must be paid-up members of the Association. If possible, please send nominations in advance of the meeting to Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT.

* * * * *

Minutes of the last AGM may be found in Newsletter 108 pp.14 (in the on-line archive pp.22 of the pdf).

Thursday 7th June: Car Trip: Hope House Costume Museum, Alstonefield

The museum collection, which is housed in a large stable block, comprises hundreds of fashion items some of which go back to the early 19th century. Items include clothing relating to women, men and children. There are also shoes, bags and even bridal wear. Notty Hornblower (her husband told me that Notty is of course a nickname by which she likes to be called) has amassed her collection over the last thirty years and she has been featured in magazines such as Country Life and Homes and Antiques.

Some of her costumes have been hired out for films and photo-shoots. She has done many talks and fashion shows for various groups and she also carries out textile valuations for Hansons Auctioneers.

A full tour viewing the collection followed by a talk from Notty relating to the exhibits will last approximately two hours followed by refreshments comprising cake, home-made scones with jam and pots of tea served in the drawing-room of the 17th century house. If the weather is fine, people can be served in the garden if they so wish.

I think that Notty is an unconventional lady who will doubtless deliver an entertaining afternoon for us.

The cost is £14 (£16 non-members) to include admission to the collection, the talk and afternoon tea. Maximum Number 38. Location: near Ashbourne at DE6 2GE. Meeting at 1.45.pm.

There is ample on-site parking and directions will be sent with your acknowledgement.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, c/o 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY enclosing cheque and S.A.E. Telephone No. 01782 851436 or 01782 777513.

Tuesday 19th June: Coach Outing: Pickford House, Derby, and Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Joseph Pickford, an architect, built this house in 1769 as his family home and workplace. Behind the house was a builder's yard and stonemason's workshop. The family's association with the house ended in 1844. It changed hands several times until Derby City Council bought it and then opened it as a museum in 1988. The museum has rooms furnished much as when the Pickford family lived there, and also has collections of costumes and toy theatres. Outside is a garden laid out in a style similar to a Georgian garden. There are temporary exhibitions on the top floor.

We will arrive at about 10.00 and be divided into 3 groups. The first two groups will start a guided tour of the house at 10.15. This will last one hour. The third group will go to the Derby Museum and Art Gallery, about seven minutes walk away, with me, for refreshments, at one's own expense, and a look at what is on display in the building. This group will return to Pickford House for its guided tour at 11.15. The first two groups will then go to the Museum and Art Gallery.

We will leave Pickford House at about 12.30 to go to Kedleston Hall.

Kedleston Hall was finished in 1765 having been built for Sir Nathaniel Curzon. It was designed by Robert Adam. The family had lived on the estate since the 12th century. Adam drew on the monuments of ancient Rome and northern Italy to design the house and also many buildings in the park. The plasterwork ceilings and fittings inside the house are magnificent. The National Trust took over the property in 1987 and the family, besides giving over the house and park, also gave many of the contents. Much redecoration is going on at present. The park is well worth visiting. There are 3 lakes, weirs and various buildings such as the fishing pavilion, the Hermitage and stables.

We will arrive at about 12.45. It is possible to go to the Old Kitchen Restaurant and have a light, seasonal summer or warm hearty lunch at one's own expense. Those taking a picnic lunch can have drinks there. The tour of the house is self-guided and we will meet up for a drink, scones and biscuits at 3.45 in a room put aside for us. We will leave to return to Newcastle at 4.30.

The coach will leave Newcastle at 8.30am and return at about 5.45pm.

Cost: £20 (non-members £22) to include coach travel, guided tour of Pickford House, afternoon refreshments and driver's gratuity.

Please apply to Sue Corlett, 24 The Covert, Clayton, Newcastle ST5 4BL enclosing a cheque and SAE. Telephone: 01782 719075

Closing Date: 31st May.

Tuesday 3rd July: Car Trip: Guided Tour of Whitmore Hall, Newcastle, ST5 5HW



Whitmore Hall is the home of the Cavenagh-Mainwaring family who were descendants of the Normans. It has been in the same family for over 900 years. The house is a fine example of late 17th and early 18th century architecture and is built of a warm brick with a pediment on a later 19th century porch.

