

THE NORTH STAFFS National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 92

and

May to August 2012 PROGRAMME

Our Web Site – www.northstaffsnt.org.uk/



Members of the Association were delightfully entertained at Ford Green Hall in December by Jane and Eric Moulder of the group Piva. Their authentic ancient instruments and choice of appropriate music added hugely to the sense of an early seventeenth century Christmas specially organised by Ford Green Hall volunteers for the Association.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS



Coaches depart promptly from SCHOOL STREET, Newcastle, which has become available again, behind the Jubilee 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 our trips will pay an additional £2 for coach outings and an additional £1 for car outings. The committee has agreed that 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 “The North Staffs National Trust Association”. 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.**

SPECIAL NOTE

School Street is once again available for our coaches. So members need no longer assemble on the narrow Brunswick Street pavement.

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

I am coming towards the end of my first year in office and this, plus recent events, has made me more reflective than usual. Having been self-employed for much of my working life I am used to having to rely mainly only my own efforts and my own talents and to rely less on others than perhaps I would if I were more used to working as part of a team.

Never-the-less, I have sat on quite a few committees in my time, mainly in small interest groups, where finding enough people to take on the various responsibilities was always and still is, a challenge – taking on several jobs is not unusual.

It was, therefore, a great surprise to me and a great joy to find that this Association's committee was full of helpful, willing, experienced people who were happy to take on responsibilities, to adapt to change and be generally very supportive of each other and the group. Here was the team that I was appointed to lead.

It, therefore, becomes quite a shock when team members are no longer able to take part and have to resign from their duties - I am thinking of Keith Walker (our Membership Secretary until recently) who has new concerns to take care of and now John Beaumont, our redoubtable Newsletter Editor, who has just had to resign because of his illness.

Yet it is in testing times like this that the strength and quality of our dedicated volunteers shows through and we have Richard Adams willingly taking on the Membership role (in addition to continuing as the Association's Secretary) and Paul Anderton acting as Guest Editor for this and the next issue of the Newsletter. We, of course, still need to "top up" membership of the Committee and, particularly, to find a permanent Editor. If you think this might be you, don't be afraid to come forward and offer your services, even if *you* are or have

been self-employed, for you will find that joining this team is inspiring and rewarding. Please don't hesitate to come forward.

It seems strange, as I write this in the depths of winter, that I should wish you a very Happy Easter, but I do and also that you have a wonderful spring and summer.

MEET THE COMMITTEE SUE PITT.

I was born in Newcastle-under Lyme and attended local schools. After leaving the Orme Girls' School I began a career in Biomedical Science, training at what is now Staffordshire University. Many years of the early days of my work were spent based at St Edward's Hospital serving the Leek Hospitals, an experience which brought its rewards and challenges!



I became a member of the National Trust in the 1970s and have always taken a keen interest in its aims and ideals. Becoming a member of the local Association has further added to my pleasure by the many events and outings organised by the committee. After retiring from the NHS I became a volunteer Garden Guide at Biddulph Grange Garden which I thoroughly enjoy.

My hobbies and leisure interests include flower arranging (Member of Trentham Flower Club), bird watching (Member of RSPB), gardening and needlework. I also enjoy classical music concerts. I hope that the local Association continues to thrive and brings enjoyment to all its members.

RICHARD ADAMS



Richard was born in Hastings and schooled in Bexhill, until moving up north to study Medicine at Nottingham University. He then signed up for a 3-year General Practice training programme in Stoke. Here he met Nicky on the stage of the Medical Institute while they were performing in the Hospital Christmas show. They married and he entered General Practice in the Ashley and Loggerheads area, where he stayed for 25 happy years, until early retirement in 2006, a decision he has never regretted.

During this time he produced two sons, one of whom stayed local and is now a solicitor in Newcastle, while the other is a scientist in far away Azerbaijan!

In his spare time Richard likes to get out and about, sometimes exploring new walks for the Association, and sometimes just for fun, most times accompanied by Stella, the family standard poodle! In the evenings you will often find him at Stone Bridge Club. Richard and Nicky have travelled extensively, often by cruise ship, and hope to continue this for as long as possible. The world cruise is an experience on the agenda just waiting to be fitted in.



FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME



Monday 14th May: A Stroll to Stoke. - starting at 6.00pm

Starting from Boothen this is a walk at a relaxed pace for personal observations of the variety of London Road. You will be surprised at how much history there is to see. You will experience one of the oldest crafts known to man, be welcomed at an Italianate house, view modern trompe l'oeil painting and decorative ironwork and read original reports of the Titanic disaster. This walk will take up to two hours with a fascinating pub for refreshment and enlightenment at the end. Beware! Stoke can be very hilly.

Numbers are limited to 20 so early application is advised.

Cost £5 (£6 for non-members).

Apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32, The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY with a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Queries by telephone on 01782 641765 or e-mail to cynthia_dumbelton@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 15th May 7.00 pm AGM. Talk by Fiona Wallace, Executive Director, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-u-Lyme
see the notice for the AGM for details

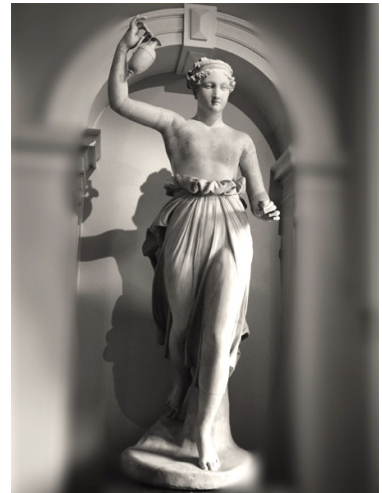
Monday 21st May Car outing to Capesthorpe Hall.
(between Congleton and Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK11 9JY.)

