



North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 116
Summer 2020
www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



Shibden Hall, Halifax.

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 no longer has an age limit. Our public liability insurance also 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. No liability will be accepted for errors or omissions.

We are always delighted to welcome new members – please contact the Membership Secretary (details inside back cover) or download the on-line form to apply.

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@northstaffsnt.org.uk (01782 791360) by the **15th July** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 116 Summer 2020 Programme

A Note From The Chair



I am delighted to say David Morgan, our hardworking Talks Organiser, has agreed to take over my role as Chair, subject to your approval at the AGM. Therefore, this is my last Chair's Note.

I have really enjoyed being able to contribute to the continuing success of The Association over seven years. However, I think it is important for the development of our Association that no one person stays in post too long possibly blocking new ideas or a fresh approach. A change for you will be as good as a rest for me!

If you attend the AGMs, you will know how much I appreciate the help of enthusiastic and able Committee Members and Programme Planners, past and present. The active support of so many members too makes it all worthwhile. Juggling our joint tasks of fundraising and ensuring that a thriving membership has a good time is not easy in today's circumstances.

We are about to find out if due to the virus crisis we can function at all. I have my fingers crossed that, as a vulnerable cohort, we are all spared. However, venturing out is becoming very expensive so much inventive work will have to go on to maintain a programme of well supported events which do leave a little left for our donation fund.

If you are not on the internet, do summon up the courage to go on a free course or ask the grandchildren. They can learn from you as they ask "what were cheques, stamps and printing?", "When there was such a thing as coach diesel, why did it only ever go up not down?" Also, was it Lillian Bayliss rather than Marion Lycett who said "Bring me good trip organisers who work cheap"?

I wish the Trust well for the next 125 years and if we all sing "Happy Fortieth Anniversary to us", while washing our hands, we will stay safe and enjoy not only this Summer but many more.

Best Wishes,

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 with 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.

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When booking trips you are encouraged, particularly if travelling without a companion, to provide the name and number of someone who can be contacted in emergency, along with any critical medical conditions that might be relevant, or whether (and where) you carry ICE (In Case of Emergency) details. We also request that you provide your own mobile number so that you can be contacted should you fail to appear at a rendezvous.

Coronavirus

At the time of publication we face an unprecedented level of uncertainty over the viability of our future programme in the light of the rapidly developing situation with regard to the Coronavirus.

We publish this programme as it had been planned, but many events will be postponed and we are unable to accept applications to participate in them (apart from the October mini-break when we need numbers to confirm viability) until we know if and when they can go ahead. If you are already booked on a cancelled trip, no cheques have been cashed and all will be destroyed, or returned if requested – the organiser is contacting you about this. The committee is very mindful of minimising exposure and undertakes to refund any monies that are paid in advance should a future event be cancelled.

Some information in this Newsletter may be obsolete before you even receive it! Please monitor the website or contact trip organisers or the committee for the up-to date situation. Quite apart from this, from time to time it becomes necessary to change details of an event or to announce updates to booking arrangements, availability etc. or to advise members of other matters that have arisen, so please check the STOP PRESS feature on the website to be kept up to date.

Members for whom we hold email addresses will be sent booking details and forms as and when various events can be confirmed. If you wish to be kept informed and you do not receive an email within a day or two of this Newsletter to confirm your address please email Richard Adams to be included, or else write to Marion Lycett with an SAE stating your name, address, telephone and mobile numbers, and which events you are interested in (contact details inside back cover).

The North Staffordshire National Trust Association 40th anniversary, 2020



This year the North Staffs National Trust Association celebrates 40 years since its inauguration, and the National Trust its 125th anniversary.



Unfortunately we have had to cancel the visit to the Dorothy Clive Garden on the 1st April, our anniversary date, and also the visit of the NT Director General at the AGM, which were intended to celebrate both anniversaries.

