

# North Staffordshire National Trust Association

**Newsletter No. 120**

**Autumn 2021**

[www.northstaffsnt.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsnt.org.uk)



Visiting Josiah Wedgwood's grave on the Hanford-Stoke walk.  
Learn more of grandson Francis on the Christmas lunch!

## Arrangements for Trips

Coaches now depart promptly from **Brunswick Street** at the front of the Jubilee Baths. **The car park on School Street is now short stay.** The nearest long stay car park is the public car park next to the Borough Arms Hotel. We do not pick up members en route.

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

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 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 substitute travellers: people on the waiting list have priority.

The Committee reserves the right to cancel any event that is not viable.

The personal accident insurance arranged by the Association through the Trust now has an age limit of 90. Our public liability insurance covers members at any age.

Whilst participating in an event please make sure that you carry the organiser's mobile phone number from the booking acceptance form in case you get lost. Please **DO NOT MAKE** alternative arrangements to get home without first telling the trip organiser.

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We are always delighted to welcome new members – please contact the Membership Secretary (details inside back cover) or download the on-line form to apply.

The editor welcomes items of direct relevance to Association activities, and thanks all contributors, with apologies for failure to acknowledge any, particularly if sent by post.

Copy and correspondence for the next issue, due for publication in December, should be addressed to [newsletter@northstaffsnt.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@northstaffsnt.org.uk) (01782 791360) by the **15th November** at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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# North Staffordshire National Trust Association

## Newsletter No. 120

### Autumn 2021 Programme

#### A Note from the Chair



Dear Members,

I hope you all are enjoying the more relaxed Covid-19 rules and are managing to see friends and family again - even taking a holiday. We have had walks and more are planned. I am very grateful to Richard, Anthea, Helen, David and Peter for organising them. I went on one myself and thoroughly enjoyed the walk and the company. It seemed as if normality had returned. I would encourage anyone who likes walking to come along.

We are planning to start our schedule of talks and car trips in September so let's hope the situation is more or less normal.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes

*David*

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*As we are hopefully easing out of lockdown and anticipating a return to some sort of normality (although we may well ask what will the new normal be – will it ever be quite the same as the old normal?) we have reverted to the more traditional format for this Newsletter, hoping that our carefully laid out plans for proposed events will actually take place this time. We have three walks, three talks, one trip, and a chance to meet Francis Wedgwood (1800-1888), and also see how arty and crafty our members are, at our special Christmas Luncheon on December 21st.*

*There are of course fewer items to report on, just three walks, so continue our theme of including some photographs and reminders of past events.*

## **Data Protection Policy**

The North Staffordshire National Trust Association (NSNTA) is a non-profit voluntary organisation which endeavours to comply with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of May 2018.

Personal data collected by us on membership forms, renewal forms and event booking forms will be limited to: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers. It will only be used for: administration of membership, communication of information and organisation of events within and related to the NSNTA.

Personal data will not be shared with the National Trust or any third party, or to other members.

Membership lists are destroyed when 18 months old. Lists relating to specific events are destroyed when the event is complete.

Contact the Membership Secretary if you wish to view/amend/delete any of your personal data.

By providing personal data on our membership forms and event booking forms, you are consenting to this, our Data Protection Policy, and to our stated use of your personal data.



In order to comply with the terms of GDPR and to improve security and privacy the following policies are being adopted with particular reference to the publishing of details of members organising events. Full leaders' postal addresses will only appear on the booking forms and not in the main text of the magazine, which will just carry email addresses and telephone numbers. The booking forms are included in Newsletters distributed to bona-fide members of NSNTA but will not be contained in copies of the Newsletter posted on the website. Access to back copies of the Newsletter on the website which contain leaders' addresses will be restricted by password, available to members on request.

Attendees of NSNTA events are advised that they may be included in group photographs for publication in the Newsletter or on the website, but they will not be named without their specific permission. If anyone does not want to appear in such photographs, please let the organiser or the editor know.

