

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

Newsletter 80

and

May to September 2008

Programme



Severn Valley Railway
Tamworth castle

One of the engines at the Anson Museum
See inside for details

SEE CENTRE PAGES FOR DETAILS OF THE AGM

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS

Coaches depart promptly from SCHOOL STREET, Newcastle, behind the Swimming Baths. Nearby long-stay parking. Should a member cancel their booking it is regretted that reimbursement is only possible if there is a waiting list. There will be a £2 per cheque handling charge. Members are requested not to find their own replacement. Non-members taking part in coach outings pay an additional £1. The committee has agreed that with rising numbers it is only fair that members should have priority when booking trips and holidays.

Members are asked to note that it is not possible for the coach to stop at places other than School Street to pick people up or drop them off on the outward or return journeys. The coach will not wait for members who are late, either at School Street or at other pick up points. Members are advised to take careful note of when or where they will be picked up. Anyone missing a coach will have no claim on the Association.

Cheques to be made payable to the “**N. Staffs. Association of NT Members**”. Due to current banking procedure, please note that cheques are not cleared until after an event. Members are asked to write a separate cheque for each event they book. **Note:** The committee does not consider it proper that an event should incur a loss and therefore reserves the right to cancel should there be insufficient support.

For Your Safety and Enjoyment

Please look carefully at what is involved in an outing or a holiday before booking. Consider the starting time, the length of the day, the amount of walking and stair-climbing involved, the number of times of getting on and off a coach, etc. so that you can enjoy the day to the full by being able to participate in all aspects of the outing. **If you have a problem with mobility or hearing, for example, please let the organiser know as soon as possible and we will try to arrange some help but we cannot guarantee to do so.**

If you have not received acknowledgement of a booking within two weeks, please enquire as we believe that some bookings have recently gone astray in the post.

Supporters for Trips

Our coach trip organisers need sometimes to be in two places at once. We hope for each trip that there will be a supporter who can help them by perhaps collecting tickets or escorting people to entrances.

All our trips this summer need a volunteer supporter. Please help if you can - speak to the trip organiser when making your booking.

North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

NEWSLETTER No. 80

APRIL 2008

and May to September 2008 PROGRAMME

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

Even a cursory glance at the Spring 2008 NT magazine reminds us how diverse the Trust's interests and responsibilities are. One article reveals how much film and TV producers rely on NT properties for filming the ever-popular period dramas, but Trust-owned areas of coastline are also in demand. 'Bodices and bonnets' adaptations are not the only programmes using NT backgrounds, as the Harry Potter films and a James Bond film have also used locations belonging to the Trust.

The Trust's renowned care of gardens is the background to another article about some of their enthusiastic young gardeners, while the one entitled 'Toy Story' shows how relatively recent artefacts are being collected for the enjoyment of future visitors. The City of Liverpool is highlighted in yet another article, and the fact that the Trust has recently acquired the homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney makes us realise that aspects of our own lives are now part of history or 'heritage'! We have probably all visited the kitchen or laundry of a grand house and exclaimed, "Oh, we used to have one of those!" at the sight of some humble but useful piece of domestic equipment.

Preserving the past is also important for individuals, families and organisations - witness the growth of interest in family history. Without the letters, papers, photos and ephemera of people in the past we would have much less understanding of everyday life and society in past times.

Fortunately we have now acquired a new Archivist, who has volunteered to take on the task of maintaining the written and photographic record of our varied activities. We hope to put some of the material on display at the AGM and also regularly at the talks at the Conference Centre. Please support and help by sending her photos, leaflets, etc after an outing you have enjoyed. (See page 11)

We have arranged an extensive and interesting programme of outings for the summer months and I hope each of you will be able to enjoy many of them. Do book early to avoid disappointment!

Best wishes to everyone, Anne Anderton

Share the Pleasure

We hope you enjoy the outings and visits in our programme. We hope you enjoy reading about outings you weren't able to go on. This can only happen when members are willing to write about their experiences and share their pleasure. Outings organisers usually ask someone to do the write-up but it would be very helpful if someone were to volunteer for what is not a very onerous task. Why not offer to provide the piece for the Newsletter before the outing sets off, and use any leaflets to provide you with information? Or if you have enjoyed a visit, perhaps offer to do this on return. This could be a 'thank you' for a good day out!

