

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 105
Autumn – Winter 2016

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



Andrew Darbyshire points out evidence of Roman occupation of Manchester

© JSpriggs

Arrangements for Trips

Coaches depart promptly from School Street alongside the long-stay pay-and-display car park and do not pick up members en route.

Please send a separate cheque, with event name on reverse, and an envelope for each event applied for, even if it is the same organiser. People wishing to sit together should complete one form.

The Committee reserves the right to cancel any event that is not viable. Non-members travelling as members' guests pay an extra £2 for Coach Outings and £1 for Car trips. If circumstances dictate they have lower priority on booking.

Please make cheques payable to "North Staffs National Trust Association". Cheques are normally not cleared until after an event. We will give notice if we need to do otherwise.

Refunds on cancellation are possible only if there is a waiting list. Please do not find your own substitutes: those on the waiting list have priority.

The personal accident insurance arranged by the Association through the Trust does NOT cover members over 80 years of age. However, our public liability insurance covers members at any age. Please ask a Committee Member if you are unsure. Whilst participating in an event make sure that you carry with you the organiser's mobile phone number from the booking acceptance. DO NOT MAKE alternative arrangements without telling the trip organiser.

This Newsletter is published by North Staffordshire National Trust Association to provide members with information on the forthcoming programme, reports on recent events, and other membership issues. The text and images are copyright and may not be reproduced without the owner's permission. Any views expressed by individual contributors are their own and not necessarily of the NSNTA or the NT.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. **Note:** you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer. To join the Association, please see the details and complete the Application Form on Pages vii & viii, or download the membership form from www.northstaffsnt.org.uk.

Copy and correspondence for the next issue, due for publication mid December, should be addressed to Newsletter@jspriggs.com (01782 791360) not later than the **9th November 2016**.

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North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 105 Autumn – Winter 2016 Programme

A Note From The Chair



Here we are, about to set off on the great adventure of the new season of events. I think it will be a great comfort in all the uncertainty to have fixed dates and something to which to look forward. The programme celebrates our history, culture and landscape. Tourism is nearly 10 % of GDP so we are supporting the Trust and bolstering the economy. Invest in yourself; go to an event for an experience which is beyond calculation.

I am used to trying to provide cheer between bouts of solemnity.

I have been Best Man three times. In writing this, I feel as I do when addressing the couple setting off into unknown territory. Especially if they have explored the terrain before, I tend to call the speech “The Triumph of Hope over Experience”. This season’s programme, following the Referendum, has caught the mood of the nation. 20th September, Morris Dancing - “They are ringing their bells now: they will be wringing their hands later”. 14th December, The Christmas Meal. Robert Louis Stevenson said, “Sooner or later everybody has to sit down to a banquet of consequences.”

29th November, “The Nutcracker” and an uncommon market. This turned out to be Clara’s dream. It may be Theresa’s nightmare and a new nickname. Next year it might be “Cinderella” with a whole new scene about putting back

the clock. At least the early start to Pantomime this year has had an unexpected consequence, my wish has been granted already! John Spriggs has appeared in a flash to save us and become Newsletter Editor. Best Wishes to him and to you.

Ralph

In consequence of “Leavers” success we are delighted that our NSNTA accounts will continue to be audited annually, unlike the EU’s, never passed in twenty years. Also, the idea of moving our Committee Meetings to France four days a month was overruled by the majority, just!

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 11th to Friday 16th September 2016: Coastal Holiday: Portsmouth

Price: £575 No extras, no single room charge.

We will visit 2 historic dockyards, 3 houses, 3 ferries, 2 islands, 2 castles, 3 villages, a tower and a mill.

There are still one or two spaces left on this forthcoming holiday. If you now find you can spare the time, we would love you to come with us; it is not too late! Please contact Cynthia on 01782 641765 for details.

Tuesday 20th September: Talk: English folk song, dance and customs by Bill Durose

Bill is a retired head – teacher with a life-long interest in the folk music of this country. His talk will reflect the many diverse elements of this interest. He will also illustrate his talk by playing the guitar, melodeon, concertina and ukulele. Having been a member of three Morris Dancing teams he will enlighten us on the history of Morris Dancing. He might also demonstrate some of their techniques. Do come along and prepare to be entertained.

Thursday 29th September: Coach Outing: Marks & Spencer Exhibition and Temple Newsam House, Leeds

There are still a few places left for this outing to the Marks in Time exhibition at Leeds University followed by a visit to Temple Newsam House with its magnificent collections of furniture, ceramics, textiles, silver and wallpaper. For full details see Summer Newsletter.

The cost of £29pp includes morning coffee or tea at M&S and a cold buffet lunch at Temple Newsam. If you would like to go please telephone Richard Mayer on 01782 533476 before sending off your cheque and booking form with SAE.

Closing date 26th August. For booking details see pages i & ii.

First we will visit Leeds University to see the "Marks in Time Exhibition". This exhibition celebrates the role that Marks & Spencer has played in people's lives for more than 130 years. It traces the journey from market stall to international retailer. We will have a short talk entitled "M & S and the War Effort", a guided tour of the exhibition and free time to look around including the gift shop. Complimentary tea and coffee will be served. We will then transfer by coach to:- Temple Newsam House. Built in 1518, it is a Tudor-Jacobean country mansion with grounds (1500 acres of stunning woodland, parkland and gardens) landscaped by Capability Brown. Following extensive restoration over 40 interiors now display one of the most important collections of fine and decorative arts in Britain which were designated as being of pre-eminent importance in 1997- the first country house to be recognised in this way. It is a treasure house of outstanding collections including furniture, ceramics, textiles, silver and wallpaper. The collections also show how the house was used as a family home, which was once birthplace to Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots.