## *Answers to the Quiz*

We hope that you enjoyed the Quiz in the last Newsletter, kindly compiled by Anne Anderton, and that it kept you amused for at least some lockdown hours. For those that failed to check the answers on the website (and apologies to those that did and found the last two missing), the answers are:

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Attingham Park             | 11. Packwood House                |
| 2. Moseley Old Hall           | 12. Shugborough                   |
| 3. Little Moreton Hall        | 13. Calke Abbey                   |
| 4. Lyme Park                  | 14. The Fleece Inn                |
| 5. Berrington Hall            | 15. Kedleston Hall                |
| 6. Charlecote Park            | 16. Hardwick                      |
| 7. Tintagel Old Post Office * | 17. The Workhouse, Southwell      |
| 8. Sudbury Hall               | 18. The Firs (Elgar's Birthplace) |
| 9. Downs Banks **             | 19. Long Mynd                     |
| 10. Benthall Hall             | 20. Wightwick Manor               |

\* This is the 'rogue' question as it is outside the Midlands. Did you spot the photo of the model of the Post Office in the Post Office's back garden?

\*\* Congratulations to Sue Pitt who gave the only set of correct answers received, conceding that Kinver Edge also has a topograph mounted on a rock, and there are rivers and streams in the area most probably featuring kingfishers!

## *Arts and Crafts Exhibition*

*In December 2015, the Association had an art and craft exhibition of work done by members. It was curated by Cynthia Dumbelton and Anthea Bond at the time of a dinner at Keele Hall. All sorts of work were shown, Ralph's oil paintings were not yet dry, Aki's beautiful tapestry cushions looked lively among the paintings. Cynthia's quilt of the Bloomsbury Group, after her visit to Charleston in East Sussex, represented them living in squares, painting in circles and loving in triangles.*

*Now that all members have been at home in lockdown for more than a year, there has been more time for creative hobbies. Many members may have revived old hobbies or started new ones.*

*Cynthia and Anthea are planning another art display, giving members an opportunity to show work done since the last exhibition in 2015. There have been other opportunities to show photographs so these will not be included in this new exhibition. There is no entry fee and items will not be for sale.*

*The exhibition will be held on the day of the lunch on 21 December 2021 at the Upper House in Barlaston. The work must be brought to the Upper House Hotel, Barlaston mid-morning, and removed before you leave the hotel in the afternoon. Items may be included even if you will not be joining the lunch, although it is hoped that you will.*

If you have up to 5 items which you would like to submit for this exhibition, please let Anthea have your name, email address and telephone number before 30 October, so that she can send you more details: [AntheaBond@hotmail.com](mailto:AntheaBond@hotmail.com). Please give the type of work you intend to submit e.g. *painting, needlework, woodwork, ceramics, sculpture etc.* Work must have been made since December 2015.

Anthea Bond

## ***Forthcoming Events***

*All talks commence at 7:30 p.m. at the North Staffordshire Conference Centre (the Medical Institute), Hartshill Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7NY unless otherwise stated.*

From time to time it becomes necessary to change details of an event or to announce updates to booking arrangements, availability etc. or to advise members of other matters that have arisen. To cover this, please check the **STOP PRESS** feature on the website to be kept up to date.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Walk: Churnet Valley - Consall Nature Park**

Join us for a moderate 4½ mile walk in the picturesque Churnet Valley, a Site of Special Scientific Interest with the emphasis on nature conservation, an area with a very interesting historical past. We walk partly along the canal with a couple of steeper sections. Boots and walking poles recommended. There is the option of visiting the Black Lion, an old boating inn, after the walk.

We meet at 10 am at the RSPB Consall Woods Visitor Centre (Map Ref. SJ994484).

