

THE NORTH STAFFS National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 97

and

JANUARY TO APRIL 2014 PROGRAMME

Our Web Site – northstaffsnt.org.uk



THE GLOBE THEATRE

(London Holiday)



ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS



Coaches depart promptly from **SCHOOL STREET**, Newcastle, behind the Jubilee Swimming Baths. Nearby there is long-stay parking. Should a member cancel a 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.

It will greatly help organisers if you will make cheques payable to the “**The North Staffs National Trust Association**” and note that normally cheques are not cleared until after an event. Please also send a **separate cheque** and a **separate self-addressed** envelope for each separate event even when these go to one organiser. People who wish to ensure that they **sit together** on a coach should use one booking form.

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 Please note that the insurance carried by this Association through the National Trust does not provide Personal accident cover for members aged 80 years and above, or for children under 10.

National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 97

And

January to April 2014 Programme



A Note From The Chair.

Sometimes I wish we could adopt some ideas from The United States. Only sometimes and this is one of them. Instead of peering out mid-morning into pitch dark, with rain lashing down. I could be summoning visions of the upcoming Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

At least we can give thanks for some superb summer outings, the organisers who planned them and the very supportive members.

Our unpredictable climate has also been kind to us, producing autumn colour and fattening buds for spring flowers. The programme between these particular leaves shows there is always something to look forward to.

This applies not just to those members whose holiday season lasts all year! The main National Trust subscription renewal can occur in any month too.

So I can offer you a gift for which you may not have to wait until Christmas.

If you are 60+ and have held National Trust Membership for 5 years in the last 10, you qualify for Senior Membership. The annual cost is currently £38.00 single and £63.50, joint membership. Two people at the same address meeting the condition could save £28.50, a year.

However you pay for your membership, a notice is sent out 6 weeks before renewal. This is the ideal time to ring 0844 800 1895 quoting Senior

Membership and your membership number. The Trust will then arrange the amount of your annual loyalty bonus.

Each year too, we look for new ideas for talks or places to visit. We often plan a year ahead, so let us have your suggestions.

If you fancy leading a visit yourself, although not medically qualified, Dr Wheat says she can make it quite painless.

Some of our members have not had a good 2013, so for them and everyone else, I hope for ‘Happy Holidays’ and All Good Wishes for The New Year.

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NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST EDITION

We would like to extend a warm welcome to

Sheila Ferneyhough

Lesley Ollerenshaw

Viv Astle

Jane Cole

Jane Andrews

Kirsten Morris

Eric Porritt

Cheryl Ball

Geoff and Heather Gardner

Chris and Rosemary Calkin

Prof. and Mrs R C Strange

Anne and David Cooper

Mr K and Mrs S Simpson

Dr N and Dr V Bhuvanendran

Mr H G and Mrs J M Davies

Mrs S Rathbone

Sad News

As this edition of the Newsletter was going to press, we learned that Pat Bentley died on November 5th. Pat was one of the founding members of the Association in 1980 and served on the Committee for many years, notably as Chair and Programme Organiser. She arranged many outings and other events, setting the high standard of organisation to which we have adhered ever since. She also volunteered at Little Moreton Hall for many years.

She spent the last two years in a care home in Dorset, near to her daughter's home, and her death was peaceful

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 14th January- Talk at the N S Conference Centre at 7.30pm: Vince Williams – Mountain Rescue in the UK.

Following his successful talk to us in January 2013 on his personal pilgrimage to K2, we have invited Vince back to give an illustrated lecture exploring the history, organisation and role of Mountain Search and Rescue teams. Working alongside other emergency services, often in the worst possible conditions, they undertake a vital task in the location and rescue of missing and injured people. Vince is a search manager and active member of the Western Beacons team in South Wales.

**Tuesday 11th February – Talk at the NS Conference Centre at 7.30pm:
Ron Rock - Wildlife in your Garden.**

Ron is a staff member of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and a volunteer with the Staffs Support Group of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. A popular speaker in the county, he will be talking to us about the kind of wildlife we can expect to find in our gardens and how we can help it to thrive.

**Wednesday, 12th February – Car Outing to the City Museum, Hanley.
Maximum 30**

Due to the success of the first Museum visit last November, the Museum has kindly agreed to repeat the “behind the scenes” tours. We will see some of the famous ceramic collection not currently on view, plus, separately, a glimpse of the extensive costumes held in the Museum archives. Each tour will last approximately one hour. **When allocating tickets, preference will be given to those members who were disappointed last autumn.**

We will meet in the Foyer at 11.30 and there will be time for lunch in the museum café (at own expense) before the second tour, finishing at around 3pm.

Cost £12 (or £13 for guests). Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton,
32 The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and a self-addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 641765

Closing date 18th January.

Thursday 20th February: Car Outing to the Moorcroft Pottery Heritage Centre and Factory.

This year marks the Centenary of the opening of William Moorcroft’s pottery factory in Burslem. The Heritage Centre comprises the iconic walk-in Grade 1 listed bottle oven, the Museum where one can browse over a century of innovative design and craftsmanship and the shop (which surrounds the bottle oven) and which contains a kaleidoscope of modern designs, limited editions and general/exclusive ranges.

The Centre opens at 10.00am and members should arrive by 10.15am for browsing before we commence a Factory Tour at 11.00am. In this working factory you will see first-hand the unique processes which make Moorcroft so widely sought after. The mould-makers, casters, placers, glaze dippers and tubeliners will be there to answer your questions as they carry out their work. The

guided tour lasts for approximately an hour and a quarter following which you can further explore the museum and shop if you wish. Whilst this marks the end of the formal visit, you may then wish to visit the Moorcroft Factory Shop in nearby Nile Street, Burslem. Here you will find for sale limited editions, catalogue pieces, lamps, shades etc. which are classed as “slightly imperfect pieces” with up to 30% off retail prices. Full directions to the Factory Shop will be given on application.

The cost is £5 per person which includes the factory tour.

