

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 123

Autumn 2022

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



On the Apedale walk on the old colliery site.

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 – 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 (01782 791360) by the **15th November** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 123 Autumn 2022 Programme

A Note From The Chair



I am writing this on the hottest day ever, (official) and having procrastinated for a long time, have been given extra time because the trip I was due on today has been cancelled for fear of heatstroke. This reason must be a first too.

By the time you read this , hopefully things will have calmed down. You will be able to relax with a chilled glass of Golden October from the southern slopes of Madeley and contemplate the bliss of having a new Prime Minister and a full diary of vaccinations to which to look forward.

It's gin and tonic weather at the moment and I see from the talks programme we have a double measure of Booth's in the Autumn.

Another tenuous link I can make is between the "My life in Showbiz " and "Blood Bikes" talks. A production of "Dracula" I designed needed photographs of the actors before the set was ready. I don't know now how I persuaded Birmingham Blood Bank to let us in! Not knowing much about Blood Bikes then, I feel I missed some good shots.

However, this piece is not about reminiscence, but looking forward to memorable occasions to come, organised by the extremely able Committee Members and Planning Colleagues.

I hope to see you soon and that you enjoy this programme which I have pleasure in commending to the House.

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 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.



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.

Some events book up very early, others more slowly. You can check with the organiser or the STOP PRESS on the web site if events are full or are undersubscribed, or if it has been necessary to change details or booking arrangements, availability etc. or there are other matters which may be of interest. Do let the organiser know if you are interested in an event but can't attend so the feasibility of repeating it on another date can be assessed. Remember also the web site has copies of past Newsletters going back to 2002, and also a list of past events. The latter is fairly sketchy for the earlier days so if you can add more information, dates, corrections etc., or have good copies of earlier Newsletters that could be added, please get in touch with the editor.

Thursday 1st September: Walk: Barlaston.

It does start with one hill but this is the only one! No hurry! We take a very scenic route to the Wedgwood factory for coffee. Then through Hem Heath Woods and back along the Canal tow path. About four miles easy walking.

There is an opportunity to have a coffee before we start, also lunch at the end, at the Plume and Feathers. I would advise booking in advance for lunch.

Meet at 10.00 at the Plume and Feathers car park in the centre of Barlaston ST12 9DH.

Directions: From the A34. Take the turn Signed Barlaston and a Green sign for The Upper House. Follow Tittensor Rd. Over the crossroads in the middle of the village. The pub is on your left just before the humped back bridge.

From, Leek or Cheadle direction: At "Meir Heath Car Wash" go straight across two roundabouts, down Windmill Hill, across another small roundabout and follow Hartwell Lane, which turns into Station Road, for 7miles. Down the hill and across the railway crossing. PLEASE indicate Right BEFORE you approach the humped back bridge. The Plume is on your Right at the BOTTOM of the bridge. There are 2 car parks, one each side of the Pub.

Suggested donation £3.00 (£4.00 non-members). Dogs and children welcome.

Please book your place with Janet Taylor, by email to tr15tag@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone 01782 372727 or 0796 795 4647.

Thursday 15th September: Coach Trip: Liverpool - Port Sunlight and the Lady Lever Art Gallery.

The coach will leave Newcastle at 8.15am for our morning visit to Port Sunlight village which was originally built by William Lever to house the workers at his nearby soap factory. William Lever had a strong sense of social responsibility and created a village with architecturally interesting buildings, open green spaces and an uplifting place to live and work.

On arrival, we will stop at the Bridge Inn for tea/coffee and biscuits (included) where we will be joined by a guide who will take us on a guided coach tour of the village. At 12 noon we will be dropped off at the Port Sunlight Museum and the Edwardian Worker's Cottage for a self-guided visit and film show taking about an hour.

Lunch is at own expense and can be bought at the Bridge Inn – menu at greeneking.co.uk – or the café at Lady Lever Art Gallery – google 'café at Lady lever Art Gallery' for menu, or you can bring a picnic.

In the afternoon you are free to do a self-guided tour of the beautiful Lady Lever Art Gallery. This was built by William - by now Lord Leverhulme – in memory of his late wife, Elizabeth, both of whom were keen collectors of art. Highlights include Victorian painters with many Pre-Raphaelite paintings, Wedgwood jasperware and classical antiquities. Details online at Lady Lever Art Gallery, click on Visit Information: Room Guide: scroll down and see Virtual Tour at the bottom. Navigate by tapping on where you want to go.

The museum is small and on one level but there is seating for the film show. The Cottage is tiny and has steep stairs to the upper rooms. The Art Gallery is on one level (stairs and lift down to the café) and has centre benches in the larger rooms.

We will re-join the coach at 4.20pm for our journey home arriving in Newcastle at c. 6.00pm.

Cost £27 (non-members £29). Cost to include coach & driver's tip, hot drink & biscuits, admission to Port Sunlight museum and guided coach tour, entry to the art gallery and National Trust donation.

Please apply to Jane Mayer, 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9PU, 01782 533476 janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk, including a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Tuesday 20th September: Talk: Antony Dejak - 'Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes'.