We are still expecting to mark our anniversary with a photographic display and presentation at the Christmas meal. Kay Williams has been collecting photographs for the annals and continues to welcome prints sent by members. Her contact details are inside the back cover of this newsletter.

In addition, Anthea Bond is now collecting images sent to her by email so that she can prepare a PowerPoint display as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations. She would like to see images taken during visits by the Association, up to 5 per person, at the best resolution you can supply, but not greater than 10 MB per file or email size. Her email address is: AntheaBond@hotmail.com

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.

Tuesday 12th May 7:00pm: AGM

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE, HARTSHILL

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Minutes of the 39th AGM
4. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising
6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2020 – 2021
7. Approvals for re-election to committee *
8. Nominations for Officers and Committee **
9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2020 – 2021
10. Any Other Business

Unfortunately in the circumstances Hilary McGrady, Director General of the National Trust, will be unable to address the meeting as planned. Further announcements will be made on when, where and how the AGM can proceed.

* Under our constitution, committee members should normally stand down after 5 years. Richard Adams, Roger Cartlidge, Cynthia Dumbelton, Jane Mayer, Sue Till, Rose Wheat, and Bob Winter have all 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, 79 Whitmore Road, Newcastle ST5 3LZ.

Wednesday 13th May: Car Trip: Evening Canal Cruise and fish & chip supper.

Cruise will leave Norbury Junction at 6 pm for our 3 hour journey travelling north along the Shropshire Union canal. As we travel past a line of attractively painted moored boats there are fantastic views of Norbury Church and across the rural farmland. Kingfishers, Herons, Moorhens & Ducks are just some of the wildlife that you may see.

Park at the Marina, but limited space so please share lifts.

Cost £18 (non-members £19) inclusive of fish & chip supper & NT donation. There is a licenced pay bar open for the length of the trip.

Enquiries: Tel 01782 502919, e-mail lycettmichael@hotmail.com

Postponed - Those already booked are being contacted.

Thursday 21st May: Coach Trip: Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedrals.

The coach will leave Newcastle at 8.15 a.m. for our morning visit to the recently refurbished Coventry Transport Museum. On arrival, we will have an introductory talk, followed by a guided tour of the Transport Museum.

Lunch (at own expense) can be taken in the on-site café or at one of the many eateries around. We will reassemble at 2.00 p.m. at the Guides' Meeting Point in the Cathedral to commence our guided tour of both the old and new cathedrals.

For a more detailed description of the trip see the previous Newsletter.

Cost £35 (non-members £37). Cost to include coach, admission and guided tour of the Transport Museum and both Cathedrals, driver's tip and the usual contribution to the National Trust.

Enquiries: Tel: 01782 642942, email: robert.winter14@btinternet.com

Postponed - Those already booked are being contacted.

Monday 8th June: Car Trip: Dunham Massey^{NT}, Altrincham, WA14 4SJ

This is an opportunity to visit one of our special N.T. properties, which is close enough for a car trip, in the company of others from the North Staffs NT Association.

The Georgian house, set in 300 acres of Deer Park, was once the home of the Earls and Countesses of Stamford and Warrington. The largely Edwardian interior is host to an extensive collection of objects from the families 400 years' past, which include paintings, furniture and a large silver collection. Dunham Massey is focusing on celebrating 125 years of the N.T with potted history talks of the house and estate, and various displays.

We will meet together in the car park at 10.30 (approximately 40mins drive), when we will have a short welcome and orientation talk by a staff member before picking up our tickets and information about tours, restaurants etc. Lunch at own cost or take a picnic.

Cost: NT Members have free access to the car park, house and gardens however MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE ESSENTIAL and must be shown. The usual contribution to the North Staffs NTA of £2 per Member is payable on the day.

Postponed. Enquiries: Email: rogandshirl@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01782 777513.

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th June 2020: Coach trip: Association Scottish Holiday.