Please apply to Rodger Cartlidge, 3 The Mount Scholar Green. Stoke-on- Trent. ST7 3HY. Tel.01782777513 enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. **Closing date 10th March**

**Thursday 6th March- Car Outing to the Sikh Temple, Liverpool Road, Stoke.
40 maximum.**

The President of the Sikh Temple in Stoke-upon- Trent has invited members for a tour of the temple and a talk upon the Sikh culture and way of life. During the visit members will be required to sit on the floor of the temple or to stand, in accordance with Sikh custom. No seats are provided save for a few chairs for handicapped visitors.

The President will not make any charge for the visit and members will be offered free refreshments in the Sikh tradition. However, a personal donation of £5 each is included in the cost of the visit which will be given to the President by the association organizer. If members wish to give an additional donation a collecting box will be available.

There are corporation pay and display car parks in Vale Street and Copeland Street, otherwise members will need to find on-street parking in the vicinity.

Members should arrive at the Temple at 61, Liverpool Rd, Stoke, no later than 11.30am. The visit will last for approximately two hours.

Dress code for men and women: covered heads [scarf or handkerchief] and shoes removed.

Cost £7 per head to include donation.

Directions on application.

Please apply to Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 4EB, Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing cheque and SAE, not later than Monday 17th February 2014.

Monday 10th March – Talk at the NS Conference Centre at 7.30pm: Dr Paul Carter – I Called Him a Liar- the Lives of the Poor in Their Own Words, 1834-1871.

Based on the huge collection of pauper letters, statements and petitions held at The National Archives, this talk will concentrate on the issues which paupers were confident to raise with the local and national poor law authorities. They complained of their general treatment, the food they were given to eat, how they were spoken to and much more. However, complaining could be dangerous and paupers might find action taken against them for doing so. The talk is based on Midland cases recently uncovered by local researchers working collectively under the supervision of Dr Carter, Director of the Pauper Prisons.....Pauper Palaces Project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, British Association for Local History and Friends of The National Archives.

Sunday 16th March: Walk – Downs Bank and Barlaston, with a NO STILES option.

Downs Bank is our closest National Trust property and well worth a visit any time of the year. No doubt, especially so in March! Come and see the progress that the Countryside Team are making in their plans to push back the bracken and open up more woodland pasture land.

We will meet at 11.00am at the Upper House Hotel in Barlaston. From there, a short walk across fields brings us to a back way into the Downs (away from the busy car park entrance). We shall meander through the Downs, crossing the stream once by stepping stones and once by bridge, taking in the parish council's millennium marker on the way. If we are lucky with the day, the views from here are amazing.

The Downs have lovely National Trust gates throughout, so there are no stiles here to trouble us. Surfaces are mostly good, though a little steep in places. The walk will continue through farmland to Barlaston village and its cricket ground, and then back to the Upper House for lunch at 1.30pm.

There are two stiles on the last part – if you prefer you can take a short cut back which avoids having to cross any stiles. The full walk is about 4-5 miles, taking two and a half hours. The shorter walk is 3-4 miles, and will take two hours.

Cost £2.00 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day).

Book your place with Richard Adams: by 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

Tuesday 8th April – Talk at the NS Conference Centre at 7.30pm: Donald Lodge – At Your Service.

Donald Lodge gives us an entertaining glimpse of life in service as butler, chef, valet and confidant to the rich and famous. Apprenticed at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, he went on to work in Canada, as butler to the US ambassador, and on his return to England at Woburn Abbey and Belgravia.

Thursday 10th April – Coach Outing to Burghley House. Lincolnshire.

Burghley was built between 1555 and 1587 by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I and remains a Tudor house at heart, thought by many to be England's greatest Elizabethan house. There are eighteen fabulous state rooms and it is a treasure house of paintings, tapestries, sculptures, furniture and porcelain. There is a knowledgeable guide in each room to answer any questions you may have and, in addition, the price of this trip includes a fantastic audio guide for each member. We shall also be allowed into the normally private garden with its magnificent display of spring bulbs as well as the contemporary sculpture garden and the garden of surprises, a modern oasis of flowing water and fountains.

The Orangery Restaurant provides a relaxing location for light refreshments to full lunches and the Garden Cafe can provide takeaway sandwiches, snacks and hot drinks [at members own cost]; unfortunately there is no indoor area for eating your own picnic if the weather is inclement. The Burghley Gift Shop and Garden Shop have a wide selection of gifts and souvenirs. There are stair lifts installed in the House and arrangements can be made to drop off in front of the House those who are unable to walk from the coach park.

Coach departs from School Street at 8.30 am and returns approx. 7.00pm so you might wish to bring a flask for the journey. There will be a toilet on the coach but we do not intend to stop, in order to make the most of the day at this truly magnificent stately home.

Cost £32 [non-members £34] to include coach fare, driver's tip, entrance to Burghley House and gardens and individual audio guides

Please apply to Mrs Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 ONB; Tel: 01782 616113, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday April 1st prompt booking is advisable if you want to be sure of a place.

Wednesday, 30th April – Car Outing to Keele Hall

Our visit to Keele Hall begins with coffee and biscuits at 10am followed by an introduction to the entire Raven Mason collection housed in the Hall. This display contains many important pieces outlining the development of Mason ceramics in Staffordshire from the beginning of the nineteenth century. There is a wide variety of designs which the internationally renowned factory made famous.

Next there will be a guided tour of the Hall and after these two tours we can have lunch in the Hall (own expense), either a light lunch in the Senior Common Room or a more formal meal in the Terrace Restaurant.

In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to be taken round the national collection of cherry trees which should be full of blossom at this time of year.

Cost £8 (non-members £9)

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and a self-addressed envelope. Telephone: 01782 641765

Closing date 14th March

Holiday to Northern Ireland 15th to 20th June 2014

Come with us across the Irish Sea for a six day adventure to the Land of Giants. Our base is the 4-star La Mon Hotel and Country Club, just outside Belfast, where we stay for 5 nights' [dinner, bed and breakfast. You could happily spend the time here relaxing in the hotel and enjoying its gardens, swimming pool, sauna etc. But of course we also have a full range of outings planned:

Daily programme (subject to confirmation)

Sunday 15th June: board coach 9.00am at School Street, Newcastle, Holyhead to Dublin by Stena Line, onwards to our hotel

Monday: morning to Castle Ward, an eccentric 18th century house overlooking Strangford Lough, which is one-half Gothic and one-half Classical – having been built by a husband and wife who didn't like each other very much! After a tour of the house, we move on around the Lough to Mount Stewart House, still the home of the Londonderry family. The gardens here are amongst the finest the National Trust owns, with the mild climate of Strangford Lough allowing a wide range of flora from around the world. The house is undergoing extensive conservation work and our tour will give an insight behind the scenes into this important project. Evening: possibly a quiz in the hotel bar.

