



# Staffordshire Centre



*see more, explore more, discover more – together*

## News Bulletin – February 2025

*Hello Centre Members.*

Well, we can't say that the New Year hasn't brought varied weather conditions - it's been challenging lately. Still, it now seems to be improving and hopefully can only get better.

We spent an interesting afternoon in January with Edward Holmes and his digital cutters (on a lovely sunny afternoon!) and are now looking forward to our next talk.

Our first visit of the year – to Shugborough for a guided tour of the Forest Garden is now arranged. Last year we unfortunately had to cancel our proposed Skittles Afternoon due to problems with the venue, but watch this space for further details.

Don't forget that it's time to renew your membership of the Centre if you haven't already done so 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](#).

Hoping to see you soon.

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](#).



## Medical Detection Dogs – 11<sup>th</sup> 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 :

**11<sup>th</sup> March** – Trot on Regardless **8th April** – AGM 2025

## 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.



### Diary Dates: -

**Thursday 17th April** – Pirehill and Aston-by-Stone

**Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>** **Thursday 12th June** **Thursday July 17th**

Our 2025 walks programme is starting to take shape - Watch out for full details of these walks for 2025 on the Walks page on our website, [ntstafford.org.uk](http://ntstafford.org.uk) or [click here](#)

## VISITS

### Shugborough Forest Garden

#### A Car Visit on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Our friends at Shugborough have offered to give our group a talk and a tour around the Forest Garden –



our guides will be Caroline Beacall and Lizzie Pellowe. We'll have a walk around exploring the work that the Shugborough team are doing in creating the garden. We will be walking on newly laid hard paths with good access – not muddy.

The world is changing, and our planet desperately needs us to take climate action, yet so many of us don't know what to do for the best, which decisions should we make and how can we individually make a difference.

The Forest Garden at Shugborough will offer insight, inspiration, and simplicity on how our gardens can be environmental champions, absorbing carbon, supporting plant and wildlife diversity and celebrate nature's beauty. A forest garden is densely planted into layers with a wide range of plants which create a natural defence to pests, diseases, and extreme weather conditions such as drought. A forest garden has the capacity to capture significant amount of carbon, feed and protect a wealth of wildlife or organisms as well as ourselves.

After the talk and tour you will be able to take lunch at the Mansion Tearooms or the Park Farm Café. To book on this visit go to the Visits page on our website [ntstafford.org.uk](http://ntstafford.org.uk) or [click here](#)

**Price :** This visit is **free** to members of the Centre and their guests, although you will have to pay the standard admission to Shugborough if you do not have a valid NT card or volunteer card.

**Meet:** Visitor Reception at Shugborough in good time for a 10.00am start

**Sat Nav:** ST17 0UP

**Booking Deadline:** April 2nd

**Organiser:** John Willis



**Website:**  
<https://ntstafford.org.uk>



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



**Phone:**  
01785 247411

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