One of the outstanding features of Whitmore is the extremely rare example of a late Elizabethan stable, which has a part cobbled floor and with carved oak stalls. An avenue of lime trees leads from the church to the house and the surrounding parkland and lake, with a strong suggestion of influence from Capability Brown.

The visit will commence at 2:00 p.m. and include a guided tour of the house as well as an opportunity for us to explore the gardens and lake area.

Cost: £6 (£7 for non-members)

Following the tour, there is an optional visit to Whitmore Tea Rooms for a cream tea (2 x scones, jam, cream tea/coffee). Cost £5.95 each.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8ED, Tel no 01782 642942, including cheque and SAE and indicating if you wish to partake of the cream tea.

Thursday 12th July: Coach Trip: Guided tour of Chester

Chester is a city founded by the Romans in the 1st Century AD. It is known for its city walls and The Rows shopping district which is built on two levels of covered arcades and Tudor style half-timbered buildings. Taylor's Boatyard is on the Shropshire Union canal and has an historic covered dry dock which can be

accessed by the city walls. Chester Cathedral is an ancient abbey founded in 1092 and subsequently rebuilt from 1250 onwards.

On arrival in Chester we will be greeted by our guide, Liz Roberts, and will take a short drive to a Garden Centre for a comfort break and hot drink. Liz will then take us on a guided coach tour of the city until midday. We will then have two hours in which to have lunch or a picnic before meeting outside the cathedral at 2pm.

We will then split into two groups for either a walk round the city walls and boatyard or a cathedral guided tour. Please state your preference on the booking form.

NB. There is a maximum number for the walk of 25.

All drinks and food are at your own cost.

Depart Newcastle at 8.30am. Depart Chester at 4.30pm arriving in Newcastle ca. 6.00pm.

Cost £19 (£21 for non-members) including guide's fee, admission to the cathedral, guided walk, coach, driver's gratuity and NT donation.

Please apply to Brian Wilson, 69, Stoke Old Road, ST4 6ER enclosing cheque and SAE. Tel. 01782 611807.

Sunday 22nd July: Walk: In the footsteps of Josiah, breakfast at Wedgwood

Mid-summer, so an early start for this walk. We will meet at 9am at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre, and set off for an easy four and a half miles walk through the Wedgwood Estate, the Trent and Mersey Canal, and Hem Heath Woods.



We go past the front of Barlaston Hall (the side we all know), then across the fields behind it, for the views you may never have seen.

Over the railway line, and along the canal brings us to Hem Heath. The Hem Heath/Newstead Woods are managed by Staffordshire Wildlife and the Woodland Trust, and are a much overlooked local asset to explore.

We should get back to Wedgwood for breakfast in their Dining Hall at 11.00. Oatcakes on fine bone china anyone?

As ever, we welcome children and dogs on leads, at no charge. Four and a half miles, half a dozen stiles, and no hills worth mentioning.

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 to rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or by post with an SAE to Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT

Thursday 9th August: Coach Trip: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

Blenheim Palace is the only non-royal, non-episcopal country house in England which holds the title of palace; it is also a World Heritage site and a national treasure. The site was presented to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough by a grateful nation after his victory at Blenheim in 1704 and a further £240,000 was given by Queen Anne, confirmed by Act of Parliament, towards the building costs. John Vanbrugh was the principal architect and Capability Brown designed the romantic park and grounds so small wonder that it is said to be a perfect example of an 18th century princely dwelling. This monumental mansion is packed with treasures and further interest is created by the permanent exhibition to Sir Winston Churchill who was born here.

We shall enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits in the Marlborough Room to be followed by a free-flow, self-guided visit to this magnificent building. Lunch can be taken (at own cost) at one of four venues from brasserie-style, waiter served meals in the Orangery Restaurant to the self-service catering facilities in the Water Terrace Cafe, Oxfordshire Pantry or Pleasure Garden Deli. Alternatively you can bring a picnic to be enjoyed at several designated picnic sites or anywhere in the Park.

Depart Brunswick St. at 8.00am to return by 7.30pm (subject to traffic).