Friday 14th October: A visit to the Toyota Engine Manufacturing Plant, Deeside, North Wales.

This is a follow up to the visit to the Toyota Car Assembly Plant Burnaston 10th November 2015.

The visit commences at 1:00 am with registration and Toyota providing some light refreshments on arrival. They will start with a short presentation giving some background to Toyota which started UK manufacturing in 1992. They aim to make these visits as involving and informative as possible so they encourage visitors to ask as many questions as they wish. After being fitted out with protective gear, we will have a **walking tour** of their production area to include casting, machining and assembly. We will then the return to their presentation hall for some final Q & A opportunities before we leave around 15:30.

Visitors should bring warm clothing ensuring that their arms & legs are covered at all times and should wear stout shoes. Toyota will provide hard hat, safety glasses and ear plugs to be worn on the shop floor.

Numbers are strictly limited to 15 and to members only (the Burnaston total of 20 was oversubscribed). For security reasons Toyota require the name of each attendee in advance of the visit, also Toyota request that each member receives prior to the visit a copy of their A4 size "joining instructions", please enclose a 215mm x 105 mm SAE

Cost to members £12.00

Please apply to John Pedrazzini, 6 Batten Walk, Yarnfield, Stone, ST15 0TA, enclosing cheque and 215mm x 105 mm SAE, Tel: 01785 761899.

Tuesday 18th October: Talk: NS Conference Centre 7.30pm 'Biddulph Old Hall – The First Ten Years'. Nigel Daly

Nigel Daly and Brian Vowles are the owners and restorers of Biddulph Old Hall. The talk will cover their investigation and research about the inhabited house and its process of restoration, the investigation of the ruins and the six storey tower and their conclusions about the construction of the Elizabethan mansion before its destruction in 1644 during the Civil War.

The Hall was the home of Robert Bateman from 1871 until his death in 1922. Robert was the youngest son of James Bateman, the creator of the gardens at Biddulph Grange. Robert was a Pre-Raphaelite painter and most of his work was painted in the Old Hall. Nigel has researched his life and published a book 'The Lost Pre-Raphaelite' recounting a deeply moving story of love and loss, of art and politics, of morality and hypocrisy and of family secrets concealed but never completely obscured. Come to the talk and find out more!

Wednesday, 19th October: Coach Outing to BBC Media City. A day out in Manchester.

I am using Jane Mayer's article written for the first visit to Media City last year – I cannot improve on it! I have just made amendments where necessary.

There are 2 guided tours with a maximum of 22 in each. The first is at 10.30am and the second at 3.00pm. You will be able to take a glimpse behind the scenes of some of your favourite programmes and will also have a chance to take part in your own television production in their interactive studio.

The BBC tour guides give a lively insight into the many programmes originating from the BBC in the north and the level of work it takes to get them from the script to screen. The tour does NOT include being in the audience for a show.

Each tour lasts an hour and a half and there will be quite a lot of walking. Lifts are available between levels.

If you have a preference for the time of the tour, please mention this on the booking form; times will be based on a first come first served basis and cannot be guaranteed.

For the rest of your day the Lowry and Imperial War Museum are both a 5 minute walk from Media City and are free to enter.

For those of you who want to go to Manchester city centre to do some shopping, there is a tram stop at Media City with trams which will take you there.

Lunch is at own expense; there are cafés at the Lowry and the Imperial War Museum, and a food hall at the nearby Lowry Outlet Shopping Mall.

Depart School Street at 8.15am. Return for 6.30pm (subject to traffic).

Cost £21 (£23 for non-members) to include BBC tour fee, coach and driver's gratuity. **Please note that all cheques will be cashed early September.**

Early Booking Essential. Maximum numbers 44. Priority will be given to those who applied last year but were unable to get on – please book ASAP.

Please apply to Sue Corlett, 24 The Covert, Clayton, Newcastle ST5 4BL enclosing a cheque and SAE. Booking details and form on pages iii & iv.

Closing Date: 31st August.

Saturday 29th October: Walk: Longsdon, Wall Grange and Ladderedge: Starting and finishing at the Hollybush Inn, Denford Road, Longsdon ST9 9QG

This 5-mile (approximately) circular walk takes in parts of the Caldron Canal (including the Leek arm), Wall Grange, and the Ladderedge Country Park, near to Leek.

To reach the Hollybush Inn, take the A53 from Stoke/Newcastle towards Leek. After passing through Endon into Longsdon, immediately upon entering the 40 mph zone you will see a brown sign to the right for the Hollybush Inn (and another one for Deep Hayes Country Park). Continue down Denford Road, keeping to the right past the left turn into Micklea Lane. You will then go over the canal bridge, then the railway bridge, and immediately before crossing a second canal bridge turn sharp right into the Hollybush car park. The Hollybush fronts onto the canal towpath, with the car park at the right hand side and rear of the pub.