FUNDRAISING BY RECYCLING

We have received a circular from HQ regarding fundraising by recycling mobile phones and toner and inkjet printer cartridges. There is a company called Office Green which will take these and give a donation to the NT (up to £65 for a phone apparently). The sender also goes in to a draw for a free week in a NT cottage.

Members can contact them via www.officegreen.co.uk or on 0800 502050.

Mobile phones (no chargers please) can be sent direct to:

Recycle National Trust

Freepost RRKR-LUSY-JJAT

Office Green

REPORTS ON RECENT TALKS AND VISITS

Monday 3rd December 2007 Christmas Shopping at Little Moreton Hall

A goodly number of warmly-wrapped members descended on Little Moreton Hall to enjoy mince pies and coffee in the delightfully decorated surroundings of the Great Hall complete with blazing fire.

David Watts, the Administrator, welcomed us to the house then one of the senior guides talked about the contents of the laden banqueting table.

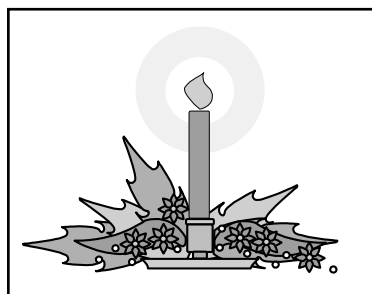
We progressed through to the With-Drawing Room, again splendidly decorated according to the period, then on to an exhibition room laid out with various ingredients for the making of the Yule Tide Feast.

From there we ventured into the excellently stocked shop. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

PB

Monday 17th December 2007 Talk by Barbara Foster: Puddings, Pomanders and Polish - An Edwardian Christmas

When Lady Stamford swept onto the stage in her elegant, oyster-coloured brocade dress and magnificent hat complete with matching feathers and spoke of horses and carriages, guests and servants, we almost believed that we were in the grand saloon at Dunham Massey in 1907 rather than in the Wade Hall in 2007! She told us of the preparations for Christmas, read us a menu which included such courses as hare soup and boiled turkey, described in detail how guests spent Christmas and Boxing days and spoke of her relief when her visitors finally departed the day after Twelfth Night.



Then removing her hat and gloves, she became Barbara Foster, present-day volunteer and education officer at Dunham Massey and gave us some insights into how the house is “put to bed” in autumn. China and

ornaments are delicately cleaned with sable shaving brushes, fabrics washed with 'Granny's Soap Flakes' and the furniture shrouded, each piece with its own special hand-made cover. One useful piece of advice was – “Never cover your oil paintings - they need to breathe”.

Finally she entertained us with accounts of dealing with parties of school children, one of whom insisted on calling her 'Your Majesty', and even with a party of elderly ladies who all complained of being "frozen" in the chilly kitchen, but who warmed up wonderfully when they had their glasses of mulled wine! Her audience then adjourned to enjoy their own mulled wine and mince pies to round off a festive evening. The Christmas raffle raised £78 and many people commented that the evening had been a successful replacement for the Christmas lunch.

PS

Tuesday, January 15th Talk by Katherine Frank: The History of Cruising.

On a cold, wet January night the prospect of cruising to sunnier climes was attractive. Katherine began by recounting her first taste of life at sea, aged 10, travelling with her parents from the USA to Europe. It was to be 43 years before she repeated the experience - which she had so enjoyed – and this time as a lecturer to fare-paying passengers.

Of course, mankind has been travelling in ships for hundreds of years but it was not until the 19thC that we began to take our holidays at sea rather than simply use ships as a means of transport. Two eminent Victorian novelists wrote of their ocean going; Dickens crossed the Atlantic in 1842 in very basic conditions and the only advantage, in his opinion, was that his wife was too seasick to talk! In 1844 Thackeray was employed by the newly formed P&O line to join the first ever Mediterranean cruise and he wrote a complimentary account extolling the feelings of escape and freedom.

There followed the golden age of cruise ships, the British having the largest fleet dominated by Cunard and White Star with the ever-present competition to cross the Atlantic in less than 5 days. By far the most famous of all steamships was Titanic and Katherine dwelt for a while on some familiar statistics; 2,300 on board with lifeboat capacity for 928, the Astors' suite cost them £4350 whereas the 700 travelling steerage had each paid around £6 and shared 2 toilets between them!

