

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

NEWSLETTER No. 69

SEPTEMBER 2004

and SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2004 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

By the time you read this, another summer programme of outings and holidays will be almost over. We have been pleased to welcome some of our newer and younger members on many of these occasions and hope that they have enjoyed their excursions. Several of our most interesting days out this year have resulted from suggestions made by members who have visited places themselves then recommended them to the committee. We are always pleased to have suggestions and ideas from members old and new so please keep us informed about good places to visit – and of course we are always happy if members offer to help plan or lead an outing or do the 'recce' beforehand.

A treat on many a day out at an NT property is lunch or tea in one of their restaurants, where the cakes have the home-made taste and the scones are justly renowned! Among my own favourite cook-books are two produced by the Trust and as well as using the recipes, I enjoy reading the remarks about the various properties from which they have originated.

If you share my taste for the cream teas, enjoy them while you can. I fear that soon Government watchdogs will be prowling round holiday resorts, tea-shops and NT restaurants snatching the food from our plates on the grounds that sponge cakes and cream with our scones are bad for our health and will make us fat! Of course we can always work off the effects of indulgence by taking vigorous walks round beautiful NT gardens and estates or by walking part of one of the coastal pathways which include some of the land acquired and now protected by the Trust under Operation Neptune.

I hope that happy memories of sunny days, picnics, gardens and delicious teas will last through the winter and that you will enjoy the autumn programme of events and talks.

Anne Anderton

KAY HARRIS

Members will be saddened to learn that Kay Harris, a former committee member, died at the end of May. Kay was an entertaining companion, with her stories of life in the WRENS and as a volunteer in the Casualties Union and she contributed much to the running of the Association. For a number of years she was largely responsible for organising the car outings. Several members of the committee attended her funeral, both as friends and on behalf of the Association.

MINUTES SECRETARY. Due to other commitments, our Minutes Secretary, Sue Willson, is winding down her involvement with the Association, and will be retiring from the Committee at the next AGM. If anyone is prepared to help by taking the Minutes at Committee meetings and the AGM they would be very welcome indeed.

A.G.M. and Talk, Tuesday, 11th May.

Anne Anderton started the AGM off briskly at 7 p.m. in the Medical Institute. We formally received the Secretary's report, where Mary Malcolm outlined another full and successful year, the Treasurer's report, in which Madeleine Hopley presented another impressive set of accounts, and agreed to maintain the subscription at its present level, and to re-appoint the auditors for the current year. Then followed the election of the officers. Mary Malcolm is not standing for Secretary this year, and so the post was filled by Josie Thomas. Mary is remaining as a Committee member, and with the remaining members of the retiring Committee was re-elected. There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.15 (Is this a record?)

After the AGM we were treated to a "***Glimpse of Chatsworth***" by ***Judy Coggins***, who is Assistant Housekeeper at Chatsworth, but who also guides parties of all ages in both French and English. Many of us are familiar with this house which dates from 1694, but Judy showed us many aspects which perhaps we had taken for granted, or never imagined existed. For example how the spring cleaning is done – the painstaking dismantling, washing and replacement of the chandeliers, the cleaning of the furniture, ceramics, paintings etc. We were told how many of the carvings are riddled with wormholes at the back and have been impregnated with resin to preserve them. We were told of the efforts to prevent fire, and of the lessons learned from Hampton Court and Windsor, so that the gaps in the walls which were so disastrous in those fires are now filled with fireproof bricks, how there are smoke detectors, a team of local fire-fighters (and their old fire engine) who know the building, and of training sessions with the local brigades and a

salvage team who are expert in removing artefacts from the rooms.

It was sad that this fascinating glimpse of Chatsworth should have taken place the day after the funeral of the much-loved Duke – in a coffin made by his team of woodworkers, and lined by his textiles conservator. Chatsworth is now entering a new era, but the need to raise money from the 90,000 visitors per year will continue.

Following the talk we had an excellent finger buffet in the foyer.

VISITS

Monday, 19th April. Plas Newydd and Penrhyn Castle. As we approached Plas Newydd the view was breathtaking with the elegant country house set against the vast water of the Menai Straits, the blue sky and the snow-capped peaks of Snowdonia. After refreshments we hitched a lift to tour the very fine grounds and to enjoy the rhododendrons. The current house was built in the 18th century and remodelled in the 1790s in a Tudor Gothic style by the architect James Wyatt. It was given to the NT by the 7th Marquess of Anglesey who still lives in an apartment. One colourful owner was the 1st Marquess who ran away with the Duke of Wellington's brother's wife. He lost his leg at Waterloo and the Cavalry Museum contains many interesting relics including his wooden leg. His physical prowess remained unaffected – he sired 18 children! In the dining room we marvelled at the 58 ft mural painted by Rex Whistler in 1937-38, a masterpiece of trompe-l'oeil and perspective techniques. There is much to enjoy at Plas Newydd, both inside and out.