We will meet at the car park at **10.00 am**. Although much of the walk is on the canal towpath, some of the other footpaths are fairly steep, with about 6 stiles, and some of the walk is along country lanes. It will also be necessary to cross the A53, although there is a pedestrian crossing at one point.

Children and dogs are of course welcome, the latter to be kept on leads please.

Lunch will be obtainable at the Hollybush (which is dog-friendly) if required, and in good weather it is possible to sit out by the canal. The walk is intended to finish at the Hollybush at 1.00pm.

Cost **£3.00** for members, **£3.50** non-members (pay on the day). Book your place with Peter Wilson by email to peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com, or by post to Greenbank, Church Lane, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9HF. Please indicate whether you are likely to require lunch, so that the Hollybush can be given an idea of numbers.

Telephone (Peter Wilson) 01782 502150.

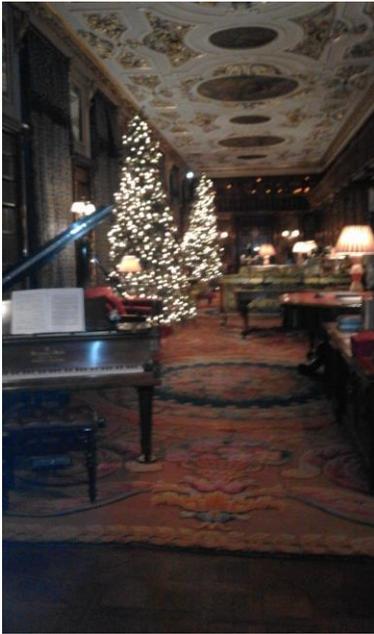
Tuesday 22nd November: Talk: “Our Home in the West” by Miranda Goodby of the Potteries Museum: A migration of North Staffs Potters to America in the 1840’s.

Did you know that hundreds of potters emigrated to the USA in the early 19th Century? Miranda Goodby will enlighten us as to what happened, as these pioneers left the smoke and hardships of life in the Potteries, fired up by their desires to forge a new life for themselves and their families in that emerging country, far across the Atlantic Ocean.

Tuesday 29th November 2016: Chatsworth House, Christmas Market and Gardens.

Christmas is everyone’s favourite time of year, especially at Chatsworth. Chatsworth House has an annual transformation with specially decorated trees, displays of foliage and sparkling lights. No expense is spared in creating a marvellous not to be forgotten experience. Each year they choose a different theme for the decorations and this year’s theme is taken from “The Nutcracker”.

The Christmas Market is located on the slope up to the Stables, with over 100 stalls to browse, selling handmade jewellery, crafted items, clothes, food and drink.



We arrive mid-morning and will spend time touring the outdoor Christmas Market and noted gardens.

Lunch, at own cost, can be taken at various on-site venues.

We have a timed entry to the house at 2.15 p.m. where we will enjoy a self-guided tour.

The coach will leave for Chatsworth from School Street at 8.30 a.m., then departing for home from Chatsworth at 4.15 p.m., arriving back in Newcastle at around 6.00 p.m.

Cost £30 (non-members £32), to include coach travel, admission to Chatsworth House, gardens and market, plus driver's gratuity.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent, ST4 8ED. Tel: 01782 642942, enclosing SAE.

Wednesday 14th December: Annual Christmas Dinner

This year we have chosen The Boat House at Aston Marina on the Lichfield Road in Stone for our Christmas social evening. The venue is a splendid new building with its own car park and easy access.

This family business describes itself as providing an idyllic waterside haven and, in addition to its 200 berths for canal boats, it has a well-stocked farm shop (although we don't know if it will be open at the time we meet). You will be offered a welcome drink on arrival when live music will be playing and you will have the opportunity to choose your favourite photograph from the display in the hall (your entries required please, see overleaf).

There will be a three course dinner served at the table with a pay bar open from 7pm. Also included is tea or coffee after the meal. Please choose from the menu on the Booking Form. Cost: £31 (non-members £32).

Please arrive at 7pm for the meal at 7.45.

Applications should be sent to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham ST4 8DY enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date: 16th November. Booking details and form: pages vii & viii.

Christmas Dinner Photographic competition Judges' prize and also people's prize.

Please submit your photographs taken during 2016 at Association events or at any National Trust property. Up to three items may be submitted before the event, size A5 (same dimensions as this newsletter). Please put your name and title of the picture on the reverse.

Reviews of Recent Events

Tuesday 15th March: Talk by Fred Hughes "The Seven Towns of North Staffordshire"

Fred Hughes is a writer and local historian and a regular contributor to local media. Those present soon realised that the seventh town in his somewhat mischievous title was Newcastle under Lyme! He covered the history of the area from a series of villages to the Townships we have today.

He paid tribute to entrepreneurs such as Josiah Wedgwood and James Brindley and author Arnold Bennett for their role in developing and giving publicity to the area. Burslem born and educated, Wedgwood stayed true to the area with its deposits of local clay and coal and a ready-made workforce and in liaison with Brindley the canals were soon to follow and numerous potbanks were built throughout the six towns.

