

# North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 111

Autumn 2018

[www.northstaffsnt.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsnt.org.uk)



Adlington Hall, nr. Macclesfield, Cheshire.

## 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.

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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 December, should be addressed to [newsletter@northstaffsnt.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@northstaffsnt.org.uk) (01782 791360) by the **15th November** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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

# North Staffordshire National Trust Association

## Newsletter No. 111

### Autumn 2018 Programme

#### A Note From The Chair



It is a great pleasure to introduce our new programme. Congratulations to Jane Mayer and the Programme Planning Group. There are new places to visit near at hand and a holiday next year in Constable and Gainsborough country. This latter event is the product of a joint venture with Regent Travel, whom many of you will know. It is part of our strategy to cope with changes in circumstances without affecting the events you enjoy.

One of the changes recently has been of Committee Officers. On behalf of The Association, I would like to thank Maddy Hopley who has stepped down as Treasurer after many years of distinguished service. Huw Davies has taken up the challenge. We are grateful to Sue Till who has handed over to David Morgan as Talks Organiser. Peter Wilson, who has served the Association so well in many capacities since its creation has decided to stand down from The Committee. Thank you for all your contributions. Joining The Committee, following her election at the AGM, is Marion Lycett. Janet Taylor has responded to our plea and kindly offered to organise an event for us this season.

I can't leave out of the appreciation the remaining committee members who give so generously of their skills and time. They keep the show on the road, canal or bridleway.

Best Wishes. See you at The Pot Bank near Christmas , if not before.

*Ralph.*

## **Data Protection Policy**

The North Staffordshire National Trust Association (NSNTA) is a non-profit voluntary organisation which endeavours to comply with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of May 2018.

Personal data collected by us on membership forms, renewal forms and event booking forms will be limited to: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers. It will only be used for: administration of membership, communication of information and organisation of events within and related to the NSNTA.

Personal data will not be shared with the National Trust or any third party, or to other members.

Membership lists are destroyed when 18 months old. Lists relating to specific events are destroyed when the event is complete.

Contact the Membership Secretary if you wish to view/amend/delete any of your personal data.

By providing personal data on our membership forms and event booking forms, you are consenting to this, our Data Protection Policy, and to our stated use of your personal data.

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In order to comply with the terms of GDPR and to improve security and privacy the following policies are being adopted with particular reference to the publishing of details of members organising events. Full leaders' postal addresses will only appear on the booking forms and not in the main text of the magazine, which will just carry email addresses and telephone numbers. The booking forms are included in Newsletters distributed to bona-fide members of NSNTA but will not be contained in copies of the Newsletter posted on the website. Access to back copies of the Newsletter on the website which contain leaders' addresses will be restricted by password available to members on request.

Attendees of NSNTA events are advised that they may be included in group photographs for publication in the Newsletter or on the website, but they will not be named without their specific permission. If anyone does not want to appear in such photographs, please let the organiser or the editor know.

## *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.*

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Car Trip: Jodrell Bank, SK11 9DL**

The Jodrell Bank Telescope is a well-known feature of our land scape. This is a chance to see it up close!! The day includes an informative talk from their expert Explainers about the science and stories of Jodrell Bank and a guided tour of the gardens and arboretum. There will be plenty of time to do self-guided tours of the Observatory which houses Lovell Telescope plus 3 other telescopes. The planetarium houses the largest working scale model of our own solar system in the world. There is also a Space Pavilion exhibition, which includes short films on how the universe began, and black holes explained.

Cost: Option (a) Including a light lunch: A Bowl of fresh seasonal soup - Freshly baked savoury pastry - fair trade Tea or Coffee. £18.50 (Non-members £20.50)

Cost: Option (b) Excluding Lunch £14.00. (Non-members £16.00)

Visit will commence at 10.30am Morning coffee/tea at own cost.

**Closing Date Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August.** Maximum no for this trip is 30.

Please apply to Janet Taylor enclosing cheque and SAE. Tel 01782372727.

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September: Talk: Louise Adams – ‘A Century of Creative Ceramics’**

Louise’s grandfather, John Adams, joined the Poole Pottery in 1921 which became Carter, Stabler & Adams. The company became one of the leading ceramic companies of the time, seen by many as the successful marriage of art/studio pottery and commercial production.

Louise’s parents and Louise herself studied ceramics at the Royal College of Art and she became Art Director of the Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Company, a post which she held until 2013. Louise will talk about 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic production through the story of her family; the things which influenced design, the social history and the changing landscape of the Potteries.

## **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September: Car Trip: Canal Boat trip & Cromford Mill Derbyshire**

This is a complete day at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Derwent Valley Mills in Derbyshire. In the morning we will take a peaceful horse-drawn canal boat trip on the Cromford Canal aboard Birdswood\* then, in the afternoon, an exclusive guided tour of Sir Richard Arkwright's famous mills, plus "The Arkwright Experience" . On site there are plentiful shops, eating places and walking trails for moments in between the booked programme.

