

# North Staffordshire Association of National Trust Members

**NEWSLETTER No. 68**

**APRIL 2004**

**and APRIL to SEPTEMBER 2004 PROGRAMME**

## **A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:**

Have you watched the recent TV series on The National Trust, and if so what was your reaction - pleasure, amusement, pride, anger, astonishment or perhaps a mixture of all these and other feelings? As Fiona Reynolds stated in the latest Newsletter to Association committees: "Though we did not expect a rose-tinted corporate video, we also knew we had nothing to hide. Overall the series was positive, but we are a bit disappointed by the narrow focus and superficiality of some of the programmes"

The historian Tristram Hunt has noted how the appeal of visiting stately homes has continued throughout periods of social and economic change, though the visitors are no longer confined to the wealthy few. He quotes Evelyn Waugh, writing in the Preface to his famous novel, "Brideshead today would be open to trippers, its treasures rearranged by expert hands and the fabric better maintained than it was by Lord Marchmain". Does this describe NT properties? Tristram Hunt acknowledges that today "visitors gain excitement from a direct, personal contact with the history of a house through the lives of its inhabitants. And this is now as much a story of cooks and butlers as lords and ladies".

The NT has recently published 'A Country House At Work' by Dr. Pamela Sambrook, based on three centuries of records at Dunham Massey. This indicates that we are indeed interested in the lives and work of those who provided all the services the house owners required. In addition, increasing numbers of visitors are attracted to the rural and coastal areas now under the protection of the Trust or are interested in the Trust's environmental work.

I'm sure you will all enjoy your visits to NT and other properties during the next few months.

Best wishes,

*Anne Anderton*

## **ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES**

The North Staffordshire Association of NT Members was formed in 1980, the inaugural meeting taking place on April 1st 1980.

By July of the same year, there were over 670 Association members and activities were well supported.

From that time, records of meetings, outings, illustrated talks, working parties, and money raising for the provision of various amenities have been recorded in our archives.

These comprise two large books in which there are photographs, and news cuttings from local papers, magazines, leaflets, newsletters, members' photographs and copies of Association Newsletters from the early days, which were in the form of green A4 notepaper, to the present booklets.

If you have photographs or other pieces of information, which would add to our archives, please contact the archivist, so that these could be included.

Perhaps it may be possible to display the archives at an open meeting some time so that everyone can appreciate the many activities enjoyed by Trust Members, as well as the work undertaken by members.

Josie Thomas, Association Archivist.

## **ORGANISATION OF TRIPS**

If you look through your back-numbers of the Newsletter, I am sure you will rapidly become aware that a majority of the trips that the Association organises are run, in the main, by a small number of dedicated people.

The Committee would be pleased to hear from any Member who would be prepared to do the organisation necessary before a trip can be run: selection of a venue, a preliminary visit to ascertain timings, facilities available, etc. and if possible to take the bookings and lead the visit. All necessary help would be given to any Member prepared to give this service.

Alternatively, the Committee would be very pleased to receive suggestions for possible trips and holiday destinations.

Some of the present Committee have served for a considerable number of years. It is always very difficult to recruit new Committee members, particularly from our younger membership. Naturally such people have other commitments, but it would be extremely beneficial for the well-being of the Association if members expressed their willingness to join the Committee, and thus become accustomed to its running, so that in due course they might take on one of the more specific duties.

## EVENTS

### ***Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Lunch.***

Seventy nine members attended the Christmas Lunch, held once again at Slaters. We were welcomed as usual by a blazing fire and the food and service were as usual very good and everyone had a most enjoyable social occasion. The raffle, with its many prizes donated by members with plenty of bottles in evidence again, raised £95. Our thanks to Mary Malcolm for arranging this event.

## TALKS

***Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January. Arthur Slight: "A Journey Down the Gorges of the Yangtse River."*** As Anne pointed out in her introductory remarks, it used to be the practice to hold some sort of members' evening during January, so that visiting speakers would not be held up by ice and snow. Recently this practice has declined (global warming?) but this evening we were once again to have a talk given by one of our members, Arthur Slight.

Arthur and his wife had been to China before, but last year went again so as to be able to make one of the last journeys down the river Yangtse before the sluices on the new dam were closed and the whole area flooded. With the help of his many pictures we were able to appreciate the magnitude of this project, and also to appreciate other famous parts of China such as Tianamen Square, Xian with its enormous walls along which Arthur and friends were shown riding bicycles, the Terracotta Army, and not least, the Great Wall.