The ancient borough of Newcastle under Lyme was seen as more of a business and professional services Town although it did have some light industries such as millinery and there were numerous small collieries in the surrounding villages. It was to Newcastle that Wedgwood turned for his legal and business advice in the person of John Sparrow of Knight's Solicitors and of course Wedgwood had chosen to build his model pottery factory in Etruria Vale which separates the six towns from the Borough. In due course the six towns all boasted numerous potbanks, pits and associated industries and the 'elite' moved from their grand houses in the Potteries to even grander ones in Porthill, Basford and beyond - way above the smoke and grime that covered the six towns.

Fred's main theme was the relationship between the six Townships on the one hand and the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme on the other. As early as 1817 Stoke-upon-Trent (the Town) had sought a merger with Newcastle but this was swiftly rebuffed. In 1906 each of the six towns sent a representative to a meeting to seek unification as a City. After much in-fighting the County Borough of Stoke

on Trent was created by Act of Parliament in 1910 and fifteen years later George V bestowed on it "City" status. This was not however the end of the City's aspirations and on four occasions since then, the latest being in 1997, the City or the Government of the day has sought to merge the two local authorities. However, Newcastle under Lyme Borough (including parts of the former Newcastle Rural District Council) still retains its independence today.

An open forum followed Fred's talk and some exchanges became a little fraught as they have done over the past 200 years whenever a merger of the "six towns plus one" has been proposed.

Roger and Shirley

Saturday 19th March: Walk: Rode Heath and the Salt Trail

This was reviewed in the previous copy of the Newsletter.

Tuesday 22nd March: Car outing to The Lion Salt Works

The visit that 51 of us made to The Lion Salt Works Museum in Northwich was one of those rare glimpses into another world about which we knew very little or, possibly, nothing at all! Because of the particular geology of this part of Cheshire, salt has been mined here since Roman times and during the 19thC there were around 20 salt works locally, so it was a heavily industrialised area and most of the local residents were involved with production one way or another. The Lion Works had been run by the Thompson family from 1842 until its closure in 1985. Producing salt was a very hard job with its own language, such as 'wallers', 'lumpers' and 'mundling sticks'.

Our guides took us through the basic technique which was to drill into the underground brine; pump it up to the surface, where it was put into large pans with fires underneath to evaporate off the water. The salt was then raked and skimmed off the top and piled into special tubs to form a conical shape. It was hot, humid work and a constant battle against the corrosive effect of the salt. There were several different qualities of salt from 'coarse' (used in the fishing industry); 'common' salt (used in the chemical industry) to 'dairy' salt for general use. Women and children were also employed in the packing areas. 80% of the salt went to Nigeria, but in 1970 the Civil War there caused a ban on the salt. Other salt works had already closed down and in 1986 the Lion works was forced to stop production; but, thanks to Henry Lloyd and Jonathon Thompson a trust was set up and successfully bid for Heritage Lottery money in 2006. The resultant museum was opened in 2015.

The legacy of the salt industry has left a very different landscape; the subsidence has left many 'flashes' or pools which are inhabited by birds and small mammals and silver birches flourish in the surrounding woodland alongside pastureland.

This was a fascinating visit, organised by Cynthia Dumbelton, and we all felt grateful that this unique place would live on as a museum.

Katie Forrest-Hay.

Tuesday 12th April: Talk by Graham White: "The Yellow Book" National Gardens Scheme

Graham White, assisted by his wife Judy, gave an informative and interesting talk on the National Gardens' Scheme whereby people open their gardens to the public to raise money for charity. Since its inception in 1927, it has raised a total of £46 million.

Graham started with a little history giving the background to how the scheme started.

Back in the 19th century a wealthy Liverpool merchant employed a nurse to look after his seriously ill wife. After his wife died he continued to employ the nurse and asked her to work in the local community and she was in effect the first district nurse. From this small beginning the idea spread across the country. This was a century before the start of the NHS and funds were needed to pay and support the nurses; much of this was supplied by wealthy benefactors but at some stage it was suggested that individuals could raise additional funds by opening their gardens to the public. Thus the National Garden's scheme was initiated. From its early days the scheme has been supported by the monarchy, initially Queen Victoria followed by Queen Alexandra, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and more recently Prince Charles.

Initially the scheme featured large gardens attached to large houses but in more recent years the scope has widened considerably to include gardens attached to semis and terraced houses. Graham emphasized the thing that mattered was the garden, in particular quality and originality.

After the start of the NHS the scheme continued to fund retired nurses but then widened its support to other charities, mainly in the field of health care where it is a major supporter of Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Help.

Continued on Page 13

Booking Details: Sunday 11th – Friday 16th September: Portsmouth

Price: £575 No extras, no single room charge.

We will visit 2 historic dockyards, 3 houses, 3 ferries, 2 islands,
2 castles, 3 villages, a tower and a mill.

Please contact Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY Tel: 01782 641765 for details. Email: dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com

Booking Details: Thursday 29th September: Coach Outing: M&S Exhibition and Temple Newsam House, Leeds

There are still a few places left: please telephone Richard before sending off your cheque and booking form with SAE.

Cost: £29 (non-members £31) to include tea/coffee at M & S, lunch at Temple Newsam, coach fare and driver's tip.

Please apply to Richard Mayer, 16, Shaldon Ave, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on – Trent ST9 9PU Tel 01782 533476, enclosing cheque and SAE.

Closing date: 26th August.

Booking Form: Sunday 11th – Friday 16th September: Portsmouth

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
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Address		Total
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Tel No	email address	

Booking details overleaf.

