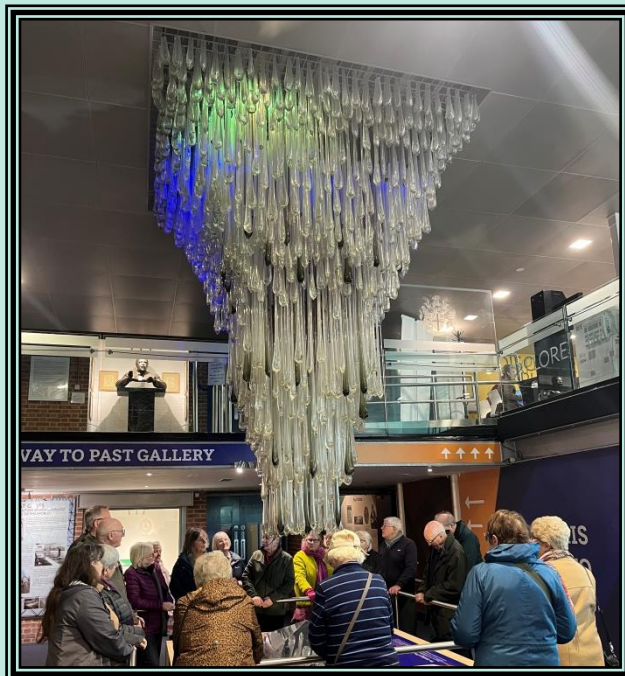


North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 134
Summer 2026

www.northstaffsnt.org.uk



Two tonne Chandelier at World of Glass

© Helen Mansell

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 of at least 8½" x 4" 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 NT Assoc". 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 National Trust makes insurance arrangements, including public liability insurance, for Supporter Groups that carry out volunteering/activities for the benefit of the National Trust.

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.

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. No liability will be accepted for errors or omissions.

We are always delighted to welcome new members – see further details on the inserts in the centre of this Newsletter.

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.

The Newsletter is published in April, August and December. Copy and correspondence for each issue should be addressed to NSNTA.newsletter@outlook.com (01782 791360) by the 15th of the preceding month at the absolute latest (but earlier if possible!)

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North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Newsletter No. 134

Summer 2026 Programme

A Note From The Chair



We have started 2026 with fascinating talks by Steve Brewer on The Making of the Peak District and Peter Thomas on Plant Clocks, that is telling the time and season!

At the end of February, we had a highly informative and interesting visit to The World of Glass, located on the famous Pilkington site in St Helens. It was an excellent portrayal of the history of glass processing through the ages, which concluded with a glass blowing demonstration of a beautiful swan, several of which were available for purchase in the visitor shop. Once more, our thanks to Anthea for

arranging the talks and Helen and Margaret for organising the visit.

We have two really good coach trips coming up. The Malvern Flower Show in May and Wentworth Woodhouse, the largest house in UK, in June. We still have seats available for both visits, so please send in your applications.

Best Wishes

Bob



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.

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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.

## *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.*

Some events book up very early, others more slowly. You can check with the organiser or the STOP PRESS on the web site if events are full or are undersubscribed, or if it has been necessary to change details or booking arrangements, availability etc. or there are other matters which may be of interest. Do let the organiser know if you are interested in an event but can't attend so the feasibility of repeating it on another date can be assessed.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Walk & Lunch: Bluebells at Hem Heath.**

We can park in the car park at the Toby Carvery ST4 8BU on the Trentham Road, A5035, from Trentham Gardens. Use their facilities and be ready to leave at 10.45.



There will be a short walk along the main road to the entrance to Hem Heath Woods which are managed by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Lunch is booked at the Toby Carvery at 12.30, or earlier if the weather is poor. Dress for the weather!

Come for the walk and/or lunch. Send an email to Anthea ([antheabond@hotmail.com](mailto:antheabond@hotmail.com)) so she can add up the numbers coming for the walk and/or the lunch. A suggested donation of £3 will be welcome at the start of the walk for the NSNTA. Pay for your own lunch at the counter before leaving the hotel.

*Anthea Bond*

## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Coach Trip: RHS Malvern Spring Festival.

It is confirmed that we have sufficient numbers for this trip and those who have applied should receive their confirmations shortly. We would welcome many more to help fill the coach but please apply asap while tickets are still available.