Tuesday: an early start today for the drive north to the Giant's Causeway, a must-see World Heritage site and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The recently opened award-winning visitor centre tells how the giant Finn McCool created the causeway as a bridge to Scotland; otherwise there is a tale of lava flows somehow forming the hexagonal basalt columns. Either way, a short walk or mini-bus ride takes you to the coast to marvel and decide for yourself. After lunch (at own expense), a short drive along the scenic coast takes us to the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge for a unique cliff-top experience. If you are brave enough, cross the bridge to Carrick-a-Rede Island and see the tiny bothy where generations of salmon fishermen sheltered from the storms. Evening: possible theatre outing.

Wednesday: is Belfast day. A morning tour of the city will take in the famous murals, depicting not only the recent troubles, but also older history and modern social and cultural comment. We shall visit the Titanic exhibition for the Belfast side of the story – they are naturally proud of building the finest ship of its day, whatever its subsequent fate. In the afternoon, we have free time in the city centre, where you might tour City Hall, check out the shops, or sample the Guinness at the Crown Bar, a Victorian time-capsule of gas lights, tiling and snug bars in the care of the National Trust. Back to our hotel for dinner, then as night falls we have an optional return trip to Castle Ward where a silent footman will guide us round the darkened house. Be warned - ghosts have been known to appear from behind creaking doors.

Thursday: in the morning a short drive takes us to Rowallane Garden, where we will meet members of the Belfast National Trust Association, who will kindly show us round their own answer to our Biddulph Grange Gardens. Then sit back and enjoy the ride around Lough Neagh to Springhill, a charming 17th century “plantation” home with links to Titanic, an extensive costume collection, and new for 2014, the story of the Great War, as seen through the eyes of one son of the house who fought and died in France. “Farewell” dinner at the hotel.

Friday: leave hotel around 9.30am for journey home via the fast ferry. We should be back in Newcastle at about 7pm

The cost is just £435 per person in a double, twin or single room (max 10 singles at this price), £455 for non-members. Insurance not included. £100pp deposit due by the end of January, with balance payable by mid-April.

Please contact Richard Adams on 01782 646054 or rjadams@doctors.org.uk for a booking form.

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS VISITS

Wednesday 3rd July: St. Bartholomew's Church, Tong and The David Austin Rose Centre, Albrighton.

A group of 38 assembled outside the church in Tong on yet another overcast summer's day. It was not, however, to affect the days enjoyment and improved later.

A grade 1 listed building, St. Bartholomew's is one of Simon Jenkins 1000 Best Churches. The guide, a former Archdeacon and vicar of Tong gave a detailed historical tour of the church including many fascinating facts. There was plenty of scandal attached to these stories as we sped through the years from its foundation in 1406. Built in the Perpendicular style, it has a vaulted ceiling, a bell tower in the middle and links to many noble families including the Vernons.

This was followed by lunch (we can recommend the Shrewsbury Arms in Albrighton) and then to David Austin Roses.

I had no idea what a huge organisation it is with nurseries as far away as Japan. We were given a very detailed tour which included the history of the nursery from its early development by Mr Austin and Graham Thomas.

It took nearly 23 years to make it successful and that in many ways was due to the rose 'Graham Thomas' that went to the Chelsea Flower Show.

We saw one of the most fragrant Gertrude Jekyll and the Darcy Bussell used for the Jubilee on the Royal Barge.

I think we all hope to have better roses after the instructions on how to look after them and I shall remember the fabulous fragrance that pervaded the

gardens everywhere. A cream tea completed the day and many thanks to Sue Till for her organisation of the day.

Val Morgan.

Tuesday 9th July- Coach Outing to Saltaire, West Yorkshire



A party of N. Staffs. N.T. members travelled to Saltaire to visit this UNESCO World Site. Located in a residential part of Shipley in West Yorkshire is a preserved Victorian industrial village which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century for Sir Titus Salt, a leading industrialist in the woollen industry.

Salt moved his business from nearby Bradford to the purpose built site. The core of the development is the large textile mill known as Salt's Mill which is situated near to the River Aire and is virtually adjacent to the canal and railway lines.

On arrival at Saltaire the group proceeded to the United Reform church where we had refreshments before commencing the tour. The church is a Grade I listed building in the Italianate style. Our party gathered in the pews of the splendid church to be introduced to the vagaries of life in mid nineteenth century Saltaire by three enthusiastic guides dressed in the costumes of the period. They gave us some idea of the topography of the model village via individual bookmarks given to each visitor which named a specific inhabitant of the village, their role in the community and where they lived. This entertainment set the scene for the walking tour which was to follow. The tour of the village concentrated primarily on the stone- built terraced houses built on a grid system, which Salt built for his workforce, enabling them to have easy access to work at the mill. We also visited the Victoria Hall originally known as the Saltaire Institute, which was used and still is for meetings and concerts. After lunch most of our party made a more detailed exploration of Salt's Mill which contains not only a

number of retail outlets but also several large rooms given over to the works of Bradford-born artist David Hockney. An additional benefit to Saltaire is Roberts Park which is located at the bottom of the village via a footbridge across the River Aire. From here the backdrop of Saltaire's architecture can be enjoyed to full effect.

This was a successful trip and a civilised way of spending a nice sunny day. Thanks to Shirley Timmis for the considerable amount of time she must have spent in preparing the visit and to Roger Cartlidge for the additional help which he gave. Also to the Leons/Happy Days group who provided us with a highly competent driver and continue to provide high-quality coach travel.