Cut-----

Booking Form: Thursday 29th September: Coach Outing: Leeds

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
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Address		Total
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Tel No	email address	

Booking details overleaf.

Cut-----

Booking Details: Friday 14th October: Car trip: Toyota Deeside

Numbers are strictly limited to 15 to members only.

Each member receives prior to the visit a copy of their A4 size "joining instructions".

Cost to members £12.00

Please apply to John Pedrazzini, 6 Batten Walk, Yarnfield, Stone, ST15 0TA, enclosing cheque and 215mm x 105 mm SAE, Tel: 01785 761899.

Booking Details: Wednesday 19th October: Coach outing: BBC Media City

Cost £21 (non-members £23). To include BBC Tour fee, coach and driver's gratuity.

Please apply to Sue Corlett, 24 The Covert, Clayton, Newcastle ST5 4BL enclosing a cheque and SAE.

Early booking essential – 44 places available.

All cheques will be cashed early September.

Closing Date: 31st August.

Booking Form: Friday 14th October: Car trip: Toyota Deeside

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
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Address		Total
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Tel No	email address	

Booking details overleaf.

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Booking Form: Wednesday 19th October: Coach outing: BBC Media City

Name(s)	Association number	Cost: £
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Address		Total
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Tel No	email address	

I/We would prefer the 10.30amTour / I/We would prefer 3.00pmBBC Tour.

Booking details overleaf.

Booking Details: Saturday 29th October: Walk: Denford

Cost £3.00 for members, £3.50 non-members (pay on the day). Book your place with Peter Wilson by email to peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com, or by post to Greenbank, Church Lane, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9HF. Please indicate whether you are likely to require lunch, so that the Hollybush can be given an idea of numbers.

Telephone (Peter Wilson) 01782 502150.

Booking Details: Tuesday 29th November: Coach Outing: Chatsworth

The coach will leave School Street Newcastle at 8.30. a.m. and depart from Chatsworth at 4.15 p.m. arriving back in Newcastle at 6.00. p.m.

Cost £30 (non-members £32) to include coach travel, entry to Chatsworth House and Gardens and driver's gratuity.

All refreshments at own cost.

Please apply to Bob Winter, 15 Robinson Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent, ST4 8ED. Tel.01782 642942, enclosing a cheque and a SAE.

Booking Form: Saturday 29th October: Walk: Denford

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total

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Tel No email address

Number of persons intending to stop for lunch at the Hollybush

Booking details overleaf.

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**Booking Form: Tuesday 29th November: Coach Outing:
Chatsworth**

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total

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Tel No email address

Booking details overleaf.

**BOOKING DETAILS: Wednesday 14th December: Annual
Christmas Dinner: Aston Marina, Lichfield Road, Stone, ST15 8QU**

Festive Menu 2016

Cost: £31 (non-
members £32)

STARTERS

Tea or Coffee
included

Locally Grown Parsnip Soup (V/GF)
Gin, Lime & Coriander Salmon Gravavlax
Warm Salad of Rosary Goats' Cheese (V/GF)
Confit Leg of Gressingham Duck

MAINS

Roast Breast of Free Range Staffordshire Turkey
12 Hour Braised Blade Steak (GF)
Roast Fillet of Welsh Sea Bass (GF)
Roast Sweet Pepper, Red Onion & Feta Wellington (V)

DESSERTS

Award Winning Triple Chocolate Brownie
Warm Plum Pudding
Grenadine Soaked Winter Berry Crème Brulee (GF)
Lemon & Lime Cheesecake

Please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY enclosing a cheque and SAE. Booking form overleaf. Please include choice of menu.

North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Membership Application

We are always delighted to welcome new members. **Note:** you must first be a member of the National Trust or a National Trust Volunteer.

Annual subscription, for the first member £10.00. For each additional member at the same address £7.00.

Please complete the form overleaf and send, with your cheque, payable to "North Staffs NT Association", to the Membership Secretary: Richard Adams, Gables End, Holly Bank, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8FT, Email: rjadams@doctors.org.uk Tel: 01782 646054. Additional membership forms may be downloaded from www.northstaffsnt.org.uk. Thank you very much.

Booking Form: Wednesday 14th December: Christmas Dinner

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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Address Total

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Telephone No. email

Menu choice: Starter Main course Dessert

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For booking details see reverse of this form.

Cut -----

North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Membership Application

I/We wish to apply for membership of the North Staffordshire National Trust Association.

I/We are NT members or volunteers.

Name(s) Association number Cost: £

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.....

Address Total

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.....

Telephone No. email

For application details see reverse of this form

National Gardens Scheme: Continued from Page 12

The second part of the talk involved Graham talking us through a wide range of slides of numerous gardens many of which are easily accessible from north Staffordshire.

Graham and Judy are outstanding disciples for the cause, they have opened their own garden in Uttoxeter for 8 years and give some 80 presentations per annum to various organizations.

Graham's enthusiasm shone through and afterwards while we were relaxing with coffee and biscuits he continued to walk around handing out leaflets and brochures. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity over the summer to visit some of the scheme's gardens, in particular Graham's and Judy's at Uttoxeter.

John Till

**Thursday 21st April: Coach Trip to Leicester.
King Richard III Visitor Centre, the Cathedral and
the New Walk Art Gallery and Museum.**

On a glorious spring morning, we set off on the long awaited visit to Leicester for the Richard III experience. Never having been entirely convinced of his villainy, we had followed with interest the events back in 2012 when the excavations under a Social Services car park started.