This promises to be a visual treat all round, from the beautiful setting of the Malvern hills to the marquees full of magnificent flowering plants, inspiring show gardens, the festival of house plants and so much more. It is an event staged both indoors and out therefore you would need to be prepared... brolly and good walking shoes!

There are talks and demonstrations by well-known garden presenters and many food outlets ranging from 'artisan' street-food vendors to several sit-down venues. You could even bring your own picnic.

The coach will leave Newcastle at 9 am and will return, leaving Malvern at 4 pm.

Cost is £48 per person (£50 non-members) to include the coach and entry ticket.

Apply to Sue Till using the entry form with cheque to North Staffs NT Assoc and SAE. Confirmations for all those who have applied so far should be sent shortly after this Newsletter if you have not already had them.

Enquiries: Sue Till, [st.till@icloud.com](mailto:st.till@icloud.com)

## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May: AGM & Talk: Paul Walton, head gardener at Biddulph Grange.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NORTH STAFFS CONFERENCE CENTRE, HARTSHILL

TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026 at 7.00PM

### AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Minutes of the 45th AGM
4. Secretary's Report - Matters Arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Matters Arising
6. Setting of Subscription Level for 2026 – 2027
7. Approvals for re-election to committee \*
8. Nominations for Officers and Committee \*\*
9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2026 – 2027
10. Any Other Business

\* 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.

The AGM will be followed by a talk by Paul Walton, head gardener at Biddulph Grange. He will talk about the restoration period 1988 – 1991 when NHS left the site and NT took over.

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Coach Trip: Wentworth Woodhouse, South Yorkshire.

This was advertised in the last edition of the Newsletter but there is still plenty of space on the coach and we would welcome more members to join to help fill it. Don't miss this great opportunity to visit one of the finest houses in the country.

This Grade 1 listed property, the largest house in the UK and the grandest, was built in 1725 by the 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Rockingham and was later owned by the Fitzwilliam family. They owned several coal mines in South Yorkshire from which they became extremely wealthy, furthermore they were noted for their extravagant social lives with



both royalty and other nobility. There is a fascinating must-read book about the Fitzwilliams, entitled "Black Diamond" by Catherine Bailey.

Following WW2 the family fell on hard times and left the house. It was later a teacher training college, then a physical education centre and in 1998 it was bought by the local Newbold Family, however, the family too fell on hard times. Consequently, in 2017 the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust was formed and with the aid of a government grant the Trust proceeded to bring the house back close to its original condition. To assist with the development, The National Trust was seconded as a partner and the arrangement continues to this day. This partnership enables all National Trust Members to receive a discount of 25% on the admission price.

Upon arrival we will be served tea/coffee and biscuits, after which we will be divided into groups for a guided tour to view the grandeur of the rooms where

the family once lived, entertained and made history. We will also hear stories of the dedicated staff who worked behind the scenes and learn about the intricate dynamics between the two worlds and how it shaped daily life in the house. Following the guided tour, we will then be free to wander at will through the remaining main rooms of the house.

A buffet lunch will be served in the Long Gallery, following which we are free to view once more the main rooms of the house and roam the 57 acres of gardens. It should be noted that the gardens are aligned with the RHS and during last summer they held a garden show at Wentworth.

We depart from Brunswick Street at 8.30 a.m. and aim to be back in Newcastle by 6.30 p.m.

Cost £55 (£62 for non-NT members), including coach fare, driver's tip, entrance to the house and gardens, a guided tour, tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival and a buffet lunch.

**It is imperative that you bring your National Trust membership card to qualify for the reduced price.**

Please apply to Bob Winter enclosing the booking form, cheque and SAE. Enquiries: 07783321209 or [robert.winter14@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.winter14@btinternet.com)

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June: Social Lunch at the Hand and Trumpet, Betley.**

Continuing our series of relaxed and friendly lunches, please join us at the Hand and Trumpet, Betley CW3 9BJ from 12.30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. We have tables of 6 - 8 people reserved inside, and if the weather is kind some may choose to sit on the terrace or in the garden. Extensive menu of main meals plus lighter options.

Please reserve your place(s) with Nicky Adams on 07851 525933 or [rjnadams@btinternet.com](mailto:rjnadams@btinternet.com).

Help please! I'm looking for other suitable venues in our area but have so far only found this one and the New Vic Theatre. We need a pub/restaurant/café with good food at reasonable prices, easy access for the less mobile, easy parking, able to take a group of 20-30 people, no annoying requirement to pre-order meals, and preferably to the North or East side of the city.