You may book either the mills tour alone or both these activities - the tour will cost £10.00 each and, combined with the boat ride, the cost will be £21.75 each. However, please note that there is a minimum number of 30 for either.

\* you may remember Birdswood from the time when it operated from Froghall Wharf on the Caldron Canal

Apply to David Dumbelton, enclosing cheque and SAE. Tel: 01782 641765, [david.dumbelton@gmail.com](mailto:david.dumbelton@gmail.com)

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October: Talk: David Skillen – The Royal Observer Corps in Peace & War**

From the Zeppelin to Nuclear Missiles, the Royal Observer Corps was in the frontline of Britain's defences. It is best known for its role in the Battle of Britain but the Corps played a number of roles in World War 2 that are less well known.

In this talk, based on David's 10 years of service with the Corps, we will learn how the Corps captured Rudolf Hess, hear about its vital role on D-Day and how the Corps saved the lives of many Allied aircrew.

Finally David will look at the Corps role in the Cold War - a role its members fervently hoped never to have to carry out.

## **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Coach Trip: Rochdale Town Hall and Smithills Hall Bolton.**

Rochdale Town Hall, although now blackened by industrial pollution, is a grade 1 Victorian-Gothic building and is widely recognized as being one of the finest municipal buildings in the country. Its stained glass windows, some of which were designed by William Morris, are credited as the finest modern examples of their kind.

Coffee / tea and biscuits will be served on arrival and we will then split into groups for a two hour guided tour of the building. I am assured that there is plenty of seating available in every room that we will visit. If time allows we will be treated to a 15 minute organ recital. A 2 course lunch follows (included in the price) after which we will head back to the coach for the drive to Smithills Hall on the outskirts of Bolton.

Smithills Hall is one of the oldest and best preserved manor houses in the North West of England. The land on which it stands was once owned by The Knights Templars, before being built on in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century by William de Radcliffe. So, we will weave our way from its Medieval beginnings through to the Tudor and Victorian times. This will again involve a guided tour of about an hour, after which the tea room has kindly agreed to stay open to serve a farewell cuppa and snack as required (at own expense).

Depart Brunswick Street at 8.00 am to return by 6 – 6.30 pm.

Cost £33.50 (non-members £35.50) to include coach, driver's tip, tea or coffee and biscuits on arrival at Rochdale, guided tours of both properties and a 2 course lunch at Rochdale Town Hall.

Please apply to Sue Till including a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope by September 12<sup>th</sup>. Enquiries: Tel: 01785 811794 email: [st.till@icloud.com](mailto:st.till@icloud.com)

## **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Walk: Macclesfield**

This walk will start at 9.45 am at Sutton Hall, the historic and picturesque former home of the Lucan family. The walk will include part of the Macclesfield Canal, venturing into the outskirts of the town, before rising gently into open country, with views of Tegg's Nose and the Macclesfield Forest. We will pass through the villages of Langley and Sutton Lane Ends, before returning to Sutton Hall for lunch (if you so wish) at 12.00.

Sutton Hall is in Bullocks Lane (SK11 0HE) – if approaching Macclesfield along the A523 from the Leek direction, passing through Bosley, shortly after entering the 40 mph limit you will pass signs on either side indicating “MACCLESFIELD please slow down”, then turn right immediately before the former toll-house, signed for Sutton and Langley. After about half a mile, turn left at the crossroads into Bullocks Lane. Sutton Hall is signposted about half a mile further, on the right.

If approaching from Macclesfield, take the A523 towards Leek, and about half a mile from the town centre, at traffic lights, turn left into Byron's Lane (signposted for Garden Centre). After about half a mile turn right into Bullocks Lane; after passing the garden centre on the left you go over the canal bridge and the entrance to Sutton Hall is immediately on your left.

Places have been reserved for lunch at Sutton Hall, and we will be requested to pre-order our lunch shortly before the date of the walk. Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests, payable on the day. Children, and dogs on leads, are welcome (well-behaved dogs are also welcome inside Sutton Hall).

Please book your place(s), indicating whether you will require place(s) for lunch **(for which booking is essential, as places are limited)** with me, Peter Wilson at [peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com) or by post (see booking form). I will circulate the lunch menu by email when available, so that you can pre-order. If you do not have email, please send SAE for the menu. As a booked party we be offered a special menu, which might differ from the menu on Sutton Hall's website (which is in any case updated daily).



## **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November: Car Trip: Ford Green Hall, Smallthorne**

Ford Green Hall is a 17<sup>th</sup>C timber framed yeoman's farm house which was home to the Ford family from 1624 to 1803. It has a brick built extension from the early 18<sup>th</sup>C. It was bought by Stoke on Trent City Council in 1946 after it had fallen into disrepair and opened as a museum in 1952. It is now run by trustees. The Hall, including the attached dovecote, has a grade II\* listing.

On arrival at 10.30am we will have a hot drink and a biscuit (included) before dividing into two groups. Each group will have a guided tour of the outside and inside of the house. Please bring umbrellas! The ground outside is flat; there are 15 stairs inside to the upper floor.