Directions: Coming in on the A52 from Stoke and Newcastle, on reaching Cellarhead cross-roads go straight on until you meet the A522 signposted Leek. Travel ½ mile then turn right down the lane to Consall and go straight through the village for approx. 1½ miles until you reach a sign on the right indicating the Consall Country Park. Carry on down the metalled road until you reach the car park.

Numbers limited to 20. Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests, payable on the day. Please book your places for the walk with David & Chris Fowler, [cdfowler@ymail.com](mailto:cdfowler@ymail.com), 01538 753027 or 07950 590369.

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Talk: Georgina Woodcock, 'Scams'**

One of the most annoying, and potentially costly, aspects of modern life are the regular attempts to con us out of our money. Often quite convincing phone calls and e-mails are scams and many people, particularly of the older generation, have fallen victim to this new sort of criminal activity.

Our speaker tonight, Georgina Woodcock, is a community banker for the Nat. West Bank, and she will advise us about the frequently ingenious ways scammers use to rip us off.

## **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September: Car trip: Crewe Railway and Heritage Centre.**

Unfortunately this is postponed indefinitely as the Heritage Trust are unable to guarantee the facilities we need.

## **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Walk and/or Lunch: Views of Brown Edge & Beyond**

This is an opportunity to familiarise yourself with Brown Edge, off the beaten track for many people, on the fringe of The Potteries in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Our walk is about 3.5 to 4 miles in total which should take around 2 hours. The route takes us mainly along quiet lanes with some steep inclines that result in the ascent being quite substantial to a vantage point reminiscent of Wuthering Heights affording us views of the valley and of The Wrekin beyond.

Meet to start walking at 10.30am from "The Top Pub" (Hill Top, Brown Edge, ST6 8TX) where we have permission to park.

To get there from the B5051, this being the main road running through Brown Edge village and known as High Lane/Breach Road, turn into Sandy Lane.

(If approaching Brown Edge from Norton, Sandy Lane is the first left turn after passing The Hollybush Inn. If approaching Brown Edge from Endon, climb Clay Lake bank then descend into the village and on the bend before the shops turn right into Sandy Lane.)

Proceed about 100 yards along Sandy Lane and by a water spout turn right up Hough Hill. Continue on for about a mile, passing the junctions with Fiddlers Bank and Broad Lane, then at the fork ahead turn left into Hill Top to park at The Top Pub. Easier than it sounds.

As is customary, we can book to share a meal at the pub where we park. Pay the pub yourself for your meal/drinks on the day.

The suggested donation for the walk is £3 per person, payable on the day.

Please register your interest in the walk and/or meal by email to [AntheaBond@hotmail.com](mailto:AntheaBond@hotmail.com) or contact Helen Mansell on 07866 352927.

There is an opportunity to join the group for just the final mile of the walk, around Marshes Hill Common nature reserve. This is a flat part of the walk with distant views in all directions. Please contact Helen for further details.

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*Brown Edge is a village of two hearts, or centres, that's on the fringe of The Potteries in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Historically an agrarian community, a few of the old farmhouses (built in 1742, 1686 & circa 1600) are now Grade II listed. Until 1950 annual celebratory well-dressings featured; the tradition being revived in 2000.*

*It may have been William Pitt (?the Younger) or Yates (a map maker) who, towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, noted about Brown Edge that "the elevation greatly increases the*

*degree of cold, being exposed to the elements of air and water in every form and variety of wind, hail, snow or rain; the country is almost in a state of nature, without any shelter or covering except stone walls, which have little effect in keeping off the cold winds". Whoever it was went on to comment that "this district abounds with coal at various depths, some 80 yards deep and more. The strata are from 4 to 7 feet thick".*

*The exploitation of these coal reserves attracted new settlers in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries who enclosed small areas of the "waste land". Most often it was "squatters" who moved onto the land without the permission of the lord of the manor. Consequently they were summoned to the manor court where they were fined a small sum of money. Many of the names listed in the court rolls are the local Brown Edge family names that are carved on the churchyard headstones.*

