



North Staffordshire National Trust Association

**Newsletter No. 118
Winter-Spring 2021**

Anniversary Edition

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 118 Winter-Spring 2021

A Note from the Chair



Dear Members,

On behalf of the committee and myself I would like to wish everyone a very joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. We are optimistic that a normal local National Trust service will be resuming this year and that all the trips and speakers we have prepared will go ahead. I think that when a rich variety of activities suddenly ceases we do appreciate how much they are valued and that the cultural and spiritual aspects of one's life are of immense importance, not to mention the friendship and companionship which naturally go hand in hand.

As this is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the local National Trust we have included in the newsletter reminiscences and reminders of what has been a very successful organisation and has given many members much enjoyment.

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Best wishes,

David

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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 March** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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

Once again we have no recent events to review and no new ones to announce, so, since we were unable to hold any planned celebrations of this, our 40th anniversary year, have decided to devote this edition of the Newsletter to a retrospect of the time since the Association was formed.

To thank everyone for their continuing support through our enforced “year off”, all memberships will be renewed automatically in 2021, for a further 12 months at NO CHARGE. So the next time we will be asking you for any payment will be in January, May or September 2022 as appropriate. Please feel free to change the renewal date on your membership card from ‘21 to ‘22. If your membership number starts with 40, please change it now to 41.

Grateful thanks to our archivist Kay Williams for selecting and forwarding items from the earlier years, and to all others who have contributed to this issue. Disappointing not to have had more from others who might have had memories to share! If we have inadvertently failed to acknowledge or obtain permission for any copyright material we apologise – please let the editor know and the items will be removed from or attributions added to archive copies. A reminder that Kay is always seeking additional material to add to her collection, and the Newsletter welcomes articles for inclusion, or for addition to the archives on the website.

This review contains only a small selection of photographs available. By the time you receive this a wider selection (and larger images) should be available on the website (see The Archive) – if not keep looking! We have also been threatening to place more photographs of events on line: it has actually started in a small way and should keep growing. Check out the Archive, List of past visits and outings, and look for the [Photos] tag against an event, e.g. Suffolk Holiday 2019. There’s even a video clip of The Pair of Piddlers in action!

It would be optimistic to expect little more to report in the next Newsletter in April. There certainly won’t be any events to review, and it will be early days in the preparation of a new programme. In which case we will be looking for more material to publish. We welcome more memories from the past, and thank Paul Anderton for his suggestions that members might submit short pieces about National Trust matters. He continues “The present fuss about where the NT goes in the future whatever the virus circumstances could be too provocative for some, but should be encouraged in my view. Copies of newsletters should automatically be sent to HQ as a means of informing authority what actually happens on the ground. What better way of allowing HQ to see what members think than articles in newsletters. Other topics might be ‘My favourite NT house’: ‘A walk around NT lands’ (Barlaston Downs?); ‘A comparative study of NT scones sampled in various cafés’; ‘NT Room Guides and what one should contain’ or what living ones should be able to explain etc etc.”

We start with Peter Wilson's reminiscences:

Forty Years On

It is sobering to realise that one has been a member of anything for 40 years. Although not one of the actual founder members, I did join the Association (as member number 44) shortly after its formation in 1980. I was already aware that plans for this new organisation were afoot. A few months beforehand, an item appeared in the then Evening Sentinel, inviting members of the Trust who were interested in the possibility of setting up a local association to a meeting in the Queen's Hall, Burslem. Although I did not attend, I knew a man who did – George Bettelley, who became well-known to many as the first Chairman of the provisional committee which was formed at that meeting, and went on to chair the Association during its formative years.

The provisional committee agreed to be responsible, with support from David Brown, the Trust's Regional Information Officer, for setting up the new Association, with the objectives of aiding the work of the Trust, recruiting new members, and lending "more purpose to membership". Local members of the Trust were invited to a further meeting, which I did attend, to hear more about plans for the Association, and if so inclined, to join.

Early on, I was invited to join the Programme Advisory Panel, which (as now) had the job of coming up with ideas for events (outings, talks etc.) for approval by the main Committee, and for actually organising those which went ahead. We were a lively and enthusiastic group, chaired by Pat Bentley, who kept us largely on the straight and narrow, so that we came up with a varied programme which was usually received favourably by the Committee and, more importantly, by the members, whose number increased rapidly.