There is parking on an adjacent car park.

### **Maximum 30**

Cost: £7.50 (£8.50 for non-members) including refreshments.

Please apply to Jane Mayer, enclosing a cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 533476.

## **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November: Talk: Danny Wells – ‘The Victorians & the Christmas Season’**

Danny's talk looks at the influence of the Victorians on Christmas as we know it today. The Victorians repackaged older traditions and customs that suited their new sensibilities, ideas and concerns. It is said that "they mixed the ingredients of the English Christmas to create an extremely rich plum pudding"

Many of these changes took place early in Victoria's reign, including the arrival of the Christmas card, the Christmas cracker and the Christmas tree. Danny will explore why and how the Victorians re-energised and transformed this festive season.

## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Dinner at 'The Meadows at Potbank'

This year we will have our festive meal in a restaurant on the Spode site, Elenora Street, Stoke ST4 1QE – plenty of parking space. The cost is £30 per person. When sending your cheque, please give your choice of starter, mains and sweet.

Cured Salmon with Beetroot, Watercress  
and Dill Crème Fraiche

Goats Cheese & Beetroot Bruschetta on a Micro Herb Salad (v)

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Roast Turkey with Apricot and Thyme Stuffing,  
Roasties, Chipolata wrapped in Streaky Bacon,  
Roasted Carrots and Parsnips, Brussel Sprouts,  
Red Wine Jus & Cranberry Relish

Roast Rump of Lamb on Bubble and Squeak, Fine Green Beans and Garden  
Peas, Cranberry and Red Wine Jus

Chestnut & Wild Mushroom Wellington  
with New Potatoes, Glazed Carrots & Fine Green Beans  
Tarragon Cream Sauce (v)

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"Trio Noel"

Warm Chocolate Fudge Brownie, Xmas Pudd Ice Cream, Cranberry  
Shortbread

Stilton and Mature Cheddar Cheese with Spiced Apple Chutney,  
Celery, Walnuts & Biscuits

\*\*

Filter Coffee or English Breakfast Tea  
with Homemade Miniature Mince Pies

After the meal we will be entertained by Derek Poulson, a talk called 'Love Actually' on the subject of romance.

Please come for an aperitif (included) from 6.45 onwards; seating for dinner at 7.30pm.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, enclosing a cheque, SAE and choice of menu.  
Tel: 01782 641765. Closing date: 5<sup>th</sup> November



## ***New Members***

We have pleasure in announcing and welcoming the following new members, in order of joining: Anne and George Smith, Marjorie Thorley, J and B Clowes, Roy and Julia Stanway, Angela Vincent, Heather and Philip Moffat and David Burns. This takes our membership to 348.

### **NT Membership Discount**

A reminder that a discount on the general National Trust membership subscription is available to eligible members – see previous Newsletter or their website for more details.

### ***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:- Jane Mayer, Janet Taylor, Kay Williams, Harold Yardley 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.

*Note: Only a selection of photographs available, and at a reduced size, are included in the magazine. It is hoped that a larger selection can be posted on the website in due course - look out for them, it might happen before the next Newsletter is published!*

*Booking / Enquiry Forms*

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Car Trip: Jodrell Bank, SK11 9DL**

Cost Option (A) Light Lunch £18.50 (Non-members £20.50)

Cost Option (b) Excluding Lunch £14.00. (Non-members 16.00)

Please apply to Janet Taylor [tr15tag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tr15tag@hotmail.co.uk) 01782 372727.

**Numbers limited to 30**

**Closing Date Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September: Car Trip: Canal Boat trip & Cromford Mill  
Derbyshire**

Cost £10.00 each for the mill tour only, £21.75 each for combined tour and boat ride. Minimum number of 30 for either.

Apply to David Dumbelton. Tel: 01782 641765, [david.dumbelton@gmail.com](mailto:david.dumbelton@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Car Trip: Jodrell Bank, SK11 9DL**

| Name(s)                                                | Association number | Cost: £ |
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| I/We would prefer option (a) ..... or option (b) ..... |                    |         |



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September: Car Trip: Canal Boat trip & Cromford Mill Derbyshire**

| Name(s)                                                 | Association number | Cost: £ |
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| Telephone No. ....                                      | email .....        |         |
| Boat Trip and Mills Tour ..... OR Mills Tour only ..... |                    |         |

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Coach Trip: Rochdale Town Hall and Smithills Hall Bolton.**

Cost £33.50 (non-members 35.50) to include coach, driver's tip, tea or coffee and biscuits on arrival at Rochdale, guided tours of both properties and a 2 course lunch at Rochdale Town Hall.

Please apply to Sue Till including a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope by September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tel: 01785 811794 email: [st.till@icloud.com](mailto:st.till@icloud.com)

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Walk: Macclesfield**

Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests, payable on the day. Children, and dogs on leads, are welcome (well-behaved dogs are also welcome inside Sutton Hall).