Douglas Wood.

Tuesday 16th July- A Visit to Chetwynd House Clayton.

How great to have a visit on your own doorstep - enabling some to walk or cycle. It's a hidden gem - the bulk of the house is set back, with two service wings projecting towards the road and a courtyard between them. The high, cream-rendered wall and solid wooden gates are easily passed by in Northwood Lane.

Professor Swann told us the history of the house and its occupants. It was built by Unwin and Parker for Mr. Goodfellow, a clay merchant. It originally occupied a 6.5 acre site, with the boundary between Stafford and Newcastle (Foxglove Lane) to the north, and formed 5 terraces descending to the west - of which she now has two, forming a one acre site. The land to the south of the house contained orchards and tennis courts. Unwin and Parker's local work included community housing in Buxton and houses in Caverswall. In their book 'The Art of Building', this is referred to as "the Goodfellow house at Northwood". In 1926 Goodfellow sold it to Colley Shorter, a pottery manufacturer who converted the stable wing in 1949-50 to a separate house. In 1972 a local developer, Fradley, bought it and built on the surrounding land, but moved his office into the house. This led to a planning dispute, which he eventually lost and had to sell the house at auction, when Professor Swann bought it, and has been restoring it for 34 years.

The entrance faces Foxglove Lane, with mouth-blown stained glass in the door. The main house forms rooms round an inner square hall, which was originally open to the sky. The adze marks on the timber frames indicate that this was "outside". A glazed roof over this was added as part of the 1949 remodelling. The principal bedrooms face west and originally had a balcony between them - now also glazed in - later generations have not shared the love of fresh air of the

early 20th century. The living room has windows on all sides getting bigger as they go round from east to west, so that direct light and sunshine is available all through the day. It has a fireplace which projects into the room (rather than being recessed), to spread the heat more, and built-in furniture including a store for sheet music next to the space for the piano. Unwin and Parker designed everything down to the window latches. We looked into the original hall, which was once the formal reception room with a semi-circular fireplace, but has now been partitioned off. The original kitchen furniture had been taken out by Clarice Cliff, the only remaining element being the tunnel through the wall into the living room by the fireplace, so that coals could be replenished without buckets or scuttles being carried round. Clarice had also inscribed her married name in the kitchen window pane.

Professor Swann has floor plans from various stages of the house and has talked to some of the people who visited, including one who remembers "Aunt Clarrie" and the artistic activities shared in the school holidays. The gardens are also interesting with 30 species of lavender, a Dorothy Perkins rose (probably dating from 1902 when it was introduced), holly trees marking the north boundary, a croquet lawn, a kitchen garden mostly in containers, and borders bright with a variety of flowers.

Thanks to Bob Winter for arranging two visits as this was so much in demand on a very hot day.

Kay Mitchel

Saturday July 27th - Alderley Edge Walk

“My First Local National Trust Walk”

On arriving in the car park at Alderley Edge with a friend, I was greeted by a group of very friendly faces.

It was described as a walk with a dozen stiles and a couple of steepish slopes.

When we set off, I saw what I thought was a sea of walking sticks. (How are they going to manage all the stiles?) When I got closer, I realised they were in fact, walking poles “This must be serious!” I need not have worried.

When we set off at a nice gentle pace through the woods we passed a naturally formed sandstone, cave-like shelter in the rock face. Then at times the trees cleared, to give us clear views over the Cheshire Plains, for it was indeed a beautiful clear sunny day. Then on through the woods to open fields, the sun beating down on our backs, past the privately-owned 200yr old Hare Hill House.

We arrived as promised dead on 12 noon (I was very impressed with the timing) at the 276 acres of Hare Hill Garden. This man- made land scape garden full of pools and wood land. It would be good to visit earlier in the year to appreciate the colours of the rhododendrons and azaleas; we had to use our imagination.

The path led us to a gate into the Walled Garden. The first thing we saw was an old fashioned ice cream cart which was very welcome Unfortunately we did not have long to appreciate the wonderful herbaceous borders with their unusual combination of planting, also the pergola and wire sculptures. Making our way quickly out of the garden we managed to count nine of the rather shy wooden carved hares hiding in the bushes.

The walk back was very pleasant following a road side path, then across the fields until with trepidation we saw a sign "Beware of the Cattle". All was safe. Nobody got chased. Onward up a rather steep hill, we did have a stop half way and turn to appreciate the open views behind us.

Not far now, arriving at the car park in plenty of time for lunch at the Wizard Inn. Unfortunately due to a prior engagement I had to leave. I must say when the orders were taken at the beginning of the walk it looked very tempting.

I really enjoyed my first, of hopefully, many walks with the Local National Trust Group. See you all again soon.

Janet Taylor.

Thursday 8th August -A Walk Round Leek & The Textile Exhibition



Our day began in the beautiful Norman Shaw Arts and Crafts All Saints Church where our guide, Cathryn Walton, told us about Leek Embroidery Society, whose work was on display. Altar frontals and other pieces were designed by Elizabeth Wardle, wife of the silk manufacturer Thomas Wardle, and worked by her ladies and girls of the town in the late 19th century. We marvelled at the skill of the designer and the standard of workmanship of the embroiderers who worked with only five different stitches. It was the qualities of the Tussah silk thread which gave the
(cont. p.23)

Booking Details

Wednesday 12th February – Outing to the City Museum

Members should arrive for an 11.30am start. Lunch at own expense. The second tour finishes by 3pm.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque for £12 and a stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01782 641765

Please use envelope size 110 by 220 mm DL

Closing date 18th January



Booking Details

Thursday 20th February: Car Outing to the Moorcroft Pottery Heritage Centre and Factory.

The cost is £5 per person which includes the factory tour.

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ST7 3HY. Tel.01782777513 enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

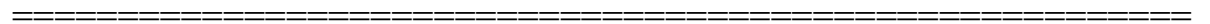
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Closing Date 10th February

Name(s)	Association number	£
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----

For booking details see reverse of this form



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Booking Details

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Dress code for men and women: covered heads [scarf or handkerchief] and shoes removed.

Cost £7 per head to include donation.