Two 20thC events led to an increase in cruising holidays, firstly in 1920 the National Prohibition Act became law in the US preventing the consumption of alcohol in that country, but they soon worked out that it would not be illegal to drink at sea and so began the first “booze cruises”. Later, in 1958, the first jets began to fly people across the Atlantic in a matter of hours so removing the need of a 5 day Trans-Atlantic journey on a ship so other ways had to found to entice us on board and it is now possible to book a cruise with just about any theme imaginable from the cultural Swan Hellenic right down to “Easyruise” which has been described as “camping at sea”.

Katherine ended by highlighting some of her concerns regarding the ethical and environmental impact of cruising, most importantly the use of flags of convenience and the poor working conditions of the crews as well as the huge amount of pollution caused but she ended by admitting she loved the feeling of liberation as much now as she had in 1956. During questions we learned about Pat Bentley’s childhood memory of a voyage on the RMS Aquitania with fellow passenger Omaha, the famous racehorse, and also that Arthur Slight’s grandfather had perished as one of the crew on Titanic. Altogether, it was a journey of history, excellent pictures, culture, humour and food for thought and all without leaving Hartshill.

Sarah Akhtar

Wednesday 30th January 2008 Coach Outing to the Bridgewater Hall

The Hallé Orchestra: 150th Anniversary Concert

The adventure of attending the Hallé’s 150th Anniversary Concert began with the excitement of trying to find a place to park in Newcastle but fortunately all was resolved though more excitement came when trying to decide where to park the coach at the Bridgewater Hall!

The concert’s programme was partly an attempt to recall some of the landmarks of the orchestra’s past and to expose the players’ exceptional artistry. Everyone will have their own most memorable items, whether Sir John Tomlinson’s deeply-felt characterisation of the anguished Philip of Spain in Verdi’s ‘Don Carlos’ or the exuberance of Hans Sachs in Wagner’s ‘The Mastersingers’; the rich colours of the strings and brass in Berlioz’ ‘Le Corsaire’; Thomas Ades’ ‘These Premises Are Alarmed’, with its haunting

ending as the music dies on the ears, as it also did in Debussy's 'Fetes' but only after the brilliance of the torchlight procession with a section distinctly reminiscent of Ravel's 'Bolero'; or the multi-faceted bravura of Constant Lambert's 'The Rio Grande'; or, essential to a Hallé celebration, Elgar's tone poem, 'In the South'.



My favourites were, firstly, Weber's 'Konzertstück' for piano and orchestra, with the young Russian Polina Leschenko performing with brilliant wit and authority a piece so sadly neglected. Secondly, and perhaps because some 55 years ago I sang in it at university, Vaughan Williams' 'Toward the Unknown Region', uplifting music, sung ravishingly by the Hallé Choir, bringing out all the spiritual depth of Walt Whitman's words. Magnificent!

Concerts that have so many items can often rely on tried favourites but here was a programme of works rarely performed, apart from the Elgar. This made the occasion, presented lucidly and informatively by Dame Janet Baker, not only a great and worthwhile celebration but musically satisfying and enlightening.

Our grateful thanks to Penny and Terry for all the arrangements (of the trip, not the music!)

Ken Lowe

Wednesday, February 6th Talk by Margaret Gleave: Vagrant Women or Mothers in Israel.

A large and appreciative audience was well rewarded for turning out on a cold February evening.

Mrs Margaret Gleave, a well known historian of Primitive Methodism, took as her title "Vagrant Women or Mothers in Israel. In her very full and well illustrated talk Mrs Gleave introduced us to the lives of itinerant women preachers of the early 19th century. Not only did these women travel the country, braving the vicissitudes of travel at that time, but they had to persuade the male elders of the Churches and Chapels to allow them access to the pulpits and grant them an audience. At the time it would be most

unusual for a woman to be allowed a platform, the Established Church would certainly not countenance such events.

Primitive Methodism having its roots in this area, her talk added greatly to our perception of life and religion in turbulent times in Cheshire and North Staffordshire.

Alun Davies

Monday, February 11th C.C.T.V. Parking and Security, The Regent Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

Another twenty members enjoyed a repeat visit by the Association to the CCTV Centre. After watching the video, members were obviously enthused by what they had seen judging by the flood of questions which Jason Hardy, our host, answered fully and very ably.

Members then looked in on 90 screens in the operations room manned by two operators showing pictures recorded by over 200 cameras around the city.

After more than two hours, Peter Moxon suggested that members should be on their way home to their beds otherwise the night shift would be starting!

In view of the members' reluctance to leave the Centre, they had obviously enjoyed a most interesting evening and they were grateful to Jason for his hospitality, and to Peter Moxon for organising the trip.