Scottish Heritage and History holiday arranged for us by Regent Travel, this time to Scotland. It will be a 4 night/5 day break staying at the 4 star New Lanark Mill Hotel, located in the heart of a World Heritage Site, a beautifully restored 18th-century cotton mill village. Together with Regent Travel, we have planned a full holiday visiting both Glasgow and Edinburgh and including many National Trust properties along the way. Cost: £522 pp. Please see the separate flyer and booking form included with a previous Newsletter, or see or download copies from our website. (If you don't have Internet access phone Regent on 01785 818202)

Cancelled on this date, hoping to reschedule, possibly in April 2021. Existing applicants are being contacted. There will be opportunities for more to join.

Thursday 2nd July: Car Trip: Visit to a Woodland Craftsman

Michael Taylor will welcome us to his working coppice in Leighton, near Shrewsbury, where he has been restoring a neglected ancient woodland since 2010. His woodland is a haven of peace and inspiration for designing his handmade wooden products along with furniture (including Windsor chairs). Mike coppices a different area of woodland each winter for the benefit of the woodland plants, birds, mammals and insects. Coppiced trees regrow over the following years, a sustainable form of woodland management which has been used for centuries. Each new area of coppice has its own special mix of native hardwood trees, such as oak, ash, hazel, alder and birch, which provide the raw material for his craft. This last winter Mike has also been working with yew. Creating handmade unique wooden items supports the woodland restoration in a yearly cycle of coppicing. The area coppiced in the winter months really does dictate what can be produced.



On this outing, we will arrive at 2pm when Mike will give us a brief introduction and a cup of tea or coffee followed by a tour of his woodland. He will also lay on a pole lathe turning demonstration and show us some of the wares he has for sale.

He is keen to have visitors to his land but there are issues to consider as well as appreciating its beauty. The paths are rudimentary and the terrain can be difficult so stout footwear is necessary. We should allow two hours for our visit. There is a very basic toilet but my plan is to avoid using it by visiting a hostelry nearby!

Michael has given talks in Werrington and Leek when he spoke to the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust group. Who knows, you may already have heard him speak?

Cost: £6.00 p.p., non-members £7. Numbers limited to 18 so it is first come first served.

Enquiries: email: dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com or tel: 01782 641765.

Tuesday 14th July: Coach Trip: Boughton House, Kettering, Northants.

If you can't get to France this year why not join us on a trip to the 'English Versailles', one of the stately homes of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury. Modelled on the French style by Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu, in the late seventeenth century, this magnificent mansion has featured in 'Treasure Houses of Britain' and in the Oscar-winning film 'Les Misérables'. Its stunning art collection includes paintings by Van Dyck and El Greco and amongst its many treasures are the Sèvres porcelain and Boulle furniture. We shall be taking the 'King's Tour', which encompasses twenty rooms over two floors, enhanced by knowledgeable and friendly guides.

The 18th century landscaped gardens and new 21st century garden offer a spell-binding series of waterways and stunning display of flower beds and herbaceous borders, together with a rose garden, walled garden and sensory garden. After lunch you will have time to explore the gardens and to venture further into the Park, if you so wish. There is also a well-stocked gift shop and café.

We shall be served coffee/tea and home-made biscuits on arrival and after the tour we shall sit down to enjoy a delicious cold buffet consisting of a variety of meats, fish, quiche and salad plus tea/coffee. You will then be free to explore the gardens and other facilities.

Our coach will depart from Brunswick Street in Newcastle at 8.30am and we aim to leave Boughton at 4.30pm to arrive back in Newcastle by 7.00pm, traffic permitting.

Cost: £46 (£48 to non-members) to include the coach, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival, admission and the King's Tour, lunch and the usual donation to the National Trust.

Enquiries can be made by tel: 01782 616113, or e-mail: rose.wheat@virginmedia.com or see www.boughtonhouse.co.uk for images and further details.

Please inform me of any special dietary needs.

There are some stairs to reach the Staterooms on the first floor, some cobbled areas in the Coach House and leading to the Gift Shop and some steep inclines in parts of the garden.