Directions on application.

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Please use envelope size 110 by 220 mm DL

Monday 17th February 2014.

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Booking Details

Sunday 16th March Walk Barlaston

Cost £2.00 for members, £2.50 for guests (pay on the day).

Book your place with Richard Adams: by email to rjadas@doctors.org.uk

or, by post to: Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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For booking details see reverse of this form

Booking Details

Thursday 10th April – Coach Outing to Burghley House.

Please apply to Mrs Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 ONB Tel: 01782 616113, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope. Please use envelope size 110 by 220 mm DL

Closing date for applications: Tuesday April 1st

Prompt booking is advisable if you want to be sure of a place.



Booking Details

Wednesday 30th April Car Outing to Keele Hall.

Cost £8 (non-members £9)

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Closing date 14th March

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Name(s)	Association number	£
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Address		Total
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Tel. number ----- Email address -----

For booking details see reverse of this form

works their characteristic sheen, and the extensive use of gold thread added to the opulence of everything on display.

At the Nicholson Institute we were able to enjoy the main exhibition of ecclesiastical and domestic embroideries, with expert help and information from Dr. Brenda King. An altar piece designed for a church in Khartoum was on display, as were several beautiful fire-screens and one of the panels of the famous copy of the Bayeux Tapestry worked by the Embroidery Society.

After a delicious buffet lunch at Foxlowe Arts Centre in the Market Place, we drove to St. Edward's church at Cheddleton where Barbara Hutchison told us of the nineteenth century restoration work and pointed out windows by Morris and Burne Jones. The main embroidery on display was a magnificent purple altar cloth worked by Elizabeth Wardle herself and donated to the church.

Our thanks to Anne Anderton for organising a day which allowed us to enjoy some of the gems of our local area.

Tuesday 20th August- Visit to Croome Park.

Good weather and a clear run down the motorway led to arrival at Croome Park half an hour before our E.T.A. Our slight embarrassment was dispelled by the welcome we received, and the start of a packed morning.

There was a walk of about 15 minutes from the reception point to the house, though a buggy was available for anyone who preferred not to walk. A short pause a little way into the walk, outside the Church, with some comments from our guide, enabled us to have an overview of the park.

There had been previous houses on the site before the 18th century, when the Earl of Coventry commissioned Lancelot Brown, newly starting in his own business, to lay out the park. The setting of the house had been marshy, and major works included the removal of a medieval Church and the nearby village and digging out of a lake and an artificial river.

Arriving at the house, coffee and biscuits were provided in the Tapestry Room. A slide show followed; we learned something of the history of the house, its structure, owners and previous contents. A second talk outlined the plans that the National Trust has for the property, which is envisaged as the usual preservation of a house and its collections.

The contents of Croome Park have been dispersed, for example, the tapestries had to be sold to pay the debts of an heir, but they are on display in the Metropolitan Museum in New York in a reconstructed room. Other artifacts

from the house are preserved in museums both in this country and the U.S.A. We split into groups for a tour of the house, and were able to appreciate the influence of various owners subsequent to the Earls of Coventry, (among them a Catholic boarding school and a Hare Krishna colony) and the eventual state of dereliction from which it has been rescued.



Lunch was available in the 1940s style restaurant where the dishes available included modern food such as “Mediterranean Chicken” rather than the Woolton Pie and snoek that the description may have conjured up for the older ones amongst us. This building was a relic of the war-time association with

the R.A.F. base at Defford, which was involved in the development of radar. The afternoon was free for exploration of the park to see the fascinating “eye catchers” statues, a rotunda, a grotto and in particular the elegant church with its interior by Brown and Robert Adam.

This was a visit packed with interest, producing real gratitude to Penny Moore for arrangements, and Rose Wheat for implementing them

Ann Senior.

LONDON HOLIDAY,

THURSDAY 29TH AUGUST – TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

Thursday–*Ralph White.*

Having assembled early on a beautiful morning, some people were so keen to maintain their fitness for our excursion that they kept nipping into the gym opposite the coach stop. However, the first day was to be taken at a leisurely pace.



We broke the journey at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. The mansion and grounds are currently subject to an on-going 20 year restoration by English Heritage. My brief in this piece is to convey an impression of the day. For many people Wrest Park

is unknown but I had been before, being keen to see the grounds a short while ago when access was first possible. As it happened, I enjoyed this second visit even more as I was determined to investigate some of the things I had missed

before.

The sprawling range of rather dull buildings does not give a clue to what is hidden. One can imagine the Earl and Countess De Grey returning from their frequent travels in the 1830s to see how their new home was progressing. After the modern and elegant visitor facilities there is a moment of green calm before you are assaulted by the splendour of Italy, the grandeur of France and the mystery of China.

The Earl spared no expense in reflecting his wife's taste. The original old house was inconveniently plumb in the middle of a Versailles type view, so it was swept away. They kept an early 18th Century Pavilion - one of Britain's most important garden buildings - and added many more. I particularly like The Orangery and the sculpture gallery in the Dairy.

I am not so keen on the interior of the main house. The Conservatory, adjoining a French boudoir in gilded boiserie, is breath-taking. The Library is stunning but some rooms have had to earn their keep by corporate entertainment or weddings and have been slighted by their decor. Upstairs, the grey corridors and bedrooms are let out to small businesses. However, three rooms contain wall coverings of sensational beauty whose survival, thanks to their concealment, is a miracle. A small party of us who elected to see them were transfixed by the colourful humorous Chinese scenes and marvelled at French panoramic papers depicting the continents.

From Wrest Park we travelled to our hotel, The Ramada in Docklands. This was a real find thanks to Cynthia and David. The public rooms were comfortable and elegant, the bedrooms' practical and quiet. The restaurant and attentive staff were excellent. There was always entertainment to see. Our neighbours' room was at the end of the City Airport runway. Even the keen plane-spotters ducked as the jets launched themselves silently at the window. Furthermore, there was always some waterborne activity to watch in the adjoining Royal Victoria Dock.

Friday morning *Maggie Caton.*

The visit to the Bank of England museum started off our "Sir John Soane Day" in grand style.

