

THE NORTH STAFFS NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No. 98

SPRING 2014 PROGRAMME

Our Web Site – northstaffsnt.org.uk



Towneley Hall, Park and Gardens (see page 12).



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 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.

THE NORTH STAFFS NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No. 98

SPRING 2014 PROGRAMME



A Note From The Chair.

I hope you all came unscathed through the tempests and floods and there are no serious frosts or snowfalls before we get underway with the Summer season programme. This mild Spring has meant that anything above water is well forward and augurs well for a lovely summer. Unlike last year, we may not have to wait so long to see houses, gardens and landscape looking their best. Some people have waited a year to see the gleaming paintwork on the Morgan cars too.

I used to think it was the special blend of tea we have at Committee and Programme Meetings which lifts our mood, but it is really the satisfaction of introducing people to Special Places and raising funds to ensure future generations enjoy them too. Our aims might not change, but we are always on the lookout for fresh ideas and new faces to help carry them out. Please contact us if you would like to see what we do at close quarters without making a commitment now.

I hope you will come to the A.G.M. on May 20th to hear more of what we have been doing and to influence the way the local Association and National Trust does things in future.

Your vote counts.

I look forward to seeing you at many of our adventurous outings, but even if you cannot be with us as often as you would like, we value your support.

National Trust has Special Places, North Staffs Association has special people !
Best Wishes for the Summer Season

Ralph

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 15th May – Coach outing to the Morgan Car Company, Malvern Link and Hanbury Hall, Droitwich Spa.

The Morgan Car Company was founded in 1910 by HFS Morgan, producing light three wheel cars which gained a sporting reputation; four-wheel cars appeared in the 1930s. The original concept, using bought in engines and other parts with hand built wooden framed bodies, has continued to date. More recently a luxurious coupe and a three wheeler powered by a Harley Davidson engine have been introduced. Charles Morgan, the founder's grandson, now heads what is probably the only British- owned car manufacturer, it employs circa 200 people, with a waiting list for its products.

At the visitor centre tea, coffee, biscuits, etc, will be available (at members' cost) followed by a visit to the museum to view exhibits about the company's history from Edwardian times until the present day. We will then divide into two groups leaving the centre 5 minutes apart taking the factory guided tour. **Cameras are allowed throughout.** The tour ends at the souvenir shop!

After the tour, we will rejoin our coach and proceed to Hanbury Hall, where either "Light Lunches" or "Hearty Lunches" will be available at the tea room, at members' own cost. As space is limited, we need to have some idea of numbers and option preferences via the attached form and would ask members to stagger their visit. Alternatively some members may wish to bring their own picnic lunch, seating is available in outside gazebos.

Hanbury Hall is a William and Mary style house built in 1701 by Thomas Vernon, containing a fascinating mix of interiors, including the restored Hercules rooms and re-created Gothic corridor, smoking room and staircase wall paintings. Surrounding the house are 20 acres of re-created early 18th century gardens and 400 acres of parkland.

Coach departs School Street at 8:45 am to return by around 6:30 pm.

Cost £29.50 (non members £31.50) to include coach, driver's tip and Morgan tour.

**Please carry National Trust Cards for Admission to Hanbury Hall.
Admission charge for non members, Hall and Gardens £10.60**

Please apply to John Pedrazzini, 18 Northgate Close, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8UN. Tel: 01782 644478 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date: 2nd May. Prompt applications would be appreciated.

**THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE
NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION**

**THIRTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE
HARTSHILL**

TUESDAY 20th MAY 2014 at 7.00pm.

AGENDA:

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the 33rd AGM**
- 4. Secretary's Report – Matters Arising.**
- 5. Treasurer's Report.**
- 6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2014 – 2015.**
- 7. Change to Constitution (please see note 1)**
- 8. Approvals for re-election to committee (please see note 2)**
- 9. Nominations for Officers and Committee (please see note 3)**
- 10. Election of Officers and Committee for 2014 – 2015**
- 11. Any Other Business**

Followed at 7.30pm by a talk (see page 5)

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

Notes on Agenda:

1. The National Trust has issued a revised model constitution for associations. It now allows associations such as ours to either continue as we are, with membership restricted to NT members, volunteers and staff, or to allow non-members to join. Copies of the suggested wording will be available on the night, or please contact Richard Adams for an advance copy. We need to vote on this and confirm our choice in the constitution.
There is also a change recommended, to formally allow email communications between the association and members.
2. Committee members should normally serve on committee for no more than 5 years without a break – Richard Adams, Madeleine Hopley and Peter Moxon wish to continue in post, so therefore require the approval of the meeting to stand for re-election.
3. Members will be invited to submit nominations for the Committee and Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each nomination should be signed by the proposer, a seconder and the nominee, all of whom must be paid up members of the Association. If possible, please send nominations in advance of the meeting to Richard Adams, Secretary, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke on Trent ST4 8FT.