Cost: £34.50 (£36.50 non-members) to include coach, driver's tip, tea/coffee on arrival and entrance to Palace, Park, Gardens and Pleasure Gardens.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Ave, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 0NB, enclosing a cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 616113.

Wednesday 22nd August: Car Trip: Pitchford Hall, Shropshire



Pitchford Hall, a magnificent Tudor timber framed building built in the 1560's on the site of and incorporating parts of earlier buildings, forms part of the Pitchford Estate of over 1000 acres. It has always been in private hands, although the Hall was sold off in 1992 to meet financial commitments but then purchased back by the owners of the

Estate in 2016. During this time the Hall was left empty and suffering decay for 25 years, but the new owners have embarked on extensive renovations which still continue.

You will be vastly entertained by the long history of royal and celebrity visitors over the years, and of course its fair share of ghosts.

We expect to have time to visit the famous tree house in the style of the Hall, the orangery, and the bitumen well after which the village is named. The Estate also encompasses Roman and Victorian Baths and part of Watling Street, the Roman road.

Our exclusive guided tour concludes with tea and cake (included).

We convene by permission on the car park at the front of The Riverside Inn, Cound, SY5 6AF, at 2:00 pm - please do not make your own way to Pitchford. Those who would like lunch at the Inn should arrive by 12.30.

I can recommend Lunch at the Riverside. They cater for light bites and more substantial courses. A table in the Conservatory set over a spectacular bend in the Severn is highly prized! Please let me know on the booking form so tables can be reserved. The menu for the day will be featured a few weeks in advance.

Closing date 14th May. There are 35 places available.

Cost £21.00 per person (£23 non-members) to include Guided tour, Tea and cake.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Wolverhampton WV6 8QH (Tel: 01902 752833) enclosing SAE, indicating if you would like lunch at the Riverside Inn.

Full directions will be included with the booking confirmation.

Booking / Enquiry Forms

Thursday 7th June: Car Trip: Hope House Costume Museum, Alstonefield

The cost is £14 (£16 non-members) to include admission to the collection, the talk and afternoon tea. Maximum Number 38. Location: near Ashbourne at DE6 2GE. Meeting at 1.45.pm.

There is ample on-site parking and directions will be sent with your acknowledgement.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, c/o 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent, ST7 3HY enclosing cheque and S.A.E. Telephone No. 01782 851436 or 01782 777513.

Tuesday 19th June: Coach Outing: Pickford House, Derby, and Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Numbers are limited to 45 only.

Price: £20 (non-members £22) to include a guided tour of Pickford House, coach fare, refreshments in afternoon and driver's tip.

Please apply to Sue Corlett, 24 The Covert, Clayton, Newcastle ST5 4BL enclosing a cheque and SAE. Tel no: 01782 719075

Closing Date: 31st May.

Thursday 7th June: Car Trip: Hope House Costume Museum, Alstonefield

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



Tuesday 19th June: Coach Outing: Pickford House, Derby, and Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

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



Tuesday 3rd July: Car Trip: Guided Tour of Whitmore Hall, Newcastle, ST5 5HW

Cost: £6 (£7 for non-members)

Following the tour, there is an optional visit to Whitmore Tea Rooms for afternoon tea (2 x scones, jam, cream, tea/coffee). Cost £5.95 each.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST48ED, Tel no 01782 642942, including cheque and SAE.

Thursday 12th July: Coach Trip: Guided tour of Chester

Cost £19 (£21 for non-members) including guide's fee, admission to the cathedral, guided walk, coach, driver's gratuity and NT donation.

Please apply to Brian Wilson, 69, Stoke Old Road, ST4 6ER enclosing cheque and SAE. Tel. 01782 611807, indicating if you prefer the walk round the city walls and boatyard or the Cathedral tour.

Tuesday 3rd July: Car Trip: Guided Tour of Whitmore Hall, Newcastle, ST5 5HW

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

Address	Total
.....
.....

Telephone No. email

We do / do not wish to visit Whitmore Tea Rooms for the cream tea.



Thursday 12th July: Coach Trip: Guided tour of Chester

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

Address	Total
.....
.....