Our first coach outing was, as I recall, to Erdigg (then newly-opened by the Trust) and Chirk Castle, and was so well-subscribed that we filled two Happy Days coaches. Unfortunately one of the coaches broke down en route, but a replacement soon arrived so that the arrival at Erdigg was not too delayed. Coach and car outings continued, as now, to be popular and often over-subscribed. At that time we did not allocate specific coach seats with confirmation of booking, so that in order to secure the seat of your choice, you had to arrive early at the departure point, and members certainly did. Neither did we take turns for those on either side of the coach to disembark first, so that arrival at our destination could result in a genteel scrum, although members were usually very polite about it.

Fairly early on, we included weekends away in our programme. I remember in particular a weekend in Northumberland, when we visited Cragside. Many of you will be familiar with this spectacular house in its very dramatic hillside setting. To add to the drama, shortly after we arrived there, we heard a loud explosion. As Cragside had been the home of William Armstrong, industrialist and armaments manufacturer, we wondered whether this had been arranged to remind visitors of the house's past associations. It turned out

that one of our coach tyres had burst; fortunately the tyre was replaced by the time we were due to leave.

After the first year the original Treasurer, Allan Townsend, stood down, and I was asked by George if I would take over. As Treasurer, I was promoted to the Committee, which I enjoyed. At that time, most of the committee members were working, so meetings were held in the evenings. I continued as Treasurer until 1988, when I moved to work away from North Staffordshire. Over the next few years I lost touch with the Association, but rejoined when I returned to this area, and then when I retired I became more involved again. Until this year and the effects of covid-19, I have enjoyed taking a turn in the organisation of walks in particular.

By 1986 (I see from copies of minutes which I still have), we had 464 members. That year saw a number of notable events locally. Volunteers from the Association (with colleagues from the Stafford NT Centre) staffed the Trust's stand at the National Garden Festival held in Stoke (on the site of the former Shelton Iron & Steel Works, now known as Festival Park).

Also in 1986, the Trust acquired and started the restoration of Biddulph Grange Garden, and this became the focus of our fundraising for a while. We gave an initial donation of £3,000, and in return members were invited to a reception at Biddulph Grange. Including a tour of the garden when the Trust's restoration plans were explained to us. In October 1987 the Biddulph Male Voice Choir (still very active today) put on a concert in the Victoria Hall, Hanley, in collaboration with the Association, to raise funds for Biddulph Grange. The Choir and Association together raised over £3,000. Once the restored garden was ready to open, a number of Association members volunteered as stewards.

At the time when the Association was formed, membership of the National Trust reached 1 million. The number of members has increased to over 5 million, which indicates the level of demand for all that the Trust can offer. I still sometimes meet people locally who have been members of the Trust for some time, but are unaware of the existence of the Association, and are interested in joining, which I encourage them to do.

I joined the newly-formed Association because, having been a member of the Trust since 1976, I was keen to become more involved. Through the Association, I gained a greater insight into the Trust and its work, visited and experienced many Trust (and other) places and events which I might not otherwise have discovered, and met people who I would otherwise not have known, many of whom became friends. It seemed to me that, from the outset, the Association met a need in the local area which had previously not been acknowledged, and which, from the continued popularity of events (once the covid-19 situation permits) still remains. I hope that the Trust, and the Association, will continue to thrive in the post-pandemic world.

Peter Wilson



The inaugural meeting of the new North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members was held at the Queen's Theatre, Burslem. The new association chairman, Mr. George Bettelley, left, discusses the agenda with Mr. Peter Gifford, regional chairman of the Trust, with the Lord Mayor, Mrs. Mary Stringer, and the Mayor of Newcastle, Mr. Harold Cork, looking on.

1st April 1980

Photo: Sentinel



24th March 1981

Photo: Evening Sentinel

Newspaper cutting about the inaugural meeting of the North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members, held at Queen's Theatre, Burslem. [K_IMG025]

George Bettelley, first Chairman of the Association officially handing over 2 garden seats for use at Little Moreton Hall, received by Stanley Middlemiss, the Hall administrator. Also in the picture, Pat Bentley, Programme Secretary and Allen Townsend, Treasurer. [K_IMG026]



1985

Photo: Kay Williams



1987

Photo: Kay Williams

Sudbury Hall: Edwardian Extravaganza. L. to R. Frank Darling, Mrs. Lunt, Sheila Darling, Alun Davies, Angela Davies, Harold Yardley, Pat Bentley, Bob Hewett, Peggy Hewett, Roy Walton, George Bettelley [K_IMG027]