The present squire of Capesthorpe Hall is Sir William Bromley-Davenport, the former Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, whose family have owned the land since Domesday times when they were appointed custodians of the Royal Forest of Macclesfield.

In his book *'England's Thousand Best Houses'*, Simon Jenkins states that Lenette

Bromley-Davenport, the American mother of the present squire, wrote in 1955 that Capesthorpe *'can repel violently or attract irrevocably. To many the exotic towers, domes and pinnacles are grotesque and ugly [but] the enchantment of Eastern minarets, the tales of Arabian nights and the romance of the Round Table trembles in the air'*.

Members will be given a guided tour of the house and may walk around the gardens at leisure. Refreshments at members' own expense are available in the tearoom, which closes at 5.00 pm. Members should arrive not later than 1.30 pm, the car park is only a short walk from the house.



Cost: £8 (non-members £9), which includes access to the house, guided tour, access to the garden and free parking. Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 4EB, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01782 616337. Bookings close on 7th May.

Thursday 31st May Car outing to Highfields, Audlem. Maximum 25.

Highfields is a black and white Yeoman's Manor. The land was owned by the Dod family, apparently since Saxon times, and they built the present house in 1645. It passed by marriage to the architect William Baker in 1736 and is still owned by the Baker family. The house has been added to over the years, without detracting from its cosy charm, all the downstairs rooms and the hall having fine fireplaces.

Highfields features in Simon Jenkins book entitled *England's Thousand Best Houses*.

Members should arrive at Highfields not later than 2.30 pm when they will be given a guided tour of the house followed by tea/coffee and biscuits

Cost £7.50 to include tea/coffee and biscuits

Please apply to Peter Moxon of Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 4EB enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 616337.

Directions on application.

Tuesday 12th June Car outing to Sugnall Walled Garden.

One of Staffordshire's hidden gems lies just a few miles west of Eccleshall, Sugnall Walled Garden. Built in 1738 to serve as a kitchen garden to Sugnall Hall, its two acres are still surrounded by the original brick walls, making it unique in the country. After a period of Victorian glory, the garden followed the usual 20th century pattern of decay from which it has been rescued by the current owners, Mr and Mrs Jacques, who are also experts in historic garden restoration. Since 2006, the garden has undergone an extensive restoration and replanting programme and now produces an abundance of organic fruit and vegetables, some of which you will sample this evening.

Join us for a summer evening stroll through the garden in the company of the owners who will tell us more of its history and their plans for its future. We will also visit some of the adjacent garden buildings and the site of the now demolished Hall. All this will be followed by a delicious supper of seasonal quiche and salad and a fruit pudding all fresh from the garden. Tea or coffee is included and further wine can be purchased.

Arrival time: 6.30 for 7.00 pm.

Cost £14.50 (non-members £15.50) to include a glass of wine/fruit juice on arrival, tour of the garden led by the owners, and supper.

Apply to Mrs Penny Moore, 26, Parkway, Trentham, ST4 8AG. enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 657645

Closing date 29th May.

Saturday 23rd June Coach outing to Shobdon Church, Flower, Food & Wine Festival and Witley Court.

Today is a day for those with a taste for distinguishing rococo from baroque or barolo and hock.

Shobdon Church near Leominster is unique in Britain . Visually unaltered since 1756, it is a Wedgwood blue and white rococo masterpiece, looking as fresh as the flowers after the recently completed (D.V.) million pound restoration. The elegant grounds of the missing mansion form the backdrop of the no less splendid 30th Annual Festival of Food & Wine. Peace and quiet can be found in the Arboretum and Lakeside Walk. Tea or coffee and a bakery item (included) will be provided on arrival. The refreshment facilities and purveyors of delicacies will be pleased to furnish lunch in exchange for currency, or please bring sustenance with you.

From Shobdon we will move on to Witley Court. Our guided tour of the palatial remains concludes with a firing of the Poseidon & Flora fountains . There will be time to visit the Italianate Church which, like Shobdon, gives no clue as to the magnificence within. Lord Foley did rather well at the reclamation auction of the fittings in the distressed Duke of Chandos' Chapel. If the tallest funerary monument in Britain, by Rysbrack, is not to your taste, the grounds at Witley also feature the Jerwood Sculpture Park.

After all this, relax with a strawberry tea (included), served, not queued for, in the tropical conservatory waiting exclusively for you. We shall leave at 4.45.p.m. to be back in Newcastle by 7p.m.

Coach leaves School Street at 8.45 am.

Cost £31.00. (non members £33.00.) At concessionary rate for over 60 yrs.

£31.50. (“ “ £33.50 .) Under 60 years of age.

£26.00. (“ “ £28.00.) bring English Heritage membership card on day.

To include coach, Shobdon Event entry and morning refreshment, entry to Witley Court, guided tour, strawberry tea and driver's tip.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QH enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Tel. 01902. 752833.

Closing date for applications Friday June 8th.

Wednesday 27th June Walk: Alderley Edge

Alderley Edge is a dramatic, wooded sandstone escarpment, which has been mined for copper for at least 4,000 years. Bronze Age miners were followed by the Romans, mediaeval smelters and finally, with the arrival of the railway system, Cornish tin miners. They have all left their marks on the landscape, now in the safe care of the National Trust.