Telephone No. email

I/we prefer: walk round the city walls and boatyard / the Cathedral tour



Sunday 22nd July: Walk: In the footsteps of Josiah, breakfast at Wedgwood

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 to rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or by post with an SAE to Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT

Thursday 9th August: Coach Trip: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

Cost: £34.50 (£36.50 non-members) to include coach, driver's tip, tea/coffee on arrival and entrance to Palace, Park, Gardens and Pleasure Gardens.

Please apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Ave, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 ONB, enclosing a cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 616113.

Sunday 22nd July: Walk: In the footsteps of Josiah, breakfast at Wedgwood

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



Thursday 9th August: Coach Trip: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

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



Wednesday 22nd August: Car Trip: Pitchford Hall, Shropshire

There are 35 places available. Closing date 14th May.

Cost £21.00 per person (£23 non-members) to include Guided tour, Tea and cake.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Wolverhampton, WV6 8QH, enclosing SAE.

Full directions will be included with the booking confirmation.

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 or download one from www.northstaffsnt.org.uk 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: rjadams@doctors.org.uk Tel: 01782 646054. Thank you very much.

Wednesday 22nd August: Car Trip: Pitchford Hall, Shropshire

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

.....
.....

Address Total

.....
.....

Telephone No. email

I / We would like to reserve places for lunch at The Riverside Inn at 12.30



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

.....
.....

Telephone No. email



Once again we thank Jane and the various event organisers for such a varied and attractive range of activities. **We welcome more ideas** for a future trip or event – some location that impressed you that you think other members might appreciate, or some NT milestone that should be marked – please pass on your ideas. **If you are able to actually organise a visit as well**, even better still – **we really need more leaders** and there are others experienced in arranging activities who are always willing to help and advise if required.

Contact: Jane Mayer, janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk, 01782 533476, or jot your ideas down and post to 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9PU, or to any member of the committee.

New Members

We have pleasure in announcing and welcoming the following new members, in order of joining: Beryl Watkins, Jan Booth, Mary and Graham Smith and Miss A L Burch. This takes our membership to 359.

NT Membership Discount

A reminder that a discount on the general National Trust membership subscription is available to eligible members as below - to quote from their website:

“To say a big thank you to our loyal members and to make sure everybody can continue to enjoy the places they love, we offer a 25 per cent senior discount. If you’re 60 or over and you’ve held an individual or joint membership for at least five of the last ten years, you’ll be eligible for the reduced fee.

*For 2018 you’ll pay **£51.48 for an individual senior membership** and if you hold a **joint senior membership it’s £85.20.***

*To let us know you’d like the discount, please call **0344 800 1895.***

If you pay by Direct Debit, make sure you give us a ring before your next payment date”

Reviews of Recent Events

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

For the second year running, the Aston Marina Boat House was the venue for the Association's Christmas meal. The timing of the event - at lunchtime rather than in the evening - proved popular, with around 80 members attending.

On arrival, we were offered a welcome drink, and had time to mingle and enjoy the view over the marina before lunch was served at 1pm. With John Simon on keyboard providing the background music, the scene was set for an enjoyable afternoon. Here he is accompanied by Sandra Wain who gave us an impromptu song.



Following an excellent 3-course meal, we were entertained by an interactive presentation from the Tudor Maydes, two ladies dressed in authentic costumes, each representing a different social class in 16th century England. The theme was a Tudor Christmas which, we learnt, was very different from that of modern times. Preceded by four weeks of fasting and preparations, all work (except for



the care of animals) stopped for the 12-day festive period which began on Christmas Eve. Communities came together and feasting and general revelry, overseen by the Lord of Misrule, was the order of the day. It was fascinating to learn about Tudor traditions that have survived, albeit in a different form, and to take a step back in time with the help of our very well-informed and charismatic hosts.

The afternoon was rounded off by a raffle organised by David Morgan, with plentiful prizes generously donated by members.

As a relatively new member, I have been impressed by the variety of events on offer, as well as the work that goes on behind the scenes to make them a success. In this instance, thanks are due to Cynthia Dumbelton for organising such an enjoyable afternoon to help get us into the festive mood.