*In 1803, around 40 years prior to an Anglican place of worship being provided in Brown Edge, Hugh Bourne recorded that he began preaching here and that he held a camp meeting here in 1807. The following year a Wesleyan chapel was built in Sandy Lane (with seating for around 100, half of which were free).*

*St. Anne's church was built on almost the last piece of unenclosed land at the very top of the ridge. Consecrated in 1844, its construction was largely due to the initiative taken by Hugh Henshall-Williamson of Greenway Bank, near Knypersley, and Charles Bowyer-Adderley, the lord of the manor, who provided the site as well as a donation of £500.*



*Ten years later, HHW paid for the addition of a handsome church tower suitably embellished with his initials. These also appear on his coach-house built in 1846 by the entrance to the churchyard. The money for the improvements to the church, including a parsonage and a school and schoolmaster's house, probably came from HHW's Burslem colliery's profits.*

*The 1851 census tells us that a small number of men were labouring on the surrounding farms while others were making nails or quarrying stone. However, a considerable number of men were employed as "sand carriers" as sand was an important local product provided to the pottery industry.*

*Overwhelmingly, the majority of the males were employed as coal miners who would have walked daily the approximately 4 miles each way across the fields to the collieries, such as Chatterley Whitfield and at Norton. Some boys (e.g. aged 12) are listed in the 1851 census as "assistant coal miners".*



*Nowadays the miners are gone and agriculture is on a modest scale. Even the relatively recent business of Turner's distinctive, brown, double-decker buses no longer operate the route from Brown Edge to Hanley and back. The church and primary school are still situated at the opposite end of the vale to the only remaining shops that now cluster around the main road. Nevertheless, there is plenty for us to see in this village with a population of around 2,500 who live in a mixed housing stock of various ages and architectural styles. Between the higgledy-piggledy back lanes there are an abundant number of cut-throughs, passages, alleys, entries, ginnels, snickets - call them what you choose.*

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7:00 p.m.: AGM and Talk: Hazel Griffiths - 'Santa Evita - Saint or Sinner? The Life and Legacy of Eva Perón'.**

All being well, we plan to hold our 2021 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19th October. Amazingly, this will be our first proper AGM for two and a half years.

It will be at **7.00pm**, and will be immediately followed by Hazel Griffiths' talk on the life of Eva Perón. She was one of the most famous and controversial women of the twentieth century and the subject of a blockbusting musical and film. Hazel Griffiths will give us the fascinating story of her life and explode some of the myths that surround her.

New committee members would be most welcome, to help guide the Association as it emerges phoenix-like from the ashes of the pandemic. Please give it some thought, and if you or a friend would like to get involved, please do send in your nomination. Any of the current committee would be delighted to talk you through what's involved!

### **AGENDA:**

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE HARTSHILL

TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 at 7.00PM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Approval of "Minutes" of the 40th AGM \*
4. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising.
5. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising
6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2021 – 2022
7. Approvals for re-election to committee \*\*
8. Nominations for Officers and Committee \*\*\*
9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2021 – 2022
10. Any Other Business

\* The 40<sup>th</sup> AGM was unable to proceed normally due to the lockdown, and was held remotely as a “Zoom” meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020. It was reported in newsletter no 117 and copies are on the website.

\*\* Under our constitution, committee members should normally stand down after 5 years. Nearly all of the current committee have served for at least this time, and wish to continue in post. They therefore require the approval of the AGM to stand for re-election this year.

\*\*\* Members are 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, 79 Whitmore Road, Newcastle ST5 3LZ.

## **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Car Trip: Great British Car Journey, Ambergate, Derbyshire DE56 2HE**

Relive the Golden Era of British cars when Britain ruled the road.

Three miles north of Belper on the A6 is a former wire works in which is housed a collection of 120 British made cars dating from the 1920s to the early 2000s. You will be issued with an audio-visual device which contains not only a narrative of the Journey’s nine chapters but also images, film and detailed information about the cars, companies and social history of the time.