Thursday 14th February Coach Outing to Harley Gallery, Welbeck and Denby Pottery Centre

Curiosities and Coincidences

We arrived at Welbeck for coffee and biscuits and a very interesting talk by Derek Adlam, Curator of the Portland Collection. He explained the family descent from the redoubtable Bess of Hardwick, until he reached the scientifically-minded "bluestocking", Lady Margaret Cavendish Holles Harley, Duchess of Portland, who, in 1783, purchased the Barberini Vase, discovered, c 1582, in an ancient Roman tomb, to add to her collection of "precious gems, snuff boxes, shells, curiosities of all kinds", displayed in her Portland Museum. The carved glass (intaglio) Portland Vase began as an

amphora and its base was replaced by a flat, carved glass one (hence its "dumpy" shape). The Portland family kept an early Wedgwood copy in jasperware and loaned the original to the British Museum, where, in 1845, a student, who had been drunk for a week, smashed it to smithereens. However, it was restored and returned on display. (Subsequent restorations have afforded opportunities to study how it was made - by using a sapphire-headed stick to carve the outer layer of glass away from the inner one.)

After the Duchess's death in 1785 her collection was sold off, but her son bought back several of her pieces, notably a wonderful jewel cabinet, on display in the "Duchess of Curiosities" exhibition in the Harley Gallery, with eleven beautiful marble pictorial panels. Other items ranged from Breughel and Durer paintings through stuffed albino birds to porcelain, textiles and miniature paintings. We visited this exhibition after an excellent buffet lunch, and many of us were struck by the juxtaposition of a very interesting display of contrasting modern curiosities: contemporary artists offered a fascinating range of work entitled "Folk Art and Fairy Tales".

En route home we called at the Denby Pottery Visitor Centre to browse in the shops and/or enjoy a welcome "cuppa", followed by a straightforward journey to Newcastle.

But why "coincidences"? Well - my neighbour in the coach turned out to have been a fellow-pupil at school with me in Bolton, many years ago; two other neighbours realised they had been contemporaries at The Orme Girls' School, who hadn't seen each other for donkey's years; and yet another pairing produced shared memories of growing up in London and living in Caterham! Clever allocating, Anne - many thanks! And for organising the outing, too!

Jenny Wright.

Luncheon Club Meetings:

Our thanks go to Mary Malcolm for continuing the enjoyable winter lunch club programme.



The Luncheon Club will not be meeting during the summer, so look out for more meetings in our next Newsletter.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2008

Wednesday 7th May Coach Outing to Princes Road Synagogue and the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

An opportunity for members to visit Liverpool as it celebrates its year as European Capital of Culture, when the city will be looking at its best for some time. In the morning we shall view the spectacular interior of this Grade 2 listed synagogue, built in 1874 by the original Jewish community of Liverpool. One of the city's hidden gems, it has been described as probably Europe's finest example of the Moorish Revival style of synagogue. The visit will include a guided talk outlining the architecture, history of the building and of the local Jewish population and there will be a chance to see some of the religious artefacts and to learn about their place in religious tradition.

After lunch in the Liverpool Conservation Centre (sandwiches and savoury pastries, cake and coffee) in the city centre, we shall have a short walk to the Walker Art Gallery where members can enjoy the blockbuster exhibition, 'Art in the Age of Steam', featuring works by Monet, Van Gogh, Pissarro and Hopper, amongst the 100 paintings, drawings, photographs and prints brought together for this event. This major exhibition has set out to capture the excitement of the steam train from 1830 to the 1960s and explores how artists responded to the impact of railways on the landscape and society.

Members should note that the entrance to the synagogue is via several steps and that the trip will involve a short walk from the Conservation Centre to the Art Gallery.

Depart School Street 9.00am; return approx 6.00pm

Cost £19.00 (Non-members £20.00) including coach, admissions, synagogue talk, lunch and driver's gratuity. -

Please apply to: Mrs. Rose Wheat 12 West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 ONB Tel: 01782 616113 enclosing cheque and a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Saturday 26th April.