Saturday 25th July: Walk: Three waterways of Stoke-on-Trent.

This is an easy walk, shorter than most we offer, which I think will show you parts of our city which will surprise you. You will see places you know, but perhaps from a different perspective.

We start and finish at the Toby Inn on Festival Park, which many will remember as the China Gardens at the 1986 Garden Festival.

The first side of our triangular walk follows the Trent and Mersey canal, passing between the old Twyfords works and Shelton cemetery, and round the back of Stoke station. We cross over to the Staffordshire University campus, where we walk through their Natural Heritage nature reserve alongside the River Trent, some 25 acres of managed grassland,

wetlands, lakes and deciduous trees. Water vole and otters, plus numerous bird species and butterflies have been seen in the summer here. We will cut through Hanley Park, conveniently passing the public conveniences, to join the Caldron canal to complete the triangle. Do you know where the first ever public infirmary was built in Stoke? We pass its site, followed by Jesse Shirley's Bone and Flint Mill, now the Etruria Industrial Museum, and return to the pub for lunch.

This walk is about 4 miles in total, mostly flat and mostly on surfaced paths. There are no stiles and little traffic. It is an urban walk, so please be aware that there will be litter and there will be graffiti.

Suggested donation is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests. Pay on the day is easiest.

Meet at the Toby Carvery ST1 5PA at 10 o'clock for a 10.15 start, we are due back for lunch at 12.30.

Enquiries: Richard Adams, rjadams@doctors.org.uk.

Tuesday 11th August: Coach trip: William Booth (founder of the Salvation Army) Birthplace Museum and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.

We will leave Newcastle at 8 am and expect to arrive back in Newcastle at about 6.30 pm traffic permitting. We will arrive at the William Booth Birthplace Museum, Sneinton at about 10.00 am. We will start by having a guided tour round St Stephen's church, two minutes' walk away, and will then have refreshments in the William Booth Community Centre (adjacent to the museum), while watching a video about the history of the Salvation Army, and William Booth and family. We will also be given a talk about the museum before doing a self-guided tour round it. We will leave the museum at about midday.



After our visit to the museum, we will go to the other side of Nottingham to Wollaton Hall near Beeston. This Elizabethan mansion is a Grade I Listed building with beautiful architecture. There is a Natural History Museum with many wildlife exhibits. The mansion is surrounded by 500 acres of parkland with herds of red and fallow deer. After our arrival, we can go to either of the two cafés near the stables for lunch at own expense.

There are lifts to each of the gallery floors in the Hall where the natural history museum is situated. There is an optional guided tour at 2.0 pm costing £10. As there are many steps to climb, including a narrow spiral staircase to reach the roof from where there are wonderful views over the surrounding countryside, and more stairs to descend to the Tudor kitchen, people can have the choice to do the tour or not. During the tour (which

lasts about an hour or an hour and a half depending on numbers), one hears about the history of the families who lived in the Hall, and more about the Tudor kitchen. There would also be a tour for those who could not manage all the steps so that they would hear about the history of the Hall and perhaps go down to the kitchen. For those who do not wish to do the guided tour, they can go round the Natural History Museum and the park.

There should be time to have a drink, again at own expense, in one of the cafés before leaving to return home at 4.30 pm.

Cost: £28 if doing one of the guided tours at Wollerton Hall; £18 if not. (£30 or £20 non-members). The cost includes the coach, driver's tip, and the usual National Trust contribution.

Enquiries: Sue Corlett, tel: 01782 719075; e-mail: sue.corlett@btinternet.com.

Tuesday 15th September: Coach Trip: Ledbury and Weston's Cider Mill.

Ledbury, regarded as "Herefordshire's secret", is a delightful place to visit with its cobbled alleys, half-timbered Tudor facades and, of course, The Market House, built on pillars in order that stalls can be pitched underneath. Founded in the 11th century it was once an important market town. Seriously hindered by The Black Death in the 14th century it thankfully has never been overdeveloped since.