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Tuesday 20th May AGM

A talk by David Mitchell, Chester's Town Crier, 'For Crying Out Loud!'

For much of our history town criers were as much a part of everyday life as newspapers, radio and TV are today. Even during the hours of darkness a bellman would patrol the unlit streets crying 'Two o'clock and all is well!'
It is, therefore, surprising that no one has told the story of these pioneer newspapers in a book ... until now. Chester's Town crier, David Mitchell, has published the first ever history of the roles of bellman and town crier in his book, *For Crying Out Loud* and he will be telling us all about it, and probably quite loudly, after the AGM.
Come along and find out why Henry IV had the bellman proclaim that Welshmen were not allowed to remain within the city walls of Chester after sunset 'under pain of

decapitation'; how the bellman officiated at wife sales; how the town crier of Chertsey left his bell in the care of his wife when he went off to fight in World War I and what happened when he came back.

The Secretary of South Cheshire National Trust said of this talk 'I have never had so many comments following a lecture.... 'Can he come again?' 'We never laughed so much' etc. It certainly was a very enjoyable evening and one which will be remembered for a long time to come''

It sounds like this is a meeting not to be missed. He is certainly a speaker who will have no trouble being heard at the back!

Thursday May 22ND Car Outing: Take A Walk Round Knutsford.

You may have driven through this charming Cheshire town – the original Cranford - or even stopped to shop there, but what do you know of the many notable people who have lived there and some of the exotic buildings? We shall learn about these and much more with our guides.

Meet at 10.30am in the Heritage Centre for coffee/tea and biscuits and have time to see the interesting Millennium Tapestry made by the townspeople. At 11.30 we shall then embark on an hour's gentle walk, learning about the author Mrs. Gaskell, Henry Royce (of Rolls Royce fame), General 'Blood and Guts' Patton and the American 3rd Army, and the local architect Richard Harding Watt. Knutsford's landmarks, battles and the sundry kings, highwaymen and gentry who contributed to the town's history will be introduced to us.

Buy own lunch in one of the many varied eating places then spend the rest of the afternoon either shopping in town or visiting nearby Tatton Park.

Cost £9.00 (non-members £10) to include coffee and cost of guide.

Please apply to Mrs. A. Anderton, 14, Berne Avenue, Newcastle ST5 2QJ Tel: 01782 613024 enclosing cheque and SAE. Full details of the venue and parking arrangements will be sent with acknowledgement.

Closing Date : 15th May

Wednesday 4th June: Coach Outing to Wombourne Wodehouse South Staffordshire.

A rare opportunity to visit a privately owned early medieval settlement with 18 acres of magnificent gardens.

The Grade 2* Manor House is said to date from 1130, has a fourteenth century core and shows revisions and refitting over the next seven centuries , including Gothic Revival by Bodley and Arts and Crafts by Ashbee. The interior holds a significant collection of 18th Century drinking glasses, portraits and porcelain. Unfortunately, the Stradivarius with the family name left home over a hundred years ago.

The social history of the owners and occupants is fascinating: public benefactors, musical impresarios, a peer and a Russian countess who entertained Gladstone here . The gardens of 18 acres feature 200 varieties of iris, azaleas, rare shrubs and trees. The party will be divided into three groups with house tours before lunch and garden tours afterwards.

Refreshments included in the cost will be served morning and afternoon, but please bring everything you require for lunch, apart from seating ,which will be in the Coach House. There are the “usual facilities “ but no shops or deli counter within reach. Subject to availability, we hope potted iris, originally from a famous French specialist will be on sale.

Cost 30.50 (non members £32.50) to include coach fare, gratuity, guided tours and refreshments morning and afternoon .PLEASE BRING OWN LUNCH .

Coach departs from School Street, Newcastle at 8.45am and returns approx. 5.30pm.

Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green, Wolverhampton,WV6 8QH.

01902 752833, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Please use envelope size 110 X 220 mm DL

Closing Date, Saturday 3rd May.

The property owners have limited numbers to 48. Prompt booking advisable.

Holiday to Northern Ireland 15th to 20th June 2014: Fully Booked

Sunday 22 June: Car Outing to Arley Hall and Garden Festival. CW9 6NA

The Hall is still very much a family home and is a good example of an early Victorian mansion built in the Elizabethan style (1833-41) , with fine plasterwork, panelling, grand staircase, beautiful library and a chapel designed by Anthony Salvin.

The gardens are amongst the finest in Britain, having been lovingly created by the same family over 250 years. The renowned double herbaceous border, breathtaking array of roses and perennials and the magnificent flowering shrubs make this a must-see summer visit. But that’s not all! We shall be visiting Arley on its most important

day of the year when its annual garden festival is held. In addition to the usual delights we will enjoy country crafts and other demonstration marquees, making a full day out guaranteed.

Lunch can be taken (at members' expense) in either The Tudor Barn Restaurant or the festival refreshment marquees or you could take your own picnic.