On arrival our group went to see the Cathedral. What a wonderful building! The church is dedicated to Saint Martin



© John Whieldon



Display listing donors and embroidered images of involved personnel

© John Whieldon

of Tours, a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity in the 4th century. Our knowledgeable guide led us expertly round and the hour went far too quickly as there was no time to linger and so much to see. We enjoyed looking at a copy of

King Richard's Book of Hours and its modern equivalent featuring artwork from pupils at Leicestershire schools.

Seeing the original crucifix rescued from the burning cathedral at Ypres in 1917 was a poignant moment too because a family member was killed near Ypres in the First World War. The stained glass windows literally took our breath away and the embroidered Pall in all its splendour was stunning. Richard's tomb is magnificent, so simple and yet the symbolism surrounding it is very moving.

We then made our way to the Visitor Centre. A lot of money has been spent on the centre and it shows but it exceeded all our expectations. The displays downstairs skilfully led you through the history of the Plantagenets. We were reminded just what a forward thinking monarch Richard was instituting several reforms in his short reign. The interactive displays upstairs detailing the process which led to the unearthing of the skeleton were fascinating...to quote the guide book 'history and legend meet science' We weren't sure however, about the value of including a hi-vis jacket, hard hat and a pair of wellies in one of the displays!

We were so glad we found time to visit the Guildhall. This building is a Grade 1 listed little jewel of a building and not to be missed. Again as time was pressing our visit was brief and we then made our way to the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery. The walk through the city centre in the warm sunshine was delightful. We were shown the Museum's internationally acclaimed German Expressionism collection by the Museum's Curator. He explained that the 1st World War and all its horrors had had a profound effect on artists, novelists, musicians and poets who responded accordingly. During the 2nd World War much of the work was sadly looted and destroyed by the Nazis. It was interesting to read that the Die Brücke movement had influenced David Bowie in his teenage years.

We had a wonderful day. Thank you Jane and Richard.

Lynn Hustwit and Jean Basnett

Tuesday 17th May: AGM, followed by Talk: "The Lost City of Stoke-on-Trent" by Matthew Rice.

North Staffordshire National Trust Association: Minutes of the 36th AGM at Conference Centre Hartshill. May 17th 2016, at 7.00pm

Richard Adams, Secretary, welcomed a record number of members to the AGM and gave apologies from Pat and Gillian Wilson and Rosemary and Peter Moxon. He then asked the Chairman, Ralph White, to open the formal proceedings.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: Ralph enjoyed developing his nautical metaphor, telling us that with the Captain and also the ship's doctor, Richard, on one side and the Purser, Madeleine, on the other he could be sure to steer us safely through the depths and shallows of the agenda. He said that the committee would like to give thanks to all members who had contributed in any way to the running of such a successful and enjoyable programme. He would like members to continue to suggest venues for outings, speakers for talks and ideas for other events. Among the new members he welcomed John Spriggs who had agreed to take over the role of Newsletter Editor and Web Liaison manager.

MINUTES OF 35th AGM: Richard asked that these should be accepted; David Dumbelton proposed and Bob Winter seconded. All present agreed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Richard said there are now 368 members. Last year's programme consisted of 29 events, including 2 holidays, 8 coach and 7 car outings, 8 talks, 3 walks and a Christmas meal at Keele Hall where there was also a display of members' art and crafts works. He also thanked all helpers, especially Jane Mayer, Sue Till, Peter Borrell and Kay Williams for their particular contributions, and John Huson and Ralph White for their recent management of the Newsletter. There were no questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Madeleine Hopley presented the accounts, of which all members had a copy. The cheque to Attingham Park had been cancelled as they had not cashed it. A donation of £850 was made to Downs Banks; other donations would be decided. There was no need to increase subscription levels this year. Madeleine, on behalf of the Association, thanked Paul Buttery who has kindly examined the accounts for many years but who is now retiring from this role. We now need a volunteer to carry on Paul's work. There were no questions. Accepting the accounts was proposed by Cynthia Dumbelton and seconded by Jane Mayer.

RE-ELECTION OF COMMITTEE: In accordance with the constitution, committee members who had served for more than 5 years must seek re-election; there were 4 such who were standing again - Richard Adams, Roger Cartlidge, Madeleine Hopley and Rose Wheat. 6 further committee members and officers stood for re-election: Ralph White, Jane Mayer, Cynthia Dumbelton, Sue Till, Sue Corlett and Bob Winter. 2 nominations for new members had been received – David Morgan and Peter Wilson. All the above were elected or re-elected unanimously.

AOB: James Hartley wished to record the thanks of all members for the hard work of the committee and others who had put together such a varied and enjoyable programme. This was warmly applauded by all present.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

“The Lost City of Stoke-on-Trent” by Matthew Rice.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Matthew Rice, because he had been reserving this space for us in his very crowded diary for over a year. As he was to illustrate and select themes from his book, subtitled “a lament with illustrations” he knew he would have a keen audience. In fact the attendance was a record number.

