



# Staffordshire Centre

in support of **National  
Trust**

*see more, explore more, discover – together*

## News Bulletin – August 2024

*Hello Centre Members.*

In July, I said that summer had finally arrived - I wasn't so sure a few days ago, but now it has warmed up and the sun is shining brightly again. We had an excellent Fish and Chip Cruise from Parkgate Lock to Action Trussell last week, with sun all the way. As John has mentioned in the Bulletin, we have to have final numbers for the proposed trip in September to Leicester Cathedral and the Richard III Visitor's Centre. I hope we will reach the number needed to make the visit viable, as we would like to offer at least one coach trip in our itinerary.

Hoping to see you for the talk on the 13th!

Best wishes  
**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](http://ntstafford.org.uk) or [click here](#).



## The History of Telecommunications - 13th August 2024

### A Talk by Nigel Holmes

Those of you that came to Nigel's 'Technology Through Time' talk last year, may recall that he had always been interested in 'how things work', which is probably why he ended up working in telecommunications.



When he started work as an apprentice in 1975, telephone exchanges were noisy places, with electromechanical switches, and you could still make long distance calls via the operator. When he retired in 2018, all exchanges were digital and noise free, but in the process of being replaced, as they were now obsolete! We all rely on communication and information technologies in the 21st century, but where did it all begin? How did we get where we are

today? And, who was Almon B. Strowger? If you come to this talk, you'll find out.

### Diary Dates:

**10<sup>th</sup> September** – Tales From The Classroom – John Hibbs

**8<sup>th</sup> October** – Her Fifties House – Joanne Massey

## 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](http://ntstafford.org.uk) or [click here](#).

### Hopwas Hill and Woods – 4.5m - Thursday 8th August



**WALK NOW CANCELLED** due to MoD closing off firing ranges throughout August and farmers padlocking gates. We will go over Hopwas Hill and through Hopwas Woods, taking in views of Tamworth and the surrounding countryside. We will also cover sections of the Coventry Canal and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal. No stiles and only gentle ascents.  
**Start:** 10:30 am The Red Lion at Lichfield Road, Hopwas B78 3AF. To allow time to order food, etc please can

you arrive before 10:15am. If you intend going to the pub for lunch, please let Gill know by Tuesday 6th.

**Sat Nav:** B78 3AF **Lunch:** The Red Lion. If you are only going to the lunch, please get to the pub by 1 o'clock. **Organiser:** Gill Stoppard

**Diary date:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Fulford and Moddershall.



## VISITS

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

### Richard III Visitor Centre



#### A Coach Visit on Wednesday 18th September

Leicester Cathedral reopened after an extensive 2 year restoration in November 2023. King Richard III was re-buried in the Cathedral in 2015 and we will have a 30 minute "Richard III" tour with a guide, and then time to explore the Cathedral at our own pace. The King Richard III Visitor Centre, just opposite, was built over the site of the Grey Friars Priory, where King Richard's remains were buried 500 years ago, following the Battle of Bosworth.

The Centre houses, amongst other things, a Dynasty exhibition, which tells the story of his rise to power and also a new exhibition entitled Murder, Mystery and Mayhem. It is suggested that we will need at least an hour and a half in the Centre. We will need to divide

into two groups and there will be plenty of time for coffee, lunch etc. There is an on-site cafe and many other places to eat within walking distance.

**NB Booking Deadline: 18th August**

**Pick up:** Stafford Station 8.40, Wildwood Shopping Centre 8:50

**Prices :** Members and non-members of the Centre £32.00

**Organiser:** Margaret Winfield



**Website:**

<https://ntstafford.org.uk>



**Email:**

[info.ntstafford@gmail.com](mailto:info.ntstafford@gmail.com)



**Phone:**

01785 247411