Our walk will be a gentle affair with several stops to take in the views, the mines, and other points of interest. It is just four miles in total, six stiles, and only one steepish slope to go up.

We will meet at 10am on the NT car park by the Wizard Inn (parking free if you are displaying your sticker), and expect to be back at the Wizard for lunch at 12.15.

After lunch, why not make a day of it – either go on a short distance to Hare Hill Garden (NT), well worth a visit at this time of year, or perhaps the delights of shopping in Wilmslow or Cheadle Hulme will draw you in?

Cost £2.00 for members, £2.50 for non-members (pay on the day). Children and dogs welcome at no charge.

Book your place with Richard Adams: email to rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or by post to: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Telephone: 01782 646054

Thursday 12th July: Coach outing to The Hall at Abbey-Cwm Hir, near Llandrindod Wells.

The Grade II listed Hall at Abbey-cwm-Hir (the Abbey in the Long Valley) is situated between Newtown and Llandrindod Wells in the old Welsh county of Radnorshire. It is a fine example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture, built in 1834 by Thomas Wilson and restored by its present owners to its former splendour. It overlooks the parish church of St Mary and the ruins of a 12th century Cistercian abbey.

The Hall has 52 rooms, all with original features including marble fireplaces, decorative plasterwork and stained glass. The many bedrooms and bathrooms are themed to days gone by and together with the formal reception rooms and unique Garden Room they house a wide selection of collectibles and memorabilia, with some surprises! The grounds cover some 12 acres including a large walled garden, lawns, terraces and a lake with waterfall set against woodland. All the rooms and grounds are accessible by visitors, as is the adjacent parish church.



This will be one of our rare outings to mid-Wales with a journey time a little longer than usual compensated for by a scenic route with no motorways. We will drive directly to the Hall but the coach will have on-board toilet facilities. On arrival we will be served tea/coffee/biscuits before commencing a full tour of the Hall, led at a leisurely pace by members of the family. All rooms have some seating for visitors and the large Garden Room is available to relax in. **The rooms are luxuriously carpeted and visitors are asked to take soft footwear (house slippers or similar) to change into for the duration of the tour.**

At the conclusion of the tour (2.00 pm approx.) we will have lunch. Members may bring their own packed lunch to eat in either the Garden Room or on the outside terraces. However, a seated Hall Buffet, which is highly recommended, is available at an additional cost of £9 per head. See footnote for details. **The buffet must be ordered and paid for at the time of booking.**

After lunch we are free to explore the grounds and the church, reached by a short walk around the lake. We will leave for home at approx. 4.30pm. Coach departs from School Street at 8.15 am prompt and arrives back at approx. 7.15 pm.

Cost: £29.50 (non-members £31.50) to include coach fare, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival and guided tour of the Hall. If you choose to book the Hall Table Buffet you must include the additional cost of £9 a head in your remittance - please see booking form.

Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3, The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3HY, enclosing a cheque **and an A4, stamped addressed envelope.**

Tel: 01782 777513

Closing date: Monday 18th June.

FOOTNOTE: The Hall Table Buffet comprises: open rolls of baked ham/Welsh beef with red onion pickle, potted cheese and pumpkin seed: white and wholemeal sandwiches of chicken and spinach, local eggs with mayonnaise and cress: cheese scones and pecan cranberry bread topped with Welsh cheeses and suitably garnished: beef and beer pies: fig and Perl Las turnovers: chicken liver pate: selection of homemade cakes, cookies and tea breads.

The booking form allows this **OPTIONAL TABLE BUFFET @ £9 per head** to be ordered in advance.

Tuesday 24th July Car outing to Pugin Land, St Giles Cheadle, ST10 1AR

Celebrate the bi-centenary of the birth of architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin with a visit to Cheadle, home of perhaps his most magnificent creation, St Giles R.C. church. Built with funds provided by the 16th Earl of Shrewsbury, this parish church is decorated with the richness of a cathedral with glowing paintings, intricate carvings and superb stained glass and Minton tiles. In addition to a guided tour of this wonderful building we shall have a presentation on 'Pugin in North Staffordshire', a tour of Lulworth House (the former police station now being used as Cheadle Heritage Centre for the duration of the Pugin year) and the RIBA and Harman collections and a short guided architectural walk around Cheadle historic town centre.

We shall meet at 10.30 at Lulworth House when tea/coffee will be served and the day will end at approximately 3.15pm; there will be a break around midday when members can take lunch (at own expense) at one of the cafes or pubs in the town.

Cost: £7 (£8 for non-members) includes tea/coffee on arrival, lecturers' fees and exhibition entrance, guided tour of Cheadle town centre and St Giles R.C. Church and a free copy of the St Giles 36 page colour guide book produced as part of the bicentenary celebrations.

Apply to Rose Wheat, 12 West Ave, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 ONB, enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 616113.

Closing date: 10th July.

**Thursday 2nd August Car outing to Tabley House.
Knutsford, WA16 OHB**

Tabley House, which was designed by John Carr of York for Sir Peter Byrne Leicester Bt., is the only 18th century Palladian country house in Cheshire. The earlier Tabley Hall circa 1380 was built nearby in the middle of a mere called The Moat. Unfortunately, the Old Hall became unsafe and had to be demolished in the 1920s. However, St. Peter's Chapel dating from 1675-8 and "The Old Hall Room" which were both part of the Old Hall were rebuilt next to the new Tabley House. The Old Hall Room is now the Tea Room and this connects the Chapel to Tabley House. Tabley is renowned for its art and furniture collections with paintings by Turner, Lely, William Dobson, John Martin, Reynolds and Fuseli and furniture by Gillow amongst others. The conducted tour of the house will commence at 2.00 pm and lasts approximately one and a quarter hours after which we will take afternoon tea in the Old Hall Tearoom. Full directions and timings will be given upon application. Please note that the collections are housed on the first floor and if anyone needs assistance with the stairs I have to notify the staff prior to our visit. If you would need such assistance please indicate so on your booking form.

