



Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – December 2024

Hello Centre Members.

Sadly, I have to tell you that Bob Winfield passed away in November, which is why I am writing the notes for this edition of the bulletin and not Margaret. We will be publishing an obituary for Bob in a future edition. In the meantime, our thoughts are with Margaret and the family.

Don't forget that membership renewals are due at the end of the year and it's even easier to renew now if you have access to the internet. Just go to the Join Us page on the website or just [click here](#).

Unfortunately, our Yorkshire Wonders holiday for 2025 won't be going ahead as planned, owing to a lack of support, and we are currently exploring other suggestions with Regent. We will be reaching out to those who have booked in the next week with some alternative proposals so that you can see the options available.

Merry Christmas to all our members - I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas talk.

Best wishes
John Willis

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](#).



Mervyn's Christmas Box – 10th December 2024

A Talk by Mervyn Edwards



As a man who first played Santa Claus at a department store at the age of 25 – he's had a hard life – Mervyn ought to know something about the magic of the festive season. Hear what it is like to play Father Christmas whilst wearing your Mum's blusher on your cheeks and Tippex on your eyebrows. Come, all ye faithful, to a talk that looks at Christmas shopping, favourite toys, customs and a politically-correct Yuletide. Enter Mervyn's winter wonderland of ice-skating on Rudyard Lake, White Christmases, Geordie Santas and Father Christmas's nicotine break. As Mervyn says, this talk is like a big, fat Christmas pudding: full of interesting ingredients and spice and guaranteed to make you rush to the toilet.

Put on your best Christmas jumper and your fake antlers, and join Mervyn for some tidings of comfort and joy.

Crafting With Digital Cutters - 14th January 2025

A Talk by Edward Holmes



Find out what exactly a digital cutter is, what they are capable of, and learn how they can be incorporated into your crafting projects

From making greetings cards, to t-shirts, 3D papercrafts to Spirographs. In this talk, Edward will show you the different types of things that can be made using a

digital cutter, with a live demonstration and, you'll be able to create a favour box (using a pre-cut and scored blank).

He'll discuss the pros and cons of using a digital cutter and, whilst some may consider it 'cheating', it's just a modern tool, that allows you to create things that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

So come to this talk, and see if one of these machines could help to take your crafting to the next level!

Medical Detection Dogs – 11th February 2025

A Talk by Aimee Atherton



Learn how Medical Detection Dogs trains dogs to detect the odour of human disease, with the aim of developing faster, more efficient and less invasive diagnostics, that lead to better patient outcomes.

They are at the forefront of the research into the fight against cancer and other life-threatening diseases, including Parkinson's disease and bacterial infections. Their Bio Detection Dogs are trained to find the odour of those diseases in samples such as urine, breath and sweat and the work has the potential to benefit millions.

They already apply what they know about the science of canine olfaction to benefit people by training Medical Alert Assistance Dogs to detect minute changes in an individual's personal odour triggered by their disease and alert them to an impending medical event, helping them manage complex, life-threatening medical conditions and improving their quality of life. From the moment the dogs come to them as puppies, they enjoy highest standards of care. They have a strict no kennel policy and all the dogs live in the homes of staff or fantastic local volunteers where they are loved and cared for as part of the family.

Diary Dates:

11th March – Trot on Regardless – Stefan Wild

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.



Christmas at The Rag on December 4th is our last walk until early spring. Watch out for details of our walks for 2025 on the Walks page on our website, ntstafford.org.uk or [click here](#)



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