Members should arrive by 10.00am at the 'advance tickets marquee' (directions on application) where I will be there to meet you and to distribute the tickets. You will then be free to wander at will. The Hall opens at midday. Some areas of the garden are not suitable for those with limited mobility and access to the Hall is limited to the ground floor rooms for those with mobility issues.

Cost £10 (non-members £11) to include admission to Hall, Gardens and Festival.

Apply to Rose Wheat, 12, West Avenue, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 0NB, enclosing a cheque and stamped, addressed envelope. Tel. No. 01782 616113.

Closing date for applications: Monday 9th June.

Sunday 6th July: Woodseaves Walk.

Come and join us on this lovely walk in beautiful countryside and woodlands, no stiles and easy walking approx. 5 miles.

Meet at Woodseaves village hall at 10.30am, arrive back approx. 1pm.

Lunch could then be taken at the Kings Arms Eccleshall (Carvery) special price £8.50.

Book your meal with Gwen Dilks.

Cost: £2, pay on the day (non-members £2.50).

Please apply to Gwen Dilks, Dicky's Lane, Woodseaves, Stafford, ST20 0LB, enclosing a stamped envelope.

Tuesday 15th July: Car outing to Chetwynd House, 144 Northwood Lane, Clayton, Newcastle under Lyme ST5 4BZ

Meet at 2.00pm

Following the success of last year's much oversubscribed visit, Professor Flavia Swann has kindly agreed that members can make a further visit to Chetwynd House, a delightful property with approximately an acre of gardens.

Chetwynd House was designed in 1899 by the Arts and Crafts architects Sir Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker. They designed not just the building but all the internal fittings and furniture and also the garden. Some of this survives today. The two architects then went on to design Letchworth Garden City.

In 1926 Colley Shorter bought the house and moved there with his wife and daughters. After his first wife's death in 1940, he married Clarice Cliff and she moved into the Shorter family home.

She continued to live in Chetwynd House until her death in 1972.

For the visit members should arrive at Chetwynd House no later than 2.00pm when they will be given a guided tour of the ground floor of the house by Professor Swann, followed by tea/coffee and an amble around the gardens. Please note parking will be on the adjacent roads.

Cost: £9.00 (non-members £10.00) includes entrance, tour and tea/coffee.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8ED, Tel: 01782 642942, enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope size 220mm x 110mm (8 5/8" x 4 3/8")

Closing date 1st July. Directions will be provided with confirmation of booking.

Saturday, 19th July: Coach Outing to Ellesmere Port National Waterways Museum and Chester

The **National Waterways Museum** is situated in a stunning location on the banks of the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal, at the northern end of the Shropshire Union Canal. It has extensive indoor and outdoor displays of inland waterways craft and related artefacts. Learn about the boats and the life of the families that lived aboard and worked on them.

Our morning visit will include a welcoming tea or coffee, a boat trip and a guided tour with plenty of time afterwards to investigate the extensive site further and to visit the Museum café and shop.

We leave late-morning for **Chester** where we will spend the rest of the day – plenty of places for lunch (own cost) and refreshments, looking at the architecture, walking the city walls and, of course, shopping.

The coach departs School Street, Newcastle at 8.45 am and returns approx. 6 pm. There will be a toilet on the coach so we do not intend to stop en route.

Cost £24.50 (non-members £26.50) which includes the coach travel, museum entrance fee, morning tea and coffee, boat trip, guided tour and coach driver's gratuity.

Please apply to David Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY

Closing Date June 23rd

Tuesday 12th August: Coach Outing to Blackwell Arts and Craft House Cumbria.

In the morning we shall visit Blackwell House, a beautiful Arts and Crafts building, which was designed by Mackay Baillie Scott in 1898 in a stunning setting overlooking Lake Windermere. When we visit there will be an exhibition of Glasgow Arts and Crafts 1890 to 1930.

We will be welcomed by a member of staff and have a short introductory talk, followed by tea/ coffee and cake (cost included.)

After touring the house we shall take a 25 min. journey to Kendal, which has plenty of places for lunch (at own cost). We will then visit Abbots Hall Art Gallery and the Museum of Lakeland Life. Nearby is a lovely Church, the third largest in the country and well worth a visit.

Depart from School Street at 8.00am, return 7.00pm.

Cost: £34.00 (non- members £36.00) to include coach, driver's tip, admission to all venues, morning refreshments.

Please apply to Gwen Dilks, Dicky's Lane Woodseaves, Stafford, ST20 0LB.

Tel. 01785 284368 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.

Prompt Booking Essential. Closing Date 11th July.

Wednesday, 27th August: Car outing to Ingestre

Ingestre is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but recent investigations have revealed that a settlement was here as early as the Bronze Age. The manor of Ingestre passed through marriage from the De Mutton to the Chetwynd and Talbot families. It is sited near Great Haywood, just off the A51 (ST18 0RF). We have four places to visit:

Ingestre Hall a red brick Jacobean building (now owned by Sandwell Education Authority and used as an Arts Centre with a residential school during the week in term time). Sir Walter Chetwynd had it built in a Jacobean style in 1613 and it was rebuilt in the same style in 1882 after a fire substantially destroyed it.