Please book your place(s), indicating whether you will require place(s) for lunch **(for which booking is essential, as places are limited)** with me, Peter Wilson at [peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com). I will circulate the lunch menu by email when available, so that you can pre-order. If you do not have email, please send SAE for the menu.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Coach Trip: Rochdale Town Hall and Smithills Hall Bolton.**

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**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Walk: Macclesfield**

| Name(s)            | Association number | Cost: £ |
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**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November: Car Trip: Ford Green Hall, Smallthorne**

Cost: £7.50 (£8.50 for non-members) including refreshments.

Please apply to Jane Mayer enclosing a cheque and SAE. For further information ring 01782 533476 or email [janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk)

**Maximum 30**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Dinner at 'The Meadows at Potbank'**

Cost £30

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, enclosing a cheque and SAE. Tel: 01782 641765, email [dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com](mailto:dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com). Closing date: 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Choice of menu:

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November: Car Trip: Ford Green Hall, Smallthorne**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email .....



**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Dinner at 'The Meadows at Potbank'**

Name(s) Association number Cost:

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Address Total .....

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Telephone No. .... email .....

Choice of menu overleaf or attached .....



## **Sunday 1st - Thursday 5th September 2019: Holiday in Constable Country and Rural Suffolk.**

Rose Wheat, tel: 01782 616113 or by email [rose.wheat@sky.com](mailto:rose.wheat@sky.com)

Please only use this form to show early expressions of interest. Formal booking should be made on the Regent Travel booking form enclosed with this Newsletter.

### **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](http://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](mailto:rjadams@doctors.org.uk) Tel: 01782 646054. Thank you very much.

*Contact details entered here will be used solely for administrative purposes in connection with your membership of NSNTA and will not be shared with other members or National Trust UK.*

**Sunday 1st - Thursday 5th September 2019: Holiday in Constable Country and Rural Suffolk.**

| Name(s)            | Association number | Cost: £ |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| .....              | .....              | .....   |
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**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: |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
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| Address            | Total              | ..... |
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## *Reviews of Recent Events*

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April: Talk: Martin Gee, Head Gardener at Weston Park**

Weston Park is located at Weston under Lizard on the Staffordshire / Shropshire border and is the only country house in Britain to offer an internationally acclaimed indigenous art collection. It boasts first class accommodation, fine dining and, of course beautiful Capability Brown gardens. Its history can be traced back to the Domesday Book.

Martin Gee is very proudly the fifth generation of his family to have worked and lived there. His love of the job and his pride in Weston Park was easy to discern as he talked through the many beautiful slides that he had brought along. As was fitting he really only spoke about his team's achievements in the grounds and of the house itself.

What wasn't touched upon was the internationally renowned art collection, which I am sure many of you would be interested to visit.

A very genial gentleman, Martin was more than happy to field members' questions both after the talk and during refreshments. We wish him well in his forthcoming retirement.

*John Till*

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April: Coach Outing to Liverpool : Western Approaches Museum & Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool & Speke Hall**



On a beautiful day we had a good journey to Liverpool, picking up our very knowledgeable guide Roger on the way. We went over the magnificent new Runcorn bridge [be careful of the toll charge payable on-line in advance if you can or within 24 hours if you can't] and into Liverpool before 10am.



Roger gave a running commentary on the history of Liverpool, pointing out interesting places and buildings of which there were many e.g. the Liver and Cunard buildings, the previous Bryant and May Factory, Pier Head, the Liverpool garden festival site, the cathedrals and various houses where famous authors or politicians lived e.g. Nicholas Montserrat

and William Gladstone. He talked about the regeneration of Liverpool and how this had made such a difference.



Our visit to the Western Approaches Museum proved equally interesting. This was the nerve centre for all Atlantic convoys during WW2 and we realised how vital a role the merchant seamen played in keeping us from starving. We were within 14 days of very

serious food shortages due to submarine attacks on the convoys. This building was built to withstand heavy bombing with its 3 foot walls and deep underground bunkers. There were rooms for decoding, a huge map room and accommodation, because many had to stay long hours in this bunker. A sun lamp room was installed to offset the lack of access to sunlight.



A good lunch was taken in the Adelphi Hotel [memories of Harold Wilson, Charles Dickens, the Beatles, and Roy Rogers]. It is still an iconic feature in Liverpool with its magnificent lounge.

We arrived at Speke Hall at around 3 pm after a short further tour of Liverpool taking in the port area, the Titanic Memorial and Sefton Park.





Speke Hall was a Tudor house that became a Victorian home. It is set in magnificent grounds, the peace of which was punctuated by being at the end of the runway of the John Lennon airport. However it is a wonderful setting and the house itself gives a superb

picture of family life in the Victorian Age showing Ada Watt's love for the Gothic and how that shaped the Victorian restoration of Speke Hall.

An excellent day was had by all and many thanks go to Richard and Jane for their organisation and hard work in enabling a most interesting day to take place.