Since this is an afternoon visit, some people may wish to spend some time in nearby Knutsford in the morning; this is where Mrs Gaskell lived at one time and is the setting for her famous novel *Cranford*.

Cost: £11 (non-members £12) to include conducted tour and afternoon tea.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent ST7 3HY, enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.
Tel: 01782 851436 or 01782 777513
Closing Date: 30th June

Thursday 16th August Coach outing to Bitterley Court, The Food Centre and Oakly Park near Ludlow.

A rare opportunity to visit two contrasting private houses on the outskirts of Ludlow.

Bitterley Court : an ancient settlement with a polite, Georgian facade concealing a mysterious core. Adjacent Saxon Church . Only two families have owned it since the fourteenth century, each generation leaving its mark .

Oakly Park : the spectacular result of a partnership between a well informed, well travelled patron and his like-minded genius architect given his first country house commission. The dramatic regency core of the house was unusually inserted last linking two earlier properties. The home of the son of Clive of India and his descendants the Windsor – Clives, currently the heir to Lord Plymouth .

Ludlow Food Centre : a mind blowing gourmet experience. If the produce is local or can be made on the premises, bakery, patisserie, cheese making and master chocolatier, it's all here.

Notes : The Food centre is our base . We shall call in for a comfort stop on the way to Bitterley Court . We have exclusive use of the conference room for lunch, departure point for Oakly Park and returning for afternoon tea and retail therapy. The conference room is available for those bringing their own lunch and tea or coffee if required is available in situ for £2.25. If you prefer, a carnivore or vegetarian sandwich and seasonal salads buffet, potato salad, coleslaw, garden salad, crisps, tea and coffee is being prepared for us. Please see the booking form. Upon our return from Oakly Park tea or coffee and cake (included) will be served.

The Optional Lunch, at a preferential rate, for those not self catering has been arranged to avoid queues in the excellent but small, and in August, crowded Barn Cafe .

Coach departs School Street at 8.45 am. and returns by 7 pm.

Cost : £31.50 (£33.50 for non-members) to include coach, admission to Bitterley Court with refreshments on arrival, admission to Oakly Park and

afternoon tea/ coffee with cake at The Food Centre. Please add £ 8.50. for vegetarian or carnivore sandwich and buffet with tea /coffee included . Those requiring tea or coffee for their packed lunch can decide and pay (£2.25) on the day. It will not be possible to opt for The Buffet Lunch on the day.

Please apply to Ralph White 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8QH, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.
Tel: 01902 752833.

Closing date for applications is Friday August 3rd.

Saturday 15th September Coach outing to Buckingham Palace. A Diamond Day Out

Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with a visit to Buckingham Palace, the office and London residence of H.M.The Queen, one of the few working palaces in the world. You will visit **the State Rooms, the Garden** and the spectacular special exhibition: **Diamonds, A Jubilee Celebration.**

The State Rooms form the heart of the working palace and are furnished with some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection – paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens and Canaletto; sculpture by Canova; exquisite examples of Sevres porcelain and some of the finest English and French furniture

Described as a “walled oasis in the middle of London”, the Garden is home to thirty different species of birds and more than 350 different wild flowers, some extremely rare. Visitors end their tour with a walk along the south side of the garden, with splendid views of the west front of the palace and the famous lake.

The spectacular special exhibition: **Diamonds, A Jubilee Celebration** shows the many ways in which diamonds have been used by British monarchs over the last 200 years. It includes a number of the Queen’s personal jewels - those inherited by Her Majesty or acquired during her reign. The exhibition reveals how many of these extraordinary stones have undergone a number of transformations having been re-cut or incorporated into new settings during their fascinating history

At the end of your visit, you might like to visit the Garden Café situated on the West Terrace overlooking the famous lawn and lake. The café offers a selection of refreshments, including tea, coffee, juice and a selection of cakes and sandwiches, all in a most elegant setting.

NORTH STAFFS
NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WADE HALL, NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE
HARTSHILL

TUESDAY MAY 15th 2012 at 7.00 pm

AGENDA:

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 31st AGM**
- 3. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising**
- 4. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising**
- 5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2012 – 2013**
- 6. Any Other Business**

Followed at 7.30pm by a talk (see facing page)

The evening will finish as usual with coffee and biscuits or wine from the bar - all available to purchase on the night.

NOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 7 – ELECTIONS

Members are invited to submit nominations for the 2012 - 2013 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 27th 2012.

Donations

The Treasurer will report that during the last financial year £9,000 was donated as agreed at the AGM in May 2011. In addition £500 was sent to Little Moreton Hall and another £500 to Sudbury Hall in response to urgent requests. A total of £5,000 is currently available for donations (£3,000 from a holiday and £2,000 from events). £4,000 could be distributed immediately according to members' wishes, and £1,000 kept for emergency calls during the year. Suggestions to guide the committee in its decisions will be welcome.