The **Stables** houses the leading riding and training centre in the Midlands and is one of the best in the UK

The **Orangery**, built by Samuel and Joseph Wyatt after designs by James, “Athenian” Stuart for the Grade II*listed Orangery at Blithfield Hall 10 miles away. The Orangery was used for growing exotic fruit and plants by the Chetwynd-Talbots and subsequently the Earls of Shrewsbury until 1959 when the estate was broken up and sold.



**The church from the altar.
Photo:Patrick Lichfield**

The church of St Mary the Virgin completed in 1676 built by Walter Chetwynd from a design reputedly by Sir Christopher Wren. The church is a gem with a fine screen and ornate pulpit with work by Grinling Gibbons. It has always been a parish church, a church for the people.

This is an afternoon visit and we will meet at the Hall at 2pm. There will be quite a bit of walking and we will be served tea and cake half way through to keep us going!
Cost: £14 per head or £15 for guests to include guided tours throughout the afternoon plus a slice of cake and a cup of tea or coffee.

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

Closing Date: 15th July

New Members Since The Last Edition

We would like to extend a warm welcome to

Norma Masters
John Shapcott
June & Peter Furey
Peter & Gill Smith
Shirley Knox

Diana Bevan
Rosemary Brown
Jim Tennant
Barbara Whitaker

COME WITH ME TO BURNLEY

Step back in time to when King Cotton reigned in the home of my ancestors

**This is a two-day Coach Holiday, Friday and Saturday
26th & 27th September**

We will visit Towneley Hall, which is a part Elizabethan, part Victorian manor house full of wonderful paintings, furniture and ceramics, many of them from Lancashire. Queen Street Mill Textile Museum Built in 1894, this is the last surviving operational steam powered mill in the entire world. We'll see the vast weaving shed and giant 500hp steam engine called 'Peace'.

Gawthorpe Hall (NT) The textiles collection at Gawthorpe was amassed by Miss Rachel-Kay Shuttleworth and includes historic and contemporary lace, quilts, costumes, samplers and embroidery from all over the world.

Howarth Art Gallery, Accrington This Arts and Crafts style mansion is home to the largest collection of brilliantly coloured Tiffany Glass in Europe, all thanks to a local boy who went to find fame and fortune in America.

We will have guided tours at each of the above museums.

For more information on the venues please see the website wonderful-things.org.uk.

Join Cynthia Dumbelton on this exciting two-day break. For full details please see the booking form.

Two-day trip to Burnley in Lancashire to include dinner, bed and breakfast at the Higher Trapp, a 4* Best Western hotel, 4 guided tours, coach, driver's tip and including a donation to the Association's funds.

Cost £110 per person for two people sharing a room or £130 per person for a single room.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Any queries, please telephone 01782 641765. Closing Date 25th August.



Tiffany glass at the Howarth Art Gallery



The Pavilion at Wrest Park (London Holiday 2013).

Booking Form

Thursday 15th May: Morgan Car Factory and Hanbury Hall

Coach departs School Street at 8:45 am to return by around 6:30 pm. Cost £29.50 (non members £31.50) to include coach, driver's tip and Morgan tour.

Please carry National Trust Cards for Admission to Hanbury Hall.

Please apply to John Pedrazzini, 18 Northgate Close, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8UN. Tel: 01782 644478 enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope - size 110 x 220 mm. DL.

| Harbury Hall Refreshment Booking Form | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Name | Number of people |
| Light Lunch (available between 1.00pm – 2.30pm) i.e. soup, salads, sandwiches Approx .price range £3.00 - £5.00 | |
| Hearty Lunch (available between 1.00pm – 2.30pm) i.e. flan, daily special hot dish (plus vegetarian option) Approx price range £7.50 - £9.00 | |
| Bring own picnic lunch Seating available in outside gazebo | |

Booking Form

Thursday 22 May: Car Outing and Guided History Walk around Knutsford.

Cost £ 8.00 (non-members £10)

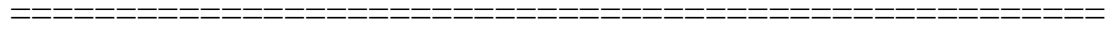
Please apply to Mrs. A. Anderton, 14, Berne Avenue, Newcastle ST5 2QJ Tel: 01782 613024. enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope - size 110 x 220 mm. DL.

Full details of the venue and parking arrangements will be sent with acknowledgement.

| Name(s) | Association number | £ |
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For booking details see reverse of this form



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For booking details see reverse of this form

Booking Details

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Please apply to Ralph White, 20 Upper Green ,Wolverhampton ,WV6 8QH .
Tel 01902 752833, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope.
Envelope size 110 X 220 mm. DL.

