



Staffordshire Centre



see more, explore more, discover more — together

News Bulletin – June 2024

Hello Centre Members,

May has been a busy month and as I write this, the Kendal Holiday is fast approaching. Firstly, our thanks must go to Nigel Holmes for producing the excellent Newsletter, after taking over the role from Philip Grainger and also to John Willis for kindly agreeing to produce the monthly bulletins - this is his first one!

At our Annual Meeting, I reported that our President, Haydn Poulson was unable to attend as his wife Catherine had been taken to hospital. Sadly, Catherine subsequently passed away.

Catherine and Haydn had been National Trust members since 1960. In 2004 he became a Committee Member of our Centre and then Chairman, following Eric Tanner, in 2010. He subsequently became our President. We send our sincere sympathy to Haydn and his family and hope he will feel able to join us again soon.

We hope that many of you will come along to our next talk, which should prove very interesting and "magical" and also to the walk at Barlaston and Downs Bank. Also, please note the deadline for booking for the Fish and Chip Cruise.

Margaret Winfield

TALKS

All talks start at 2:30 pm at Walton Village Hall. To book for a talk, go to the Talks page on our website, ntstafford.org.uk or [click here](#).



Through The Eyes of a Magician - 11th June 2024

A Talk by Peter Turner



This is a fascinating & intriguing talk, light hearted, informative and delivered with humour, it is full of twists and turns. It's definitely different!

There is a 'Mysterious World' out there and Pete will give you a taste of it on a fascinating journey of the unexplained. Using the 'Science of Perception' Pete will demonstrate how you can see something that is not there. I know, it all sounds a bit crazy, but seeing is believing, and until you experience the unknown in a logical world, it will open a new

dimension on how you perceive the impossible. Also, you will discover the psychological mind games used by magicians to convince you that what you're seeing is actually happening right in front of your eyes.

Diary Dates:

9th July – The Rugeley Poisoner – Dave Lewis

13th August – The History of Telecommunications – Nigel Holmes

WALKS

Please remember that you join our walks at your own risk and are responsible for your own safety. Leaders will indicate the difficulty of the walk so walkers can make an informed choice on whether or not to join in. Appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn.



To book for any walk, go to the Walks page on our website, ntstafford.org.uk or [click here](#).

Barlaston & Downs Bank – 4.5m Thursday 13th June



This walk starts and finishes, at the Plume of Feathers, Barlaston, (which is owned by Neil Morrissey)

We begin by crossing the Trent & Mersey Canal and railway, walking for ½ a mile by road, passing some of the former Wedgwood colleges, to the Upper House Hotel entrance. We then take a footpath on the right, passing the hotel on our left. The footpath climbs gently to the top end of Down's Banks (there are a couple of stiles on this section). The path then follows the perimeter of Downs Banks (with views across

the heath), before descending to the brook and ford. On reaching the road, we turn right, walk back to the canal, then follow the towpath back to Neil's pub for lunch.

Meet: in the Plume of Feathers car park at 10:00 (toilets open), ready to depart by 10:15

Sat Nav: ST12 9DH - **W3W:** ///exile.punk.locate

Lunch: 13:00 (approx.) - Please let me have your menu choices by Monday 10th June.

Organiser: Nigel Holmes

Around Rudyard Lake – 4.5m - Wednesday 3rd July



We begin at Hotel Rudyard where there is plenty of parking. We can take a gentle pace to manage the few gentle inclines that we will encounter as we take roads and paths to circumnavigate the lake. There is only one "step-over" stile, but plenty of points of interest along the way, including Cliffe Park Hall, views across the Roaches and the Carlos Trower sculpture.

In the woodland there are some exposed tree roots and there maybe patches of mud in places to avoid. Walking boots are recommended.

Start: 10.30. Hotel Rudyard, Lake Road, Rudyard, Leek. **Sat Nav:** ST13 8RN. The toilets will be open for the start.

Lunch: Hotel Rudyard - Please arrive early enough to order your lunch before the walk. If you intend joining the walkers for lunch, please arrange to be at the Hotel by 1 o'clock.

Organisers: Hilary Maggs and John Hibbs

VISITS

To book for any visit go to the Visits page on our website, ntstafford.org.uk or [click here](#)



Fish & Chip Canal Cruise – Friday 12th July



Following the success of our chippy cruise last year, we have again booked a two-hour Canal Cruise with a Fish and Chip lunch on 12th July. We will set off from Parkgate Lock and cruise down to Acton Trussel. Tea and coffee is included in the price and the Georgie Kate is fully licensed so there will be an opportunity to order other drinks and/or desserts on board. Car parking is available at Parkgate Lock.

All visits must be paid for in advance.

Meet: 11.45 at Parkgate Lock, Teddesley Road for a 12.00 start. **Sat Nav** ST19 5RH

Price: £25.00 per head

Booking Deadline: 12th June – To allow numbers to be confirmed

Organiser: Margaret Winfield

Please note that our car sharing policy applies to this trip. When anyone books on a trip, using the website, you are asked if you could offer a lift to another member if requested or if you don't feel comfortable about or are unable to make this journey alone then please just tick the box that says you would like a lift and we will do our very best to accommodate you. These trips are organised for the benefit of all our members not just the car users.

HELP NEEDED

Midden Yard Displays

We are still looking for some volunteers to help us with our displays in the Midden Yard to recruit new members. The objective, again, is to create awareness of the Staffordshire Centre and supporter groups in general, the events that we organise and the results of our fundraising over recent years. We've recruited new members in our previous sessions, as well as generating a good deal of interest, so this is definitely a useful exercise.

We are now looking for people to help us on the following dates:

Thursday	20 June	2 people for the afternoon shift
Wednesday	26 June	2 people for each of the morning and afternoon shifts
Thursday	27 June	1 person to help on the morning and afternoon shifts

We are looking to have two people manning the stand at a time, with morning shifts from 10.00am until 1.00pm and the afternoon running until 4.00pm. So, if you could offer to do a shift to fill one (or more!) of these slots, I'm sure we could find someone to man the stand with you. If you can help us by volunteering to help man the stand on any of these dates, please click on the link [John Willis](#) to email me and I will get back to you.



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