Supporter required (see inside front cover)

PROGRAMME CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WADE HALL, NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE,
HARTSHILL**

WEDNESDAY MAY 20TH 2008 at 7.00PM

AGENDA:

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 27th AGM**
- 3. Secretary's Report – Matters Arising**
- 4. Treasurer's Report – Matters Arising**
- 5. Setting of Subscription Level 2008 - 2009**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee 2008 – 2009**
- 7. Any Other Business**

Followed by a talk by Steve Bartlett: 'Echoes of the Stage' (see opposite for details)

Members are invited to submit nominations for the 2008 – 2009 Committee and Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each nomination should be signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee, all of whom should be paid-up members of the Association. Nominations should reach Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT by April 23rd 2008.

Members wishing to partake of the buffet supper should use the special booking form which appears with the booking forms for outings. Please send this with your cheque for £7.50pp and SAE to Audrey Aubrey , 10 Paris Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 2RQ by 3rd May 2008.

The present committee is listed on the back cover of this newsletter and are all prepared to stand for re-election for 2008-2009.

Talk at 7.30pm on May 20th following AGM at 7.00pm

Steve Bartlett: Echoes of the Stage

Our speaker may be known to some members as the Chairman of the South Cheshire NT Association, but on this occasion he speaks as a private collector of stage memorabilia of the Edwardian age. Steve has researched aspects of the Edwardian theatre and its long-forgotten characters and has collected many original pictures and postcards of the time. He has uncovered a wealth of anecdotes that take us behind the scenes into the lives of our Edwardian ancestors who trod the boards in an age gone by – some funny, some tragic, but all equally fascinating. The talk is illustrated from Steve's large collection of original material. (Dressing in appropriate costume is not required and we shall not be asked to sing!)

The talk will be followed as usual by a light buffet supper of a selection of savoury items, sweets and tea or coffee. To book this use the appropriate booking form and return to Audrey Aubrey by 5th May enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

NEW ARCHIVIST

We are fortunate that following the plea in the last Newsletter KAY WILLIAMS has agreed to take on this role, which she will fill admirably, as she has the enthusiasm and skills for the task.

She would like as many people as possible to send items for inclusion, so please do send photos, leaflets, letters, or any other bits and pieces about our outings, talks, etc that will add to our already extensive collection.



Her address is : Mrs. D.K. Williams 3 The Spinney, Madeley, Crewe.
CW3 9TB. Tel: 01782 751018

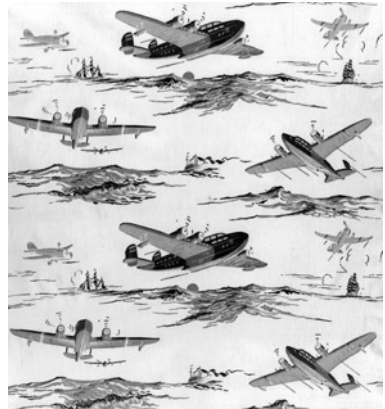
Thursday 14th May 10.00am. Car Outing to the RAF Museum at Cosford.

Be inspired and enjoy a full day of entertainment at the RAF Museum at Cosford, which has one of the largest, and finest aircraft collections in the world and is the only National Museum in the West Midlands. The museum also has the first ever major and permanent exhibition to focus solely on the Cold War story; this unique exhibition reflects the social, cultural and political history of the Cold War era (1947-1991) a period of history we are all familiar with.

We will meet at the Visitor Centre at 10.00am and enjoy a Danish pastry & freshly brewed tea/coffee or chilled orange juice in the Aviator Restaurant. We will then be taken on a conducted tour of the National Cold War Exhibition for the remainder of the morning. Later, lunch will be available, at your own cost, in the Aviator Restaurant. In the afternoon we will be free to look around hangars 1,2 & 3 or even revisit the Cold War building by ourselves. Hangars 1,2 & 3 have a massive range of aircraft used throughout the RAF's history, and also experimental and enemy aircraft.

This is not just a day out for aircraft spotting 'anoraks' but a day that all will find fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable.

Members should arrive at the RAF Museum Visitor Centre just off the A41 at Albrighton not later than 10.00am. Allow an hour for the journey from the Potteries: the average distance being 40 miles.



Cost £7.50. (Non-members £8.50) including morning coffee and the conducted tour. Admission to the museum is free.

Please apply to Peter Thompson, Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle ST5 3LS Tel: 01782 613397 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Friday 25th April.

Wednesday 21st May 2.30pm Car Outing to Willey Park, Broseley, Shropshire Max 30 members

The Lady Forester has kindly offered to show a party of members around Willey Park, when she and her daughter Selina will act as tour guides.