The SSCBB provide a service to the NHS and the general public, free of charge, which has helped to save many lives since its inauguration in 2014. Relying totally on volunteers it delivers blood products, emergency medical and surgical equipment

and even human breast milk to where they are needed, saving the NHS a great deal of money. A registered charity, it receives no government money and depends on donations from the community. This wonderful organization gives talks to groups such as ours in order to publicize its work – excellent talks too, as I have been informed by members who have heard them elsewhere.

Sunday 25th September: Car Trip: Pipes in the Peaks Organ Museum.

If you've not done so already there is still an opportunity to book for this unique venue, but places are limited so please apply asap. We will enjoy an afternoon of music provided by the wonderful sounds of the Mighty Compton organ played by Robert Wolfe, the resident organist at the Thursford Collection in Norfolk. The organ was purchased by the owner of Thorpe Garage, Dave Thorpe, in 1990 and completely restored over a number of years. The first concert took place in 1999 and they have been entertaining thousands of people with music old and new for over 20 years.

You will also be able to view the impressive collection of historical organs and musical artefacts – see links on our website for more information and to hear Robert Wolfe playing at Pipes in the Peaks.

Location: Dovedale Garage, Thorpe, Ashbourne DE6 2AT.

The venue opens at 2 pm and the concert starts at 2.30 pm. Tickets are £17.00 (£18.00 non-members). Please allow plenty of time to park and take your seats.

There is a very nice public house (The Old Dog) across the road from the venue where you could have lunch prior to the concert if you wish. You would need to book well in advance as it is a very popular venue. Tel: 01335 350990. Also in the area are the Izaak Walton Hotel in Dovedale and the National Trust Tea Room in Ilam.

Please apply to Joan Harvey using the booking form, including cheque and SAE (if you sent us a SAE for the cancelled 2020 concert then we have your SAE in hand).

Enquires: Tel: 0781 491 8792 / 01782 392737. Email: joanharvey694@gmail.com

Sunday 2nd October: Walk: Burston and Aston-by-Stone.

Five miles, easy walking, no hills.

This walk takes us through two small villages close to the River Trent. Burston is a pretty village with a Hall, a Church and a row of cottages by the duck pond. Aston-by-Stone is a bit larger, again with an impressive hall, two churches, old pasture land, and an oak tree planted in 1911 to mark the coronation of King George V.





We will follow the canal towpath from Burston to Aston, then return from Aston to Burston via a path through cornfields and a boardwalk through a wetland nature reserve.

The route is about 5 miles, no hills, and just two easy low stiles.

Please meet at the Greyhound Inn at Burston (ST18 0DR) in time for a 10.30am start. We expect to be back there by 1 o'clock when we have tables reserved for lunch – Sunday roast plus their regular weekday menu.

Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £4.00 for guests. Children and well-controlled dogs are welcome at no charge.

Please book your place with Richard Adams, by email, or by post with an SAE. rjadams@doctors.org.uk or 79 Whitmore Road, Newcastle ST5 3LZ.

Tuesday 4th October: Coach trip: National Justice Museum and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.

The National Justice Museum is housed in the centre of Nottingham in a former Victorian courtroom, prison and police station. An individual could be arrested, sentenced and executed on this site. The courtrooms date back to the 14th century. We will have a conducted tour and see where the prisoners were kept and what happened to them. The tour lasts about 60 minutes after which visitors can go round at free will. We will leave the Museum to go to Wollaton Hall at about 12.30 and have lunch there. The café sells drinks, sandwiches and some heated items but not full meals.

Wollaton Hall is an Elizabethan building erected in about 1585. It has a natural history museum inside and wildlife exhibits. We will have a conducted tour lasting about an hour where we can go to the roof from where there are wonderful views and down to the depths to see a Tudor kitchen. There are quite a lot of steps to climb or descend on the tour but there are lifts in some areas and parts of the tour need not be undertaken if considered too difficult. Five hundred acres of parkland surround the Hall with herds of red and fallow deer.

We will start from Brunswick Street in Newcastle at 9 am and leave Wollaton Hall at 4.30 pm.

Cost: £38 which includes coach travel, driver's tip, entry charge, guided tours and National Trust donation. Numbers are limited to 40 people.

Please apply to Sue Corlett, 24 The Covert, Clayton, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 4BL using a booking form and including a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Please address any enquiries to sue.corlett@btinternet.com or telephone 01782 719075. Closing date: Friday, 9th September.

Tuesday 18th October: Talk: Steve Booth - 'Lidice 1942 - its destruction and the part played by Staffordshire people in its re-birth'.

The infamous massacre and deportation of the inhabitants of the Czech village of Lidice, following the assassination of the Nazi Reinhard Heydrich, is well chronicled. Less well-known is the involvement of the people of North Staffordshire in the rebuilding of the destroyed village after the war, thanks mainly to the efforts of Dr. Barnett Stross and local coal miners. Hitler's intention that Lidice should die was thwarted by their efforts; 'Lidice Shall Live' was the rallying cry of the 3000 people who packed the auditorium of the Victoria Hall, Hanley in September 1942. The Czech President-in-Exile, Eduard Benes, promised 'From now on, Stoke-on-Trent will forever be in the heart of every Czech citizen'. Steve Booth will tell us of the tragedy of Lidice, its subsequent history and continuing links with this area.