Val Hiles

Tuesday 23rd January: Talk: Another Staffordshire Find - Flavia Swann

The Thornhill Collection of Ancient Oriental Ceramics.

Flavia Swann is an academic lecturing and researching the history of art and design, During the 1970's and 80's she was at the then North Staffordshire Polytechnic, now Staffordshire University.

While she was there she was approached by the Head of Ceramic Technology who told her that there was a collection of dusty old pots cluttering up his department. She went to investigate and immediately realised that it was a collection of very old oriental porcelain but at this stage did not realise its value. She arranged for a group of staff to transfer the ware to the design department and immediately purchased a safe. The obvious questions were where had it come from; what was it and what was it worth.

It emerged that it had been bequeathed to the ceramics department in 1944 by Ernest Thornhill. Despite her best efforts, all she could discover was that Mr Thornhill was a pharmacist living in Clapham who was an avid and knowledgeable but not extravagant collector of oriental porcelain. He left the collection to the ceramics department of the old Stoke on Trent Technical College for the benefit of future students.

She then researched the ware and discovered that it was all very old mainly Chinese porcelain from a range of dynasties covering over two centuries. She had the collection valued several times by experts and each time the valuation increased with the growth of mega rich Chinese keen to purchase a slice of their history, much of which had been destroyed during Mao's Cultural Revolution. One piece, a blue and white Ming Xhande stem cup, was identified as outstanding. Although Thornhill had stipulated that the collection should not be sold and was to be retained for the education of future students he gave the university council the right to act in the college's best interest. Therefore it was agreed to sell this one piece to allow the university to build a new facility to house the collection and provide better student facilities. The stem cup was auctioned in Hong Kong by Lyon and Turnbull realising over £3million.

As well as putting the proceeds away for the new facility, the University commissioned an outstanding modern Chinese potter to produce a replica; it was so good that only a real expert would realise that it was a fake.

John Till

Tuesday 20th February: Talk: Derek Poulson on Dialects - A Potter's Homecoming

Derek Poulson's excellent presentation took members through the Nation's dialects with the aplomb of a talented thespian. Derek demonstrated a thorough knowledge of voice production through delivery, breathing, environment and geographical locations. Delving into the audience's backgrounds and resultant speech patterns Derek had the members in stitches. A regular professor Higgins picking off folks with hilarity in accurate accents.

Having crept in late I am not sure how many of Derek Poulson's regional dialects I missed. Derek had members in a highly humoured fine fettle, when he asked for Scots in the audience. Since no hand was raised, Chairman Ralph directed Derek to a front row member sitting alongside him. What's in a name? Without hesitation Derek was on to me. "Scots are always late." Derek explained, in an excellent Scottish accent, the rationale behind the Highland and Lowland differences. His answer, as with many of Derek's comments, revealed in-depth academic study.

Dealing with the Poulson family history Derek appeared thrilled to claim having pottery slip in his family back ground. I was perhaps not the only member interested to learn the origin DUCK in "*Up Anley Duck*". Derek suggested DUCK has its origin in the Saxon word 'ducas' a term of respect. Middle English used the word 'duc' or 'duk' to denote a leader or commander, from which came the title 'Duke'.

Munroe Blair

Wednesday 21st February: Car Trip: Attingham Park, Atcham, Shrewsbury

The Attingham Park visit was on a cold but dry day. We split into three groups, the last group going for a hot drink.

The talk was by Holly and she told us that the 1st Lord Berwick (Thomas Harwood) built the house in 1785. It took three years to build in classical design. Thomas died untimely aged 44 and passed the house to his two elder sons who were responsible for the splendid Regency interiors.

The front of the house was designed by Scottish architect George Steuart, the front entrance being dominated by the three-story portico. The house was given to the National Trust in 1947 by the 8th Lord Berwick.

When we were in the John Nash paintings gallery we were told about different exhibits, including a pair of Neapolitan landscapes by Philipp Hackett, 1737-1805, depicting a view of Pompeii. These showed the small extent of the excavated

area at the end of the eighteenth century and the garlanded vines that can still be seen in this part in Italy.