*David and Valerie Morgan*



### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Car Trip to Adlington Hall, Macclesfield, SK10 4LF**



Our visit to Adlington Hall opened with the customary though welcome coffee and biscuits, and an unexpected treat to go with them: Dr. Harris, the conservator at the Hall, regaled us with an account of the work which has been done to reveal and conserve 16<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings in a room now only accessible by means of a ladder. The paintings are of four Turkish

sultans splendidly arrayed. At some time the ceiling of the room has been lowered, so that the tops of their jewelled turbans are now in the roof space above.

All this was but a prelude to our exploration of the Hall itself which is surrounded by beautiful Rococo gardens, untouched by the hand of Capability Brown.



The Hall is full of surprises. It has been occupied by 25 generations of the Legh family, broken only by the period 1939-45 when it was a maternity hospital for military wives; one of our party was born there. Its varied architecture reflects the centuries of change which it has seen.

Adlington is a place of many delights; these are my top three. The 1757 brick frontage built by Charles and Hester Legh is one. The Hall began as a hunting lodge in the ninth century, which made use of two conveniently placed oak trees to strengthen its structure; the trees are still there. So is a Father Smith concert organ, which is still in use. In all, a fascinating visit.

*Roger Simpson*

### ***Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May: London Holiday***

#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Ace Café and Angels Costumes**

On a lovely sunny day we departed from Newcastle for our holiday in London. Our first stop was a comfort stop, followed by a lunch stop at 12.30 pm at the **Ace Café**. Established in 1938 on the then North Circular Road. Badly damaged in World War II it was reopened in 1949. After a few more closures there was a Grand Re-Opening in 2002.

Among very friendly bikers we had a very enjoyable lunch of our own choice. A group of bikers from Torquay, who were returning on the same day, showed us their wonderful bikes. The Ace Café has a museum of by-gone days and the walls were



covered with super newspaper cuttings and wonderful pictures of the 60's – 'Mods and Rockers'. It was a place buzzing with information and groups of happy people. After lunch we enjoyed the sunshine with the bikers proudly showing off their motor bikes.



We left at 2 pm for our visit to **Angels Costumes**, arriving at 2.30 pm. The company was started in 1840 by Morris Angel. Originally it was founded as a used clothing store selling samples and excess stock. With a move to Shaftesbury Avenue it became popular with actors who could rent a costume. With the advent of films the business was well established at the turn of the century. After another move, finally they moved to a purpose built site in Hendon housing their entire costume collection.

We had a super guide who took us on a tour lasting two hours. There were in excess of 8 miles of hanging costumes that could supply whatever was needed for any production. Costumes had to last for two years, buttons and medals had to be absolutely correct for each costume. We were shown into workshops where we watched tailors and dressmakers at work.



As well as providing costumes for films, TV, and live theatre, they had fashion designers coming in looking for inspiration from other eras for their 'new' collection. For Angels to survive as it has for 172 years, they have needed to diversify, so they allow designers to borrow clothes for a short while. The designers then try to conjure up ideas from another time.

A super visit which I am sure we all enjoyed. Well, onwards to our fabulous modern hotel at Canary Wharf. It has a roof terrace and spectacular views across London.

*Jane Beckett*



## Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Victoria and Albert Museum and Albert Hall

After a truly 5 star breakfast on the 37<sup>th</sup> floor of our thoroughly modern skyscraper hotel, we were transported by Kevin, our excellent coach driver, to the Victoria & Albert Museum. A museum 165 years old but very much alive, and for those of us on our first visit the vast choice of the world's largest decorative arts and design collection was over-facing. In particular our attention was drawn by our guide, Florence Tyler, who is the curator of 19<sup>th</sup> C ceramics and glass, to a worldwide exhibition depicting the history of ceramics; pottery from 5000 years ago to the present. Ranging from the purely utilitarian to the exotic, much of it from Staffordshire, a return visit is a must on our next visit to London. We were particularly impressed with the exhibition of a Dutch designer, entitled 'Myth & Mortality – The Fairytale World of Carolein Smit' which portrays animals and birds including a hare with 25,000 pairs of hairs individually attached. There are also wall displays with skeletal animals enjoying life after death.



Ten minutes' walk away at the Royal Albert Hall, our guide, "thoroughly modern Millie", treated us to a Grand Entrance to the Debenture Boxes (one of these is currently available for a mere £3.5 million). Worthy of being a star performer herself, she explained that events ranging from Tennis Championships, Sumo Wrestling, vast Dinner Parties and of course The Last Night of the Proms take place here and are scheduled at least 2 years in advance. Even a marathon race of 524 laps of the Hall has been hosted. We went up into the gods where up to 4,000 Victorians were allowed to stand but numbers are now restricted to 500. We saw a close up the Royal Box but were not allowed to try out the Queen's Chairs. However we were allowed into her rather small waiting room with its portraits of monarchs and consorts since the 1870s.

In Albert's plan exhibitions and buildings of this calibre were to be for all sections of society and not just the upper classes. The Hall was built out of the profits of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Finally we saw a close view of the Albert Memorial which faces the Hall.