QR codes on the vehicles and posters access audio information on the exhibits, some of which have had famous owners. This will be a trip down memory lane and you will be sure to see a car similar to one which you or your parents once owned.

The museum is on one level and has a café, which serves sandwiches and snacks, with plenty of seats. Chairs are also available around the exhibition hall. Parking is immediately outside. For further details see [www.greatbritishcarjourney.com](http://www.greatbritishcarjourney.com)

Other attractions nearby are listed on [www.visitpeakdistrict.com](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com). If you are wanting a hot meal the Hurt Arms in Ambergate is half a mile away on the A6. Booking is advisable on [www.hurtarmsambergate.co.uk](http://www.hurtarmsambergate.co.uk)

Time: 10.30am. You will need at least 2 hours for a self- guided tour.

Cost: £14 to include entry, tea/coffee & a biscuit and NT donation.

Please apply to Jane Mayer, 16, Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, S-O-T ST9 9PU enclosing a cheque and a SAE. Tel: 01782 533476.

Applications by 30<sup>th</sup> September

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November: Walk around Rudyard Lake**

Enjoy an Autumn walk around Rudyard Lake, followed if you so wish by lunch at the nearby Hotel Rudyard. This fairly easy walk of about 5 miles will enable you to take in picturesque views of the lake and surrounding countryside, as well as the various historic features and points of interest around the lake. The walk will include part of the Staffordshire Way, and will follow part of the route of the former Churnet Valley Line of the North Staffordshire Railway. There will be a short break for rest and refreshment (please bring with you) about half-way. Although most of the walk is on established paths and tracks, there may be some muddy parts at this time of year, and stout walking shoes or boots are advisable, as well as warm and waterproof clothing.

Lunch will be available, if required, at the end of the walk at the Hotel Rudyard (Lake Road, Rudyard, ST13 8RN, tel. 01538 306208). If when booking you indicate that you would like to stay for lunch, I will circulate the menu so that we can order our choice of lunch in advance. At the time of writing the hotel no longer offer a carvery lunch; if this changes by the time of the walk, I will let you know.

The walk will start at 10.00 am on the car park at the rear of the hotel. There is no charge for parking for those who take lunch at the hotel.

Suggested donation for the walk is £3.00 for members, £3.50 for guests, payable on the day. Children, and dogs on leads, are welcome at no charge.

Please book your places for the walk and lunch with me, Peter Wilson, by email to [peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwilsonendon@btinternet.com) or by post to Greenbank, Church Lane, Endon ST9 9HF. I will circulate the lunch menu by email when available, so that you can pre-order (this will not be necessary if you would like a carvery lunch). If you do not have email, please send SAE for the menu.

## **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Talk: Geraldine Outhwaite - 'Biddulph Grange - the Hospital Where Everyone Smiles'.**

Before it became a much-loved National Trust garden Biddulph Grange functioned as an orthopaedic hospital for the local area. Geraldine's talk is based on her local history book, published in 2020, and contains fascinating information about staff, patients and the operation of the Grange from the 1920s up until the 1990s

## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Christmas Lunch & Craft Exhibition at Upper House.**

This year our popular Christmas get-together has been arranged as a special lunch and timed for just a few days before Christmas to give you a break from the hectic shopping, wrapping presents and food preparation. This is the time of year when we can all get together and enjoy ourselves after such a long enforced hibernation.

The venue is the elegant Upper House in Barlaston which was built in 1845 for Josiah Wedgwood's grandson, Francis, and today is a noted hotel and restaurant. We will have

some wonderful food and will be entertained by no less than Francis himself who is putting in a rare personal appearance especially for our benefit.

On display there will be an exhibition of Art and Craft work by our members. Come at 12 noon to view before sitting down to lunch at 1pm.