On arrival, we will split into two groups, the first tour of Ledbury starting at 10.30. The walk will take about 1 hour 15 minutes, giving the 2nd group time to explore and maybe visit a few interesting shops such as Tinsmiths or the cider shop further up the high street, with time for coffee and a cake if you so wish. The second group is scheduled for 12.15, enabling the first group to have a similar amount of free time. At roughly 1.30 we will re-board the coach and proceed to Weston's Cider Mill, approximately 6 miles out of Ledbury, where we will sit down to a lunch consisting of sandwiches, cakes and scones with of course a choice of beverage.

After lunch, we will begin the tour of the mill, learning about its history and the craft of cider making, finishing with a "tutored tasting session".

Please be aware that the mill tours are walking tours with steps and staircases, so may not be suitable for everyone. This will also take about one hour, so please wear sensible shoes in order to totter back to the coach.

The price of £41.60 includes lunch and all the usual costings.

Coach will depart Newcastle at 8am and be back by 6.30 p.m., traffic permitting.

Enquiries: Susan Till, st.till@icloud.com, Tel: 01785 811794.

Friday 9th – Sunday 11th October 2020: Coach Trip: Mini Holiday to Salisbury.

Yes, an extra holiday prompted by a visit to the cinema to see 'Emma' where the filming took place at Trafalgar Park, Salisbury.

Apart from the cathedral with its Magna Carta, in The Close we can visit Edward Heath's house "Arundells" and nearby is a National Trust property, Mompesson House, a Queen Anne town house. Much too far to travel for just a day's coach outing, it was decided to see who would like to stay overnight and explore Salisbury properly, staying in the Grasmere House Hotel in the centre of Salisbury. Visits will include Sudeley Castle and Witley Court with its beautiful gardens. We may visit but definitely drive past Stonehenge.

Cost for the three day visit is £250 if sharing a double/twin room with a supplement of £55 for single rooms. This includes one dinner on the Friday night and, of course, full English breakfast. There is a discount for members of English Heritage.

Looking on the positive side, hopefully everything will be back to normal by October, so, if this mini break interests you, please send a deposit cheque of £50 per person made out to the North Staffs National Trust Association to Marion Lycett together with your 'phone number and/or email address. Assuming there is enough interest and the hotel is open, we will make a decision later in the summer when things become clearer. Please be reassured **NO CHEQUES WILL BE CASHED WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU.**

We reserve the right to vary the programme or to substitute visits in the light of unexpected events.

Please state if double or twin room required and if a member of English Heritage.

Enquiries to joint organisers Marion Lycett or Cynthia Dumbelton (contact details inside the back cover).

Wednesday 2nd December: Christmas Dinner and photo exhibition.

As part of our plans to celebrate this anniversary year, our Christmas dinner will be held on the evening of Wednesday 2nd December at the historic Upper House in Barlaston. The estate was purchased in the early 1840s and the Upper House was the home of Josiah Wedgwood's grandson, Francis, who would ride from here to Etruria on his horse, Jackdaw. Josiah's second son, Clement, bought the Lower House. We are promised an introduction to the house's history by the staff.

We are working to a price of £40.00 per head, which is more than we normally pay, but the hotel is well known for its excellent food and we'll get great value for money. There will be a display of reflections and memories over the years since the formation of our Association in 1980.

Please contact Cynthia (tel: 01782 641765 or email: dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com) before the end of April with your indication of intent to attend. This will determine which room we will use on the night. It is not a commitment to attend; full details and booking form will be given in the next newsletter.

As indicated elsewhere in this Newsletter, at this event it is proposed to have a display and a presentation of photographic images spanning 1980 to 2020 – contributions to these will be welcomed.