After Dinner at the Obica restaurant Cynthia treated us to a tour of the public art to be found in the midst of London Underground and Docklands Light Railway territory.

*Jane and Richard Mayer*

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May: Ham House



It was the day of the Royal wedding when Prince Harry married Meghan Markel and a couple of our members stayed behind at the hotel to watch on the big screen on the 39<sup>th</sup> floor. The rest of us visited our only National Trust property on the holiday, Ham House. We travelled by coach from the

Thames in Canary Wharf to the banks of the River Thames at Richmond. The house was full of 17<sup>th</sup> century paintings, furniture and textiles and revealed what life was like during the reigns of Charles I and II. Fascinating. The garden is being recreated as it would have been in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and looked great in the sunshine. We ate a tasty asparagus frittata for lunch in the Orangery Café with asparagus picked just that morning from the kitchen garden.

It was a lovely day and we managed to fit in a stroll down to the river where we watched the lucrative business of a ferryman taking people back and forth across the water. He picked up a tidy sum as there was a supplement for bicycles, push chairs and dogs!



This evening, after our meal at the hotel we were entertained by Rose Wheat who had prepared a couple of fun quiz games for us.

*David and Cynthia*

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May: The Temple of Mithras

The view from our hotel this morning was shrouded in thick mist, which eventually lifted to reveal another glorious day as we sped yet again into the city but back in time to around the middle of the 3rd century AD.

Did the Romans experience the same difficulty in locating The Temple? Probably not but then neither would they have had road and lane closures on such a massive scale.

Discovered in 1954 during the rebuilding of London post-war, The Temple of Mithras is now housed almost on its original site and lies beneath The Bloomberg European HQ.

Some of the many artefacts discovered on site are beautifully displayed within the foyer. The marshy layers in which they languished even preserving hundreds of wooden tablets, including one of which records the first known use of the name Londinium.

We then descended somewhere between seven and nine metres to the ruins of the temple.

It was much smaller than I expected but very atmospheric, made all the more so by the knowledge that it was for the use of a mysterious cult of men-only worshippers of the bull-slaying Mithras. He was greatly admired by the Roman soldiers for his strength and virility. To quote Sophie Jackson, lead archaeologist from The Museum of London, "its rites remain very well-guarded mysteries", but we can well imagine the flickering of lamps and the swirl of burning oils as they made their sacrifices to the carved head of the god Mithras.

*Sue Till.*

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park**

After a visit to the London Mithraeum in the morning, we moved rapidly back to the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the afternoon with a trip on a passenger boat around the former Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park site in East London.

Arriving at the Aquatics Centre (one of the Olympic sites still being used) on a sunny afternoon, we boarded the '*Usain Boat*' with our guide Mel for a trip through the waterways system for a view of the history of the site and what is happening on the redevelopment of the 2012 Olympic Park.

Passing slowly through the Carpenters Road Lock we moved into what was the industrial area surrounding the waterway now largely under reconstruction but which had included Bryant and May match works (home to the first all-female strike in 1888) and several flour mills originally powered by windmills. Back in the River Lea the beauty of the parkland became much more apparent as the tree plantings of six or seven years ago are maturing.

We passed close by the Anish Kapoor "Orbit" the tallest sculpture in the UK, now finding a new life as "The Slide" with rapid descent either by abseiling or through a tube slide. Other art works in evidence were the Steles in the Waterworks

River reminiscent of huge upturned colourful pencils used to line the banks of the river. There are some 26 remaining art works in the park.

Several of the Olympic venues remain, notably the main arena now adapted for football, the Aquatics centre, the Velodrome and the BMX cycling track. Many of the buildings used in the Games have found new uses in the past few years; many zones have been developed for housing. Mel the guide was very informative on the plans for the future of the area with The V & A, Sadler's Wells and the London College of Fashion all intending to expand into the area over the coming years.



Back to the hotel briefly before heading off to "The Straight and Narrow" an East End pub for a "Cockney evening". Cockles and whelks followed by Pie and Mash accompanied by a pianist playing and singing a huge repertoire of traditional songs with a fair sprinkling of songs from East End composers notably Lionel Bart. The pianist's attempt at the end of the evening to get his audience on their feet for the "Hokey Cokey" was not successful as bed was calling for most after a long but enjoyable day

*Nick Glanville*

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May: Chenies Manor, Rickmansworth.**

As Pevsner says, "beautifully mellow under trees by the church and archaeologically a fascinating puzzle".

There are mysteries to be solved because the pieces of this jigsaw have been cast up and down this site since the Bronze Age. You may never have been to Chenies but you have viewed it countless times on films and TV. Chenies gave their name to Isenhampstead Manor but its heyday was as Chenies Palace. Here the Russell family hosted royalty in lavish apartments five times larger than the services wing remnant we see.