Thursday 20th October: Car Trip: Staffordshire Wildlife Centre with a 2 hour guided tour.

The Association enjoyed a spring visit to the main base of the SWT in April and a second visit has been arranged to see the work done in the autumn. We shall also look for fungi with our guide, Mr. Alex Rogers, the warden at the Wolseley Centre.

10.30 Coffee available in the Kingfisher café overlooking one of the 2 lakes.
11-12.30 Walking tour of the reserve.

Cost £6 p.p., non-members £7. A light lunch is available every day in the Kingfisher café, at own expense.

Directions: Wolseley Bridge is on the A51, 18 miles south of Trentham Gardens. The post code is ST17 OWT. Tel 01889 880100 or visit www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk

Please send your booking form before 30 September to Anthea Bond with a cheque for the North Staffs National Trust Association and an s.a.e. for joining instructions. Enquiries: email AntheaBond@hotmail.com

Tuesday 15th November: Talk: Andrew van Duren - 'My Magic Life in Showbiz'.

Join performer, showman and raconteur Andrew van Buren, to hear his talk, 'My Life in Showbiz'. Born into a showbusiness family, hear about Andrew's background, what it's like growing up in theatres, film sets and the circus, tales of famous names and behind the scenes anecdotes. He has spent a lifetime touring the world with

adventures in the West End of London, on luxury cruise liners and in the Middle East and working for some of the world's biggest companies to a few gangsters. Hear about close shaves with dictators, life-threatening circumstances and becoming television's game-show expert – using plates.

Wednesday 21st December: Christmas Lunch at Crown Wharf.

No details of this lunch - menu and price - will be available until October so we need to be patient. This is an exciting new venue which I'm certain will appeal to you and you can read more about it below. The Boardroom is booked for our exclusive use. If you think this would be of interest, please register your interest by sending an email to me, dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com, and I will let you know more when details are available. If you don't use the internet, please ring me on 01782 641765 and I will put you on the list.

Crown Wharf, Joule's Brewery flagship Brewery Tap, stands on the canal-side location of the original Joule's Brewery on Crown Street, Stone. Ever since completing the fourth Joule's Brewery in Market Drayton back in 2010 Joule's has been looking for the perfect site to home their Stone Taphouse. None came close to what they were looking for so they decided to build their own, their very first new-build Tap.

What has emerged is a building with an eclectic decorative collection of artefacts amassed from pubs around the area. It also encompasses a theatre for the Stone Revellers complete with storage for costumes and scenery.



We will have lunch in the light and airy Board Room on the first floor of this interesting new development by the Trent and Mersey Canal in Stone. The building incorporates many artefacts collected by Steve Nuttall from Joules' pubs in the area, including old pub signs, jugs, even doors.

Advance Programme

For your information we are in the process of planning 2023 events and looking at a Coach Holiday again, possibly in early July, to venues in the Northumberland area. Details of this should be in the next Newsletter but will need prompt applications to meet deadlines for June. We are also considering a mini break to Salisbury in October 2023.

Marion Lycett.

Have Your Say!

A reminder that the committee is always anxious to know members' views on the activities of the NSNTA. Do we have the right mix of events or are there other activities you would like to see included?

Please let the Programme Co-ordinator, the Editor or any member of the committee know your views, even if it's "no change" so we can get a balanced view, or if there is any other aspect of management of the Associations or even the National Trust as a whole that you would like to bring to their attention.

Membership

We have pleasure in announcing and welcoming the following who have joined since we last welcomed new members: Vivienne Dixon, Peggy Martin and Lesley Rollason. Current membership is 294. Spread the word for more members!

NT Membership Discount A reminder that a discount on the general National Trust membership subscription is available to eligible members – 60 or over and having held an individual or joint membership for at least five of the last ten years.

You'll pay £57.60 for an individual senior membership and if you hold a joint senior membership it's £95.40.

To claim the concession, please call **0344 800 1895**. If you pay by Direct Debit, make sure you ring before your next payment date.

Photographs

Many thanks for all the photographs submitted for inclusion in the reports that follow. For this edition they have been provided by the following – they are not acknowledged individually in the magazine but will be attributed on the website.

Chris Wain, Cynthia Dumbelton, John Leese, Marion Lycett, Ralph White, and Shirley Rathbone.

We have an abundance for many events (and a shortage for others!) so only a selection can be shown (and at a small scale!) due to the amount of material to be included in this edition, so apologies for those missed out. However a larger selection will be posted on the website, along with those featured here, and at a much larger scale, to give a better representation of our activities.

Also it is becoming a major problem managing non-original jpg images – some have already fallen by the wayside as I have lost track of them – apologies if yours are amongst them. In future it would be very helpful if only original jpg images from a digital camera, tablet or phone are sent, as attachments to emails. Advice can be given on copying and emailing files if required. (Obviously pre-digital archive photographs are an exception and can be handled appropriately.)