After lunch we made the short journey back across the strait to Penrhyn Castle which was built of Anglesey limestone for the Pennant family between 1820-31 to the designs of Thomas Hopper and is a fine example of the short-lived Norman Revival. Passing from room to room we felt overwhelmed by the scale of the elaborate decoration in the architecture, furniture and furnishings but we remained impressed by the skills of the local craftsmen, the quality of the materials used and by the acquisition of so many works of art. Our sincere thanks to Keith Walker for organising such a fascinating day, full of contrasts... and glorious sunshine.

Judith Stephenson.

Thursday, 29th April. Rugeley Power Station (Car Outing). The cooling towers of Rugeley B Station can be seen from any direction in this part of Staffordshire. Each of the towers could contain the Dome of St Paul's Cathedral, so we were told, and the boilers are as tall as a fifteen storey office block. Newly installed computerisation has greatly changed the way staff work, and I was surprised by the low level of noise in the plant, and the small number of personnel working there. In 1983 the Station employed 850 people but today there are only 146 employees. Most of our tour was outside, where the large coal-trucks were automatically discharged and buildings which house

the turbines and generators were placed. By the year 2008 millions of pounds will have been spent in removing all sulphur from the emissions, thus improving the environment.

Many thanks to Peter Moxon for arranging this visit and our guides, Barbara, Janet and John for their interesting commentaries.

J. Thomas.

Tuesday, May 4th. Tutbury Castle. On a blustery day in spring it was not too difficult to imagine how Mary Queen of Scots felt when she arrived, for the first of her three incarcerations there, in icy conditions on 3rd February, 1569. In an elevated position 30 metres above the plain and the river Dove, Tutbury Castle must have seemed yet another forbidding English prison and, indeed, was to become the one she hated most. The Castle, built originally by the Normans soon after the Conquest, had a turbulent history including becoming a place of siege and battle during the Civil War. Having been a Royalist stronghold its dismantlement was ordered by Oliver Cromwell, but repairs to the ruins were made after the Restoration leaving it much as it is today.

In full Elizabethan costume and make-up, Mrs Lesley Smith, the lessee of the Castle, welcomed us to the Great Hall, which we reached by climbing a steep secret staircase uncovered recently. Dressed to play the part of Mary Queen of Scots she proved, during her riveting talk about the ill-fated Queen, to be larger than life despite being shorter than her extraordinary tall (5 feet 11 inches) sixteenth century subject. Mary's life of royal privilege at the French court, of jealousy, intrigue, treachery, murder, kidnap, romance, passion, imprisonment and decapitation was more eventful and lurid than a television soap opera. Was she really the arch manipulator and plotter that Elizabeth 1's advisors led her to believe or is there truth in Lesley Smith's portrayal of her as a martyr?

Many thanks to Peter Moxon for yet again planning and arranging such an interesting car outing.

Bill Holmes

Five Days in Devon Sunday 16th May - Thursday 20th May

The recipe for a perfect holiday

- Take one professional leader
- Hire one luxury coach
- Fill with an assortment of fine friends
- Mix with lots of good humour
- Cover with a blanket of warm sunshine
- Enjoy for five days!

Leaving Newcastle on a glorious Sunday morning we headed south for our holiday in Devon. After a coffee stop at The Bell in Tewkesbury, we journeyed towards Wellington for our private visit of the house and garden at

Cothay Manor. The original house dates back to the thirteenth century with many interesting and unique features. Additions have been rare since the present house was built by Richard Bluett from 1485. After several centuries of neglect, it was left to a Lt. Col. Cooper, DSO to restore the house to its former glory. The present owner bought the house in 1993. The family continue the sympathetic restoration of the interior, whilst Alistair Robbs' wife takes particular pride in the garden. So on to **TAVISTOCK** and the **BEDFORD HOTEL**, home for the next few days.