Please contact me with your suggestions.

Thanks, Nicky

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Car Outing: Guided tour of Biddulph Grange Garden.

This was advertised in the last edition of the Newsletter but there is still space and time to book so is repeated here.

One of our nearest National Trust properties is the 26-acres, grade I listed garden created by the horticulturist James Bateman and his wife Maria to display exotic plant specimens collected from around the world. The garden has themed areas linked by stone & gravel paths, steps and atmospheric tunnels. The stumpery, created in 1856, is the oldest in the UK and has inspired many others, including our King's at Highgrove.

Paul Walton, having worked at Biddulph Grange for over 30 years, is now the Head Gardener and he has kindly offered to conduct a guided tour for us. He remembers holding seeds in his hands which have now grown into the

giant redwoods, some of which are now more than 4m in circumference and over 40m in height!



Join us on a journey through “China, Egypt, Italy and the Himalayas” and see the fish & water birds at the pond. Please beware of open water, and uneven & slippery pathways. Unsuitable for buggies as there are many steps and staircases.

Parking is free and the gate opens at 10.00am. Meet in the drawing-room - which houses the

climate controlled cabinet that the NSNTA contributed towards, for tea/coffee and biscuits before our private tour of the garden at 10.45am.

After the tour we are free to wander the gardens at leisure and visit the Geological Gallery. The Camellia tea-room offers an elevated view over the garden, while the cafe – in the former billiard room, offers

more substantial light lunches. Alternatively, sit outdoors on the terrace. There is a second-hand book shop – book donations are welcomed – and a well-stocked plant centre as well as a gift shop.



**Cost:** £5 per person (non-NSNTA members £6). Remember to bring your NT membership cards. If not a member of the NT, then an additional charge of £13.30 per adult / £7.00 per child will need to be paid to Biddulph Grange for admission on the day.

**Closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.** Please apply to Helen Mansell, enclosing the booking form, cheque, and your stamped Self Addressed Envelope for confirmation of booking if you require this to be posted to you. If you are happy to receive confirmation by email then an SAE is not necessary. (Enquiries: 07866 352 927; Email: HelenMansell@gmail.com)

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August: Car Outing: Churnet Valley Railway Bombay Express Dining Train.**

This trip as advertised in the last edition is now fully booked but please check with John Pedrazzini or watch the website in case there are any cancellations.

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> - Thu 10<sup>th</sup> September: Holiday: Royal Residences & Gardens of London.**

As we go to press there are still some spaces available and we would love to fill them if you can join us. A reminder of the features:

- ❖ 3 nights half board stay at the 4\* Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow
- ❖ Entry & audio tour of Hampton Court Palace and grounds
- ❖ Entry to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- ❖ Entry to Kensington Palace
- ❖ Free time in central London
- ❖ Entry to NT Cliveden
- ❖ Boat trip on the River Thames
- ❖ Executive coach travel from local departure points

Booking details were distributed to members last Summer - further copies are available on our website or from Regent Travel 01785 818202, [tours@regent-travel.co.uk](mailto:tours@regent-travel.co.uk) with whom bookings must be made.

## *Dear Members,*

If you would like to join in with arranging events for our organisation, please speak to Helen Mansell or another member of the committee.

Our next planning meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> June if you wish to come along and see what is involved.

The association relies on volunteers to put together our outings and additional help would be welcomed, even if it is just the suggestion of somewhere to visit.

And don't forget the committee are always anxious to know members' views on the activities of the NSNTA.

Please give this some thought.

## *Talks in the Autumn*

The talks will continue to take place in the North Staffs Medical Institute (Wade Conference Centre) in Hartshill Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7NY at 7.30 on the third Tuesday of the winter months excluding December.

Speakers coming up include Andrew van Buren on Philip Astley, Henry Birks of Trent Art Gallery on Maurice Wade, a local artist, and Ken and Rose Pemberton on Sandon church, which celebrates 1000 years in 2026 with many activities, some as part of the Heritage Open Days. This is well worth a visit. Details are on the website: [www.sandonallsaints.com](http://www.sandonallsaints.com), including of an art exhibition 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June. More details of the talks will be in the autumn Newsletter.



If you have heard a good local speaker on a topic of interest to National Trust members, please let Anthea Bond know the contact details.

## *Heritage Open Days*

These interesting events are held every year in September, organised centrally by the National Trust and locally in England and Wales by very many volunteers. In 2026, the dates are Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The theme will be Exploring the lives of ordinary people, local history, and the evolution of daily routines. Details will be available online in August with highlights in our Autumn Newsletter.