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.

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.

Booking / Enquiry Forms

It is preferable that organisers hold emergency contact details for members on trips should a situation arise. You are therefore invited, 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.

Reviews of Recent Events

Sunday 3rd April: Walk: Apedale Country Park

After a bitterly cold few days, the sun shone when we met at the Heritage Centre car park in the Apedale Community Country Park, www.apedale.co.uk. The colliery closed in 1998 and now there are large areas of grass and woodland, with small lakes, ideal for walks.

Many thanks to Richard Adams for organising this walk. He showed us the Grade II listed Watermills Chimney from 1840 with fine brickwork in a diaper pattern and Victorian mottoes, the last surviving structure of the Watermills Colliery which closed in 1912.

At the top of the first hill there is a huge metal winding wheel (see cover) which was bought from a colliery in Nottinghamshire for £100. It was restored and transported to Apedale at a cost of £15,000 in 2004.



The Silverdale Colliery was worked from 1792 to 1998, the last deep mine in North Staffordshire. Areas have odd names, the “Waste Farm Plateau” is at different levels, with a pool at the bottom. “The Void” is

a steeply sloping bowl attracting interesting birds. In 2015 this part of Silverdale Country Park was designated as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI) because of the locally-valued wildlife habitats.

Back at the Heritage Centre, we were able to have lunch and see the museum, which is open at weekends, free. Hourly guided tours of the mine are available at weekends, £8 for adults, £5 for children and seniors.

Anthea Bond

Tuesday 19th April: Address by Hilary McGrady, NT Director General, and Talk: David Skillen - 'Five Years in 50 Minutes - An Overview of the American Civil War'.

The following words are supposed to be an impression of what it was like to be at Hilary McGrady's address, however, I thought you might be interested in some behind the scenes observations as well.

Hilary, in a first visit ever by a Director General , gave the Association members a talk on the origin , purpose and future challenges of the National Trust.

She demonstrated a formidable set of organisational and interpersonal skills: she is the superb communicator her role needs.

The audience didn't know but right up the time she rose to speak, on the front row, we were rejigging the timings and googling alternative train times to the one booked.



She greatly expanded the time for the talk and meeting and confirmed afterwards she had a great time meeting the members.

She had a busy day flying in from Belfast, battling the security system on National Trust images, which wouldn't let her select items for us, radio and television interviews in the McCartney family home with Paul's brother, a New York style linear park in Manchester, and the highlight, tea at The Noah's Ark!

After the meeting I followed up members concerns about publicity and support for Associations. Hilary promised some help from the right people. The next day staff were in touch to help. It is thought the "Near

You " Magazine is more successful for local recruiting than the Handbook. Also we now have a plan and timescale for our Landfill Grant Applications to boost donations.

All in all it was a very successful meeting ,and some useful contacts have been made as a result.

Ralph White

After the address from Hilary McGrady and a short coffee break, we settled down for the civil war. David entertained and informed us throughout, and true to his brief he did cover the full five years of the Civil war in just 50 minutes.

I had not before appreciated the full scope of the war, in time, in geography with battles widespread across America both on land and at sea, in the appalling numbers of deaths and injuries sustained, and in the pivotal role it had in the development of the United States as we know it today. And yes, it was all about slavery, whatever some people may still believe.

We were reminded of many of those involved, whose names we knew but perhaps not their stories – including Robert E. Lee, John Brown, “Stonewall” Jackson, and even Ambrose Burnside, whose distinctive facial hair is now immortalised in the word sideburns.

It may seem a long time ago, but the last widow of a soldier from the war died just two years ago. OK, he was in his nineties and she was just 17 when they married, but it still counts.

David finished with a rendition of Lincoln’s 1863 Gettysburg Address, with his wish that “these dead shall not have died in vain” and that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Richard Adams

Thursday 28th April: Car Trip: Staffordshire Wildlife Centre with a 2 hour guided tour.

Today we visited The Wolseley Centre, run by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. How often we have driven past it on the way to Rugeley with no idea of the wealth that lies inside!

The Warden told us about the work of the Trust, which was founded in 1969 and now looks after as many as 32 reserves, of which this is the one which includes its headquarters. We heard about the Wolseley family which held the estate from the time of King Edgar, until the 11th – known as the bankrupt baronet – failed to make it pay its way as a pleasure garden, with unfortunate consequences! We saw the remains of the manor house (the family received license to crenellate in 1469, but it was demolished in the 1960s), the deer park, the ice house, the wild





flower meadow, the heritage fruit trees, the wildlife garden, and the herb garden. The route then took us around the largest lake, where we walked alongside the river and could see boats moving on the canal.

The trust takes very seriously its educational work with school-children, who are very fond of the “welly-

splash”. (Your reporter followed that part of the route, purely in the interests of research, you understand!). We heard a lot about how the Trust manages the land in the interests of promoting botanical diversity.

The kingfisher did not put in an appearance – but at least we met and talked to the photographers waiting patiently for him in the hide. Next time, maybe!