Thanks Arthur for an enjoyable and informative evening, which was well attended.

### ***Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. Stephen Adams: "Leaving Little Moreton Hall."***

There was a good audience to hear Stephen, partly because the Committee had been meeting some of the recently joined members of the Association, prior to the talk, and partly because a number of the Volunteers at Little Moreton Hall had come along to hear Stephen.

And what a good evening it was! In a talk spiced with hilarious anecdotes Stephen outlined some of the problems he has encountered since going to Dunham Massey as Property Manager. In addition to the house, its gardens and surrounding estate, he also has 18 farms to run, 3 villages comprising 105 cottages etc. etc. A lot of the properties which were sold off many years ago have covenants which mean that the occupants have to obtain permission from Stephen for any changes they wish to make.

Stephen estimated that there was a backlog of repairs which would cost £5.7 million. A lot of the items in the house have been declared inalienable which means that they cannot be taken by the Government or anyone else, but neither can they be sold, which means that their monetary value to the estate is nil. He has decided to sell off 74 acres of land at the periphery of the

estate for housing, which will provide funds which will take care of the requirements of the rest of the estate, and enable them to declare a further 3,500 acres as inalienable.

Stephen told us of some of the letters of complaint that he has received. Lost property was always a problem. He could understand many of the items left, such as cameras, but pushchairs, inner items of clothing (unspecified) and an artificial leg? ! The most bizarre item of lost property was a grandmother, who was found wandering bewildered after her family had left. Stephen eventually rang them up when they had arrived home, and arranged for them to come down the M6 and meet him at Preston, where he would take grandmother!

In all a hilarious, but very informative evening. Thanks, Stephen.

### ***Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. John Cooke: "The Toastmaster Talks"***

Mr Cooke appeared in his full regalia: black (patent-leather, he insisted) shoes, black trousers (with a double stripe) white shirt (with white bow tie) and waistcoat, chain and medallion of office and a red ("pink") coat. He had been toastmastering for 23 years and in the year 2000 had been the National President of Toastmasters. In a rather pedantic (ladies must always wear hats in church and to weddings) and often somewhat rambling talk, Mr Cooke explained some of the principles of protocol, some of the problems that can arise (such as under or overcooked wedding cakes) and something of the history of the job. For example, toastmasters used to have to drink to the toast, and empty the glass each time. To avoid inebriation they developed a special glass, with a very solid base for use as a gavel and a very small capacity for the actual wine. These are now very rare and valuable.

## **TRIPS**

***Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February. A day at the Lowry.*** Red and orange and purple and yellow. Where else could it be but the Lowry Centre? On a bright windy day we were being taken on a tour of this busy arts complex. Our guide told us that the architect had a shop in mind when he was planning the building: it has unusual shapes but is eminently practical and functional. There was, of course, a splendid display of Lowrys in the purpose-built gallery and many people enjoyed the "Christmas Cribbs from Poland" display.

In the afternoon a pleasant walk across an impressive bridge and along the quayside brought us to the Imperial War Museum North. The Lowry and the Museum are fascinating buildings both internally and externally and are truly innovative. The War Museum is a study in black, white and grey: this, added to rather dim lighting in the main area, does have a subduing effect. There is a lift to the viewing platform which gives a superb view of the city. The restaurant is well laid-out with reasonably priced food and a very good view across the Manchester Ship Canal to the Lowry. Our thanks to Penny

Moore for the efficient and unobtrusive way she shepherded us through a most enjoyable day.

Mary Yardley.

## **APRIL to SEPTEMBER 2004 PROGRAMME**

**Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**PLAS NEWYDD and PENRHYN CASTLE** A double-bill of superb NT properties! Plas Newydd is situated on the Menai Straits from where there are wonderful views across to Snowdonia. In the house is the marvellous mural by Rex Whistler as well as military relics of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Anglesey. After coffee and biscuits on arrival, we can explore the house and grounds at our leisure; lunch can be a picnic outside the restaurant or a meal bought inside. The rhododendron walk will be open – approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile walk each way, suitable footwear needed.