Closing Date for applications: Saturday 3rd May.
Prompt booking advisable.

Booking Form

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Cost £10 (non-members £11) to include admission to Hall, Gardens and Festival.

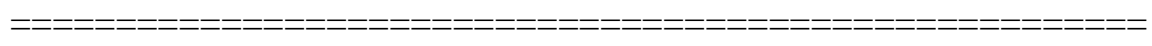
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For booking details see reverse of this form

Booking Form

Sunday 6th July: Woodseaves Walk

Members £2 . Non- members £2.50 Pay on the day
Meet at Woodseaves Village Hall 10.30am
Approx. 5miles easy walking no stiles

Apply to

Gwen Dilks. Dicky's Lane, Woodseaves. Stafford. ST20 0LB

Tel. 01785 284368, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope - size 110 x 220 mm. DL.

Booking Form

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Cost: £9.00 (non-members £10.00) includes entrance, tour and tea/coffee.

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Tel: 01782 642942, enclosing a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope size
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Closing date 1st July. Directions will be provided with confirmation of booking.

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Please indicate if you wish to make a carvery booking at the Kings Arms YES/NO.

For booking details see reverse of this form

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Booking Form

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Closing Date June 23rd

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Closing date 11th July

Prompt application essential

Name(s)

Association number

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Booking Details

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This short holiday will include dinner, bed and breakfast at the Higher Trapp, a 4* Best Western hotel, 4 guided tours, coach, driver's tip and including a donation to the Association's funds.

Cost £110 per person for two people sharing a room or £130 per person for a single room. Help with room sharing can be arranged if you wish.

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque for either a £50.00. deposit or the whole amount with a stamped addressed envelope.

Any queries, please telephone 01782 641765

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For booking details see reverse of this form

REPORTS FROM RECENT VISITS

Sunday 3rd November. Walk, The Madeley Explorer

Around 36 of us (plus only one dog! most unusual, perhaps because some of our dog owning colleagues were apprehensive of the seven or eight stiles which we were warned about by our leader Richard Adams) set off on a rather wet day from Madeley.

After some heavy showers whilst we were taking a gradual climb through dense undergrowth, we came to a lovely summit and beautiful open farmland. Shortly afterwards upon a mandatory headcount, so necessary on these occasions, it was found that although all the walkers were present our one and only dog had lost his way! He soon turned up and we were on our way to Onneley.

A lovely autumn morning now saw us walking amongst some beautiful trees still retaining their leaves as we had hardly any frosts. After negotiating many of the aforementioned stiles, some with a high degree of difficulty, the next item in the obstacle race came in the form of a horse which seemed to have a more than usual sense of interest in a number of humans invading his field. Several of us had crossed the stile leading out of his field when it became apparent that he may have posed a degree of danger.

Never fear Nicky was here! Displaying calm and authority, our leader's wife came to the rescue and the horse trotted back to the rest of his friends. All was well!

A large field of tame sheep was crossed as we looked over the Cheshire Plain with Jodrell Bank prominent. Then a slow descent back to Madeley Centre, a superb new building designed for community events and supported by many of the local communities and surrounding parishes. We enjoyed a delicious Sunday Lunch and, as we thanked Richard and his family for a great day out expertly organised as usual, the darkness descended earlier than ever. Many thanks Richard.

Richard Mayer.

Wednesday 6th November. Talk by Peter Hawthorne on the Animal's Victoria Cross.

On a NT coach trip in March last year, to Bletchley Park Roger Cartlidge, a member of the planning committee, was fascinated by a display in one of the Bletchley 'huts' showing how animals played an important part in the war effort.

On returning to North Staffordshire Roger invited Peter Hawthorne, a local history teacher, who is an expert on war time animal heroics, to give a talk to the Association on animals at war.

At the beginning of his talk Peter explained that he had an interest in animals who displayed conspicuous gallantry in wartime and he searched libraries and the internet to find out more about the subject. Peter found that there was little or no information on animal bravery anywhere and decided to research the matter and to write a book on animals at war. On completion of his book Peter looked for a publisher and after 24 rejections he was successful at the 25th attempt.

Maria Dickin was the founder of the PDSA and in 1943 she instigated an award to recognise animal gallantry. The award took the form of a medal inscribed "For Gallantry, We also Served". The medal was named after Maria and was known as the Dickin Medal or more popularly, the Animal's Victoria Cross. It was awarded 54 times between 1943 and 1949 to 32 pigeons, 18 dogs, 3 horses and 1 cat. The Dickin Medal was revived in 2000 due to conflicts in the Middle East. Peter gave detailed accounts of the heroics of several of the award winners. The pigeons were awarded medals for successfully delivering important messages, the dogs mainly for the rescue of persons trapped under blitzed buildings and for sniffing out IEDs. A funny story concerned colourful language coming from a house that had been bombed telling Hitler where he could go and what he could do to himself. After a thorough search a rescue dog discovered that the foul language was coming from the family parrot! The 3 police horses were awarded the medal for controlling traffic at the height of a flying bomb attack and the HMS Amethyst's cat was awarded the medal for destroying the ship's rats despite suffering from an injury.