A talk by Fiona Wallace

Behind the Scenes at the New Vic – The Producer's Perspective

For 25 years the New Vic Theatre has been producing exciting and acclaimed theatre from its base in Newcastle-under-Lyme. In the run up to the opening night of the theatre's new adaptation of Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd*, Executive Director, Fiona Wallace, will present a backstage insight into just what it takes to produce a theatre show, from the choice of plays and directors, to casting the acting company and on through the rehearsal process. She will take a behind-the-scenes look at the work of the Costume department and the Scenic and Props workshops, culminating in the energy and activity of technical and dress rehearsals and the excitement (and tension?) of opening night.

Nominations for the Committee

May we urge you to consider standing, or nominating someone else (with their consent) for the next committee. Our Constitution requires us to elect a new committee annually and, while we already have a strong team, each of whom are willing to stand for re-election, we would really welcome new blood.

Please contact Richard Adams if you wish to follow this up.

Reports of previous activities

Monday 14th November – Talk at the NS Conference Centre:
David Beckett – What a Load of Rubbish! Recycling in Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

David used plenty of visual aids to give us an interesting and informative insight into the problems of recycling in an environmentally friendly manner and of the impressive progress that Newcastle has made during the past few years. From recycling only about a quarter of collected waste a couple of years ago, and being near the bottom of the recycling “league table”, Newcastle now recycles fully half of its waste and is not only near the head of the table but has also won several national awards.

Much of this progress was made during David’s time as Newcastle Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment and Recycling and, although he is evidently proud of the achievement, he is typically modest about his contribution to it. Despite this improvement he is conscious of the need to progress further because, as he says, while a fifty percent recycling rate is excellent by the standards of the past, it means that we are still dumping fifty percent into landfill sites.



Newcastle’s recycling effort has not gone without criticism, with some local residents complaining about having to fill too many different containers with their waste; indeed

there has been an attempt at ridicule in at least one national daily newspaper. David counters this by pointing out that not all the containers have to be put out at the kerb side on any single collection day and that one of them never needs to be put out at all. More importantly, segregating waste at source reduces processing costs thereby saving significant amounts of money for council tax payers; furthermore it avoids contaminating “clean” waste which, once fouled, would no longer be recyclable and would have to go to landfill.

Further consideration has been given to the environment by ensuring that Newcastle has reduced its “waste miles” by arranging that rubbish travels minimal distances to processing centres. Most of these are in neighbouring counties, at least one is in Staffordshire and one is even within the borough.

This isn’t the place to detail all the aspects of David’s talk of course but, if you would like to know more, you could visit Newcastle Council’s website at <http://newcastle-staffs.gov.uk> and look for “Environment” on the home page

Bruce Beard

Friday 2nd December Visit to Attingham Frost Fair

Despite its chilly name the Fair was neither frosty nor especially cold, as most of the stalls were in large marquees or within the house. We were impressed with the extensive range and quality of goods on display and returned to the coach laden with bags of local food and wine, hand-made hats and scarves, ceramics, jewellery and even garden items. Most people managed to enjoy some refreshments, either in the rather crowded restaurant or at one of the out-door food stalls, where grilling sausages, venison burgers and mulled wine scented the air most seasonally. The approach of Christmas was duly marked by choirs from several primary schools successively giving concerts of carols in the open air.

After the short coach journey into Shrewsbury we had time to do more Christmas shopping, find afternoon tea, follow the Darwin Trail around the town or visit one of the historic churches. Thanks to Anne Anderton for arranging an unusual and enjoyable winter outing.

Paul Anderton

Tuesday and Wednesday 13th & 14th December Visit to Ford Green Hall

On a chilly Tuesday evening in December, what a pleasure it was to visit Ford Green Hall, where we were welcomed by the aroma of festive spices.

The timber-framed structure was constructed in 1624 by a local craftsman, Raphe Sutton, carpenter, for Hugh Ford, a wealthy yeoman farmer. Raphe Sutton's name remains to this day inscribed on the lintel above the porch door. The Hall was the Ford family home for nearly 200 years although in the ensuing years, it was extended to include a porch, a separate kitchen and two additional wings to meet the changing needs of the family.

The contents of the Hall are not original but similar to those that would have once furnished it. The tester bed in the Hall Chamber, originally from Norton Old Hall, has side curtains embroidered over many months by skilled local volunteers. In the Main Hall the focus is the cast iron fireplace purchased in 1952 for the princely sum of £6 from Alton Towers. The Hall was occupied until 1942, when it was purchased by Stoke City Council. It was subsequently opened to the public in 1946 after going through extensive restoration.

Our enthusiastic guide for the evening was Chris Bell, who, like all of the volunteers in attendance, was attired in Tudor costume. His tour was a catalogue of interesting facts. Throughout the evening we were entertained by Eric and Jane Moulder who played music of the renaissance period on a variety of wind instruments.

On display in the kitchen were a number of delicacies of the period, including a savoury mince pie, game birds and spices from around the world. Nicky told us how Christmas fare was prepared and demonstrated the making of marzipan. We were drawn upstairs by delightful festive smells, where Carolyn was making beautifully decorated pomanders for sale. Near by, Mary and Janice demonstrated their skills in wool spinning and embroidery.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening concluded with a glass of warm mulled wine and mince pies.

Peter Thompson

Tuesday 24th January 2012 Terry Butler - Talk at the NS Conference Centre: The ROYAL TRAIN.

As a railway enthusiast I was hoping to see photos of locomotives and the interiors of the Royal Train carriages. Not so. Was I disappointed? NO WAY!