Christopher Wain



Wednesday 4th May: Coach Trip: Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedrals.



1898 Daimler, said to be the first petrol driven car in the world.

After 2 years and a faltering start our first National Trust coach trip, post-Covid, eventually took place with a visit to Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedral, with the added bonus for those who were interested, a visit to nearby the Hebert Art Gallery.

Coventry. A fantastic museum devoted to the British car industry, from 2 wheels to Jet engine powered land speed record breakers, and also the home to the world's two fastest cars -Thrust SSC and Thrust 2, both of which look more like rockets than cars!

There is also a sizeable collection of cycles ranging from the earliest bone shakers and penny farthings to the latest safety cycles. Also, how interesting it was to learn about the history of Coventry's significant contribution to the cycle industry from the early Victorian period to the present day.

The second half of the day was spent visiting Coventry Cathedral. The 'new' contemporary Cathedral, (not to everyone's taste!) designed by Sir Basil Spence, is the third cathedral on the site.



The second cathedral bombed during the second world war, is now a ruined shell with only the tower, spire and outer wall still surviving. Our knowledgeable guide detailed the history of the 3 cathedrals and explained the current ethos of peace and reconciliation between nations.

It was brilliant to be part of a coach trip that brought together so many members and old friends after such a long period of inactivity. It was a tribute to Bob that the trip finally went ahead and was a great success. Furthermore, since that day our meetings, car outings and coach trips have all demonstrated a renewed togetherness within our local National Trust Association.

Richard Mayer

Sunday 15th – Thursday 19th May 2022: Scottish Heritage and History Holiday.

All the Hemispheres

Leave the familiar for a while.

Let your senses and bodies stretch out

Like a welcomed season

Onto the meadows and shores and hills.

Hafiz, 14th century Persian Sufi poet

This five-day holiday marked a watershed from the rigors of lockdown. Leaving Holmes Chapel, we (32 NT members) were soon passing through pleasant West Yorkshire countryside to visit East Riddlestone Hall, a restored 17th century house, now furnished with gifts and loans to recreate the spirit of the time and give a glimpse into what life would have been like for its occupants. Warmly greeted, some headed to the house to admire the 17th century panelling, decorative plaster ceiling and intricate wood carvings, others to the formal and wild garden.

The Hall is an atmospheric building furnished in the style of the 1640s. Whilst the only original piece was a huge grain ark in the kitchen, the Hall has been sympathetically restored and there was much to admire from the intricately carved beds, walls and fireplaces to the impressive plasterwork on the ceilings. We



were all staggered by the exquisitely embroidered framed samplers, the work of girls as young as 12 years old – all, of course, had an educational moral! My favourite exhibit was a fascinating screen depicting Jerusalem and the Mediterranean world as it was known in the early modern period.

This National Trust property also hosts weddings and that Sunday one was in progress.

We were able to view the fashions but regrettably were not invited to the reception, a good start to our holiday nevertheless.

Travelling on to our destination, the 4-star New Lanark Mill Hotel, we paused at Tebay Services Farmshop which we would revisit on our way home to stock up on local Cumbrian produce.

Monday 16th May: Day 2: New Lanark Mills.

The hotel is one of several restored mills; our day was spent on an enthusiastically guided tour of some of the others, telling the story of the cotton mill village founded in the 18th century which quickly became known for Robert Owen's enlightened management. His slogan was of 'eight hours work, eight hours recreation, eight hours rest.'



The Mill was founded in 1786 by David Dale and Richard Arkwright. Robert Owen was the son-in-law of David Dale, and he was also in the partnership. The site is close to the town of Lanark and just twenty-five miles south of Glasgow. The reason for building such a huge investment here was simply to take advantage of the waterpower provided

by the fast-flowing River Clyde. One of the first things you notice as you arrive is the steep 300-foot descent down to the river. The dominance of the three remaining Mills built in stone is impressive where some of the buildings are five stories high. One of the buildings has a roof garden.



The Falls of Clyde are a spectacular site, which many of us walked upstream and through the woods to reach from the hotel.



Robert Owen introduced many ideas ahead of their time by providing housing for the workforce, together with a nursery, a school, a shop, and a church.



The New Lanark mills operated until 1968. After a period of decline, the New Lanark Conservation Trust was founded in 1974 to prevent demolition of the village. By 2006 most of the buildings had been restored and the village has become a major tourist attraction. One of the old



mills has been converted into The New Lanark Hotel, which is where we stayed. The outstanding amount of work put into restoring the Mills justifies the accolade of being a World Heritage Site.

Tuesday 17th May: Day 3: Glasgow.



Tuesday was a day of contrasts, starting with the four-roomed “Tenement House” near the centre of Glasgow, belonging to the National Trust for Scotland. A Scottish tenement is a stone building with separate homes sharing a common entrance and stairway. This flat was lived in by a shorthand typist, Miss Agnes Toward, from 1911 to 1965 at a fixed annual rent of £33. Her widowed mother, a

dressmaker, was with her until 1939. Agnes (1886-1975) was a hoarder so, with the help of the archivist, we could see her extensive collection of personal belongings, even her Christmas cards. At the time of our visit, a nearby flat was for sale at offers over £200,000.