Thank you Peter for a most interesting and well received talk.

Peter Thompson

Wednesday 13th November : Coach Outing To Manchester

We were all delighted to see Penny in School Street – she had come to wave us off and leave us in the capable hands of Terry for the day. The journey was trouble-free and those who opted for the guided walk enjoyed coffee before setting off with our excellent guide, Andrew Derbyshire. Passing through the Piccadilly Basin with the refurbished cotton warehouses so close to the canal, then through the trendy Northern Area, we soon reached Ancoats, now undergoing extensive regeneration.

This area saw a huge rise in population in the 19th century as textile workers and merchants built up large businesses, and eventually public buildings and churches were needed, as well as terraces of houses. As Andrew commented, “ the history of the nineteenth century is reflected in these gritty buildings”. We were privileged, finally, to be guests in the former St.Peter’s Anglican church, which has been renovated to be a superb rehearsal venue for the Halle Orchestra, where we learned how the interior had been altered to provide appropriate acoustics.

In the afternoon we heard the orchestra in several contrasting pieces, which together made a thrilling concert. The music of Dvorak and Tchaikovsky charmed us in the first half, especially the cello playing of the young soloist, Philip Higham. After the interval the well-known Debussy with its dream-like, ethereal quality gave way to the vibrant orchestration and energetic rhythms of Stravinsky’s Firebird suite, which provided an exhilarating climax to the concert.

Many thanks to Penny for the original planning of the outing and to Terry for being our ‘leader’ on this very interesting day.

Anne Anderton

Wednesday 20th November : Visit to the City Museum

We had a whirlwind tour of the reserve ceramic collection. Both our guides were very informative but with limited time they could only highlight a few of the thousands of pieces of pottery. We saw tin glaze ware, a fake Toft charger (a useful teaching aid), Davenport ware, New Hall pottery and worldwide ceramics ancient and modern. There was a story behind every piece which added to the interest and we could have stayed all day and not seen everything.

Maddy Hopley

Our afternoon tour started with a most interesting talk by Jean Milton telling us the history of the clothes, the majority of which had been presented by Lady Bagot and included her Coronation robes. We then heard how the clothes were kept frozen, cleaned, packed in tissue in cardboard boxes and kept at 19°C. As any clothes donated have to be kept in perpetuity, there could be a BIG PROBLEM one day soon! Angela Davies also gave us a most detailed talk and view of the collection of samplers, including one by a girl of 10, and one which dated from as early as the 18th Century. We were all amazed at the detail of the exquisite work and thoroughly enjoyed our tour.

Margaret Thomas and Anne Webb Bowen

Wednesday December 11th : Christmas Social Evening at the Dudson Museum



Our festive evening began with an illustrated talk by Alison Morgan, the Museum Curator, about the history of the Dudson family and firm which is now in the hands of the ninth generation of Dudsons. She showed examples of many of their most famous wares, including decorated Jasperware, and many items made in the past for the various firms and high-class travel companies whose china was made and decorated with company logos by Dudsons. Among these were shipping lines, grand hotels all over the world and many railway companies.

The tradition of manufacturing for the hospitality trade has continued, as Dudsons now make exclusively for hotels, restaurants and the catering trade. Alison emphasised that Richard Branson was pleased to order their wares for his travel companies.

Walking from the modern restaurant and lecture hall to the museum itself meant crossing the courtyard with its lanterns to light our way and entering the bottle oven which houses the collection of items demonstrating the varied history of the firm. Inside it was beautifully decorated and we enjoyed looking at many fine examples of design and manufacture, including the most recent wares in pure white china, but with unusual shapes, as now demanded by restaurants, influenced by celebrity chefs on TV and how they display their creations!

The buffet supper with wine was a splendid way to finish off the evening in style and made a good start to the Christmas season. Our thanks to Anne and Paul Anderton for introducing many members to a venue which they had never previously visited.

Tuesday 14th January: Talk By Vince Williams: Mountain Search and Rescue

Vince Williams is an experienced and vastly enthusiastic member of the Mountain Search and Rescue team covering mid and west Wales. Vince began his talk using an Ordnance Survey map to show us the extent of the Welsh Regions that were included in their responsibilities and it's certainly not all about mountains.

The dedication, commitment and sheer professionalism of the team of volunteers shone through in every aspect of their many and varied tasks and challenges. The scope of the group's responsibilities clearly indicated the wide range of skills and knowledge required. Vince spent some time describing the vast array of safety and rescue equipment carried by the team; the range of stretchers alone covered all possible types of casualty and injury, enough to evacuate a war zone.