Monday – what a wonderful day for sailing – a cloudless sky, light breeze – but first a short drive down to **Plymouth** for our day by the sea. We left our coach on the promenade to walk on 'The Hoe' with extensive views over 'The Sound'. Then, back to the coach, going down to the entrance to Sutton Inner Harbour where we stepped out across the lock entrance to the all-glass building of the National Marine Aquarium. If you've not seen sea life on this scale it's an awe-inspiring experience, with fish swimming all around and above you; only 9cm of acrylic separates your world from theirs.

After lunch we embarked from the 'Mayflower Steps' (of Pilgrim Fathers fame), and sailed out around the Sound. There was a full commentary from the captain about the sights and sounds of this busy harbour with its long history and British Navy connections. All too soon we returned to land and disembarked for our last port of call – with a spring in our step we walked to the Plymouth Gin Distillery for a tour and some serious tastings, enough said.....

Tuesday Today was a romantic Victorian day out over Bodmin Moor travelling past Jamaica Inn of Daphne du Maurier fame to the Lost Gardens of **Heligan**. Originally the garden of a stately home long since gone, this is still a totally self sufficient garden of some 200 acres. You could spend all day here; from formal gardens to flower and vegetable garden, from meadow to jungle, you can see it all, it's just wonderful.

Our afternoon visit was to **Lanhydrock House** and gardens which perhaps complement Heligan. The house is essentially Victorian but has a much longer history. In 1953 the house and some 400 acres of the surrounding park were given to the National Trust by the 7th Viscount Clifden – simply magnificent!

Wednesday A distinct medieval feel to today with a visit to **Buckland Abbey**, home of Sir Francis Drake. On another glorious day we found Buckland Abbey tucked away in its own secluded valley on the edge of Dartmoor. There were extensive footpaths through woodland and farmland with views across the Tavy Valley and estuary. Back on the coach for our afternoon visit to **Cotehele House** and garden, home of the Edgecombe family for 600 years. Built mainly between 1485 and 1539, it still preserves the great hall and solar block of the traditional medieval plan and a warren of dimly lit rooms. The gardens were beautiful and surround the house, with terraces leading to a steep sheltered valley garden running down to the River Tamar with its Quay

and preserved riverboat the “Shamrock”.

Thursday Our final day was another fine and sunny one. We said goodbye to the staff at the Bedford Hotel who had been wonderful (we must come here again) and drove over Dartmoor for a short visit to **Princetown** with the infamous prison outside the town. One could imagine what a bleak, inhospitable place this could be in the depths of winter. The prison must be a cold and cheerless place, but we free souls travelled on thankfully to our final treat – a midday arrival at **Hestercombe Gardens** near Taunton. The landscape garden was built between 1750 and 1786 and extends to over 35 acres. The famous Edwardian gardens were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and planted by Gertrude Jekyll in the early 1900s with lakes, temples and ‘Great Cascade’.

We boarded our coach for the final part of our journey home. We have had a wonderful holiday – everyone agrees – and in no small measure it is down to our leader, Penny Moore. Penny’s hard work, attention to detail and sheer professionalism made our holiday the best. Thank you so much.

Geoff Radford

Thursday, May 27th, Abbots Bromley and Merevale Hall. A party of 40 set off from School Street at 10.30 a.m. on a cool, dull but fine morning and arrived at Abbots Bromley just before midday. We were fortunate that one of our party was Sarah Akhtar who had been to school in the village; she had prepared notes for us and acted as our guide. We saw the ancient Butter Cross and visited the Church of St.Nicholas of which parts date from around 1300. Here we saw the antlers used in the famous annual Horn Dance; recent carbon dating has shown these to be from the 11th century, and probably originating in Scandinavia. Another notable feature of this beautiful church is the magnificent Victorian stained glass east window.

After a stroll through the village and a fortifying ploughman’s lunch at the Coach and Horses, we set off for Merevale (pronounced “merryvale”) Hall, near Atherstone, and were greeted by its owner, Matthew Dugdale. Mr Dugdale opens his house occasionally in aid of church funds and clearly enjoyed showing it to us. He expressed disappointment that it had been judged only the second ugliest stately home in England. Nevertheless the house, which resulted from a botched early 19th century extension to a much earlier house, contained some fine furniture and paintings. Mr Dugdale’s anecdotes about life in the Hall kept us entertained. Particularly enjoyable was the fact that we were encouraged to touch objects and sit on chairs.

After having tea served by ladies from the church, we were given a tour of the extensive gardens by Graham Owen, the Head Gardener. The several keen gardeners in our group had their questions answered by, and received advice from Mr Owen. We then re-embarked for the short trip to the Church of Our Lady. This 13th century church is all that remains of the Cistercian abbey of Merevale, and was originally the nave of a much larger chapel outside the

abbey gate. It is still used and was specially opened for us by the Church Warden who gave us a short talk about the history and contents of the church.