The Glasgow day included Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, which is the most visited museum in the UK outside London. The “Life” galleries show natural history and human history. The “Expression” galleries include paintings, notably by French artists, the Scottish Colourists and the Glasgow Boys. There is a daily lunchtime organ recital.



The shipping magnate, William Burrell, gave his collection to Scotland on condition it could be seen by everyone free. He wanted his collection in a bespoke building in a woodland setting, away from the pollution of the city centre, the building opened in 1983 following an architectural competition. Recently “The Burrell” reopened following an expensive refit lasting 6 years and costing £68 million. There are more than 9,000 objects: ceramics, glass, metal work, sculpture, textiles, wood carving and



many wonderful pictures, collected by Burrell while travelling the world and with the help of local dealers. On the first floor there are new displays showing the making of items, with touch screens and 3D models for visitors.

Some of the group visited the eighteenth-century Pollok House, close to The Burrell. The group was received in the eastern pavilion library and given a history of the Maxwell family. Sir John Stirling-

Maxwell created the parterre garden and introduced the glorious rhododendrons.

Wednesday 18th May: Day 4: Edinburgh.

On our third day we visited National Trust Culross Palace, a deceptive title for ochre-coloured 17th century merchant's house situated on the banks of the River Forth. With its tiny room and connecting passage-ways, it felt little changed from the 16th and 17th century. Behind the Palace is a recreation of a 17th-century garden. Winding paths of seashells, terraced beds, fruit trees, herbs, vegetables, flowers, and secluded arbours in which to be lost to time. This atmosphere carries over to the village with its cobbled streets and red-tiled houses restored to their original form.



Continuing to Edinburgh we were free to enjoy lunch at our leisure – I took a stroll along Princes Street Gardens which put me in mind of 'Le Dejeuner sur 'herbe' with people lounging on the grass, enjoying their lunch hour.

We then enjoyed an eloquent introduction to Edinburgh's Georgian architecture by a kilted

local guide, before he conducted us on a leisurely coach trip around the sites of Edinburgh.



Thursday 19th May: Day 5: Return home via Sizergh Castle.

Setting off promptly at nine o'clock, a more leisurely start than previously, we wended our tortuous way back up and out of the valley for the last time. We had a pleasant run to Sizergh, stopping briefly at Tebay for our first sight of the return journey and refreshments.

Although having to admit that Culross Palace was the Jewel in the Crown for me, our last port of call to Sizergh Castle was a fitting end to our five day Scottish holiday.

The weather was just perfect for a stroll around the magnificent gardens and they certainly could not fail to impress the most avid of gardeners. The acers in particular



were at their best and the underplanting and borders were delightful. The almost 800 years of residence by the Strickland family have really paid dividends. The gardens of course would have changed in style over the centuries but the present day layout does much to soften the sturdy character of the mansion house.

Gifted in 1950 to The National Trust, the castle is still home to the Strickland family.

Built in 1350, It obviously served its purpose as a defensive stronghold during the border raids. Extensions were added in Elizabethan times which saw the building enhanced by the extravagantly carved overmantles, panels and rooms in general and it is full of carved furniture from that same era.

The Georgian period saw more extensions and the effect of all that is the house that we see today. For those of you who have not yet visited the property, it is certainly worth doing so, whether as a long day trip, or, as we did, as a diversion on the journey back home or travelling North.

Continuing our journey South we arrived back at our various drop-off points exactly on schedule. Heather, our tour guide, and Steve, our driver, were exemplary as was the whole organisation from beginning to end. The hotel, still struggling to obtain staff and capture its pre-pandemic identity, was spacious friendly and comfortable.

Enduring memories included the stunning architecture of the Kelvingrove Museum (and its flamboyant statue of Elvis Presley, and the glorious full-throated sound of the magnificent pipe organ in the Central Hall), and the imaginative display of exhibits at the Burrell (an Auguste Rodin bronze sits beside St Anne and Mary with grandson Jesus).

Those who selected to visit Pollock House were equally enthused by its Georgian grandeur and collection of Spanish paintings.

My only quibble is a common one, why do hotels with swimming pools not provide spin dryers to save guests trailing back to their rooms with dripping swimming costumes!

Grateful thanks to Angela Glendenning for the overview of the holiday, with details of individual days from Rose Wheat (Riddlesden Hall), David Lovatt (New Lanark Mill), Anthea Bond (Glasgow), and Sue Till (Sizergh Castle).

Tuesday 24th May: AGM and Talk:

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Minutes of the 42nd AGM at the N Staffs Conference Centre, 24th May 2022 at 7.00pm

Richard Adams welcomed members to the AGM and recorded three apologies from members.

Chairman's opening remarks: Ralph looked forward to better times ahead, and was confident that we have already made a good start to our 43rd year. He thanked committee members and event organisers for all their enthusiasm and contributions to the Association, often going the extra mile to help out. He was very pleased to report on a successful meeting with Hilary McGrady last month when she came to our meeting. Hilary had done her homework, and knew that we have raised in excess of £140,000 for the National Trust over the years. She was able to introduce us to the Chief Operations Officer, a "man who gets things done", who has already helped us to secure extra funding for donations and identifying local projects needing support.