I found the setting intensely romantic but would not want to live in the house, except in the gorgeous yellow

drawing room, where the fabulous French furniture had to be admired from a distance. Fiona Bruce's admonition not to touch what you can't afford came to mind. I entertained thoughts too of resting in peace in such splendour as the Dukes and Earls in the Bedford Chapel and Mausoleum in the Church.

The garden is as high maintenance as everything here but the layout, planting and features such as gazebos are captivating. We had missed the famous tulip display but this was compensated for by festoons of clematis and wisteria.



I have never seen such a pretty summer house. It was like a greetings card or "Country Living " come to life. I had a fabulous time at what for me was the highlight of the holiday even if we didn't meet Hugh Grant or Inspector Barnaby who we had seen

at Chenies on tv in the hotel during recovery breaks!

Thanks to David and Cynthia for all your hard work, putting everything together for our lovely holiday.

*Ralph White*

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## **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7:00 pm: AGM & Talk: Andy Beer, NT Regional Director**

Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> AGM at the N Staffs Conference Centre

Richard Adams welcomed members to the AGM and recorded 11 apologies.

**Chairman's remarks:** Ralph White reported that we had had a very successful year with many events. He especially mentioned the recent and most successful holiday to London, organised by Cynthia Dumbelton, which was enjoyed by many members present. Membership remains healthy, and he thanked everyone for their support.

**The Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> AGM:** Richard asked that these should be accepted; no questions asked, and all present agreed.

**Secretary's report:** Membership is currently 352. We have had a busy year, with a total of 27 events to enjoy, including 7 coach outings, 7 car trips, 3 walks, 8

talks, the Christmas dinner, and our holiday in Bristol. Thanks to all who have organised events, and to members for attending.

Special thanks to Sue Till, standing down as talks organiser, and to Madeleine Hopley, standing down as treasurer.

New Data Protection rules come in to force later this week. We are exempt from registering, but to confirm our policy: The NSNTA only records names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers of members. These are updated as necessary and on membership renewal, and any records over 18 months old are destroyed. They are only used for communication on membership and events, and not shared with any external organisations, including the National Trust itself. Members can check, amend or delete their information by contacting the secretary.

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

She reported that our income was slightly down from the previous year but expenses were down too. As nothing further had been heard re the Nancy holiday, the £2,000 set aside could now be used for donations. Payments in advance shown in the accounts referred to the London holiday which had just taken place. 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, but warned that an increase might be needed next year. Mr. Huw Davies has agreed to take over as treasurer, and she thanked everyone for their support over the years. There were no questions; Richard Mayer proposed and Rose Wheat seconded that the accounts be accepted. All agreed.

**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 five such who were standing again – Richard Adams, Cynthia Dumbelton, Roger Cartlidge, Madeleine Hopley and Rose Wheat. Eight further committee members and officers stood for re-election: Ralph White, Jane Mayer, Sue Till, Sue Corlett, David Morgan, John Spriggs, Peter Wilson and Bob Winter. Huw Davies was standing for election as treasurer, and Marion Lycett was standing for committee. All the above were elected or re-elected unanimously.

**AOB:** Richard Mayer proposed a vote of thanks for Ralph and all the committee for their hard work. Agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.



## **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Car Trip: Hope House Costume Museum, Alstonefield**

Notty Hornblower's Costume Museum is housed in a restored stone barn which stands a little way above her lovely period house on the road from Alstonefield to Wetton. We all gathered outside then were invited in to look around the varied collection of costumes and accessories. The left-hand room is set out as a replica of the Bronte family sitting-room with small pieces of furniture and life-size mannequins of the sisters and their brother and father in appropriate dress. Notty then arrived and ushered us to the upstairs room where seating was provided for us all. The barn is a veritable Tardis and it seemed initially unimaginable that all 33 of us could be seated - but we were.

Notty began her talk by telling us how the museum came to be. Her interest in costume took off because her husband was often away on business so she developed the museum as a pastime. Over the years hundreds of items of dress and accessories had been amassed and there were examples of wedding dresses displayed on various models, including a rather scary one depicting Queen Victoria. Topically, suffragettes were honoured with a suitable display featuring the purple, green and white colours of that movement. Notty then answered questions from our members following which we had further time to peruse the exhibits.

We then walked the short distance down to Hope House itself where large rooms containing Victorian tables and chairs were laid out and set with beautiful crockery. The house was full of period furniture giving a great setting for our Afternoon Tea. We were served by young ladies with tea/coffee, huge slices of home-made cake and the most delicious scones with jam and cream.

Thus concluded a very enjoyable experience in a most convivial atmosphere on a lovely Summer's day.

*Roger Cartlidge*

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Coach Outing: Pickford House, Derby, and Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire**

After a relatively short and particularly comfortable coach journey we arrived exactly on schedule at Pickford house, Derby. We were greeted by our guides dressed in Georgian costumes of the period when the house was first occupied. The house was built in 1769-70 and is named after the architect Joseph Pickford who unusually designed and lived in the house with his wife Mary and two young sons. He ran his business from the premises including a builders yard and stone masons workshop behind the house. A local connection is Josiah Wedgwood's Etruria factory and Hall designed by Joseph Pickford.