We leave at 2.30 p.m. for the short drive to Penrhyn Castle where again we can explore house and grounds at our own pace. The Victorian kitchen and the Stable Block Industrial Railway Museum, with steam engines and models, may be especially attractive indoors, while the walled Victorian garden will undoubtedly be worth a visit outside. There is a tearoom. **NT cards needed for both properties.**

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street. Leave Penrhyn Castle 5.00 p.m.  
Return 7.30 p.m. approx.

Cost: £15.00 Price includes coach, gratuities, tea/coffee and biscuits.

Apply to: Mr K. Walker, 49 Stockwood Road, Newcastle. ST5 3LQ  
Tel: 01782 613813 enclosing SAE  
Booking closes April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **CAR OUTING**

**40 Max.**

**RUGELEY POWER STATION** Members are invited to participate in a guided tour of Rugeley Power Station led by experienced guides. Construction of Rugeley "A" Power Station began in 1956 and it was opened in 1963. It was the first joint venture between CEBG and NCB. Rugeley "B" Power Station was commissioned in 1970 and opened in 1972 working alongside Rugeley "A" which closed in 1995. Guides will take members from the cooling towers, past transformers linked to the National Grid, to the cool plant, into the Gas Turbine Hall, through the pulverising mill bay to the floor and viewing platform of the noisy turbine hall where the generators produce 1,000 Megawatts of electricity and then to the comparative tranquillity of the control room where members will see how only a small number of people efficiently control such a large operation. The Power Station is big. Each cooling tower could contain the dome of St Paul's Cathedral with room to spare. The boilers are as tall as 15 storey office blocks.

Please note:

- a) Photographs may be taken at the discretion of the tour guide.
- b) The tour lasts approx. 2 hours and members will walk approx. 1½ miles during the tour.
- c) Safety helmets, eye and ear protection are provided for specific parts of the tour and must be worn.
- d) Flat sensible shoes/trainers must be worn.
- e) Certain areas included in the tour are noisy and hot and the route is elevated in places.
- f) Visitors wearing hearing aids must inform the guide.
- g) Much of the tour is outside and tour participants should wear suitable waterproof clothing.
- h) Mobile phones must be switched off.
- i) For safety reasons hands must be free at all times
- j) Visitors should not eat sweets or chew gum...
- k) Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Timings: Please report to security at main (and only) gate not later than 2.15 p.m. **Directions on application.**

Cost: £5.00

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
Booking closes 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**TUTBURY CASTLE, Tutbury. CAR OUTING 36 max.**

Dressed in full authentic Elizabethan costume and make-up, Mrs Lesley Smith will talk about the life and times of Mary, Queen of Scots, especially her captivity in Tutbury Castle. Mrs Smith is a lessee of Tutbury Castle. She is passionate about the Castle and amongst other things gives superb talks and escorts visitors by appointment to bring the place alive. Due to her endeavours Tutbury Castle has, of late, figured in several TV series, including "Great Britons." There will be an opportunity to walk around the Castle and grounds during the afternoon. The talk takes place in the Great Hall to which there are steep steps and members should bear this in mind.

Timings: Please meet in the car park at Tutbury Castle not later than 2.00 p.m. **Directions on application.**  
2.30 to 3.45 p.m. Talk  
3.45 p.m. Cream Tea  
5.00 p.m. approx. depart.

Cost: £7.50 to include Cream Tea.

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
Booking closes 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 7.00 p.m. 24<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. Medical Institute, Hartshill.**

The AGM business will start promptly at **7.00 p.m.** This will be followed by a talk:

**“A Glimpse of Chatsworth”**

We are fortunate to have secured **Judy Coggins, Assistant Housekeeper at Chatsworth**, as our speaker for this occasion. In her illustrated talk she will tell us something of the annual round of events, activities and duties which take place at this grand house and estate, including some of the conservation work. Whether we visit Chatsworth frequently or rarely, this talk will surely be of great interest to us. The talk will be followed by a **Finger Buffet** at which Judy Coggins will be our guest.

Time: AGM 7.00 p.m. Talk: 7.30 p.m. Buffet: 8.30 p.m.

Buffet supper with coffee/tea. Bar open from 6.30 p.m.

**N.B.** Please submit nominations for Committee to the Hon. Sec. Mary Malcolm before April 15<sup>th</sup> (See note at the end of the enclosed AGM agenda.)

For the **£6 Supper Ticket** please apply on the form provided at the end of the booking forms **before 1<sup>st</sup> May** to:

Mrs Josie Thomas, 16 Audley Place, Newcastle. ST5 3RS

Tel: 01782 617632 enclosing SAE.

**Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**MEREVALE HALL, Atherstone.** Before our private visit to Merevale Hall we shall have a **Ploughman's Lunch with coffee** at the **Coach and Horses in Abbots Bromley**. There will be time to visit the church and see the renowned antlers used annually in the ancient Horn Dance.

In the afternoon, **Mr Matthew Dugdale**, the owner of **Merevale Hall** will conduct the tour of the Hall, a family home which is not open to the public. The building we shall see is dramatically sited on high ground overlooking the lands of Merevale Abbey, founded in 1148. The present house is the work of Edward Blore and construction began in 1838. The then owner, William Dugdale, included the park in his improvement scheme and also had the gardens redesigned in 1842. There will be time for us to view the parterre and terraces. After tea and biscuits the coach will take us to the **Church of Our Lady, Merevale**. This was originally a chapel outside the gate of the Abbey. It was spared when the Abbey was dissolved. There is a 13<sup>th</sup> century nave and an east window with an incomplete 14<sup>th</sup> century Tree of Jesse. Monuments of interest include the effigy of a knight-crusader, 1253, a brass dated 1412 and an alabaster tomb, 1449.

Depart: 10.30 a.m. School Street. Return 7.30 p.m. approx.

Cost: £22.00 Price includes coach, gratuities, lunch, tour of Merevale Hall and church.

Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle. ST5 3RG Tel: 01782 613451 enclosing SAE.

Booking closes May 17<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> CAR OUTING 35 Max.**  
**LILLESHALL HALL and LILLESHALL NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE Near Newport, Shropshire.**

The original hall situated in the village of Lilleshall was completed in 1750 by Sir William and Lady Jane Leveson Gower as a country residence and shooting lodge, but was considered too modest for their son and heir Lord Gower, George Granville Leveson Gower, after his marriage to Countess Elizabeth of Sutherland in 1785. It was upon the instructions of Elizabeth that her husband, then the Marquis of Stafford, commanded a new Shropshire Seat be built and the new Lilleshall Hall was designed and built, being completed in 1829. Her husband died in 1833, the same year in which he became the first Duke of Sutherland.

The hall was designed by Sir John Wyattville with considerable assistance from the second Duke's wife, Duchess Harriet.

In 1917 the hall was sold out of the Sutherland Estate to Sir John Lee who in turn sold the hall to Mr Herbert Ford, a local man who acquired wealth from industry of the Ironbridge Gorge and from a wealthy wife who was a member of the Lea and Perrins family. From 1930-1939 Mr Ford opened the grounds as a pleasure garden for the general public, including a 9 hole golf course. During the war years Cheltenham Ladies College moved to Lilleshall, afterwards Dr Barnardo's used the facilities as an orphanage. In 1949 the CCPR acquired the hall as a second National Recreational Centre to serve the north of England. The hall became a National Sports Centre run by the Sports Council and since 2000 has been managed by Leisure Connection on behalf of Sports England.

Members will be given a 1½ hour guided tour of the hall and the sporting facilities. However, there are no refreshments included in the visit and members may wish to make their own arrangements to find lunch in the Newport area.

Timings: Please arrive in the Visitors Car Park, which is a short walk from the hall, by 10.45 a.m. **Further directions to the hall will be sent on application.**

Cost: £5.00

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
 ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
 Booking closes 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**HARVINGTON HALL and LITTLE MALVERN COURT GARDENS.**

**Harvington Hall** is a moated medieval Elizabethan manor house. Built in 1580s by Humphrey Pakington, pillaged by Roundheads, it passed in 1696 to the Throckmortons of Coughton Court. The Hall contains original Elizabethan wall paintings and the finest series of priests' hiding places in the country. We shall have coffee on arrival followed by a guided tour of the house.



In the afternoon we visit **Little Malvern Court Gardens**, 10 acres of former Benedictine Monastery grounds. Planned in 1983 they are laid out as a series of garden rooms with a terrace round house and water garden below. There is a notable collection of old-fashioned roses.

After exploring the gardens on our own we shall have tea (scones, jam, cream) at the nearby Holdfast Cottage Hotel.