We arrived back in Newcastle at 7.15pm, when the rain, which had been threatening all day, started. We had a long, well planned and very enjoyable outing. Many thanks to Mary Malcolm, Penny Moore and Sarah Akhtar.

Keith Walker

Tuesday, 15th June. Lilleshall National Sports Centre. (Car outing.)

A day of ancient and modern as members toured the Hall and Grounds completed in 1829 and the Sports Centre opened in 1951. Lilleshall has accommodation for up to 200 athletes, offering facilities in many sports such as netball, volleyball, basketball, hockey, tennis, badminton, squash, snooker, cricket, archery, bowls, gymnastics, table tennis, football and weight lifting. During the tour members were able to admire a group of gymnasts performing breath-taking exercises of Olympian standard in the finest gymnasium in the country. Lilleshall also deals with the prevention and treatment of injuries, physiotherapy and wheelchair and handicapped sports.

Our guide, John Price, who has worked at Lilleshall for 23 years, gave members a most interesting non-stop talk about the Hall and the grounds and the facilities, in his delightful Welsh brogue. Lilleshall has a totally relaxed atmosphere with no apparent security systems, all of which assist the athletes to concentrate on pursuing their sporting ambitions to the full.

Our thanks to Peter Moxon for organising this event.

Wednesday, 23rd June. Harvington Hall and Little Malvern Court Gardens.

A narrow lane past houses, cottages and an ancient quarry brought us to the front of Harvington Hall, with its tall chimneys, gables and moat. This was the home of the Harvingtons, who owned the house in 1270. There were changes in the ownership during the centuries, as they were Roman Catholics, and lost ownership of the Hall and land. Supporters leased their land and house from the Crown, so enabling the Harvingtons to retrieve their belongings in later times.

The hiding places were wonderfully devised, four were placed around the main staircase, others in the roof-space, and behind false hearths. As records of the House have been kept, it has been possible to reinstate many of the carvings, tapestries and some panelling. Elizabethan paintings on the plaster walls are in good condition and are thought to be the work of Flemish or German artists. Other "finds" in the house comprise three volumes of "The Church History of England" which was written at Harvington and is now at Oscott College in Birmingham.

We had an excellent guide and the sun did come out before we left for Little Malvern Court which is under the Malvern Hills. The present gardens were planted in 1983 and have taken five years to mature. Many of the trees were planted when a child was born at Little Malvern. The cedars were

planted with seed which Charles Michael Berrington had brought from travels in the Holy Land.

Our last call was to a small hotel where we enjoyed scones with cream and tea. A lovely day, many thanks to Mary Malcolm and Penny Moore.

J. Thomas.

Thursday, 1st July. Stone Town Walk. Car Outing. Members were treated to a magical walk around Stone accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress complete with chains of office. Philip Leason, our leader, is a fellow councillor of the Mayor.

At the beginning of the tour, which lasted for 3½ hours, Philip outlined the origins of Stone and its long history, also explaining how the construction of the canal had impacted on the town, increasing its importance as an industrial town. Members saw the buildings originally housing shoemakers, they visited the site of the Augustinian Priory and visited a large 19th century house containing the only remaining section of the rib-vaulted undercroft of the Medieval Priory. The Churchwardens welcomed members to St Michael's Church where they saw the original box pews, the memorial to Earl St Vincent and two 13th century Priory effigies and many other interesting features. Members passed the Jervis Mausoleum before walking up the High Street, seeing Cumberland House which was visited by the Duke of Cumberland in 1745, the Crown Hotel, the Market, the Commemorative Railings in Granville Square with its magnificent Plane Tree planted to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII.

Members finally reached St Dominic's Convent where Sister Mary Henry kept members entranced as she escorted members around the convent including the Chapel of St Anne, designed by Pugin, the Convent Church, the gardens and the library which amongst other items houses a desk formerly belonging to Pope Pius X, Elgar's baton and part of a hair shirt worn by St Thomas More when he was Chancellor to King Henry VIII.

Philip Leason and Sister Mary Henry made the evening a truly wonderful and most interesting experience, and we are indebted to Peter Moxon for organising it.