Our Christmas lunch, includes a welcome aperitif and tea/coffee with chocolates after the meal at a cost of £40 per person. You are welcome to bring a friend if you wish (a member of the National Trust but not necessarily of the Association). This is an event not to be missed!

For tickets please apply to Cynthia Dumbelton including the booking form with your menu choices, a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope. Closing date: 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Enquiries: tel. 01782 641765, email: [dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com](mailto:dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com)

## Menu

*At the time of going to press, the Christmas menu is still not available.*

*Please still complete an application form and send a cheque to book your place. You will be contacted by email if possible, or by telephone or post if not, when the menu is available, to make your choices. If the menu doesn't live up to your expectations you can cancel your application and cheque.*

*(If perchance we get printed copies of the menu before this magazine is distributed you will have found it included with this copy. If not, check with Cynthia. It will also be posted on the web site as soon as we get a copy.)*

A number of past incidents prompted a review of our emergency procedures and it was considered a shortcoming that organisers did not hold emergency contact details for members on trips should a situation arise. You are therefore invited, particularly if travelling without a companion, to provide the name and number of someone who can be contacted in emergency, along with any critical medical conditions that might be relevant, or whether (and where) you carry ICE (In Case of Emergency) details. We also request that you provide your own mobile number so that you can be contacted should you fail to appear at a rendezvous.

*Booking / Enquiry Forms*

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Car Trip: Great British Car Journey, Ambergate, Derbyshire DE56 2HE**

Cost: £14 to include entry, tea/coffee & a biscuit and NT donation.

Please apply to Jane Mayer, 16, Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook, S-O-T ST9 9PU enclosing a cheque and a SAE. Tel: 01782 533476.

Applications by 30<sup>th</sup> September

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Christmas Lunch and Craft Exhibition at Upper House.**

Cost: £40 per person. Cheques will be cashed on 7<sup>th</sup> December, always assuming that the event will go ahead with regard to Covid restrictions.

Choice of menu:

Starter .....

Main course .....

Dessert .....

You should apply using this form having added your choice of food.

Please tell me if you have any dietary restrictions.

If you have favourite seating companions, please tell me and I'll try to accommodate your wishes.

Please send this form with a cheque and stamped addressed envelope to Cynthia Dumbelton, 32 The Lea, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Car Trip: Great British Car Journey, Ambergate, Derbyshire DE56 2HE**

Name(s) NSNTA membership no. Cost: £

.....  
.....

Address Total .....

.....  
.....

Tel.Nos: Home..... Mobile ..... email .....

Name and Telephone.no. of friend/relative in case of emergency:

.....

Critical medical conditions: .....



**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Christmas Lunch and Craft Exhibition at Upper House.**

Name(s) NSNTA membership no. Cost: £

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Address Total .....

.....  
.....

Tel.Nos: Home..... Mobile ..... email .....

Name and Telephone.no. of friend/relative in case of emergency:

.....

Critical medical conditions: .....



## *Advance Booking*

*The following item from our 2022 programme needs to be booked in advance:*

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022: Coach holiday: Scottish Heritage & History.**

Having already had to postpone the NT Scottish Holiday twice we are now arranging with Regent Travel to reschedule it for next May. It will be a 4 night/5 day break staying at the 4-star New Lanark Mill Hotel, located in the heart of a World Heritage Site, a beautifully restored 18<sup>th</sup>-century cotton mill village. Together with Regent Travel, we have planned a full holiday visiting both Glasgow and Edinburgh and including many National Trust properties along the way.

Cost: £515 pp (£60 single room supplement) for NT members. Please see the separate flyer and booking form included with this Newsletter, or see or download copies from our website. Booking deposit required by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Further enquiries to Marion Lycett, [marionlycett@hotmail.com](mailto:marionlycett@hotmail.com), 01782 502919.