As a retired banker, I was looking forward to this visit – anticipating the familiarity I would feel amidst the history of a business I had worked in for over 30 years. I was intrigued by the huge ledgers detailing the subscribers to the Bank; I can well remember writing in such books during my early years as a junior clerk. The wooden tally stick, which was a receipt for part of the money given to the Government when the Bank of England was established, amazed and amused me.

But what fascinated me most were the unexpected details, like the letter from the Duchess of Marlborough asking for a statement of her account and for a supply of pens (she couldn't get any decent ones anywhere else!) Then there were the letters from solicitors on behalf of relatives lost on the Titanic asking

the Bank to pay compensation for bank notes that had “gone down with the ship.” Finally, I shall never forget my husband’s excitement when he picked up a 13 kilo gold bar. It is a museum well worth re-visiting.

Friday Afternoon *Jane & Richard Mayer.*

Soane’s home, No. 13 Lincoln’s Inn Fields, was left to the nation by Soane in 1837. It is a quirky rabbit warren of a place stuffed to the rafters with paintings, prints, Greek vases, Roman busts, antique fragments of buildings and a massive Egyptian sarcophagus. Masterpieces by Canaletto, Turner and Hogarth hang in a tiny picture room on hinged panels that open to reveal yet more pictures behind including *The Rake’s Progress*. The house and its contents could have been conceived in a child’s story book; it is an Alice in Wonderland experience to find walls which open to become a balcony overlooking the basement and amazing lighting effects in the breakfast room which is lit by a small domed lantern and elsewhere pieces of Flemish glass back lit by windows.

The Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons was yet another fascinating place containing a mix of human and animal anatomical and pathological specimens, much of it assembled by John Hunter, a surgeon and anatomist, some 200 years ago. We had an excellent guided tour by Alan Turner, a surgeon, who explained the development of asepsis and anaesthetics – how did even the 20% who did survive surgery prior to these innovations do so, particularly as surgeons were not then medically qualified? Exhibited were the skeletons of Jonathan Wild, a notorious criminal, who was hanged in 1725 and that of Charles Byrne, the Irish giant, who was 7ft 7ins tall. Mr Turner pointed out the first prosthesis – a nose made for a woman syphilis patient - and the work of the surgeons Gillies in WW1 and McIndoe in WW2 who pioneered skin grafting on servicemen who sustained horrendous injuries and burns. From the sublime.... the museum even had a set of Churchill’s dentures! To conclude a wonderful day we went to the Chiswell Street Dining Rooms which are part of a hotel development in the Old Whitbread Brewery. At a drinks reception the manager gave us a potted history of the brewery before we had dinner.

Saturday *Watson Fuller.*

For much of the last century, the lower reaches of the Thames within London had been largely written off. Today we had an opportunity to see the impact of massive investment over the last few decades and what better way than from the deck of a Thames Clipper. Not all developments have been uncontroversial and everyone can be expected to have their candidates for the good, the bad and the ugly. Some much- celebrated vistas have been lost and there are some vulgar

intrusions. However, there is no doubting the contribution that the waterfront makes to the vibrancy that now characterises whole areas of the capital. For many the test will be, how much - amongst the high rise office blocks and redeveloped wharves and warehouses – remains of London's two thousand years of history.



The most authentic link with our literary heritage is the reconstructed Shakespeare's Globe Theatre opened in 1997 to be as close as possible in location and structure to the original Globe built in 1599. Our tour of the theatre and the associated exhibition provided an outstanding example of how history can be celebrated with

something that has a living presence in our contemporary situation. Here is a theatre that charges reasonable prices, offers high quality productions from the folio that shaped our language and is financially viable.

Saturday *Colin Clowes.*

A brisk walk along the towpath to catch the 9.30a.m Monsoon clipper, Thames river bus. Moving through the water at speed this catamaran is capable of carrying up to 220 seated passengers and was another impressive part of the 'Transport for London' system.

Arriving at Bankside our first impression of the Globe Theatre was its sheer size. The opening scenes of Olivier's 'Henry V' are surprisingly accurate but give no idea of the grand scale. Our guide was excellent, giving a clear summary of the building of the theatre, the research for accuracy that had been done (mainly from documentation about the 'Rose Theatre' formerly nearby,) and the fulfilment of the dream of Sam Wannamaker. She also explained the year-long programme not just of plays but events, festivals and educational activities, all raising money to achieve financial independence.

By coach then to Trafalgar Square, hot and crowded with tourists and protesters. Most of us took refuge in the cooler environment of the surrounding Galleries and Exhibitions. (Rumour has it that some of our party joined the 'Protest against War').

After dinner at the Hotel we enjoyed a social evening solving one of Cynthia's quizzes - 'Dingbats'.

Sunday morning *Bob Winter.*



We visited the Thames Barrier which opened in 1982. It was constructed as a consequence of the East Coast floods of 1953 which cost many lives and caused extreme damage to land and property. The engineering masterpiece is located downstream from the City of London and close to the O2 Arena. We approached the Barrier through a small park, which

rose up to higher ground providing a splendid vantage point to view the whole Barrier complex and afforded magnificent views of the Tate & Lyle factory, Canary Wharf and The Shard. It was noted that certain members of the committee took advantage of a rather wonderful children's slide to reach the river bank rather than walk down the steps provided. In the Museum we watched a fascinating film of the 1953 floods followed by a detailed account of the construction of the Thames Barrier. The 10 gate assemblies, each of which is as high as a 5 storey building, are secured to the river bed by 24m deep piles. They were manufactured in the North East and the 250k tonnes of rock used to protect the areas between the piers came from Staffordshire and Somerset.

Next we travelled to Rotherhithe and the Brunel Museum. In 1825 work started on the construction of a tunnel under the River Thames under the direction of Marc Brunel and his 19 year old son, Isambard Kingdom Brunel; many had tried and failed before them. The project was scheduled to take 3 years, but in the event it took 18 years. The tunnel was the first thoroughfare under a navigable river in the world.

The excavation was problematic, the main difficulty being that the soil was soft and the walls collapsed resulting in flooding with injuries or loss of life of the workers. There was also the constant threat of methane gas from the foul river water.