Stop Press: I apologise to members for all the cancelled & hopefully rescheduled events but your safety must come first at this difficult time. If you haven't already heard news of a trip you had applied for please do contact me for current information on your cheques & future plans. All events in May & June have been cancelled. We are, when this goes to press, working on the premise that events planned for July onwards may be possible, or at least rescheduled dates be available, but Booking Forms are not being included at this time. Keep safe & keep in touch. Marion Lycett, Programme Organiser

Donations

Since the last report on Donations published in The Newsletter we have made one donation. The committee decided to recognise the effort put into a special talk for us on the Capriccios by Gemma Roberts, House and Collections Manager, together with another special project at Shugborough by giving £500 for the restoration of The Temple of The Winds.

We have also begun a programme of applications under The Landfill Communities Fund to benefit qualifying schemes at National Trust properties on our doorstep. The applications, if successful, will result in a much larger donation to the projects at no extra cost to us. For instance if we give £2,000 it could attract additional funding of another £18,000 to a qualifying scheme. The schemes being worked on at the moment concern car park repairs, drainage and a bridge at Down's Bank and planting Parkland Trees at Shugborough. We are also interested in a project at Biddulph Grange Gardens, but do not have details yet.

Our funds for these LCF grant assisted cases are being reserved, but if they do not come to fruition within the next year or so, donations to other schemes in the National Trusts local Wish List will be substituted in their place.

These applications under the LCF could enable us to benefit Trust projects to a significant extent at a time when our opportunities for adding to our donations fund as a result of surplus on activities, are reduced or non-existent.

Ralph

Newsletter Delivery

There have been recent instances where delivery of the Newsletter has been delayed for one reason or another, placing some members at a disadvantage in booking trips. While we stress that our best measures are taken to ensure that all Newsletters are posted at the same time and place, we cannot account for variations in delivery times. To alleviate the impact of this in future we will aim to post on a Monday (or a Tuesday if a bank holiday), normally around the 15th of the month, or after Boxing Day for the December edition (subject to review each year). The actual date will be published in the Stop Press on the website, and an on-line copy of the Newsletter will be available two days later. If you have not received your copy by then you may contact the organiser of any particular trip to express your interest.

Membership

We have pleasure in announcing and welcoming the following new members to date since the last newsletter: Olga Cooper, Jenny Latham, Alan & June Botfield, and Gerald Doyle. This takes our membership to 352.

NT Membership Discount A reminder that a discount on the general National Trust membership subscription is available to eligible members – see Newsletter 110 or their website for more details.

Photographic Archives

A reminder that Kay Williams, would be grateful for some photos/leaflets from visits when she is not there herself; prints or digital images are equally acceptable. See inside the back cover for Kay's contact details. In particular this year we seek more images reflecting NSNTA activities over 40 years both for the archives and the Christmas Dinner presentations.

The editor acknowledges and thanks contributors of photographs included in this issue, and also for any photos sent but not used. 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. *We still haven't managed to start posting more photos on the website but hopefully it may happen soon!*

Reviews of Recent Events

Tuesday 19th November: Talk: Penny Wheat, My Life and Work as a Silversmith.

Penny addressed us without the usual visual aids but instead brought with her enough tools, examples of her work, books and photographs to cover three tables. In a humorous light-hearted talk she entertained us with stories of her early career as an art mistress, leading to 36 years at Stafford College where she taught silversmithing. She talked us through the whole process from initial idea, gleaned from a whole variety of sources, to final buff and polish of the finished article. I particularly enjoyed her witty take on earrings, no boring matching pairs for Penny – a dog on one earlobe chased a bone on the other, a cat naturally pursued a fish, a monkey followed a banana etc! Her work was not confined to jewellery, however, and she showed us beautiful keyholders, chess pieces and salt and pepper cellars, the last especially designed to make their use easier for people with arthritic hands. Her history of hallmarking and assay offices was also interesting and she explained the significance of the different marks one could find on silver. In all, this was a most enjoyable evening and it is not surprising that she is in such demand that she often is called upon to give three talks a week.