Terry started by telling a joke, and that set the pattern for the rest of the evening. His natural wit, observed comments and anecdotes had the audience laughing all evening. There were some specific points. The first Royal Train ran in June 1842, but Terry stated that he was not involved with that one. The trains were a great favourite of Queen Victoria even though, with an overnight stay at Crewe, it took 24hrs. to get from London to Scotland. Terry reckoned this was good going as today, with modern trains, it can still take 23hrs on a Sunday.

A new set of nine Bomb and Bullet proof carriages had been built a few years ago at a cost of £9m. Prince Charles had some input with the selection and design of the interiors. Terry said that it looked as though the Prince had been influenced by a visit to IKEA!

Train timings were critical to avoid delays, and the Queen was agreeable to alterations if needed. Not so the Duke. Plan A was Plan A and he caused much heart ache if things went wrong. This happened on one of the Duke's overnight trains. It was stabled on a secluded line with no trains scheduled to pass, only for every hour, on the hour, a heavily laden freight train went thundering past. He was not amused. There were many more such stories all evening.

In conclusion, the Queen does pay for the train. She paid £50,000 in 1986 when she opened our Garden Festival. Also all Train operations are scheduled so as not to interfere with Network operations.

Thanks Terry for a most enjoyable evening.

Ray Withington

Thursday 9th February : Car outing to the Staffordshire Record Office

A lucky 21 of us defied the snow forecast and were treated to a special behind-the-scenes look at the County Records Office in Stafford. This building, tucked away behind the William Salt Library in Eastgate Street, houses an amazing collection of documents and maps dating from the 11th century onwards. And not a dusty cobweb in sight!

We were welcomed by Rebecca Jackson, who gave us an insight into the range of material

stored, but more importantly available for inspection by anyone interested. Users of the Record Office range from academic researchers to legal searches and to individuals looking for information on their families, houses or local area. They have some 20,000 personal visitors a year.

The information is divided into collections. To name a few: the Sutherland Collection has much of local interest regarding the family and the Trentham Estate; the Police Collection, where you just might find a photo of one of your ancestors (the police were early adopters of the new technology in the 1800s, and kept mug shots of prisoners, habitual drunkards and the like!); the Coal Board Collection has plans of long-gone mines and descriptions of mine rescues; the Poor Law Collection details life in the workhouses (Rebecca was impressed when the North Staffs group guessed what “lobscouse” was on the menu!)

We split into groups: to see the painstaking work of the conservators, where we learnt how to glue parchment with warm gelatine and to make ink from oak apples; and to the strongrooms where the bulk of the material is kept.

Some highlights for me were: the will of Wulfric Spot from Burton Priory in the time of King Ethelred, the Maer Church marriage register entry of Charles Darwin and Emma Wedgwood, and the beautiful watercolour sketches of the Crimean War by Lt-Col Thomas Unett from Tittensor.

Many thanks to Penny Moore for arranging this opportunity for us.
For your own enquiries, do call the Record Office on 01785 278379, or go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives

Richard Adams

Thursday 14 February Talk by Ian Dudson on ‘My life as a Sheriff’

In his introduction to Ian Dudson our Chairman, David, told us that the Queen had recently invited Ian to become the 5th Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire since the end of the Second World War with effect from 28th March. So before he had even started his talk he received an enthusiastic round of applause!

Ian Dudson gave us an interesting talk starting with the history of the role of the High Sheriff. They have been appointed annually by the sovereign for over 1,000 years. Collecting the “Family Rent” of £24 per annum was the forerunner of the Inland Revenue.

The sheriffs have many roles including seeing that justice is done in the courts. There were courts of account where the money was counted on a chequered cloth with counters – this is the origin of the Exchequer. Entertaining the monarchy was an expensive business – they were asked to provide banquets for weddings – all out of their own pockets. Only the rich could become sheriffs. Appointments were made using a list and the monarch then pricked the favoured name with a bodkin – holes being more difficult to alter than words. Sheriffs have an elaborate uniform. Today, knowing when to wear it can be a problem.

Turning up in full regalia and finding everyone else in casual dress is embarrassing. The badge has two swords – one blunt for mercy, one sharp for justice.

Only a few elaborate receptions are provided each year now. But many guests are received and escorted around the county. The Duke of Gloucester was taken to the arboretum at Alrewas on Armistice Day – a grey day but at 11.00 am the sun shone briefly through the stone gap to light up the memorial wreath.

Ian Dudson has walked all 1154 miles of the canal paths in Staffordshire raising £12,000 for his charity The Staffordshire Community Foundation.

The office of High Sheriff is still self-funded, which is why, he suggests it is still going after 1,000 years. But it is a great privilege and he is looking forward to his role as Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire.

Elizabeth Wright

Tuesday 21st February. -Car outing to JCB Factory

I left the premises of JCB Ltd., Rocester, with my ears ringing. But to begin at the beginning. David Dumbelton welcomed us in the rather smart dining room of JCB Sales Ltd., but his voice was overwhelmed by the clatter of crockery from the kitchen -a harbinger of things to come. This assault on our ears continued as we toured the recently opened 2,500 square metre exhibition building. Our guides were equipped with radio microphones which was just as well since speech was pouring out of numerous loud speakers. This challenge to our senses was augmented by many ingenious displays often enhanced with special lighting effects. Added to all this, videos were being projected onto every available surface. If the presentation was overwhelming, the content was good: it ranged from the tipping trailer (recently bought back by the company at great expense!) made from scrap in a lock-up garage in 1945 to "the very latest all singing all dancing computerised Backhoe Loader."