Normandy visit. Party photo on return ferry [K_IMG020]



21st May 1988

Photo: Kay Williams

John Taylor's Bell Foundry, Loughborough

[K_IMG029]



27th May 1989

Photo: Mary & Harold
Yardley

George Bettelley 80th birthday

[IMG_20201111_151734_HDR]



September 1989

Photo: Mary & Harold
Yardley

Moat House,
[IMG_20201111_151920_HDR]

Harrogate



1990

Photo: Kay Williams

10th Anniversary birthday cake, baked,
decorated and donated by Mr. J. Lycett,
retired master baker of Newcastle. [K_IMG028]



31st October 1990

Photo: Harold Yardley



3rd November 1990

Photo: Kay Williams

George Bettelley, shortly before he died.
[K_IMG031]

Attingham Park: Celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the Association. L to R, front row: Harold Yardley, Muriel Salt, Graham Salt, Alun Davies (back), Pat Bentley, Margaret Roberts, Frank Darling (back), George Bettelley, Stephen Protheroe (back), Angela Davies, Penny Moore, Margaret Richards (all Committee). [K_IMG019]



13th September 1994

Photo: Kay Williams



1995

Photo: Maddy Hopley

New College, Oxford: Visited on way back from Portsmouth/New Forest/West Sussex holiday. [K_IMG030]

Exeter Holiday [IMG_20201123_085552203]



1995

Photo: Maddy Hopley

Exeter Holiday [IMG_20201123_085846169]



Lord Chorley
Chairman of the National Trust
requests the pleasure of the company of

Mrs P. Bentley

at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace
by gracious permission and in the presence of
Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales
on Thursday 20th July 1995 from 4 to 6 p.m.
to celebrate the Centenary of the National Trust

20th July 1995

Photo: Kay Williams

Invitation to Pat Bentley to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, to celebrate the centenary of the National Trust. [K_IMG032]



Lord Chorley
Chairman of the National Trust
requests the pleasure of the company of

Mrs P. Moore

at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace
by gracious permission and in the presence of
Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales
on Thursday 20th July 1995 from 4 to 6 p.m.
to celebrate the Centenary of the National Trust

20th July 1995

Photo: Kay Williams

Invitation to Penny Moore to Buckingham Palace Garden Party, to celebrate Centenary of the National Trust (see similar in first set for Pat Bentley). [K_IMG023]



13th September 1995

Photo: Maddy Hopley

The Chichester Hotel [IMG_20201123_114312490]



28th June 1996

Photo: Kay Williams

1997

Photo: Sentinel

Invitation to Penny Moore to lecture 'The garden at Highgrove' to be given by the Prince of Wales and Rosemary Verey at the Opera House, Buxton. [K_IMG022]

Presentation of cheque for £3,234 54p for Biddulph Grange Garden Appeal, the proceeds of a concert by Biddulph Male Voice Choir in the Victoria Hall. [K_IMG024]



1st July 1997

Photo: Mary & Harold Yardley



3rd September 1998

Photo: Kay Williams

Lord Neidpath at Stanway House [IMG_20201111_145248_HDR]

Holiday in Wells. [K_IMG034]



1999

Photo: Maddy Hopley



26th April 2002

Photo: Kay Williams

Tattersall Castle on Lincolnshire Holiday
[IMG_20201123_085240872]

A visit to the Dutch Bulb Fields and the Floriade - a mini-cruise. Group near M.V. Virginia, the floating hotel [K_IMG035]



16th May 2004

Photo: Kay Williams



18th April 2005

Photo: Kay Williams

In the garden of the Bedford Hotel, Tavistock, during holiday. [K_IMG037]

Sheffield. [K_IMG017]



1st January 2008

Photo: Kay Williams

Presentation to Penny Moore by David Watts, Property Manager at Little Moreton Hall, in recognition of her 25 years as a volunteer at the Hall. [K_IMG021]



18th March 2009

Photo: Kay Williams

Coach outing to Birmingham Council House. [K_IMG008]



16th October 2010

Photo: Kay Williams

Group at the Olympic site for 2012 Games, during the London holiday 'Our London - a personal journey', organized by Cynthia and David Dumbelton. [K_IMG007]



7th April 2011

Photo: Kay Williams

Members on car outing to Biddulph Old Hall. [K_IMG009]

2011 saw the conclusion of Anne Anderton's 20-year reign as Chair of the Association. Here she reviews her time in post.