Rose Wheat (no relation!)

Wednesday 4th December: Annual Christmas Meal @Potbank



As relatively new members of the North Staffordshire National Trust Janet and I were delighted with the friendly atmosphere and seeing many of the NSNT members for the first time it made the evening a memorable occasion.

The venue too was a walk down memory lane for me as during my working life I spent many hours surveying the mechanical services at the

Spode factory to enable my company to carry out work there, so I was most pleased to see what was being done with the factory and the use that was being made of it. Another place for me to consider when arranging similar events.

The entertainment after an excellent dinner was provided by Holly Reynolds. Holly's love of all things 50's and 60's she told us started at an early age, so her music and singing was just right for the majority of us on the night and encouraged many to get up and sing along.

Our thanks go to Cynthia and David Dumbelton for arranging the splendid evening, Richard and Jane Mayer, Marion and Mike Lycett who gently persuaded us to buy raffle tickets and for arranging the many prizes.



Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a memorable evening.

David Hood.

Tuesday 21st January: Talk: Martin Tideswell - The changing face of Journalism.

Martin has more than thirty years' experience in journalism and has been Editor-in-Chief of the Sentinel, Stoke-on-TrentLive, the Staffordshire Newsletter and the Post and Times series for five years and is the first local editor in more than forty years. As such, he is in the best position possible to tell us about the changing face of journalism and he did so in an excellent presentation which was informative, entertaining and lucid.

It was also at times very depressing as he found the future of print journalism most uncertain and predicted that in less than twenty years newspapers will have given way to digital. He was also concerned about the degree of fake news, propaganda and misinformation which can be found in sections of the current press and the abuse of social

media. It was disheartening to learn that bad news on the front page attracts more sales, the opposite of what most readers would tell you they want, and it was downright disturbing to hear of the number of threats, including death threats, that his staff receive on a regular basis.

On the positive side, The Sentinel is still doing well in comparison with many other regional newspapers and is proud of the many successful campaigns it has championed and its continuing engagement with the local community.

Martin was extremely generous with his time when answering the plethora of questions from the audience and had I not called time at nine o'clock we would have been there many hours longer, I'm sure. We look forward to Martin fulfilling his undertaking to send a journalist to write a piece on this Association after one of our talks.

Rose Wheat

Monday 24th February: Car outing: Brynkinalt Hall.

This was a repeat of the trip of Tuesday 19th November 2019. Happily, the optimistic hope of running two car trips into Wales in the Winter was not in vain.

Altogether over seventy adventurers braved an early start, threatening weather and latterly, road closures and floods, to reach this fascinating but not widely known house.



People were struck immediately by the warmth of the welcome emanating from two sources, the delightful chatelaine and the biomass boiler.

The house has been occupied by the Hill-Trevor family since the present house was built in the early seventeenth century. From the twenty-first century Summer sitting room one can see down one of the longest enfilades in the country through four centuries of style and comfort. The overall impression was of a light and airy house, beautifully maintained.

To illustrate the challenge it represents we were told how the works had been analysed into those the parents could manage in their lifetime and those which the children would be expected to tackle in their turn. I particularly enjoyed seeing how the rooms were arranged for convenient family living and larger scale entertaining. A disorganised person could walk miles out of one's way.

Mrs. Hill-Trevor did not stint on energy, giving both groups identical tours with no illuminating story or artefact omitted. She was a very generous hostess considering her responsibilities on the estate and in the house. One could not have told from her

demeanour that immediately on our departure she had to focus on preparing for corporate house guests arriving by helicopter.

I will ask Marion if we can consider this car sharing alternative in future; it has a lot to recommend it in difficult earthbound conditions.

I really enjoyed sharing the house with such appreciative parties. The owners welcomed our contribution to some more stonework repairs.

Ralph

Tuesday 25th February: Talk: Jean Finney - The Origin of Nursery Rhymes.