He began with an aerial view of the hundreds of the bottle kilns, acres of poor housing and huge buildings serving the needs of the pottery industry. Nobody would want the working, housing and atmospheric conditions back, but when the pottery industry declined the skills of the inhabitants were not redeployed or developed, the infrastructure was not invested in sufficiently and the spirit of the place was lost.

By means of photographs and his own tinted architectural line drawings he showed how the former communities making up the city had left a rich heritage of buildings of architectural and artistic merit. Some were used for their original purpose and some were, or could be, adapted.

Stoke has a particularly impressive stock of Churches, Chapels and factories exhibiting rich details gleaned from a wide variety of influences, especially Greece and Italy. The interiors reveal statuary, joinery, metalwork, with colourful painting and stained glass. A great many of us in the audience resolved to seek a closer look at these hidden treasures.

Matthew also touched on how he and Emma Bridgwater had brought their factory back to life and found work for local people. He gave other instances from abroad where the skills of the population still survived and could be redeployed imaginatively.

Matthew finds some modern buildings less than inspired in their detailing so he is involved in the education of the next generation of architects, thus he is well practiced in teasing and provoking his audience. This led to a lively question and answer session with our members too.

Matthew asked that his fee be sent to The Historic Chapels Trust who care for Bethesda Chapel. The Trust thanked us and confirmed the gift would be devoted exclusively to the restoration works there.

Ralph White.

Wednesday 18th May: Coach Outing: Manchester Guided Walk and Hallé Concert at the Bridgewater Hall.

In the morning 25 members enjoyed a walking tour highlighting Roman influence on Manchester's evolution.



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Andrew Darbyshire, in his inimitable style, showed us the stark contrast between evidence of a Roman fort (AD 79), called Mamucium, which guarded the road from Chester to York, and the Beetham Tower of today in Deansgate (a 47 storey residential building which whistles in the wind!) This overshadows the many warehouses, cotton mills and engineering works, built at the time of the Industrial Revolution, which have been so usefully and tastefully adapted for the needs of thousands of Mancunians and visitors of today.



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Richard Mayer

In the afternoon we were treated to a splendid Dvořák concert, with the Hallé Orchestra playing under the inspiring baton of Sir Mark Elder. This was part of their Dvořák season and pupils from several local schools had been invited to the concert. I'm sure they were all thrilled with the opening Slavonic Dance, with its varied rhythms and energetic percussion. The soloist in the Cello Concerto was Gary Hoffman, who brought out the tender and lyrical passages beautifully as a contrast to the lively and rousing sections for the full orchestra.

Symphony No. 9 'From the New World' is always popular and justifiably so as it combines wonderful melodies with dance-like features and a sense that the composer was inspired by his experiences in America.

Grateful thanks must go to Penny and Terry Moore for arranging such an excellent package of tickets, coffee and biscuits, very interesting programmes and a wonderful walking tour for some.

Anne Anderton

Tuesday 31st May: Members visit to New Inn Mills, Trentham

On a particularly fine day we were welcomed by Helen Randall and given a guided tour of the New Inn Mills. The property has been occupied by the same family since the late 19th century. The house itself is a historical document in its own right, retaining in its structure ample evidence of the many changes in its use. This is most evident in the number of doors in internal walls, some ancient, some recently created and many bricked up to meet their current needs.



© Alun Davies

The oldest point, evidenced by large stone foundations at the base of a wall, are thought to date from the 17th century, but the main structure is of brick, indeed the varieties of brick used would satisfy any student of the history of buildings.

The outhouses retain evidence of earlier ways of life, for example a wash house complete with copper still retaining its grate, and a dairy retaining cooling shelves. The house contains major beams and an interesting assortment of fireplaces, while the upstairs has an intriguing assortment of plumbing.

The Mills have lost their mechanisms, but the size and position of the wheel are obvious in the remaining brickwork. The conduits that fed the wheel from the mill pond are still in place, passing water via Longton Brook into the Trent.

The gardens are extensive and varied, the profusion of mature



© Harold Yardley

trees provide an astonishing level of seclusion in a built up area on the edge of a large conurbation.

This remarkable survival provides an insight into the earliest days of the Industrial Revolution, when businesses were small in scale, their owners lived and worked together with their employees, and much of their diet was supplied from the mini-estate.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the visit, we were most graciously received and the tea and cakes were excellent.

We congratulate Cynthia Dumbelton on introducing members to such an absorbing site.

Alun Davies.

Saturday 18th June 2016: Car Outing to Jackfield Tile Museum and Ironbridge Gorge



John Scott Gallery

© John Whieldon

the late 18th century that decorative tile-making really took off.

As someone who knows little about ceramics, I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the tiles displayed in the museum, especially the vibrancy of the colours and intricacy of the designs. So many famous names!

On a sunny morning eighteen members met at the **Tile Museum** to begin an enjoyable day's visit. While we drank coffee, Derek Spencer, our guide for the day, gave us a brief history of the Craven Dunhill works at Jackfield. For centuries tiles had been made in "this neglected and forlorn place", and it was not until



Display "Maw & Co"

© John Whieldon

Lunch called so we joined the crowds enjoying the scenery by the Severn, after which we crossed the Iron Bridge to the **Toll House** where we were told the history, design and building of this icon of the Industrial Revolution. The iron master responsible for its construction, Abraham Darby III, an equality-minded Quaker, insisted that **all** foot-passengers, "even the Royal Family" should pay the same ½d toll. Prince Charles paid with an 18th century halfpenny, we were told.