## *Membership*

We have pleasure in announcing and welcoming the following who have joined since we last welcomed new members: Julie Tilstone, Allan Wheatley, Hazel Glover, Judith Hagan, Margaret Wilson. This takes our membership to 314.

**NT Membership Discount** A reminder that a discount on the general National Trust membership subscription is available to eligible members – see Newsletter 110 or their website for more details.

## *Photographic Archives*

A reminder that Kay Williams, would be grateful for some photos/leaflets from visits when she is not there herself; prints or digital images are equally acceptable. See inside the back cover for Kay's contact details.

The editor acknowledges and thanks contributors of photographs included in this issue, and also for any photos sent but not used. Any photographs submitted will also be passed on to Kay for possible use in the archives, and may be used on the NSNTA website for record or publicity purposes. Copyright (which must be owned or obtained in writing by the submitter) is acknowledged for all images even if not stated in the magazine. Please contact the editor if more details of any item are required.

## *Reviews of Recent Events*

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Walk: Hanchurch Hills and the Caves.**

Due to the keen interest in this walk by members exploiting early stages in the easing of Covid Lockdown, leader Richard Adams split us into two groups to keep within the restriction then in force of 30 persons on such outdoor activities. The second walk was scheduled for the following Friday, 21<sup>st</sup>. In the event the forecast for that day was so poor that, to fulfil Richard's Fine Weather Guarantee, he rescheduled for the Saturday,



but magnanimously and going beyond the call of duty led the walk on the Friday as well, for the benefit of those who couldn't manage the Saturday and didn't mind a spot of rain.

20 members joined the walk on the Tuesday, 6 braved the rain on Friday, and a further 16 on Saturday. A good turnout overall, and perhaps more interesting being split into smaller groups.

We were on the last day's walk, parking near the water tower and following the same route as on the preceding days. We set out at around 10:30 as the drizzle was clearing, through the picnic area onto a meandering woodland path avoiding not too many muddy puddles to eventually emerge onto and cross clear fields with open views towards the Wrekin. After turning left at the old gamekeeper's cottage we crossed the A519 at Beech and zigzagged down to the Caves, with their history going back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. After inspecting the caves and swapping stories on their known history, (I don't recall who admitted to attending illegal raves there during the 80's) we headed back up the road to pass back under the A519 to join Harley Thorne Lane, a straight track back to the water tower, noting views towards Mow Cop and Sutton Common BT Tower in the far distance to the right.



Thank you Richard for your dedication in organising the walks and dodging the weather.

*John Spriggs*



## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> & Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Walk: Three waterways of Stoke-on-Trent.

Some 54 of us, in two separate groups to comply with the social distancing rules, got together for a stroll in Hanley Park and beyond. Lovely weather on both days, the park itself was looking good, and it was also good to see it well used by family groups (it being schools' half-term week). Fun fact: Hanley Park covers 93 acres, and cost £70,000 when it was developed in the 1890s; it was refurbished in 2015 at a cost of £4.5million. Thank goodness for the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We set off through the park, passing the café and bandstand, and soon joined the Caldron Canal. This took us through a variety of urban landscapes, some derelict and some redeveloped, and on to Jesse Shirley's bone mill, now of course the Etruria Industrial Museum, at the junction with the Trent and Mersey canal. Turning left here, and under some very low bridges over the towpath, we passed by the old Twyford's Works, with its twin bottle ovens still standing, views over the cemetery, under all the "new" roads which appeared when the A500 was built, and round the back of Stoke railway station.

We left the canal at the point where the Newcastle canal once branched off, and threaded our way through the back streets of Stoke to the University.



The University's nature reserve was a revelation to many of us, a small area of calm amidst the bustle of city life. It was also the most challenging part of the walk, with



overgrown paths, nettles and a short, steep, slippery climb to leave the lakeside. Carrying on, we walked alongside the River Trent, just a few yards wide at this point. Work has been done recently to clear and realign the river, and it will be good to go back perhaps next year when the river banks will have greened up again. The heron was already back on patrol!