Jean gave us an interesting insight into the history of a great number of nursery rhymes. She engaged the audience in an amusing and thorough way, explaining the historical background which held the members' attention from start to finish. This was delivered with absolute enthusiasm and she spoke for an hour without notes. Jean involved the audience by encouraging them to participate in the nursery rhymes and then astonishing us with a clear explanation of the real meaning of the text. I think we were surprised at the darkness of the meaning, but the words just encapsulated how difficult a time it was during the 16th and 17th Centuries.

Whenever we hear three blind mice, Georgy Porgy, Mary, Mary quite contrary and many others I am sure we will remember a very successful evening delivered by an outstanding speaker.

David Morgan

Wednesday 11th March: Coach Trip: Shibden Hall and Piece Hall Halifax.

Upon leaving the coach and after a short walk through woodland, Shibden Hall appeared before us – a small Elizabethan house, nestled in the lea of a hill, which has recently become known world-wide because of its one-time owner Anne Lister (1791-1840), a prolific writer and traveller. She achieved notoriety because of her candid diaries, written in code, concerning her lesbian relationships.



Anne made several alterations to the Hall, both internally and externally, notably a stone tower built to house her library. The interior of the Hall has a cosy and homely feel with its dark furniture, panelling and carpets. A short flight of stairs gives access to the bed-rooms appropriately furnished but each quite small. A series about Anne Lister entitled "Gentleman Jack" was set here and recently aired on television and a

second series is to follow. This publicity has led to visitors coming to Shibden from as far away as Australia.

Back in the town of Halifax we visited the Calderdale Industrial Museum where we were split into groups to visit its many preserved Workshops housing massive cast iron machines



down to wooden carpet-weaving looms – in fact every machine needed to produce the goods associated with our industrial past. We were given working demonstrations of the various machines by volunteer guides who were only too pleased to share their knowledge and skills with us. It was at this venue that we ate our pre-ordered lunch.

We next visited the vast open space of the Piece Hall enclosed by stone colonnades where weavers would sell their "pieces" of cloth – these being each 30 yards long. Built in 1779 the Piece Hall is the only one now remaining in the world. Having been given an introductory talk we were free to explore this imposing structure at leisure.



We left Halifax in late afternoon tired but having enjoyed a truly interesting day. Many thanks to Cynthia for a well organised outing.

Shirley Timmis

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Summary of Programme Summer 2020

*These were the originally planned dates – subject to revision to be advised!
Those marked * definitely cancelled or postponed, remainder under review.*

May	
Tuesday 12 th	*AGM and talk: Hilary McGrady, Director General NT.
Wednesday 13 th	*Car Trip: Evening canal cruise with fish and chip supper
Thursday 21 st	*Coach Trip: Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedrals
June	
Monday 8 th	*Car Trip: Dunham Massey, Altrincham, WA14 4SJ
Mon 22 nd - Fri 26 th	*Coach trip: Association Scottish Holiday.
July	
Thursday 2 nd	Car Trip: Visit to a Woodland Craftsman
Tuesday 14 th	Coach Trip: Boughton House, Kettering, Northants.
Saturday 25 th	Walk: Three waterways of Stoke-on-Trent.
August	
Tuesday 11 th	Coach trip: William Booth Museum and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.
September	
Tuesday 15 th	Coach Trip: Ledbury and Weston's Cider Mill.
Tuesday 22 nd	Talk: Henry Birks - The Forgotten Artists of North Staffordshire
Wednesday 30 th	Car Trip: Crewe Heritage Centre
October	
Fri 9 th - Sun 11 th	Coach Trip: Mini Holiday to Salisbury.
Tuesday 20 th	Talk: John Pomfret - Braunston: The History of a Canal Village
November	
Tuesday 17 th	Talk: Kath Reynolds - The Famous Folk of Stoke
December	
Wednesday 2 nd	Christmas Dinner and photo exhibition

This Newsletter (along with previous editions) is available on the website.