Ralph spoke of the drop in our membership numbers over the last two years, for all the usual reasons and exacerbated by Covid and perhaps the current increase in cost of living. He encouraged everyone to spread the word about us to friends and family. He reminded that guests are always welcome to join a trip or event, and that this will often result in a new membership application. The future is in our hands!

The Minutes of the 41st AGM: Were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Secretary's report: The Association continues to rebuild its programme of events. We did a lot of walking last summer, when outdoor events were permitted ahead of indoor meetings. The talks programme successfully restarted in September, and car and coach outings are also now getting good support. The recent holiday to Scotland was a great success. Unfortunately, our Christmas meal had to be cancelled, but has been rebranded as a summer party and Jubilee celebration next month. As ever, full credit is due to Marion Lycett and her team of organisers, who have been busy arranging, and often re-arranging, events for us.

Membership is currently 295, about 7% down from last year.

Treasurer's report: Huw thanked James Scott of Hardings Accountants for examining the accounts for us. He then presented the accounts for 2021-22, copies of which had been distributed. Huw noted that our income has increased, especially from members' subscriptions which were of course not requested last year during Covid. Income from trips is now beginning to come in again. Our reserves are now over £12,000. No donations have been made during the year. A member asked for details on gross income for trips and events; Huw explained that gross income was £3180, monies paid out £2176, to give the £1004 surplus recorded in the accounts. The meeting voted to accept the accounts.

North Staffs National Trust Association				
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2022				
	2021/2022		2020/2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Members' Subscriptions	2536		592	
Donations	93		38	
Surplus on Trips and Events	<u>551</u>		<u>0</u>	
		3180		630
Expenditure				
Talks (incl Venue Hire)	1051		0	
Newsletter Costs	501		472	
Postage and Officers' Expenses	<u>624</u>		<u>332</u>	
		2176		804
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		<u>1004</u>		<u>-174</u>
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022				
Assets				
Bank Balance		12226		11112
Payments in Advance		<u>300</u>		<u>300</u>
		12526		11412
Liabilities				
Other Creditors		142		32
Total Net Assets		<u>12384</u>		<u>11380</u>
Represented by :				
Reserves				
Reserves brought forward		11380		11554
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1004		-174
Total Reserves		<u>12384</u>		<u>11380</u>
R White—Chairman			H. Davies—Treasurer	
<i>(Signed—R A White)</i>			<i>(Signed—H Davis)</i>	
I have examined the accounts set out above and in my opinion they are in accordance with the records produced to me and properly reflect the financial affairs and position of the Association.				
J. Scott FCCA (Hon Examiner) Hardings Chartered Accountants, 6, Marsh Parade , Newcastle under Lyme <i>(Signed—J Scott)</i>				

Approvals for re-election to committee: The majority of our current committee members have served for 5 years or more, so by our constitution must seek approval to stand for re-election; the meeting agreed that they could stand.

Nominations for officers and committee. Ralph White had been nominated for the office of chairman, Rose Wheat for vice-chairman, Huw Davies as treasurer, and Richard Adams as secretary. Roger Cartledge, Cynthia Dumbelton, Marion Lycett, Jane Mayer, John Spriggs, Sue Till and Bob Winter had also been nominated as candidates for re-election to the committee. Further nominations from the room were sought, but none were made.

All of the above officers and committee members were elected by an overwhelming show of hands.

AOB: David Lovatt proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their work on behalf of the Association, which was carried unanimously. He also asked that we continue to press the National Trust for more publicity for supporter groups such as ours; this is an ongoing issue which all groups are involved in.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm, and was followed by a talk:

Simon Barker - Challenges facing the Trust in its management of the environment.

Simon is the Environment and Climate Change Consultant to the National Trust.

Rather than a talk about stately homes gardens or collections, I thought members would be interested in the responsibilities and challenges The Trust engages with in managing the land in its care.

Simon prepared the talk especially for us. It was a fascinating and wide ranging topic. It included preserving features under various forms of attack, agri forestry, rewilding, wildflower meadows and increasing diversity in wildlife. These were all illustrated with local examples where possible.

Simon does a lot of work in the Midlands and I am asking for a list of local examples where there is access to go and see and learn more.

Thank you to Simon for such a thought provoking presentation.

Ralph White

Thursday 16th June: Summer Lunch and Arts & Crafts Exhibition at Upper House.

All 63 of us met in the Orangery at midday, and mingled with friends we hadn't seen for so long, and viewed an amazing display of craft works made by our talented members, assembled by Anthea Bond and her team of helpers. There was a varied selection of paintings, etchings, collages, ceramics and wood turning as well as textiles, lace, quilts and metalwork mostly made during the pandemic.



Then we adjourned into The Woodland Suite to enjoy a splendid three-course lunch. The weather was glorious and the floral displays outside in the courtyard added to the enjoyment but, sadly, several people were unable to attend due to illness.