**Lunch.** At Harvington Hall there is a maximum of 35 places for a pre-booked lunch. **Either:** a cold buffet of salads, quiche, sandwiches, tea/coffee. Cost £5.50 Please pay for this by **separate cheque** with your booking. Places in order of receipt of cheques.

**Or** bring a picnic to eat in the garden or coach. Coffee/tea available in the Great Kitchen.

Depart: 8.30 a.m. School Street. Return 7.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £23.00 includes coach, gratuities, admissions, coffee and tea. **Plus:** optional £5.50 lunch – separate cheque for this.

Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.  
ST5 3RG Tel: 01782 613451 enclosing SAE.  
Booking closes June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday Evening July 1<sup>st</sup> CAR OUTING 30 max.**  
**GUIDED WALK AROUND STONE TOWN.** Members are invited to enjoy an evening's guided walk around Stone Town led by Philip Leason and a colleague. The walk will last for approximately 2½ hours and will take in the Priory, St Michael's Church, High Street, St Dominic's Convent and Church, returning to Westbury Park along the Canal tow path. Members may wish to enjoy a refreshing pint or noggin at the Star Inn situated adjacent to the canal tow path across the road from Westbury Park.

Timings: Members should gather at Westbury Park Car Park, off Stafford Road in time to set off at 6.30 p.m. prompt. At the time of going to print parking is free after 6.30 p.m.

Cost: £3.00

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
Booking closes 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> CAR OUTING 40 max.**  
**SANDON HALL, Sandon.** Sandon Hall, an elegant neo-Jacobean house, the ancestral home of the Earl of Harrowby, was rebuilt in 1850 by William Burn, the most proven country house architect of the day. The earlier house, damaged by fire, was bought in 1776 by Nathaniel Ryder, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Harrowby, son of Sir Dudley Ryder, Lord Chief Justice of England. The family have been prominent in legal and political affairs for 250 years, with seven generations in Parliament, three successive ones in the Cabinet.

The interior is most impressive. There are fine State Rooms and an outstanding Conservatory. Amongst an amazing feast of fascinating exhibits are duelling pistols of William Pitt the Younger, rare hand-painted Chinese wallpaper, a unique collection of World War I recruitment posters, textiles and toys.

The visit includes a guided tour of the house, a walk around the grounds and parkland extending to 400 acres, afternoon tea with home made cakes and sandwiches, and will last approximately 2½ hours. There are a few steep stairs to be negotiated. There is ample car parking.

Timings: Please arrive not later than 2.15 p.m. Please park cars and assemble on the forecourt to the hall.

Cost: £8.50 includes entrance to house and garden and tea.

**Directions on application.**

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
Booking closes 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

**BURFORD HOUSE GARDEN and SHIPTON HALL, Shropshire.**

The seven acres of **Burford House Garden**, designed in 1952 by the late John Treasure to complement a stylish Georgian house, contain good roses and herbaceous borders and a magnificent series of water gardens. It is home to the National Collection of clematis and over 350 varieties are grown, trained and displayed among the shrubs together with a new and ingenious clematis maze. Be warned – there is an excellent nursery and interesting shop supplying the gardener's every need! Lunch (at own cost) in the riverside café-bar in the garden, or picnic (small picnic area in car park available).

**Shipton Hall** has been described as "an exquisite specimen of Elizabethan architecture set in a quaint old-fashioned garden". It has Georgian additions, fine panelling and some elegant rococo interior decorations. This is a private visit and we will be shown round by the owner Mr J. Bishop. There will be time to explore the gardens and the church dating back to Saxon times before a substantial tea at the Hall.

Depart: 9.30 a.m. School Street. Return 6.00 p.m. approx.

Cost: £20.00 to include admission charges, coffee and biscuits on arrival at Burford House Gardens, tour and tea at Shipton Hall, coach travel and all gratuities.

Apply to: Mrs P. Moore, 26 Parkway, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.  
ST4 8AG Tel: 01782 657645 enclosing SAE.  
Bookings close 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. CAR OUTING 40 max.**

**MIDDLETON HALL, near Tamworth.** The Hall has an interesting architectural history with its earliest buildings dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and

other buildings dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its most obvious attractions are the gracious 11 bay Georgian West wing and the impressive 16<sup>th</sup> century Great Hall, the restoration of which was completed in 1994. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Hall was the home of Francis Willoughby, founder member of the Royal Society, whose interest in natural history was inspired by John Ray, one of Britain's greatest naturalists.