Recollections of Time as Chair

When I became Chair of the Association over 20 years ago, I followed the excellent example of Penny Moore who had set such high standards, and who continued to organise many successful holidays and outings. In those pre-Google days each possible outing needed a preliminary visit to check the venue in meticulous detail, including the location of toilets, the price of scones and tea and the exact width between the gateposts of any entrance the coach had to pass through. I visited so many places of interest up and down the country, enjoyed delicious lunches and teas, and saw many beautiful gardens - all in the company of friendly NT members, many of whom helped in the arrangements.

I met dozens of interesting speakers and learned about new subjects, but always had my fingers crossed that the rather uncertain slide projection facilities that were then at the Institute would actually work!

Although fund-raising was our principal objective, fun was what we usually had, and many friendships developed through committee meetings and the variety of events we held. We were well supported then by HQ and had regional meetings each year when we exchanged news and ideas with other Associations. We regarded Little Moreton Hall as our own special property, and enjoyed a friendship with the Manager, Stephen Adams – a very large man with an equally large laugh and a huge fund of entertaining stories about living in the Hall and meeting the many visitors there.

Weather was something we could never control. Paul and I organised a Lake District holiday and we had wonderful September sunshine all week, but I also remember a summer day trip I arranged to Welshpool and Chirk Castle when the torrential rain never stopped. Members sloshed and squelched around both places without complaint and declared they had enjoyed the day – what heroes!

I have such happy memories of being Chair, so well supported by all the members, and I was pleased to pass on the baton to other very capable people.

Anne Anderton

We continue with a selection of photographs from 2012 – 2014. Reviews of these events are of course covered in the Newsletters at the time but this adds photographs you may not have seen. It may be possible to continue this series for more recent years depending on space in future Newsletters.



23rd June 2012

Photo: Kay Williams

Members at Witley Court. [K_IMG011]



12th July 2012

Photo: Kay Williams

Members at Abbey Cwm Hir. [K_IMG015]



16th August 2012

Photo: Kay Williams

Members at Bitterley Court, Shropshire. [K_IMG058]



9th October 2012

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

David supervising his purchases at the Halfpenny Green Wine Estate. [DSCF4104]



9th October 2012 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

On the winery tour [DSCF4116]



9th October 2012 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Looking at the grapes just picked [DSCF4118]



29th August 2013 Photo: Marion Lycett

Wrest Park on way to London Holiday [IMG_3343]



30th August 2013 Photo: Kay Williams

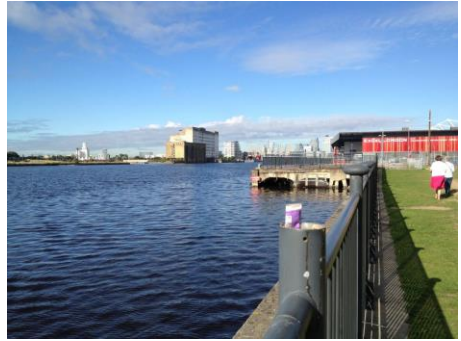
Members at St. Pancras Town Hall, during the London holiday. [K_IMG045]



30th August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

London Holiday [IMG_3355]



30th August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

London Holiday [IMG_0855]



30th August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

London Holiday [IMG_3369]



30th August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

Dinner at the Old Whitbread Brewery
[IMG_3382]



30th August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

London Holiday [IMG_3393]



31st August 2013

Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

Thames Clipper boat to the Globe Theatre
[SAM_0637]



31st August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

London Holiday [IMG_3400]



31st August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

London Holiday [IMG_3406]



31st August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

Outside the Globe Theatre [IMG_0859]



31st August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

Globe Theatre [IMG_0863]



31st August 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

Globe Theatre [IMG_0865]



1st September 2013

Photo: Kay Williams

Members in Rotherhithe, during London holiday organized once again by Cynthia and David. [K_IMG013]



1st September 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

Visiting the Thames Barrier [IMG_3407]



1st September 2013

Photo: Marion Lycett

Visiting the Thames Barrier [IMG_3411]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall, Burnley Weekend [IMG_4801]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4802]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4807]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4811]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4812]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4813]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4815]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4822]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4824]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4827]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4828]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Towneley Hall [IMG_4836]