During construction there was a constant need for new funds. In 1827 a grand dinner was organised to raise funds with guests seated at long tables with damask tablecloths and fine tableware and music provided by the Band of the Coldstream Guards. In 1843, a parade of shops was constructed and the public were charged an admission of one penny. On the first day of opening 50,000 people visited the shops. Everyone descended to the base of the tunnel via the staircases. In 1852, they built the first underground fairground and a ballroom, with the music provided by a steam organ.

In 1865 the tunnel was sold to the railway company which ran steam trains under the Thames. The staircases were removed and the pedestrian entrance sealed off.

After a precarious descent, we entered the upper part of the Grand Entrance Hall which has just been opened for the first time in 150 years. A sooty deposit remains from when steam trains used the tunnel and there is still evidence outlined on the walls of the original staircases. A false concrete floor has been constructed above the level of the current underground tunnel and we could feel the vibration from the trains passing beneath us. We were privileged to be among some of the first visitors to enter the chamber and we all marvelled at the enormity of it which is half the size of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. A really awe- inspiring visit.

Sunday afternoon *Sue and John Till*

So much information and enjoyment packed in to one afternoon! We thought that we knew all about The Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers but history was turned on its head when we learned that she originally sailed from Rotherhithe and not from Plymouth after all.

Lunch at the flower- bedecked Mayflower pub, one of the oldest in London, was a bonus. Not only did we sit out on the decking with the Thames lapping beneath our feet, but Cynthia had timed it to perfection, allowing us to witness the run up to the Round the World Clipper Race. Much waving ensued between the boats and the pub's deck.

After lunch we walked along Rotherhithe's "longest street" between the old spice warehouses and into the Sands Films studio, where we were entertained by a very knowledgeable gentleman of Cockney lineage. He admitted to having journeyed "Up North" once, to Nottingham! We were delighted by the quality and authenticity of the period costumes, which they had made for numerous films including "The Young Victoria". We were also fascinated by the building itself, supported by re-cycled ships' timbers. Too soon we were ushered into a backroom where we lounged and dozed in re-cycled armchairs and sofas while viewing an archival film on biscuit making at the nearby Peake Frean's factory.

A short stroll and we were in St. Mary's Church where the Captain of The Mayflower, Christopher Jones, was both married and buried. With great humour, Father Nicholls enlightened us with facts and anecdotes relating to the Church and its surrounds. We were able to see the altar and two Bishops' chairs carved from the timbers of The Temeraire and outside, the Charity School for the orphans of mariners, now a bijou coffee shop.

Food glorious food. After a short "rest" at the hotel, Ian transported us, yet again, to the newly built Westfield shopping mall where we enjoyed a rather clamourous three-course supper at one of Jamie Oliver's restaurants.

A fitting end to most an enjoyable day.

Monday *Mick Wheat*

We awoke to another lovely summer's day and with our guide Caroline passed by the Royal Albert and Royal Victoria Docks, looking like two mighty

swimming pools alongside London City Airport. It is difficult to imagine now what these famous old docks looked like when they formed part of the world's largest commercial port.

As we reached the nearby Olympic site, the transformation of this part of London from the 17 – 19th century buildings into a 21st. century hub of commerce, sport and residential housing could easily be seen from the viewing platform of the Olympic arena. We could almost see the bubbles rising out of West Ham United's new stadium, the former Olympic athletics' venue. Anish Kapoor's red lattice work structure depicting the five Olympic rings stretching vertically into the sky is a controversial piece of architectural sculpture, but thought-provoking nonetheless.

After crossing the Thames on the Woolwich ferry we reached Greenwich, an attractive area of London full of history and set in gorgeous surroundings. The choice of places to go was overwhelming and time only permitted limited viewing of those we chose to see in our "free-time".

Back across the river on the Emirates cable car, evoking memories of skiing holidays past. Finally, in the evening, a return visit to the iconic Prospect of Whitby pub for dinner in its atmospheric riverside setting, a superb end to another day full of variety to previously unseen parts of London and a glimpse into what the capital will look like in years to come.

Tuesday – *Anne Beaumont & Ann George*

We knew little about Hughenden Manor but this was our final port of call on the journey homewards, a place to stretch our legs and have a bite to eat, we thought. Hughenden turned out to be a real treat. Lovely house, owned by the National Trust since 1947, and the once home of Queen Victoria's favourite Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli.

Yet again, the manoeuvring skills of our driver, Ian, were put to the test! The driveway was narrow through woodland leaving hardly a whisker between overhanging branches and trees as he skilfully parked in a very tight space.

The house was purchased by Disraeli in 1848 and was where he lived until his death in 1881. Originally of Georgian design, the architect, Edward Lamb, was employed to completely restyle the facade transforming it into the red brick Victorian exterior we see today. The house was lovely, homely and filled with pictures and memorabilia endorsing the friendship which existed between the Queen and Disraeli. The exhibition in the basement proved an exciting revelation. Apparently, not until 2005 was the true role of Hughenden discovered. During the Second World War, it was used as a secret intelligence base code-named "Hillside". The 100 Air Ministry staff at the manor analysed aerial photograph of Germany and created maps for bombing missions, including the famous "Dambusters" raid, the attack on Berchtesgaden (Hitler's secret bunker) and the D-Day airborne landings.

This final visit was another triumph and a fitting end to our lovely London holiday.

Thank you Cynthia and David for putting together such a superb trip.

Tuesday 17th September-Talk by John Butterworth, ‘Hitting the Headlines’.

John Butterworth guided his audience through his career in journalism from rookie reporter to his time as editor of a number of provincial newspapers. His natural ability to talk to people, a professional necessity he recalled, was very apparent as he spoke with clarity and humour of the high and low points of his working life. The tensions between responsible reporting on matters of local interest and the desire to be fair to those in the public eye were honestly discussed but he also told us some light-hearted anecdotes of incidents he had encountered and people he had met.