In 1805 water was discovered in the roof, which was solved by putting a glass roof over the top which can be seen from upstairs on the next floor. There is an exhibition there of the Berwicks over different generations.

In the boudoir there is a collection of shells in drawers, and the delicate decoration between Venus and Cupids on the walls tells you the marriage between Lord and Lady Berwick was for love not money.

Humphrey Repton's parkland set against a classical house was wonderful. Plenty of land to walk through and the snow drops were out. You could buy them from the shop. We did not see the fallow deer in the park at all.

Sandra Rushton.

Thursday 8th March: Car Outing to the Spode Visitor Centre, Elenora Street, Stoke. ST4 1QQ

After a welcome coffee and biscuit, we were given an informative introduction to the history of Spode and the Museum by the curator. He suggested that the Museum should be a World Heritage Site, because the factory never moved from its original site and thousands of patterns, bills, recipe books and moulds were never thrown away, giving the Museum an invaluable archive. The Museum still has 34,000 engraved copper plates. When the liquidators came in, the Museum Trust had only a few days to pack everything and the displays and galleries are still evolving.



In our first tour, we were shown the contents of the Blue Room, where we saw Spode's copies of the Chinese ware: he found the white clay in Cornwall and invented bone china and transfer printing. I particularly liked the convolvulus or sunflower design, which I was surprised to learn was not a modern one. There were some

huge platters, where the patterns had to be repeated to fill in the space.

We were then given the chance to look round on our own – amazing numbers of current and older designs are available to buy in the shop. I like the informative

panels about the history and the 1834 earthenware model of the factory, which once had 25 bottle ovens!

Finally, we were shown the technique of transfer printing, using original plates and press, by the excellent volunteer. All totally fascinating and we all hope the Museum Trust can keep going and receive the grants they need.



Kay Williams

Due to popular demand this was repeated on Tuesday 20th March.

Tuesday 20th March: Talk: Charles Hanson, ‘My Life as an Auctioneer’

Charles Hanson, auctioneer, surveyor and television personality, ‘passionately sells history’, and sees the auction room as a place of ‘theatre, history and romance’. In his talk he certainly conveyed his passion for his work, his love of history and his aptitude for theatre and romance.

His successful sales of a £650,000 Chinese vase, Queen Victoria’s bloomers (a snip at £5,500), and the bizarre story of Prince Charles’s leftover toast, were recounted to a delighted audience. One of his less fortunate lots was part of the bronze bottom of the toppled Saddam Hussein which was withdrawn from sale after death threats, phone calls from the Iraqi embassy and the disappearance of the vendor.

In addition to anecdotes of his appearances on such popular TV series as ‘Bargain Hunt’ and ‘Flog It’, he was also very informative on the changes which have taken place in the antique trade over recent years: the plunge in value of furniture and Doulton figures, for example, and the rise in internet bidding.

Charles has an ambition to sell an object for over £1 million and I wish him success in his aim. Perhaps that object will be found in the attic of one of our many members who enjoyed his spirited presentation. Watch this space!

Rose Wheat

Saturday 24 March: Walk around Scholar Green and environs

It was a cold damp morning as 24 of us assembled at the Bleeding Wolf in Scholar Green, dressed appropriately for the weather, to set off on a gentle four-and-a-half-mile trek in the countryside. Crossing the A34 we joined the Macclesfield canal, heading south towards Kildgrove. Crossing over the Trent and Mersey canal (where we stopped for the photo below) we swung round parallel to it for nearly half a mile before joining it above the northern ends of the $2\frac{2}{3}$ mile long, reputedly haunted, Harecastle Tunnels. The original tunnel, in the distance and no longer used, had no tow-path and barges had to 'leg it' against the roof or sides to progress, whereas the later tunnel, still in use, had a tow-path, although that fell into disrepair and has now been removed.



After a coffee and convenience break we retraced our steps northwards, this time remaining on the Trent and Mersey canal until we reached Church Lawton. Here we took a footpath to Lawton Church, and on past Lawton Hall through pleasant woodlands to join the A34 near the Bleeding Wolf, arriving exactly on schedule at 1.00 o'clock, grateful that the rain had held off throughout the walk (and that we had not had to tackle any stiles!) Here we all remained for an enjoyable lunch before departing on our various ways.