Leaving the bridge we strolled down to the **Museum of the Gorge** which tied together much of what we had heard during the day. I felt that I had only “dipped my toes in the water”, and look forward to future visits to this wonderful area.

We are most appreciative of Cynthia Dumbelton and Margaret Thorley’s hard work in organising a great day out. Thank you.

Chris Francis.

Wednesday 22nd June: Car Trip: Wightwick Manor and Bantock House, Wolverhampton.

On a beautiful sunny day our outing to Wightwick Manor began with a short walk to the house from the car park. This gave a chance to view the exterior of the house which looked much older than the 1880’s era in which it was built.



©John Keates

The original house was purchased by Theodore Mander in 1887 a wealthy businessman. It’s situation on the outskirts of Wolverhampton offering the ideal location for a family house. Inside was a delight, the design and furnishing of the interior taking inspiration from the Arts and Crafts

movement and a lecture ‘The House Beautiful’ given by Oscar Wilde in 1884. The Mander family were avid collectors and acquired many items with the saying ‘I have just the place for that!’, embracing items by Ruskin, and William Morris, with Charles Kempe windows and many beautiful paintings including works by Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Lucy Maddox-Brown.

The Morning Room contained china from Coalport, three more Rossetti paintings and an example of recycling. Internal window shutters being made into cupboards.

The Great Parlour, a large room with a balcony, displayed a superb painting of Jane Nassau Senior (by G.F Watts) who became the first woman civil servant. Also in the parlour was ‘Love Among the Ruins’ painted by Burne-Jones containing hidden messages.

The billiard room, dining room and bedrooms all contained some excellent arts and crafts items. The night and day nurseries were packed with toys and seemed

friendly and inviting. Wightwick famously acquired a copy of the Kelmscott edition of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer. The Mander family were active within parliament, one of the family became a film star and sons Alan and Lionel married two Indian princesses.

Lady Mander had a penchant for cats and there are cat cushions and memorabilia all through the house. The house was given to the National Trust in 1937.



©John Keates

After lunch we travelled a few miles to Bantock House a restored Georgian farmhouse set in 43 acres. Purchased by Thomas Bantock in 1866 after setting up his own transport business in 1858. With his wife they had 11 children. His son



©John Keates

Albert Baldwin Bantock moved in on the death of his father. Albert bequeathed the estate to the Wolverhampton Corporation in 1938 and in 1948 it became a museum. The ground floor affords every comfort and the upstairs has a billiard room, Victorian Lady's bedroom and day nursery. An item on the servants

highlighted what difficult conditions they endured. The cook rose at 6:00am and didn't retire until 10pm with a very full day of duties. Exhausting!

The jappanned ware and beautiful enamels made in the area were a delight.

Thank you to Ralph and Jim for a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

Joy Manley

Wednesday 6th July: Walk: Norton-in-Hales

Once again Richard and Nicky planned an excellent walk, with varied scenery in the Shropshire countryside. Richard, however, was unable to join us on the walk as he was recovering from minor surgery on his toe. In the event, we left him at the Hinds Head pub, with Nicky as our leader.

The walk took us through farmland, including several fields of long grass. We passed by the old railway line from Newcastle under Lyme to Market Drayton. Then at the half way stage, in a lay-by, a wonderful surprise. There was Richard



A very welcome refreshment stop

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set up with a trestle table, complete with tablecloth and a number of bottles of Pino Grigio served in their best cut glasses, cheese straws and crisps. What an enjoyable interlude on a glorious sunny day.

We then passed by the lake below Oakley Hall - quite a large house but not particularly imposing.



With the temperature rising, we finally arrived back at Norton-in- Hales for a welcome lunch at the Hinds Head pub.

Bob Winter

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Summary of Autumn Programme September to December

<u>September</u>	
Sunday 11 th - Friday 16 th	<i>Coastal Holiday: Portsmouth</i>
Tuesday 20 th	<i>Talk: Bill Durose on Folk & Morris Dancing</i>
Thursday 29 th	<i>Coach Outing: M & S Exhibition & Temple Newsam House, Leeds</i>

<u>October</u>	
Friday 14 th	<i>Car Trip: Toyota Deeside Engine Factory</i>
Tuesday 18 th	<i>Talk: Nigel Daly 'Biddulph Old Hall - The First 10 Years'</i>
Wednesday 19 th	<i>Coach Outing: BBC Media City, Salford</i>
Saturday 29 th	<i>Walk: Denford & Lunch at the Hollybush</i>

<u>November</u>	
Tuesday 22 nd	<i>Talk: Miranda Goodby 'Our home in the West'</i>
Tuesday 29 th	<i>Coach Outing: Chatsworth House & Christmas Market</i>

<u>December</u>	
Wednesday 14 th	<i>Christmas Meal: Aston Marina, Stone</i>

<u>Dates for your Diary</u>	
January 17 th	<i>Talk: David Barrett of Regent Travel, Stone</i>
February 14 th	<i>Talk: Mike Herbert 'Restoration of Trentham Estate'</i>
March 14 th	<i>Talk: Keith Cattell '1000 years of stained glass'</i>
April 25 th	<i>Talk: Andy Tomlinson on Nepal</i>
April 26 th	<i>Coach Trip: Southwell Minster & Workhouse</i>