Comments from the audience revealed the disappointment of some readers in the falling standards of modern journalism, especially in the many errors of spelling and basic grammar etc. that were only too frequent. Mr Butterworth conceded that proof reading was a thing of the past and was in broad agreement with the criticisms expressed. One was left with the impression that he was one of the old school who got his stories through personal contact and being present at the events he described rather than sitting before a computer screen re-hashing press releases and internet sources. Unfortunately, I suspect that the days of the traditional reporter are numbered.

Rose Wheat.

Thursday 26th September- Coach Trip to Birmingham Jewellery Quarter and Soho House.

A fine day began with a comfortable coach journey into the heart of Birmingham as we entered the Souk-like world of the Jewellery Quarter. Entering the former Smith and Pepper factory, now a museum, one was struck by the vast number of constituents which can make up the world of jewellery, from tiger claws to feathers and from butterfly wings to hair, as well as the more obvious gem stones, such as diamonds, rubies, etc. The story-board notices throughout gave us a comprehensive understanding of the development of this highly skilled, and often quite dangerous, industry – unguarded machinery and powerful chemicals.

After a thorough insight into the history of the quarter we entered the old factory which had been clearly trapped in a time capsule. With more jewellery

being made in low cost over-seas manufacturing sites, the ageing owners, two brothers and a sister, just decided to close the factory in a matter of days back in 1981. After selling the residual stock they left everything else (machinery, books, moulds, etc.) and closed the site where it remained untouched until 1996 when it was finally re-opened but as a museum; 1981 could have been 1881 as the whole premises was locked in a time warp of a factory that had not taken on the modern world.

After a healthy pub lunch we went on to Soho House and the remains of the Soho factory, the former being the home of Matthew Boulton, a member of the Lunar Society, alongside Josiah Wedgwood and others. Boulton mass-produced many household items in metal, a number of these being on show in the museum where we were given a most informative introductory talk.

Soho House was very much a family home in which it would be easy to feel comfortable in today's world, especially given the extensive stock of fine wines in the cellar!

We left Birmingham after a fascinating day in one of the city's "hidden gems".

Tuesday October 8th - Talk on Attingham by Sarah Kay

This talk by the historic interiors researcher and award winning manager of the "Attingham Re-discovered project" was beautifully illustrated with photographs taken from unique vantage points. Since 2006 the aim has been to involve the public and explain each stage of a mammoth investigation and conservation scheme. It was fascinating to hear of the decision processes which have led to what we see now, perhaps for the first time since the early 19th century. It is a huge task with an equally impressive price tag. The subtitle of "Attingham Re-discovered goes through the roof" was metaphorically and literally apt. There were gasps at some of the costs involved. However, this sumptuous Regency house is of a rare quality which will educate and inspire generations. Sarah certainly renewed our appreciation and determination to revisit as soon as possible to see in three dimensions the results achieved so far.

Ralph White

Saturday 12th October- Visit to Boscobel House and Moseley Old Hall

The English Heritage guides gave us a warm welcome to Boscobel House on a rather wet October day. The name of this property is reputed to have come from the Italian “bosco bello” meaning “in the midst of fair woods” and we certainly witnessed these woods on our journeys to and from the House. A hunting lodge owned by John Giffard of nearby Chillington Hall built in the 1600s, the property has been in the custody of English Heritage since 1984 together with the Royal Oak made so famous by the legend of the fleeing King Charles II in 1651. We were a little disappointed when we realised that most of the building was painted black and white brick and only part of it was genuine lathe and plaster.

Our guide's detailed description of King Charles II's brief visit to Boscobel brought back history from over 360 years ago as if it were only yesterday. It was hard to imagine a man over 6 feet tall hiding in a priest hole only 4 feet cubed, this following his plight of hiding for 16 hours in The Royal Oak tree watching out for Parliamentary soldiers who had tried to follow him from Worcester.

As Charles did in 1651, we then moved to Moseley Old Hall, a lovely old brick building which has changed little in 400 years. Again Charles was hidden here before making a successful escape to France. It is thanks to the Catholic families who gave him shelter that although Charles had no legitimate children his sons, Charles Lennox, 1st Duke of Richmond, by Louise de Kerouaille and Henry Fitzroy, 1st Duke of Grafton, by Barbara Villiers are the forebears of the Duke of Cambridge through his mother, Diana. Thus, William will be the first direct descendant of Charles to accede to the British throne.

Many thanks to Peter Moxon for organising such an interesting outing.

Jane and Richard Mayer.



Boscobel House.

A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS FROM RECENT VISITS



Heath House Tean



Middleton Hall Nr. Tamworth

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SPRING PROGRAMME 2014

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME JANUARY TO APRIL 2014.	
Tuesday 14th January	Talk at the NS Conference Centre 7.30pm: Vince Williams-Mountain Search and Rescue.
Tuesday 11th February	Talk at the NS Conference Centre 7.30pm: Ron Rock – Wildlife in Your Garden.
Wednesday 12th February	Repeat of City Museum trip.
Thursday 20th February	Car Outing to Moorcroft factory and museum.
Thursday 6th March	Car outing to the Sikh Temple, Stoke.
Monday 10th March	Talk at the NS Conference Centre 7.30pm: Paul Carter, ‘I called him a liar’.
Sunday 16th March	Walk: Barlaston.
Tuesday 8th April.	Talk at the NS Conference Centre: Donald Lodge – At Your Service.
Thursday 10th April	Coach Outing to Burghley House.
Wednesday 30th April	Car Outing to Keele Hall, the ceramic collection and cherry blossom.

Some Future Dates for Your Diary.

Thursday 15th May	Coach Outing to the Morgan Car Factory
Tuesday 20th May	AGM followed by David Mitchell, Chester town crier.
Wednesday 4th June	Coach Outing to Wombourne Wodehouse.
Sunday 15th to Friday 20th June	Holiday to Ireland.
Tuesday 15th July	Repeat visit to Chetwynd House.
Tuesday 12th August	Blackwell House and the Abbot Hall Gallery Cumbria

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NEXT *NEWS LETTER* ARE ASKED TO SEND THEIR COPY TO THE EDITOR BY THE 3RD MARCH. THANK YOU.

Photographs Welcome.

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