Wednesday, 7th July. Sandon Hall. Car outing. On a blustery, but sunny, afternoon we assembled outside Sandon Hall, the home of the 7th Earl of Harrowby. The estate has been in his family since 1776 when the 1st Earl bought an earlier house destroyed by fire in 1848. After the entrance hall containing family portraits and the robes of the Knight of the Garter belonging to the 2nd Earl, we moved on to the drawing room where the vivid turquoise green bamboo and rich pink roses of the Chinese hand-painted wallpaper held our attention. It is the most valuable item in the house, dating from c. 1775 and is decorated with birds and butterflies, there being no repetition in the design.

The dining room followed, with its table laid with a Coalport dessert service, turquoise with painted flowers, from 1810. We were then allowed to wander around the upstairs rooms with the intriguing names of Autumn, As You Like It, Napoleon and Porch. These rooms and corridors contained an intriguing collection of family artefacts, from sketchbooks, costumes and a dolls house to a case of beetles and a collection of letters from various prime ministers.

The weather enabled us to stroll around the grounds before the afternoon concluded with sandwiches, cake and a very welcome cup of tea in the splendid Victorian conservatory. Our thanks to Michael Bosson, general manager/archivist, for his informative tour of the Hall and to Peter Moxon for arranging the visit – and the fine weather.

Cath Hayes.

Wednesday, 14th July Burford House and Shipton Hall Having travelled in a brand new coach, we arrived at Burford near Tenbury Wells and gathered in a marquee for coffee and biscuits. Despite the weather being a little dull and threatening rain, the gardens did not disappoint. They were magical with great swathes of herbaceous borders and secret gardens dotted all around. There was an abundance of well-known perennials plus several unusual varieties. There were many lilies in flower including the fashionable crocosmia Lucifer which teamed up well with potentilla Gibson's Scarlet. Also in the red palette, there were alstroemerias and roses included in the borders. Skeletons of alliums were scattered around together with agapanthus and spectacular thistle plants around 10 feet high providing an architectural structure. Although the national collection of clematis is kept at Burford, and there should have been 55 in flower, I failed to notice many.

In one section of the garden a mother duck had obviously tired of the constant clamour of her little ones and they were in a panic, unable to get out of the lily pond, whilst she watched them from the bank; this caused great amusement in our party.

We crossed a bridge over the Teme river into a large wildflower meadow where there were a number of sculptures in black basalt and other dark stone. Then there was just enough time to have lunch and visit the garden shop before boarding the coach to Shipton, near Wenlock Edge.

Mr Bishop made us welcome to his home, Shipton Hall, where his family have lived for the past 100 years. The atmosphere was that of a family home and, although there were many wonderful antiques, it was not imposing. We heard the story of four children of the More family who were born out of wedlock ("someone had been playing away from home") and were dispatched on the 'Mayflower' from Plymouth to Massachusetts in the early 1600s. The sea crossing was difficult and the weather on arrival in America was bad. Sadly only a six-year-old boy survived but he lived to a ripe old age. We visited the nearby church where there was a plaque recording the children's

baptisms and dates of death, which had been donated by current residents of Massachusetts.

There was a picturesque dovecot which at one time housed 500 doves and an ancient fish pond still in existence in the garden. In the past, both these had provided the family with food. None of that for us, but Mrs Bishop baked delicious chocolate cakes and scones which we ate with jam and cream. Our thanks to Penny Moore for another efficiently organised, interesting trip.

Cynthia Dumbelton

September to December Programme

Friday, September 24th

WOLSELEY CENTRE and SHUGBOROUGH

The Wolseley Centre is the headquarters for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Its 26 acres were Wolseley family land from Saxon times. Left to its own devices for some 10 years, it has become home to a variety of wildlife and plants. We will be shown round part of the site via the board walk and in addition to kingfishers and swans we may glimpse the ice house, the temple or the pagoda. There is a small shop and café.

At the end of the morning the coach will take us to Shugborough. Bring a **picnic** or buy **lunch** in the restaurant and spend the afternoon visiting the house. – **NT card needed** – strolling in the lovely gardens or visiting the museum for which there is an admission charge.

Depart: 10.00 a.m. School Street. Return 5.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £9.50 which includes coach, gratuities, admission and tour of Wolseley Centre.

Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.
ST5 3RG Tel: 01782 613451 enclosing SAE
Booking closes 14th September.

Tuesday, October 5th

JAGUAR CARS – BROWNS LANE ASSEMBLY PLANT.

3 miles from Coventry City Centre, Browns Lane is the headquarters of Jaguar Cars. Our tour of the assembly plant will include a short introductory video followed by a **1½ hour walking tour** of the production facilities of the new all-aluminium XJ Saloon and the XK Sports Car. The visit will conclude at the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Museum.