After a short time in the museum shop we entered one of the huge production buildings where we needed to turn up our volume controls. The whole building was filled with a blue haze, probably from the many welding operations that were going on. Finally, after three miles and three hours, we were taken into a large cinema where David stood up, presumably to thank the guides. But he was cut short by a 1000 decibel drum roll which prefaced an equally noisy video, at the end of which the lady sitting next to me remarked that she could have done without it, a sentiment I shared. I left with my ears ringing, but glad that I had gone. As I drove home, I felt grateful that I had never had to work in such difficult conditions. Thanks are due to David for organising this very interesting visit.

Harold Yardley

BOOKING DETAILS

Monday 14th May: A Stroll to Stoke

Meet at 6.00 pm

Cost £5 (£6 for non-members).

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32, The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY with a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Queries by telephone on 01782 641765 or e-mail to cynthia_dumbelton@yahoo.co.uk

Numbers are limited to 20 so early application is advised.

SEE OVER PAGE

BOOKING DETAILS

**Monday 21st May Car outing to Capesthorpe Hall.
(between Congleton and Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK11 9JY.)**

Cost: £8 (non-members £9), which includes access to the house, guided tour, access to the garden and free parking.

Members should arrive not later than 1.30 pm, the car park is only a short walk from the house.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 4EB enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01782 616337

Bookings close on 7th May.

SEE OVER PAGE

WALK:

Monday 14th May:

A Stroll to Stoke

Name (s)	Association number	£
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Total £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

CAR OUTING:

**Monday 21st May Car outing to Capesthorne Hall.
(between Congleton and Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK11 9JY.)**

Name (s)	Association number	£
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Total £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

BOOKING DETAILS

Thursday 31st May Car outing to Highfields, Audlem Maximum 25.

Members should arrive at Highfields not later than 2.30 pm when they will be given a guided tour of the house followed by tea/coffee and biscuits.

Cost £7.50 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Please apply to Peter Moxon of Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 4EB enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tel. 01782 616337
Directions on application.

SEE OVER PAGE

BOOKING DETAILS

Tuesday 12th June Car outing to Sugnall Walled Garden

Cost £14.50 (non-members £15.50) to include a glass of wine/fruit juice on arrival, a tour of the garden led by the owners, and supper.

Members should arrive at 6.30 for 7.00 pm.

Please apply to Mrs Penny Moore, 26, Parkway, Trentham, ST4 8AG, enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 657645.

Closing date 29th May.

SEE OVER PAGE

CAR OUTING:

Thursday 31st May Car outing to **Highfields, Audlem** Maximum 25.

Name (s) Association number £

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Total £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

CAR OUTING:

Tuesday 12th June Car outing to **Sugnall Walled Garden**

Name (s) Association number £

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Total £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

BOOKING DETAILS

Saturday 23rd June Coach outing to Shobdon Church, Flower, Food & Wine Festival and Witley Court.

Coach leaves School Street at 8.45 am.

Cost £31.00. (non members £33.00.) At concessionary rate for over 60 yrs.

£31.50. (“ “ £33.50 .) Under 60 years of age.

£26.00. (“ “ £28.00.) Demonstrably English Heritage member on day .

To include coach, Shobdon Event entry and morning refreshment, entry to Witley Court, guided tour , strawberry tea and driver's tip.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QH enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope . Tel 01902 752833

Closing date for applications Friday June 8th .

BOOKING DETAILS

Wednesday 27th June Walk: Alderley Edge.

We will meet at 10 am on the NT car park by the Wizard Inn (parking free if you are displaying your sticker), and expect to be back at the Wizard for lunch at 12.15.

Cost £2.00 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day). Children and dogs welcome at no charge.

Book your place with Richard Adams: email to rjadams@doctors.org.uk, or by post to: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Telephone: 01782 646054

SEE OVER PAGE

COACH OUTING:

Saturday 23rd June Coach outing to Shobdon Church, Flower, Food & Wine Festival and Witley Court.

Name (s)	Association number	£
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Total £

Numbers of persons over 60 (); number under 60 ()
Number of Members of E.H. ()

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

WALK:

Wednesday 27th June Walk: Alderley Edge.

Name (s)	Association number	£
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Total £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

BOOKING DETAILS

Thursday 12th July : Coach outing to The Hall at Abbey-Cwm Hir, near Llandrindod Wells.

Coach departs from School Street at 8.15 am prompt and arrives back at approx. 7.15 pm. Cost: £29.50 (non-members £31.50) to include coach fare, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival and guided tour of the Hall.

If you choose to book the Hall Table Buffet you must include the additional cost of £9 a head in your remittance - please see booking form.

Please apply to Roger Cartlidge, 3, The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3HY. enclosing a cheque and **an A4 stamped addressed envelope**. Tel: 01782 777513

Closing date: Monday 18th June.

OPTIONAL TABLE BUFFET @ £9 per head - see space/box for the appropriate number.

SEE OVER PAGE

BOOKING DETAILS

Tuesday 24th July Car outing to Pugin Land, St Giles Cheadle, ST10 1AR

We shall meet at 10.30 am at Lulworth House for tea/coffee : the day will end at approximately 3.15pm. There will be a break around midday for lunch (at own expense); several cafes and pubs in the town.