We were also given some details of the various modes of transport needed to provide the medical support in the many different terrains encountered by the team. One could not fail to be impressed by the commitment that is put in by all members of the group. There were clear similarities to those brave members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The talk ended with Vince showing us slides of a couple of successful search and rescue missions carried out by his team and we were, perhaps, left wanting to hear more of actual rescue missions completed.

M. Wheat.

Tuesday 11th February : Talk by Ron Rock: Wildlife in Your Garden.

The number of questions asked by the audience was a clear indication of the success of Ron's talk. I can't recall when we last had so many. Ron's enthusiasm for his subject was palpable and the breadth of his knowledge is amazing. We learnt about the myriad of creatures to be found in the domestic garden – birds, insects, bats, spiders, lizards, squirrels etc – and how to encourage them to make their homes there – what wild flowers to sow, trees to grow, ponds to dig and miniature houses to build. I was much encouraged to be told not to be too tidy in the garden and that a layer of leaves or a pile of wood, even a patch of dandelions or nettles can provide a natural habitat for all manner of insects which in turn provide food for birds. As Ron reminded us, if we lose our insects we'll lose a lot of our wild life and ultimately our own food. The next time I go to swat a wasp I must remember that it is the finest pest controller in my garden and not the useless pest I have always considered it to be.

The pleasure and interest of the evening was increased by a display of gorgeous slides; The examples of birds and butterflies were especially beautiful. In all this was a most educational and entertaining evening and Ron deserved his applause

Jacquie Byrne

Wednesday 12th February : A Second Visit Behind the Scenes at Hanley Museum

The visit was in two halves: costume and ceramics.

The subject for the costume session was shoes.

Jean Milton began by giving us a potted history of shoes in England from Roman sandals to modern footwear. Angela took us in detail through the samples of shoes arranged before us: shoes not specific to either foot from the 18th century; button boots; children's clogs; World War one officer's boots; ladies tennis boots and many more

Then we were let loose to examine the shoes (with the exception of the delicate 18th century ones) and free to ask questions of Jean and Angela.

Members also contributed their own memories provoked by the display.

For the ceramics session, Miranda Goodby took us into the enormous storage area, which lies under much of the museum.

The ware is kept in glass double fronted cases, as visible as when on display, rather than being stored in cupboards. About ten percent of the collection can be on display at any one time, but items are also sent out on loan to other museums and exhibitions. As well as pointing out particular items, Miranda gave us a brief history of the collection. Much of it is from the private collections of the manufacturers, also, local business men invested in collecting local products, of which they were proud, rather than acquiring modern (pre-Raphaelite) art, as happened in Birmingham and Manchester. The museum also has a significant collection of Chinese and Japanese work as well as Italian majolica.

We saw far too much to mention it all, but one member was pleased to see the Minton Secession ware, there was "50 years of Susie Cooper", a whole history of figurines, services that had their own place in television history, and on a personal note, a Wedgwood service, part of which still graces our dining table.

An enjoyable and instructive day was had by all.

Anne and Bruce Tranter



Thursday 20th February : Visit to Moorcroft Pottery

Moorcroft pottery is still made in the original factory built in 1913 by William Moorcroft, with Liberty's of London the major shareholder. The vast majority of the

factory's early production was in fact sent to London and was sold in the Liberty store. We started the visit by browsing around the museum and showroom, which also incorporates the Grade II listed bottle kiln. Pottery dating back more than a century when production started is displayed in fine oak glass cabinets with lighting that highlights the rich colours of the items on show.

Moorcroft produce a wide variety of designs as well as small ranges of numbered and limited editions. New designs are created by 5 designers, all of whom work from home in their own studios.

Our factory tour included the explanation and demonstrations of the various design and manufacturing processes. We saw how Moorcroft's entire manufacturing process is particularly labour-intensive and, whenever possible, the company policy is to use locally sourced raw materials.

All items are produced to order, with a typical delivery of 4 weeks from placement to actual delivery. Interestingly, 70% of production is sold in the UK with the remainder going for export.

Our tour concluded by thanks being extended to our guide and to Roger for organising the visit to what is said to be "the finest art pottery in the world".

Ann Winter

Thursday 6th March : Visit to the Sikh Temple

Having entered the Sikh temple with its festive decorations and a light aroma of spices, we were met by the President giving us a warm welcome.

It was necessary for the ladies to wear head covering, and there was a bright collection in evidence, and the men also donned hats and scarves. We also removed our shoes before going upstairs to the place of worship where the Holy Book is kept. It was pointed out that tobacco is forbidden. After washing our hands, we entered the room in silence and after paying our respects to the Holy Book, which resides on a white coverlet on a four poster bed, we sat on the floor. There were signs for thoughts such as 'Sweetness and Humility are the Virtues of God', and 'The Conquest of Mind is Conquest of the World'.