## *Membership*

We have pleasure in announcing and welcoming the following who have joined since we last welcomed new members: Lesley Thurston, Avril Dodd, Sheila Siegers, Beryl Royle, Margaret & Mike Hollins and Ray & Bridget Sayers. Current membership is 225 (subject to outstanding renewals).

**NT Membership Discount** A reminder that a 25% discount on the general National Trust membership subscription is available to eligible members: those over 60 who have been members for over three years. Ring 0344 800 1895 to request it before your next subscription is due.

## *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*

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Lunch at Double Tree.

A lovely way to round off the year, gathering together with time and space to chat to familiar and less familiar faces from our NT supporters' group. In a pleasant private area at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel on Festival Park, with easy parking facilities, 38 members gathered in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoyed a 3-course meal in groups sitting at the six rectangular tables. With attention from ample waiters/waitresses, service was smoothly executed. A toast to our Association led by Phil Alcock was followed by the raffle being drawn cheering two lucky winners of wines from Halfpenny Green Vineyard visited back in August. Many thanks to Marion & Phil for arranging this indulgent treat.

*Helen Mansell*





*These photographs are on the website to a larger scale if you want to check if you were really there!*

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January: Talk: Steve Brewer: The making of the Peak District.**

Steve taught languages and this talk introduced us to many new words used in Geology. He took a degree in Geology after retiring and now teaches adult education classes locally.

Earth formed 4600 million years ago (mya). He compared the huge time involved in land masses changing forms, compared with the rapid movement in volcanoes. I liked the idea of Europe moving away from America at 4 cm a year.

Between slides of new words and vast numbers, Steve showed us photos from his walks: the White Peak of Lower Carboniferous organisms and millions of years of erosion forming an undulating limestone plateau, eventually with plants. The Dark Peak formed later.

Steve introduced us to the National Stone Centre in Wirksworth, we hope to have an outing there. The committee is always keen to have volunteers to organise such an event so please make yourself known to any committee member about this or other ideas you have.

*Anthea Bond.*

### **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January: Social Lunch at the New Victoria Theatre.**

Although the Vic was quite busy we had plenty of room by the bar. We were able to order and pay at the bar, and the food was delivered to the tables.

We had a good turnout on a cold grey January day. 22 members and two guests one of whom decided to sign up there and then! So very successful lunch time.

*Nicky Adams.*

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February: Talk: Peter Thomas: Plant Clocks: telling the time and season.

Trees just appear to stand there, immobile, not doing anything very much, but contrary to appearances, they are constantly busy, monitoring weather conditions, temperature and light levels throughout the day and night.

All have an internal calendar, depending on the time of year. Stomata open during the day, when photosynthesis begins, making the sugars that are stored and used as food. They close at night, which is when plants grow. They need sleep just like us! Their day starts about an hour before dawn to prepare for photosynthesis.

In spring, the bud-break thermostat is set for growth above 10 degrees Centigrade. However, roots have already been growing for a week or so before that as their thermostat is set at 5-6 degrees. The sequence of flowering in trees follows a set pattern e.g. Cherry Plum flowers appear before the Sloe, although their flowers are very similar.

Day length is critical for flowering plants. For example, carnations need a long day so flower in mid-summer. Wisteria is a "short day" plant, so can flower twice in one season. (Cannabis leaves, not flowers, are important for the grower, so keep plants under constant light to stop them flowering!)

Climate change with warmer winters is creating difficulties. The hazel tree now has flowers in December, not February/March. The delicate female flowers will be killed by frost and there will be no nuts for the small mammals. Our wonderful native bluebells are also under threat. They need light in autumn and spring but with trees holding onto their leaves for longer in the autumn and coming into leaf earlier in the spring, the bluebells will suffer.

In autumn, the shortening colder days encourage plants and trees to lose their leaves, taking the most useful foods back into the tree: chlorophyll, nitrogen and phosphorus. The vivid autumn leaf colours are produced by carotenoids (yellow) and anthocyanins (red), shown best by sunny days and frosty nights.

We may think of winter as being a time of dormancy for the tree, but the bark provides extra insulation and the extra sugars inside cells prevent freezing. Throughout winter, a tree constantly monitors weather conditions that could adversely affect it in the spring. Tree branches may be shed if they have not produced enough sugars that year e.g. when too shaded.

