



Staffordshire Centre



see more, explore more, discover more — together

News Bulletin – April 2024

Hello Centre Members,

It's that time of year where the committee has to stand for re-election again, at the Annual General Meeting, on April 9th. As I said at the last meeting, as two of our committee members will be retiring in April, we really do need people to come forward to serve on the committee and help organise events.

Hoping to see you soon.

Margaret Winfield

TALKS

All talks start at 2:30 pm at Walton Village Hall



The 50th Annual General Meeting - 9th April 2024



Although 2023 was the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Staffordshire Centre the pandemic meant that this is our fiftieth AGM. As usual there will be a report from the Chair on the year's activities and the Treasurer's report, followed by the election of the committee. There will also be a vote on an important amendment to the constitution concerning opening membership of the Centre to non-members of the National Trust. This

follows feedback from the meeting that we held in August 2023. After this there will be an update on the Shugborough Estate by **Caroline Beacall, Head Gardener at Shugborough**. Non-members of the Centre are welcome to attend the AGM but they are not able to vote in the elections to the committee. Admission to this meeting is free.

The Violin - 14th May 2024

A Talk by Natalie Cummings



This is the story of how Abraham, music tutor to the Tsar's children, fled with his family and his violin from St. Petersburg to Odessa to escape the Bolshevik revolution. The violin passes to his daughter, Rosa, violinist with the famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Arrested by the Nazis on Kristellnacht 1938 she is sent to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, and then to Auschwitz, where her musical talent sees her forced to join the Women's Orchestra and saves her life.

Rosa's brother Israel, inherits the violin after her death and finally it comes to his daughter, Natalie. Unplayable due to damage sustained during its arduous history, it remained silent for 30 years until it was famously brought back to life in the BBC's Repair Shop.

Diary Dates

11th June – “Through the eyes of a Magician” - Peter Turner

9th July – “The Rugeley Poisoner” - Dave Lewis

VISITS

Harvington Hall - Wednesday 17th April



Discover the house of secrets! Step back in time to discover how English Catholics lived in terror during the second half of Elizabeth 1st's reign.

An imposing medieval moated manor house, it can be traced back to the 13th century, each corner and staircase reveals a history of Recusant Catholic priests being hunted and the sordid history of torture and execution.

Harvington is unique. It has seven remaining priest holes, more than any other house in England and visitors can experience the unique beauty of Elizabethan wall paintings, original panelling and floorboards. The Hall's staircases,

passages and doorways disorientate and trick the mind.

NOTE: The Hall is not wheelchair accessible, apart from the ground floor. Chairs are offered in every room and alternative staircases for those with walking/mobility difficulties. For anyone wanting further information there is a 360-degree virtual tour on the Harvington Hall website to explore the logistics of the house. There is uneven flooring on the upper floors.

Price: £11.50

Booking deadline: April 7th

Meet: Harvington Hall, 10.30-10.45 **Sat Nav:** DY10 4LR

Organiser: Ruth Williams

WALKS

Barton Under Needwood – Thursday 11th April



We set off from the first car park you come to at Barton Marina DE13 8DZ, past lakes heading for Barton village. A short distance up the Main Street we turn right towards Smith Hills wooded area. From there we walk past Dunstall Old Hall and Dunstall Hall to turn right through fields and woods and back to the Marina. Good paths, no stiles and no

significant ascents. Lunch will be at the Red Carpet café.

Start: 10.00am Barton Marina **Sat Nav** DE13 8DZ

Lunch: Red Carpet Cinema Café **Sat Nav:** DE13 8AS If you intend going for lunch, please let Gill know **your menu choices** by April 9th, so that numbers can be confirmed and orders placed.

If you are only intending to go for the lunch, please arrive at the Red Carpet by 12.30.

Organiser: Gill Stppard



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