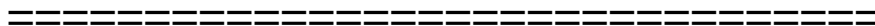
This was an extremely interesting time: 'Guru' means teacher and we were attentive students; learning that a Sikh does not cut his hair, he carries a wooden comb inside the turban, and wears a steel bracelet signifying being handcuffed to God. He wears special underwear suitable for chastity and for flight in time of war and a small sword to fight injustice, which is always sheathed in public and for which special dispensation is given in law. Sikh fighters are well known for their bravery and loyalty.

It was shown that the Sikh community is hardworking, believing in service and sharing, and living a life with integrity. They believe that all are equal, rich and poor, male and female so they did not need a Suffragette Movement.

We all enjoyed the hospitality of a vegetarian meal and drink, and although there are times when meat is eaten, it must not be Halal meat.

We all came away so much better informed about the Sikhs and there history and beliefs and the feeling of a truly sincere welcome.

Shirley Rathbone.



You Don't have to be Dickens!

Next time you go to a talk or on a trip spare a thought for the organizer – not only has he/she arranged the event from idea to successful completion, but he/she now has to persuade/cajole or even cry for someone to write a brief report for the Newsletter (organizers have even been known to write their own out of sheer frustration!). It doesn't have to be a long detailed account of the event, in fact we would prefer 250 words maximum, more your impressions than a 'Samuel Pepys', but please, please show your appreciation to the organizer by volunteering and taking at least one job off his/her shoulders.

You will be provided with a stamped addressed envelope to the Newsletter editor or better still you could e-mail your piece to him john.huson25@btinternet.com.

Recording our activities

Our Association has several sides to its life, which, this year, we want to record in its rich detail. The aim is to produce a video programme composed of still photographs and video sequences which will tell the story of visits, talks, walks and holidays as enjoyed by a great many of the over 400 members who belong to our Association. These social and educational activities raise substantial sums of money for the National Trust and our record will show not only how this money is accumulated, but also where it goes and what it is used for.

To achieve this ambition we need as many pictures, moving and still, as you can supply not only of the walks you go on, the holidays you enjoy but

also the Trust properties you visit where our money is being spent. Every picture will help, so make sure you have your camera at the ready at all times!

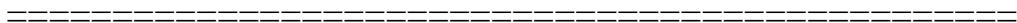
Success will depend upon your efforts and the expertise of a video editor whom we hope to recruit. Do you have the equipment and the skill for this? Do you know of someone who fits the bill, perhaps a young person keen to make a career in this type of communications media? This could be a big opportunity to show initiative and level of technical knowledge. It might appeal to a camera club aficionado.

Send your pictures and information in the first instance by email to either Ralph White or Paul Anderton, but keep copies so that reliable transfers can be made at a later stage via a memory stick. Also pass names and contact details of potential editors to Ralph or Paul, the sooner the better.

Many Thanks

Paul Anderton : panda.berneav@btinternet.com

Ralph White : ralph@ralphwhitedesign.com



Thanks to Those Who Submitted Photographs

Paul Anderton

Cynthia Dumbelton

Christopher Wain

Bob Winter

Richard Adams

John Huson



Try this on the Ireland Visit

A forthcoming attraction?



Leek Embroidery Society History Visit
All Saints Church Leek

THE COMMITTEE 2013-2014

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|--|
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Summary of Programme May to August 2014

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|---|---|
| Thursday 15th May | Coach Outing to the Morgan Car Factory and Hanbury Hall. |
| Tuesday 20th May | AGM: Speaker: David Mitchell, ‘For Crying Out Loud!’. |
| Thursday 22nd May | Car Outing: Guided History Walk around Knutsford. |
| Wednesday 4th June | Coach Outing to Wombourne Wodehouse. |
| Sunday 22nd June | Car Outing to Arley Hall. |
| Sunday 6th July | Walk: Woodseaves. |
| Tuesday 15th July | Repeat Car outing to Chetwynd House. |
| Saturday 19th July | Coach Outing to the National Waterways Museum and Chester. |
| Tuesday 12th August | Coach Outing to Blackwell House and Kendal. |
| Wednesday 27th August | Car Outing to Ingestre Hall, Church and Stables. |
| Friday/Saturday 26/27th September | Two day holiday to Lancashire |

Some Future Dates for Your Diary

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| Tuesday 30th September | Talk at the NS Conference Centre 7.30pm: Sue Beesley – ‘From Computers to Compost’. |
| Monday 13th October | Talk at the NS Conference Centre 7.30pm: Gerald Mee-Selection of Films on North Staffordshire.. |
| Tuesday 11th November | Talk at NS Conference Centre 7.30pm: Howard Bagshaw- ‘Lest We Forget. |
| Wednesday 10 December | Christmas Social Evening: The Madeley Centre. |

Contributors to the next Newsletter are asked to send copy to the Editor by 1st July. Thank You. Photographs welcome

Please send to John Huson, 25 Grindley Lane, Meir Heath, Stoke - on-Trent, ST3 7LN.

E-mail: john.huson25@btinternet.com