As this newsletter is sent to NSNTA members, the National Collection of Flowering Cherry Trees will be at Keele from the second week of March to the third week of May. There are 300 trees, 284 different types.

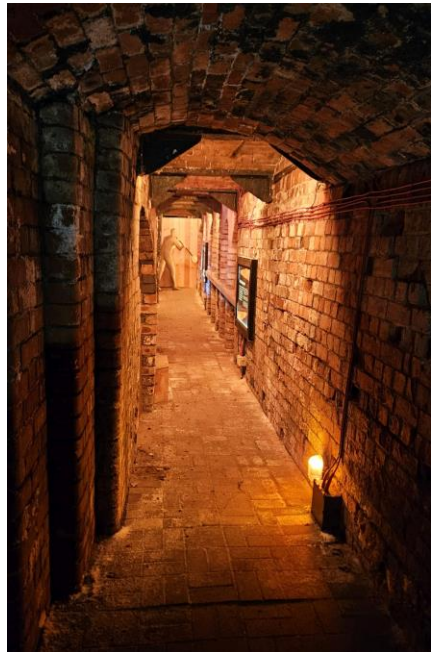
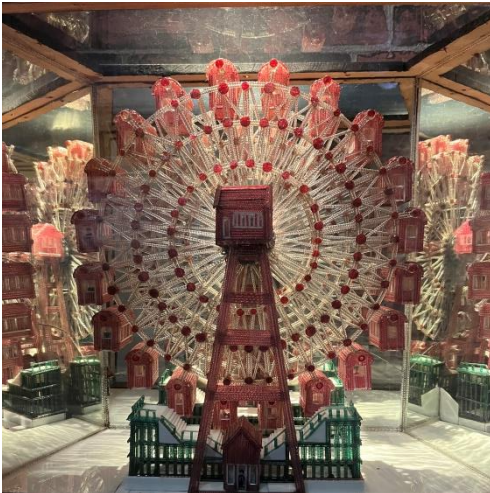
Peter Thomas is an exceptional scientist who is able to reveal the wonders of the natural world clearly and concisely to his audience. Thank you, Peter, for an absolutely fascinating talk, with much food for thought.

*Jane Cameron.*

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February: Coach Trip: The World of Glass, St Helen's.

We departed promptly from Newcastle as there was no morning rush hour for our members to negotiate on our first Saturday coach trip for some time. It also meant the motorways were less busy and we arrived in good time for coffee and chat before we were divided into two groups for our guided tour. One of the first items you cannot fail to notice on arrival is the very large glass chandelier which weighs 2 tonnes, the ceiling having to be reinforced before its installation.

Our tour guide was excellent - very knowledgeable and I heard every word, as we saw the Past History and Glass History galleries. We then visited the Grade 2 listed Tank House and the tunnels underneath where glass was produced until the last century. I was fascinated to learn that the hot water used in the process being discharged into the adjacent canal so raised the temperature that this area was called the Hotties where local people enjoyed swimming in the warm water and tropical fish survived for decades.





We then joined the glass blowing demonstration where the guide explained every step as the expert made a glass swan and bowl. I was amazed at one point the operators hand was protected as he was shaping the molten glass by a wad of damp newspaper (usually the Daily Telegraph!) Later he did have the use of

Kevlar gloves for putting the finished product (still at 700 degrees centigrade) into the annealing cupboard.

Following a sandwich lunch there was time to take a more detailed look at Past History section which included recreations of how people lived including houses, corner shop and public house and pastimes. One of our group had a go at hopscotch but although most of us had participated in our youth no-one could quite remember the rules! The Glass history section had wares from its origins in Mesopotamia some 4000



years ago through Roman glass, Byzantine, Medieval, Venetian, English Lead Crystal, Bohemian, Lalique to the modern day.

There was also time to visit the art exhibition by local artists containing some excellent and thought provoking work in a variety of media. It was then time for home in the brilliant sunshine arriving back in Newcastle at 4.30. Thank you Margaret and Helen for a very interesting and enjoyable day.