Cost: £7 (£8 for non-members) includes tea/coffee on arrival, lecturers' fees and exhibition entrance, guided tour of Cheadle town centre and St Giles R.C. Church and a free copy of the St Giles 36 page colour guide book produced as part of the bicentenary celebrations.

Apply to Rose Wheat, 12 West Ave, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 ONB, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 616113.

Closing date: 10th July.

SEE OVER PAGE

BOOKING DETAILS

**Thursday 2nd August Car outing to Tabley House.
Knutsford, WA16 OHB**

Cost: £11 (guests £12) to include the conducted tour and afternoon tea.

Please apply to Shirley Timmis, 3 The Mount, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent ST7 3HY enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Tel: 01782 851436 or 01782 777513

Closing Date: 30th June

SEE OVER PAGE

BOOKING DETAILS

**Thursday 16th August Coach outing to Bitterley Court, The Food Centre and
Oakly Park near Ludlow.**

Coach departs School Street at 8.45.am and returns by 7 pm.

Cost : £31.50. (£33.50. for non-members). To include coach, admission to Bitterley Court with refreshments on arrival, admission to Oakly Park and afternoon tea/coffee with cake at The Food Centre.

Please add £ 8.50 for vegetarian or carnivore sandwich and buffet with tea /coffee included. Those requiring tea or coffee for their packed lunch can decide and pay (£2.25) on the day. It will not be possible to opt for the buffet lunch on the day.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8QH enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01902 752833

Closing date for applications is Friday August 3rd.

SEE OVER PAGE

**Thursday 2nd August Car outing to Tabley House.
Knutsford, WA16 OHB (Max 50)**

Name (s)	Association number	£
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Number of persons needing help with stairs () Total £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

COACH OUTING:

**Thursday 16th August Coach outing to Bitterley Court, The Food Centre and
Oakly Park near Ludlow.**

Name (s)	Association number	£
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I / We would like (state quantity) Carnivore Sandwich Buffet(s) at £8.50. each.

I/ We would like (state quantity) Vegetarian Sandwich Buffet(s) at £8.50. each.

Total cost sandwiches £ Total cost £

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM

**COACH OUTING:
 Saturday 15th September Coach outing to Buckingham Palace.
 A Diamond Day Out**

Name (s)	Association number	£
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Total £	

NAME, ADDRESS

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tel number email address

FOR BOOKING DETAILS SEE REVERSE OF THIS FORM



A group of members on the recent excursion to the JCB factory at Rocester photographed by Peter Borrell.

COMMITTEE 2011 – 2012

David Dumbelton (Chairman) david.dumbelton@virgin.net	32 The Lea Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY Tel 01782 641765
Anne Anderton	14 Berne Avenue Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 2QJ Tel 01782 613024
John Beaumont	4 Barnsdale Close Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8TT Tel 01782 642618
Madeleine Hopley (Hon Treasurer)	5 Sedbergh Close Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 3JQ Tel 01782 618821
Peter Moxon	Millstone House, Butterson Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4EB Tel 01782 616337
Peter Thompson (Vice Chairman) pdthompson@tiscali.co.uk	Westerly, 220 Seabridge Lane Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 3LS Tel 01782 613397
Richard Adams (Hon Secretary and Membership Secretary) rjadams@doctors.org.uk	Gables End, Holly Bank Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT Tel 01782 646054
Roger Cartlidge	3 The Mount, Scholar Green Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3HY Tel 01782777513
Rose Wheat (Programme Organiser) rose.wheat@sky.com	12 West Avenue Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 0NB Tel 01782 616113
Sue Pitt	196 Dimsdale Parade West Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 8EA Tel 01782 566871

The next issue of the Newsletter is due in August. Contributions to the Guest Editor are required by Thursday 5 July. Email p.anderton.male@btinternet.com Thank you.

Summary of 2012 Spring/Summer Programme	
Monday 14 th May Starts at 6.00pm	A stroll to Stoke
Tuesday 15 th May Starts at 7.00pm	A.G.M. at the NS Conference Centre: Speaker: Fiona Wallace, Executive Director, New Vic Theatre on <i>Behind the Scenes at the New Vic – The Producer’s Perspective</i>
Monday 21 st May arrive by 1.30pm	Car outing to Capesthorpe Hall.
Thursday 31 st May arrive 2.30 pm	Car outing to Highfields, Audlem
Tuesday 12 th June To arrive 6.30 for 7.00pm	Car outing to Sugnall Walled Garden.
Saturday 23 rd June Starts 8.45 am	Coach outing to Shobdon Church and Witley Court.
Wednesday 27 th June meet 10 am	Walk: Alderley Edge.
Thursday 12 th July starts 8.15 am	Coach outing to Abbey Cwm Hir.
Tuesday 24 th July meet 10.30 am	Car outing to St Giles, Cheadle
Thursday 2 nd August arrive 1.30 for 2.00 pm	Car outing to Tabley House.
Thursday 16 th August starts 8.45 am	Coach outing to Bitterley Court and Oakly Park.
Saturday 15 th September starts 8.00 am	Coach outing to Buckingham Palace.
Some Future Dates for Your Diary	
Tuesday 18 th September	Talk at the NS Conference Centre: Barbara Andrew <i>-Grandma was a Suffragette.</i>
Thursday 27 th September	Car Outing to Heath House, Tean.
Wednesday 3 rd October	Talk at the NS Conference Centre: Glynn Williams- <i>Concorde.</i>
Wednesday 10 October	Car outing to Halfpenny Green Vineyard and Kinver Rock Houses.
Wednesday 24 th October	Car outing to Manchester Airport and Concorde.