The house was built 1812-1822 for the first Baron, Cecil Forester, for his wife Lady Catherine Forester (Manners) and where the family have resided ever since. The architect was Lewis Wyatt, a member of the famous Wyatt architectural dynasty.

The Foresters were an ancient family holding land round the Wrekin from Norman times, and deriving their surname from their office of King's Keepers of the Forests. They moved to Willey early/mid 18th century.

Members should arrive not later than 2.30 p m. Directions upon application

Cost £16.00 per member to include an afternoon tea. The proceeds from the visit will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Willey.

Members should note that:

- 1, No photographs or videos are permitted in the house.
- 2 No video cameras outside the house
- 3 No written notes are permitted

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 4EB Tel 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Friday 18th April

Thursday 19th June Car Outing Construction of Well Dressing Frames at Youlgreave nr Buxton Derbyshire (30 max)

Peter Moxon would wish to share the experience watching the construction of the well-dressing frames used to decorate the wells in Youlgreave. There are five construction sites in and around the village, in walking distance, and members may wander around and meet the villagers and talk about this ancient art. The tradition is unique to the Peak District.

Members should meet Peter Moxon in the village at 2.30 pm. Details of the meeting place and directions will be sent upon application.

Cost £3.00 per head.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 4EB Tel 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Friday 23rd June.

Saturday 28th June Coach Outing to Bridgnorth and the Severn Valley Railway

Bridgnorth is a fascinating town, easily worth a day out on its own. We will combine this with a trip on the Severn Valley Railway, which is holding a special weekend of 1940s nostalgia.

We will start our visit with tea or coffee at a hotel in the Low Town area of Bridgnorth. Here we meet our expert local guide for a walking tour, taking us up the ancient Cartway from the river to the High Town with its many half-timbered buildings, churches and Norman castle, sadly damaged during the English Civil War. We now have some free time in town, for a lunch in one of the many pubs or restaurants, and perhaps to check out some of the (still!) family-run shops along the High Street. After lunch, we'll meet again at the Railway Station, where we can expect an atmosphere of Britain at War, with staff in period costume and uniforms, military vehicles outside the station and even tape on the windows to protect us should the bombs land. The railway mostly follows the River Severn, with glorious scenery not accessible by road. Our tickets allow travel on any of the steam-hauled trains, with chance to alight on at least one of the intermediate stations such as Highley, to view the Engine House and exhibition (small admission fee payable). Our coach will be waiting for us at Kidderminster station, at the other end of the line, some 16 miles downstream from Bridgnorth

Depart from School Street 9.00am and return 6.00pm approx.

Cost £31.00, or £28.50 for seniors aged 60+, or £23.00 for children under 16. Non-members please add £1.00. Cost includes coach, morning

tea/coffee, guided walking tour, freedom-of-the-line railway tickets and gratuities.

Please apply to Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT. Tel: 01782 646054 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 2nd June.

Supporter required (see inside front cover)

Thursday July 3rd Car Outing Leek Town walk

Catherine Walton, the local historian, will lead a walk round Leek. We will meet at the Market Cross in the Market Place at 7 pm. The guided tour will include Victorian, Georgian and Arts and Crafts architecture, silk mills, homes of silk manufacturers and the stories of the families who lived in them. We shall hear about famous personalities connected with Leek and major events which have taken place in the town. . The walk will take approximately 2 hours. Strong footwear is advisable because there are some cobbled areas. In order that everyone can hear the commentary only 25 people will be able to participate.

Cost £3.00 per head.

Please apply to Mrs J Scholes 47 Sandon Road, Cresswell, Stoke-on-Trent. ST11 9RB (Tel 01782 398545) enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for application is Saturday May 31st.

Saturday, 12th July – Ramble: Area around Tittesworth Reservoir

This will be a morning walk of just over 5 miles in the area around Tittesworth Reservoir. We will meet in the car park near the Visitor Centre at 10.00am. Unfortunately there is a parking fee but this includes access to toilets and refreshments nearby. There is also a choice of two pubs in the area – “The Three Horseshoes” at Blackshaw Moor, and “The Lazy Trout” at Meerbrook. Dogs will be permitted but must be kept on a lead at all

times. The walk is suitable for families. Boots or strong walking shoes will be needed.

Cost £1 for members, £1.50 for guests (pay on the day).

Please apply to Mr Peter Corlett, 24 The Covert, Clayton, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 4BL. Tel: 01782 719075 enclosing a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Sunday 27th July Coach Outing to Stokesay Court via Attingham Park.