After the meal Ray Johnson took on the role of Frank Wedgwood – the grandson of Josiah - and gave us an interesting rendition of Josiah’s letters and innovative ideas. Josiah was of course, apart from his talents as a master potter, a founding member of the Lunar Society, the manufacturer who brought canals to landlocked Stoke and was active in the abolition of slavery.

Frank himself had the house built in 1845 away from the pollution of the Potteries and he would ride each day on his horse Jackdaw up the canal towpath to the factory. When the railway came through the village, Frank became one of its first regular commuters to Etruria.

A good time was had by all and we enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with conversations and the news we had missed for two years during “lockdown”. A raffle raised over £120 to be spent on our local events organisation.

Our thanks go to Rose Wheat who was Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon and to Cynthia Dumbelton who organised the event.

Anne Plant

Wednesday 22nd June: Coach Trip: RHS Bridgewater Garden in Salford.



Many thanks go to Jane Cameron for organizing a wonderful day for us at the new RHS Garden Bridgewater, near Salford. The RHS had been looking for a new site in the north-west to add to their other 4 gardens. Sites near Keele and the Dorothy Clive Garden were considered but in 2015 the Bridgewater site was purchased and Marcus Chilton-Jones from the Dorothy

Clive Garden was appointed as Curator. Tom Stuart-Smith drew the first masterplan and years followed of restoring, regenerating and replanting appropriately in the various sections.

The Welcome Building has a shop, café overlooking the lily pond, a plant sales area and many guides to answer questions and show the way.



The nearby herbaceous border dazzled with its clever choice of textures, leaf shapes and complementary colours, purple and yellow at the time of our visit.

The Walled Garden is an original feature of the historic estate, with some restored brick walls and old buildings and some new features eg from the Chelsea Flower Show or Tatton Park. There are many themed gardens, I

particularly enjoyed the Paradise Garden with its Asian and Mediterranean features: water, planting and 2 glasshouses.

Away from this flat area are wooded, hilly parts including the Chinese Garden. This marks the contribution made by the local Chinese community and garden experts from China. Bridgewater has something for everyone, I am already looking forward to another visit.

Anthea Bond

Thursday 7th July: Car Trip: Evening canal cruise with fish and chip supper.

Such a lovely summer evening as we arrived at Norbury Junction on The Shropshire Union to go on board the Shropshire Star for our evening trip. There was lots of greetings and chatter as friends met up after long absences and so we took our seats .

We travelled gently and so very quietly, with a flotilla of ducks in our wake and one stately swan behind.



There were many moored boats, one loaded with logs, many with decorations of traditional canal art of flowers, Union Jack flags, and even a written statement “love many, trust few, always paddle your own canoe”, some with curtains drawn and TV on.

You could see a reminder of the past history of the canals by the deep grooves at the sides of the bridges where ropes pulled by the horses or



men used to pull the boats. There was a lot of waving by people on the canal/barges and we joyfully waved back.

When drinks were bought we were ready – the fish and chips arrived and were greeted with excitement and followed quietly with enjoyment. On reaching the turnaround point we were able to take in a passing heron, some innovative canal side gardens, and canalside homes, and flats.

We arrived back at Norbury Junction as the setting sun put on a colourful display. It was a most enjoyable evening and so we thank you Cynthia and David Dumbelton.

Shirley Rathbone



Tuesday 19th July: Coach Trip: Boughton House, Kettering, Northants.

Unfortunately this day turned out to be the hottest day ever recorded in the UK, 40.3°C not far from our destination, so it was considered prudent to heed Meteorological Office warnings and cancel this trip, at no cost to our members thanks to smart action by our organiser – those booked will have been contacted by her. At the time of going to press a revised date had not been fixed but it is likely to be next Summer – a new booking will be required.

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Programme Summary

September

Thu 1 st	Walk: Barlaston.
Thu 15 th	Coach Trip: Liverpool - Port Sunlight and the Lady Lever Art Gallery.
Tue 20 th	Talk: Antony Dejak - 'Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes'.
Sun 25 th	Car Trip: Pipes in the Peaks Organ Museum.

October

Sun 2 nd	Walk: Burston and Aston-by-Stone.
Tue 4 th	Coach trip: William Booth Museum and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.
Tue 18 th	Talk: Steve Booth - 'Lidice 1942 - its destruction and the part played by Staffordshire people '.
Thu 20 th	Car Trip: Staffordshire Wildlife Centre with a 2 hour guided tour.

November

Tue 15 th	Talk: Andrew van Duren - 'My Magic Life in Showbiz'.
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December

Wed 21 st	Christmas Lunch at Crown Wharf.
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January

Tue 17 th	Talk: Sarah Moody – 'Commonwealth War Graves'.
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February

Tue 21 st	Talk: Hazel Griffiths – 'Grace Kelly'.
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March

Tue 21 st	Talk: Dr. Peter Thomas - 'What have trees ever done for us?'.
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April

Tue 18 th	Talk: Kath Reynolds – 'Goose Grease and Brown Paper'.
Thu 27 th	Car Trip: Stafford - Costume Collection.

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