26th September 2014 Photo: Cynthia Dumbelton

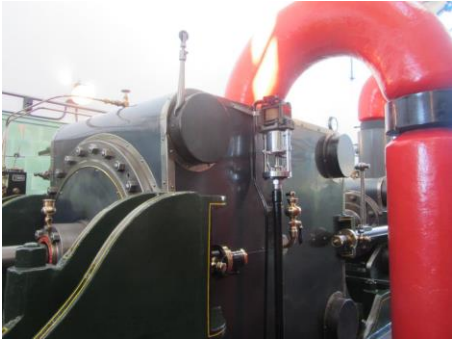
Queen Street Mill Textile Museum [SAM_2654]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum [IMG_4846]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum [IMG_4849]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum [IMG_4854]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum [IMG_4857]



26th September 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burnley [IMG_4860]



27th September 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett

Gawthorpe Hall, Burnley [IMG_4867]



27th September 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett

Gawthorpe Hall, Burnley [IMG_4876]



27th September 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett

Howarth Art Gallery, Burnley [IMG_4882]



27th September 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett

Howarth Art Gallery, Burnley [IMG_4883]



27th September 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett
Howarth Art Gallery, Burnley [IMG_4884]



27th September 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett
Howarth Art Gallery, Burnley [IMG_4887]



14th October 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett
Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_4998]



14th October 2014 Photo: Marion Lycett
Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_5003]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_5004]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_5005]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_5010]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_5014]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh - Fairfield Arts Centre [IMG_5015]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

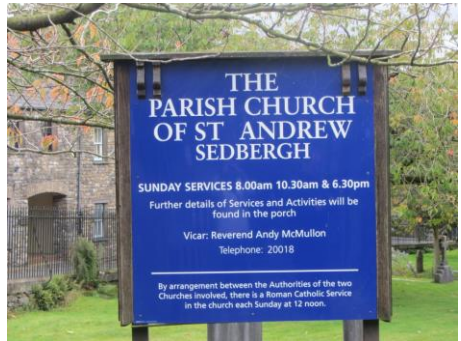
Sedburgh [IMG_5019]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh [IMG_5025]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh [IMG_5032]



14th October 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Sedburgh [IMG_5033]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1808]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1810]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1811]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1812]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1814]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1815]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1816]



4th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

Burleigh Pottery Trip [IMG_1818]



11th November 2014

Photo: Marion Lycett

NT meeting at Conference Centre [IMG_1823]

A reminder that the website contains a list of events going back to 2000, plus a few before that, and Newsletters back to Issue 63, August 2002. It is also intended to add the historical content of this Newsletter, which may be expanded as material becomes available. If you can contribute information or items to add they will be most welcome.

Images on the website are of reduced resolution to speed up downloading and optimise disk space. Higher resolution images may be available on request. All items are copyright and permission of the owner must be sought before copying any material,

The following is a list of events that were scheduled for 2020 but were cancelled, but we hope to reschedule where possible in the coming year.

Talk: David Skillen - A general introduction to the American Civil War.

Car Trip: Crewe Hall.

Walk: Tittesworth Reservoir and Lunch at Three Horseshoes.

Car Trip: Dorothy Clive Garden.

Talk: Danny Wells - Cooks Tours.

Car Trip: Pipes in the Peaks Organ Museum, inc. lunch.

Coach Trip: R. Mersey Cruise, U Boat 534, lunch at Adelphi & Walker Art Gallery.

AGM and talk: Hilary McGrady, Director General NT.

Car Trip: Evening canal cruise with fish and chip supper.

Coach Trip: Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedrals.

Car Trip: Dunham Massey, Altrincham, WA14 4SJ.

Car Trip: Visit to a Woodland Craftsman.

Coach Trip: Boughton House, Kettering, Northants.

Walk: Three waterways of Stoke-on-Trent.

Coach trip: William Booth Museum and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.

Coach Trip: Ledbury and Weston's Cider Mill.

Talk: Henry Birks - The Forgotten Artists of North Staffordshire

Car Trip: Crewe Heritage Centre.

Coach Trip: Mini Holiday to Salisbury.

Talk: John Pomfret - Braunston: The History of a Canal Village.

Talk: Kath Reynolds - The Famous Folk of Stoke.

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