Stokesay Court (not to be confused with nearby Stokesay Castle) is a magnificent late-Victorian mansion set within extensive grounds in rolling South Shropshire. Unspoilt and secluded, Stokesay Court has recently found fame as a primary location for the film adaptation of Ian McEwan's book **'Atonement'**. The film received many nominations for Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA awards and was film of the year winner at the BAFTAs.



Still very much a lived-in private home, Stokesay Court has never been open to the public before and is now only open to people on pre-booked tours. We will be welcomed to Stokesay Court by Caroline Magnus, the current owner, who will give us all a general talk about the history of the house. We will then tour the house. After the tour afternoon tea and cake will be served to us in the dining room. Following tea the extensive gardens will be open for us to wander around and to enjoy.

The tour will involve the climbing of stairs and in the garden there are a few uneven, perhaps slippery steps and low branches to look out for. Sensible shoes are recommended and stiletto heels are forbidden. No photography is allowed within the house but photographs may be taken outside.

We will be visiting Stokesay Court via N.T. Attingham Park for a comfort stop and for lunch. The Park will be open for walks and the house opens at 1.00pm for 'free-flow' visitors. There is a tearoom, which serves light lunches, and also a kiosk selling hot drinks, snacks and ice cream. These facilities will be at your own cost. **Please bring NT membership cards.**

We depart from School Street at 11.00am and should be back in Newcastle by 7.00pm.

Cost, including coach, admission, a guided tour of the house by Caroline Magnus, afternoon tea and driver's gratuity will be £25.00 (Non-members £26.00)

Please apply to Peter Thompson, Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane, Newcastle, ST5 3LS Tel: 01782 613397 enclosing a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Friday 27th June.

Supporter required (see inside front cover).

Tuesday 29th July Car Outing to Tamworth Castle, Tamworth, Staffordshire (Max 25)

The castle is believed to date from the 1180's and has a long and fascinating history which is well documented in the glossy booklet available at the castle.

The castle is well preserved and furnished. It was acquired by marriage in 1751 by the Townsends of Raynham and it remained in their possession until 1897 when the Marquis of Townsend sold the castle by auction to Tamworth Corporation who paid a purchase price of £3,000. The castle had been occupied as a country gentleman's residence until the sale.

Members will be given a guided tour of the castle lasting approximately 1½ hours. Members will be offered tea/coffee and cakes during the tour. Members should arrive at the Castle Reception not later than 11.00 am

Car parking is a leisurely 15 minutes walk away through the castle grounds. Directions upon application.

After the tour members may wish to wander into the very attractive town centre to find some lunch and to visit the magnificent church of St. Editha, both only a short walk from the castle. St. Editha's dates back to Saxon times of 1200 years ago.

Cost £8.00 per member to include tea/coffee and cakes

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 4EB Tel 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 23rd June.

Tuesday 5th Aug. Coach Outing to Stonyhurst College and Browsholme Hall, Lancashire

Stonyhurst, an Elizabethan mansion begun in 1590, has been a Catholic public school for the last 200 years. After coffee on arrival we shall have a guided tour of the historic rooms and chapels followed by a chance to explore the Grade 2* gardens with views over the Ribble valley. The college has many literary associations: Arthur Conan Doyle and contemporary novelist Patrick McGrath were pupils and Gerald Manley Hopkins a teacher here, while most of *Lord of the Rings* was written here while JRR Tolkien was visiting his son (later Fr Tolkien of Hartshill).

After lunch (purchase a snack in the tea room or bring a picnic) a short drive will take us to the Forest of Bowland and a private opening of Browsholme Hall. This is a very different house, the home of the Parker family since it was built in 1507. A member of the family will show us round, explaining how the house and contents have been preserved over the years enabling it to continue as a family home through changing times. Tea and biscuits will be served before the journey home.

Depart 9.15 am from School St. Return approx. 5.30pm.

Cost £26 (Non-members £27) to include coach, gratuities, 2 guided tours, light refreshments and entrance fees.

Please apply to Mrs M Richards 5 Rugby Close, Newcastle ST5 3JN Tel 01782-618909 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Saturday 19th July.

Supporter required (see inside front cover).