And so back to the park and welcome refreshments in the café there.

The walk was enjoyed by all, and gave a new perspective on the city centre to many of us.

## Tuesday 27th July: Walk: Hanford and Stoke walk.

We met on a grassy knoll near to Hanford Cricket Club, a sociable group of 15 plus two dogs. Setting off promptly at 10, we were soon out of the village and in open countryside (though sadly perhaps, there are proposals for more building here), heading down towards the canal, and passing by a splendid bullrush-filled pond on the way. The section along the canal towpath took us between the Stoke City stadium and the Recycling Centre (aka the Incinerator) but still felt rural and peaceful.

We left the canal in the centre of Stoke, and took a break in the churchyard of Stoke Minster. Here we found the graves of Josiah Wedgwood and those of at least three Josiah Spodes from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A poignant notice at the group of Spode tombs records the burial of a two-week old infant from the family; it is known that he or she is buried there but the precise site of the grave is lost.

Refreshed, we carried on through the Boothern area of town. The old Victoria Ground has at long last been redeveloped as housing, with the new streets aptly named after some of the city's footballing stars. We now reached the River Trent, and followed the riverside path all the way back to Hanford. The path felt somewhat surreal, with the quiet beauty of the river and mature trees on one side, and for most of the way, the concrete brutalism of the A500 on an embankment above us on the other. You may have glimpsed a metal bridge over the river, decorated with the Michelin Bibendum figure, whilst whizzing along said road - we now know how to get there!

Many thanks to Anthea, ably assisted by Helen, for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable walk.

*Richard Adams.*

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*Having no more events to report on, prompted by the recent Tokyo Olympics, we thank Cynthia and David Dumbelton for these images from their 2010 London trip, when the Olympic site there was heavily under construction, staying at the Tower Hotel, by Tower Bridge. (These photos are also on the web site to a larger scale, along with additional images.)*



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1137



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1139

Borough Market



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1142



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1143

Fat Tyre Bike Tours. No, not for us!



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1144



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1148



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1149



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1158



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1159



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1160

### Borough Market



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1161



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1162

### Bread - to go with the cheeses!



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1164



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1167

### Olympic site in preparation





16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1170



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1172

### Greenway



16th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1174

### Bakers Bus with Rose



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1177

### St. Katherine's Docks



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1178



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1180



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1182

St. Katherine's Docks



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1185

Tower Bridge with Cynthia and David



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1192



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1196

Stained glass window at William Morris's Red House



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1199

William Morris fabric at the Red House



17th October 2010

Photo: DSCF1204

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## Summary of Programme Autumn 2021

### September

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Walk: Churnet Valley - Consall Nature Park

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Talk: Geogina Woodcock, 'Scams'.

### October

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Walk and/or Lunch: Views of Brown Edge & Beyond

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> AGM and Talk: Hazel Griffiths The Life and Legacy of Eva Perón'.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Car Trip: Great British Car Journey, Ambergate, Derbyshire DE56 2HE.

### November

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Walk around Rudyard Lake.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Talk: Geraldine Outhwaite 'Biddulph Grange, Where Everyone Smiles'.

### December

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Christmas Lunch and Craft Exhibition at Upper House.

### Dates for your Diary 2022

18<sup>th</sup> January Talk: Bob Kermeen - Soraya Empress of Iran.

15<sup>th</sup> February Talk: Henry Birks - The Forgotten Artists of North Staffordshire.

15<sup>th</sup> March Talk: Kath Reynolds - The Famous Folk of Stoke.

19<sup>th</sup> April Talk: David Skillen - A general introduction to the American Civil War.

4<sup>th</sup> May Coach Trip: Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedrals.

24<sup>th</sup> May AGM and talk.

**15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May Coach trip: Association Scottish Holiday. # Book now! #**

*This Newsletter (along with previous editions) is available on the website.*