Thank you Peter for arranging such an agreeable experience.

John Spriggs



Photographic Archives

A reminder that Kay Williams, our archivist, has been managing a collection of photographic prints and other material dating back to the start of the Association. 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.

The editor acknowledges and thanks the following for photographs included in this issue:- Bruce Beard (cover), Cynthia Dumbelton and other unknown contributors, with apologies for anyone omitted, and thanks also for any photos sent but not used. **We welcome more photographs** for the Newsletter, particularly when the editor is not present at an event – please keep sending them in. Just a reminder that photographs taken on private or NT properties should not be used for commercial purposes, and should only be taken with permission of owners or trustees. 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.

NSNTA Committee 2017-18	
Ralph White Chairman ralph@ralphwhitedesign.com	Thyme Cottage, 20 Upper Green, Wolverhampton WV6 8QH 01902 752833
Rose Wheat Vice-chairman rose.wheat@sky.com	12 West Avenue Newcastle ST5 0NB 01782 616113
Richard Adams Secretary and Membership Secretary rjadams@doctors.org.uk	Gables End, Holly Bank Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT 01782 646054
Madeleine Hopley Treasurer mghopley@gmail.com	5 Sedbergh Close Newcastle ST5 3JQ 01782 618821
Jane Mayer Programme Organiser janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk	16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9PU 01782 533476
Roger Cartlidge rogandshirl@hotmail.co.uk	3 The Mount, Scholar Green Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3HY 01782 777513
Sue Corlett sue.corlett@btinternet.com	24 The Covert Newcastle ST5 4BL 01782 719075
Cynthia Dumbelton dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com	32 The Lea Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY 01782 641765
David Morgan david.morgan467@outlook.com	7 Shefford Road Newcastle ST5 3LE 01782 617467
John Spriggs Newsletter and Website Newsletter@jspriggs.com	Rose Villa, Bowers Bent Standon, Stafford ST21 6SG 01782 791360
Sue Till st.till@icloud.com	9 St. Vincent Mews, Meaford, Stone, Staffs ST15 8GW 01785 811794
Peter Wilson peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com	Greenbank, Church Lane, Endon Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9HF 01782 502150
Bob Winter robert.winter14@btinternet.com	15 Robinson Road Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8ED 01782 642942
NSNTA Archivist	
Kay Williams williakay@gmail.com	3 The Spinney, Madeley Heath, Crewe, CW3 9TB. 01782 751018

Summary of Summer Programme May to August 2018	
May	
Thursday 10 th	Car Trip: Adlington Hall, Cheshire – fully booked
Th. 17 th – Mo. 21 st	London Holiday – fully booked
Tuesday 22 nd	AGM & Talk: Andy Beer, Director for the NT in the Midlands
June	
Thursday 7 th	Car Trip: Hope House Costume Museum, Alstonefield
Tuesday 19 th	Coach Trip: Pickford House, Derby & Kedleston Hall
July	
Tuesday 3 rd	Car Trip: Whitmore Hall
Thursday 12 th	Coach Trip: Chester
Sunday 22 nd	Walk: Wedgwood's, Barlaston Hall & canal. Breakfast at Wedgwood's
August	
Thursday 9 th	Coach Trip: Blenheim Palace
Wednesday 22 nd	Car Trip: Pitchford Hall, Shropshire
Dates for your Diary 2018	
Thu. Sept. 13 th	Car Trip: Jodrell Bank
Tues. Sept. 18 th	Talk: Louise Adams: 'A Century of Creative Ceramics'
Thu. Sept. 27 th	Car Trip: Cromford Mill, Derbyshire
Tues. Oct. 9 th	Talk: David Skillen on the Royal Observer Corps
Wed. Oct. 17 th	Coach Trip: Rochdale Town Hall & Lunch
Wed. Nov. 14 th	Car Trip: Ford Green Hall, Smallthorne
Tues. Nov. 20 th	Talk: Danny Wells on the Victorians & Christmas
Wed. Nov. 28 th	Christmas Dinner at "The Meadows at Potbank", Spode site

***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.***