Thursday 21st August Cat Outing to Hawkstone Hall, Marchamley, Shrewsbury SY4 5LG (Max 40)

The Redemptionists have offered to show a party of members around Hawkstone Hall. The Redemptionists, founded in 1732, arriving in Britain in 1843, are a Roman Catholic religious order of priests and brothers, the full title of the Order being the “Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer”. Hawkstone Hall was bought by the Redemptionists in 1926 to be their seminary for training students for the priesthood. In 1973 the Hall became a pastoral centre with the establishment of three month renewal courses for priests. This is a magnificent hall with panoramic views over Shropshire.

The hall was the ancestral home of the famous Hill family from 1556 to 1906. It owes its magnificence to the “lucrative arithmetik” of the wealthy diplomat, Sir Richard Hill, known as the “Great Hill”. Members will enjoy a guided tour of the Hall followed by tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits and members may walk around the grounds and absorb the tranquil atmosphere. The restoration of the pleasure gardens began in 1988 when David and Monica Weller embarked upon the major works of recovery and replantation of the garden which was originally laid out in the 1720s under the supervision of Francis Chambre.

Members should arrive not later than 2.30 pm. There is ample car parking by the hall. Directions upon application.

Cost £9 per member to include tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 4EB. Tel. 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is 31st July 2008

Friday 12th Sept Coach outing to Ludlow Food Festival

The Ludlow Food festival was started in 1995 with the aim of celebrating the quality and diversity of the superb food and drink producers that abound in Ludlow and the Marches.

120 independent producers will be exhibiting an abundance of REAL food from rare breeds and meat to real ale, cider and perry at the Food and Drink Fair held in the grounds of historic Ludlow Castle. Demonstrations, talks and, of course, plenty of tastings take place throughout the day. Outside the Castle, the Festival continues with street entertainment, more food vendors and special displays in the many shops and cafes of this delightful town. Members may also explore other areas of the town.



Depart School Street 9.15 am return 6.00 pm (approx.).

Cost £16.00 (Non-members £17) includes coach, admission to the Food Festival and gratuities.

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Please apply to Mrs P Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, ST4 8AG. Tel 01782 657645 enclosing a cheque and Stamped addressed envelope.

Closing Date for applications is Wednesday 3rd September.

Supporter required (see inside front cover)

Friday 10th October Car Outing to the Anson Engine Museum, Anson Road, Poynton, Cheshire. (approximately 40 limit)

Poynton was once a thriving mining community. The museum is on the site of the old Anson Colliery. The pit was named to commemorate the marriage of the Vernon and Anson (Lord Lichfield) families.

The museum, manned by volunteers, houses one of the largest collections of internal combustion engines in Europe varying in size from desktop to 100 tons, also the museum has the largest running Crossley Atmospheric gas engine, the oldest diesel engine in the country, a steam engine area with a Stott cross-compound mill engine and a Fowler beam engine, the oldest running internal combustion engine and so on. Many of the engines will be running during the tour. Members will be given a guided tour and may wander around the museum in their own time following the tour.

Members should arrive not later than 10.30 a.m There is ample car parking.

Directions upon application.

Cost £6.00 per member to include coffee on arrival

Members may wish to visit Lyme Park (NT Property - see members handbook) at Disley, approximately 5 miles distant under their own steam.

Apply Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 4EB Tel. 01782 616337 enclosing a cheque and Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Closing date for applications is Monday 29th September.



Summary of 2008 Summer Programme

Tuesday 22nd April	Car Outing to Apedale Heritage Centre
Sunday 27th April	Ramble - Norbury Junction
The above are from our previous newsletter	
Wednesday 7th May	Coach Outing to Liverpool
Wednesday 14th May	Car Outing to Cosford Air Museum
Tuesday 20th May	AGM and talk Echoes of the Stage
Wednesday 21st May	Car Outing to Willey Park
Thursday 19th June	Car Outing to Youlgreave
Saturday 28th June	Coach Outing to Bridgnorth and Severn Valley Railway
Thursday 3rd July	Walk - Leek Town
Saturday 12th July	Ramble - Tittesworth Reservoir
Sunday 27th July	Coach outing to Stokesay Court (of the film "Atonement" fame)
Tuesday 29th July	Car Outing to Tamworth
Tuesday 5th Aug.	Coach Outing to Browsholme Hall and Stonyhurst College
Thursday 21st Aug.	Car Outing to Hawkstone Hall
Friday 12th September	Coach Outing to Ludlow Food Festival
Friday 10th October	Car Outing Anson Engine Museum
Dates for Your Diary	
Tuesday 30th September	Coach outing to Lake District Cruise and Sizergh Castle (NT)

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