Most of the rooms have been carefully furnished in a style with which the Pickfords would have been familiar. I was particularly taken by the original dining room marble fireplace with unusual and beautiful inlaid vertical bands of Derbyshire Blue John. A small number of rooms are used for temporary exhibitions by Derby Museum. A display of toy theatres from the Frank Bradley collection was delightful.

We had split into three groups and when not viewing the house walked the short distance to the Museum and Art Gallery for refreshments and sufficient time to get a taster of what the Museum had to offer. I saw enough to tempt me back for a longer look.



A 15 min. coach ride and we were at Kedleston Hall set in idyllic Derbyshire countryside. After an excellent and very welcome lunch there was at least a couple of hours to explore the house and its surrounds. The day was warm, the rain held off so some took a pleasant walk round the large linear lake and others strolled in the pleasure grounds adjacent the mostly 13th century church.



A tour of the Hall, completed in 1765 on a design by Robert Adam, took about an hour - longer if like many you failed to locate the exit stairs from the Marble Hall. The huge central block was intended for entertainment of guests. The family quarters is a more modest pavilion linked with a curved corridor, a striking feature of which is the wide concentric floorboards each plank having been fashioned from an oak bough chosen for its appropriate curvature. The formal entrance to

the house is via external steps into the first floor Marble Hall. This vast space rises to the full height of the building with 20 huge veined alabaster columns supporting the roof. Later misgivings as to whether the floor could safely span between the columns led to additional marble clad iron struts being installed in the hall below.

A major redecoration of the house has been underway since 2001. Our visit was timely as the reupholstering of the great palm tree state bed in blue and gold silk damask has only recently been completed.

The story of the Curzon family is told throughout the house with a clear emphasis on the outstanding life of Lord Curzon 1859-1925. One room is a museum of spectacular items associated with his time as Viceroy of India.

The visit was delightfully rounded off with scones, cakes, hot drinks and friendly chat.

*John Skinner*

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Car Trip: Guided Tour of Whitmore Hall, Newcastle, ST5 5HW**

On a gloriously sunny afternoon, we were met by the owner, Mrs. Cavenagh-Mainwaring, who gave us a warm welcome to the Hall. We were divided into two groups by two very enthusiastic guides who provided an interesting insight into the history of the Hall. It is the family's private residence and, consequently, a very much lived in house. We were, therefore, fortunate to be shown most of the rooms they lived in, which added greatly to the enjoyment of the visit.

We then went on to view one of the outstanding features of Whitmore Hall, its extremely rare Elizabethan stable block, with a cobbled floor and carved oak stalls.

To complete the afternoon, some of us walked down the road to the Whitmore Tea Rooms for a most enjoyable Cream Tea.

*Bob Winter*

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July: Coach Trip: Guided tour of Chester**

This unfortunately had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Walk: In the footsteps of Josiah, breakfast at Wedgwood**

On a bright but overcast summer morning 26 of us assembled on Wedgwood's car park and set off for a 4¼ mile amble, heading towards Barlaston past St. John's Church, closed in 1980 due to subsidence, and Barlaston Hall, saved from decay and demolition in the same period but since lavishly restored. Shortly after we turned right onto a footpath passing behind the Hall, across grassy fields and a few stiles heading towards Wedgwood Station. Here we joined the canal towpath nearby, passing a group of alpacas as we headed North to Longton Road. A short stretch of this took us to Hem Heath Woods, from there to Newstead Woods on good tracks through delightful shaded glades, back to Wedgwood. Waiting for us was a very welcome brunch in their Dining Hall, selecting from Potter's Full Breakfast, Staffordshire Oatcakes and other delights, washed down with ample tea and coffee. Thanks Richard for arranging such a treat.

*John Spriggs*

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<b>Summary of Autumn Programme September to December 2018</b>	
<b>September</b>	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Car Trip: Jodrell Bank
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Louise Adams – ‘A Century of Creative Ceramics’
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Car Trip: Canal Boat trip & Cromford Mill Derbyshire
<b>October</b>	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: David Skillen – The Royal Observer Corps in Peace & War
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Coach Trip: Rochdale Town Hall & Smithills Hall Bolton
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Walk: Macclesfield
<b>November</b>	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Car Trip: Ford Green Hall, Smallthorne
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Danny Wells – ‘The Victorians & the Christmas Season’
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner – The Meadows at Potbank, Spode Site, Stoke
<b>Dates for your Diary 2019</b>	
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Talk: Ray Perry – ‘The Life & Work of Rudyard Lake’
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Steve Booth – ‘The Golden Age of Stage-Coaching’
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Bob Kermeen – ‘Mesopotamia to World War 1’
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Coach Trip: Manchester - Elizabeth Gaskell Hse & Pankhurst Centre
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Talk: Hazel Griffiths, cruise ship speaker – ‘Motion of the Ocean’
September 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday: Sudbury, Suffolk

***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.***