*Bronwen Montgomery.*

*Helen wishes to add her thanks to Margaret Thorley for both suggesting this outing and for assisting by dealing with the bookings. Thanks also go to those people who helped on the day and contributed ad hoc.*

*If any other members would be willing to help arrange an outing, please speak to Helen or any committee member. "Many hands.....", etc.*

## **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March: Talk: Beyond the Garden Gate: The National Garden Scheme in Staffordshire**

Our speaker, Ruth Plant, and her husband Clive, organise the publicity in this area and Ruth showed us many fabulous photographs, both her own and those from the garden owners. The yellow booklets with the details of the gardens will be available at the next talk on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The NGS started nearly 100 years ago in 1927 when 609 gardens opened at one shilling for each visitor. More than £8,000 was raised. The three aims were to discover remarkable gardens, to help owners open them to the public and to raise amounts for charities through admissions, tea and cake sales. 20 gardens opened in Staffordshire in the first couple of years.

There were some large country houses and gardens with connections to well-known landscape architects. More recently, smaller gardens have been open for us to visit. Ruth's recent figures for the NGS included more than 3500 gardeners, 500 volunteers, 670,000 visitors and generations of bakers and tea makers.

In 2025, nearly £4 million was donated by the NGS to charities. In 2026, 3,300 gardens will open, including allotments and hospice gardens nationwide. Details are in the yellow booklet or online at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

*Anthea Bond*



© Ruth Plant's own garden: Yew Tree Cottage

| <b>NSNTA Committee 2025-2026</b>                                                     |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bob Winter</b><br>Chair<br>robert.winter14@btinternet.com                         | 15 Robinson Road<br>Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8ED<br>01782 642942, 07783 321209            |
| <b>Vacant</b><br>Vice-chair                                                          |                                                                                     |
| <b>Richard Adams</b><br>Secretary and Membership Secretary<br>rjadams@doctors.org.uk | 79 Whitmore Road<br>Newcastle ST5 3LZ<br>07599 912938                               |
| <b>Anthea Bond</b><br>Talks Organiser<br>antheabond@hotmail.com                      |                                                                                     |
| <b>Huw Davies</b><br>Treasurer<br>huws.family@gmail.com                              | 2 Vicarage Crescent<br>Newcastle ST5 1NJ<br>07825 475382                            |
| <b>Helen Mansell</b><br>Programme Coordinator<br>helenmansell@gmail.com              | 01782 626091, 07866 352927                                                          |
| <b>John Spriggs</b><br>Newsletter and Website<br>NSNTA.newsletter@outlook.com        | Rose Villa, Bowers Bent<br>Standon, Stafford ST21 6SG<br>01782 791360               |
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| <b>Cynthia Dumbelton</b><br>dumbeltoncynthia@gmail.com                               | 32 The Lea<br>Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8DY<br>01782 641765, 07815 924645                  |
| <b>Marion Lycett</b><br>marionlycett@gmail.com                                       | Millstone House, The Green, Bagnall<br>Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9JR<br>01782 502919       |
| <b>Jane Mayer</b><br>janemayeruk@yahoo.co.uk                                         | 16 Shaldon Avenue, Stockton Brook<br>Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9PU<br>01782 533476         |
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| <b>Sue Till</b><br>st.till@icloud.com                                                | 6 Kingsfield Oval, Basford,<br>Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs ST4 6HW<br>01782 405415 |
| <b>Other Posts</b>                                                                   |                                                                                     |
| <b>Kay Williams</b><br>williakay@gmail.com                                           | 3 The Spinney, Madeley Heath, Crewe, CW3 9TB.<br>01782 751018                       |

## Programme Summary 2026

### April

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Talk: Danny Wells: The English and Gardening.

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Walk & Lunch: Bluebells at Hem Heath.

### May

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Coach Trip: RHS Malvern Spring Festival

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> AGM & Talk: Paul Walton, head gardener at Biddulph Grange.

### June

Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Coach Trip: Wentworth Woodhouse, South Yorkshire.

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Planning meeting at 6 Kingsfield Oval, Basford.

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Social Lunch at the Hand and Trumpet, Betley.

### July

Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Car Outing: Guided tour of Biddulph Grange Garden.

### August

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Car Outing: Churnet Valley Railway Bombay Express Dining Train.

### September

Mon 7<sup>th</sup>-Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Royal Residences & Gardens of London.

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> - Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Heritage Open Days

Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Talk: Andrew van Buren: Philip Astley and me.

### October

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Talk: Ken and Rose Pemberton: Sandon church past and present.

### November

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Talk: Henry Birks, Trent Art Gallery: Maurice Wade, local artist.

### January 2027

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Talk: Malcolm Gray from the Canal and River Trust.

### February

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Talk: Jeff Sim, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust: Craddocks Moss Beaver Project.

### March

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Talk: Peter Thomas: Hedges.

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