Please bring a picnic lunch as the tour begins at 1 p.m. Tea or coffee may be purchased in the Coffee Lounge of the Visitor Centre after the visit.

N.B. This visit involves 1½ hours of walking and suitable footwear and stamina are essential.

Depart: 11 a.m. School Street. Return 5.30 p.m. approx.
 Cost: £9.50 Includes coach, gratuities and tour.
 Apply to: Mrs P. Moore. 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.
 ST4 8AG (Tel: 657645) enclosing SAE Booking closes
 September 25th.

Monday, October 11th Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.
An Evening with Mee

Gerald Mee, from Leek, is President of the Stoke Cine and Video Society and well-known throughout North Staffordshire for his extensive archives of films and slides as well as his continuing recording of the events of the area. He will show two films recording some of the places, people and happenings in our area in recent years and talk about his life-long hobby. How many of the places will you recognise? Were you present at some of the events? Come and see!

Sunday, October 17th.

THE BRIDGEWATER HALL, MANCHESTER – An Evening with the Hallé Orchestra.

By popular request we return to the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester to hear the Hallé Orchestra, conducted by their Music Director, Mark Elder. Britain's oldest Symphony Orchestra is now considered by the critics to be one of its finest... come and judge for yourselves.

We have a limited number of seats in the centre of the Middle Stalls (face value £25) **Early booking is recommended.**

Rossini: Overture – The Thieving Magpie.

Mozart: Piano Concerto No 23 in A.

Beethoven: Symphony No 3 (The "Eroica").

Depart: 5.45 p.m. School Street. Return 10.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £27 to include concert ticket, coach and gratuities.

Apply to: Mrs P. Moore. 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.
 ST4 8AG (Tel: 657645) enclosing SAE

Bookings must be received by Thursday, September 16th.

Tuesday, November 2nd

Max. 48

A Visit to the BACK to BACK HOUSES, Birmingham. Near Hippodrome Theatre. Birmingham's last surviving 19th century courtyard of back to back working people's houses has been finally restored. The story of the site is told through the experiences of the people who lived and worked here, as visitors move through 4 different periods from 1840 to 1977, the design of each interior reflecting the varied families who lived here.

N.B. There are steep spiral stairs so sensible footwear is essential. No bulky bags – these can be stored during visit.

The morning is free for you to shop, have lunch, or do what you will. In the

afternoon we will visit the houses in guided groups of 8, from 2 p.m., entering at 15 minute intervals. Your entry time will be on your acknowledgment of booking slip. There is at least one coffee shop across the road where you could gather before or after your visit. **NT card needed.**

Depart: 9.30 a.m. School Street. Return 7.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £9 which includes coach and gratuities.

Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.
ST5 3RG Tel: 01782 613451 enclosing SAE
Booking closes October 23rd.

Wednesday November 10th Medical Institute 8.00 p.m.

Dr Nigel Tringham: There's more than beer to Burton – the Victoria County history, past, present and future.

The ambitious project to write the complete history of every county in Britain was begun at the end of Victoria's reign and has not yet been completed! Staffordshire is one of the most well covered counties and the two most recent volumes have been on Burton and the Leek and Moorlands area. Dr. Nigel Tringham of the History Department at Keele University is the Editor for Staffordshire and his illustrated lecture will give us a unique and authoritative insight into how these volumes are planned, compiled and published and how they can reveal some unexpected aspects of local history. He will no doubt also explain how the impact of new technologies is changing many of the traditional ways of working when future volumes are in preparation.

Thursday, December 16th.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Broughton Arms, Newcastle Road, Balterley.

This year we are offering a change of venue (and a mid-week day) and an opportunity for more members to join us as the Broughton Arms can seat up to 100. There is ample parking.

The Menu will be:

Starter: Veg. Soup/melon cocktail/garlic and cream mushrooms.

Main Course: Turkey/Roast beef/Sole with prawn and mushroom sauce/
Vegetarian option.

Sweet: Christmas Pudding/Red-cherry cheese-cake.
Coffee and mincepie, mints.

Please state your choice of starter and main course on the special booking form. If you wish to sit with friends please indicate this on your booking form.

We shall be pleased to receive Raffle Prizes on the day.

Time: 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.

Cost: £17.50

Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.
ST5 3RG Tel: 01782 613451 enclosing SAE
Booking closes December 6th.