The Hall also has links with Sir Hugh Willoughby, the Tudor explorer, Cassandra, First Duchess of Chandos, Elizabeth I, Lady Jane Grey and Jane Austen. The Hall is managed by the Middleton Hall Trust who have a 75 year lease at a peppercorn rent. The Trust is now completely self-supporting, managed and run entirely by the efforts of volunteers.

Members will be given a tour of the Hall and Grounds, and light refreshments of sandwiches, cake and tea or coffee.

Timings: Members are asked to arrive at the Hall not later than 2.15  
The visit will last approximately 2½ hours.

Cost: £12.00 to include refreshments. **Directions on application.**

Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
Booking closes 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### ***Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.***

**WESTON PARK.** Enjoy a leisurely day at Weston Park, Shropshire, home to several generations of the Earls of Bradford, to explore the house, gardens and parkland. The house, designed by Lady Elizabeth Wilbraham in 1671, contains a collection of paintings, tapestries, porcelain and fine furniture; in the Dining Room the table is set with Coalport China as it was for the recent International G8 Conference, complete with menu.

The formal terraced gardens lead to extensive parklands which were developed by Capability Brown. There are over 100 acres containing various walks with lakes, woodland and follies.

There is a short introductory video in the Visitor Centre about the history of the family and a nearby Gift Shop. There is a picnic area for those who wish to take their own food while the Stables Bar and Restaurant offers a wide variety of snacks and meals.

Depart: 10.30 a.m. School Street. Arrive Weston 11.30 Depart 4.30

Cost: £13.00 including coach, gratuities and admission.

Apply to: Mrs A. Anderton, 14 Berne Avenue, Newcastle. ST5 2QJ

Tel: 01782 613024 enclosing SAE.

Booking closes 4<sup>th</sup> August.

### ***Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>***

### ***CAR OUTING***

***40 max.***

**MILL MEECE PUMPING STATION** has supplied water to the Potteries since 1914. "The Gentle Giants" were replaced by electric pumps in 1979 but the horizontal steam engines have been preserved. The station supplies an

average of 2.2 million gallons of water each day to Severn Trent customers but nowadays by powerful electric pumps in each well. After being disinfected the water is pumped five miles northwards to Hanchurch Reservoir from where it is supplied to homes and businesses in Newcastle and the southern area of Stoke. The station is owned by Severn Trent Water who are grateful to the Mill Meece Pumping Station Preservation Trust for their work in protecting a unique industrial monument. Members will be given a guided tour in groups of ten by volunteers of the Trust.

The timings of the visit will enable members to experience the engineer starting up the pumps at approximately 11.30 a.m. followed by the guided tour. In addition to the tour of the station there will be a Yesteryear Rally on the site where motor enthusiasts exhibit and run a wide variety of motors and engines. There is ample car parking and picnic areas in a field adjoining the station. Simple refreshments of coffee/tea, sandwiches, pies and cakes are available at members' own expense. Members may wish to bring a picnic. A booklet is available at the souvenir shop on sites. Toilets available.

Timings: Please meet in the car park not later than 11.00 a.m.  
 Cost: £5.00 **Directions on application.**  
 Apply to: Peter Moxon, Millstone House, Butterton, Newcastle.  
 ST5 4EB Tel: 01782 616337 enclosing SAE.  
 Booking closes 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>***

#### ***WOLSELEY CENTRE and SHUGBOROUGH***

The Wolseley Centre is the headquarters for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Its 26 acres were Wolseley family land from Saxon times. Left to its own devices for some 10 years, it has become home to a variety of wildlife and plants. We will be shown round part of the site via the board walk and, in addition to kingfishers and swans, we may glimpse the ice house, the temple or the pagoda. There is a small shop and café.

At the end of the morning the coach will take us to Shugborough. Bring a **picnic** or buy **lunch** in the restaurant and spend the afternoon visiting the house. – **NT card needed** – strolling in the lovely gardens or visiting the museum for which there is an admission charge.

Depart: 10.00 a.m. School Street. Return 5.00 p.m. approx.  
 Cost: £9.50 which includes coach, gratuities, admission and tour of Wolseley Centre.  
 Apply to: Mrs M. Malcolm, 17 Beresford Crescent, Newcastle.  
 ST5 3RG Tel: 01782 613451 enclosing SAE  
 Booking closes 14<sup>th</sup> September.