



Staffordshire Centre

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March

News Bulletin – April 2025

Hello Centre Members.

Well, Spring has officially arrived and the light nights are with us once again. Our Annual Meeting is fast approaching when your committee has to stand for re-election. As you know, we are now small in number and would really welcome new members. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please complete a nomination form, or indeed, put your name forward at the meeting.

The first walk of our new year is on 17th April from The Star Inn, Stone, and our visit to Shugborough Forest Garden is on 10th April. We know that many of you will be joining us then.

Hope to see as many of you as possible on Tuesday, 8th.

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 or [click here](#).



51st AGM 2025 – 8th April 2025



Followed by an Update on Shugborough

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 and our donation to Shugborough from last year's fund-raising.

We're looking forward to some volunteers to join the committee and help us to organise events, so watch out for the nomination forms with the March news bulletin. After this there will be an update on the Shugborough Estate developments from Hayley Mival, General Manager. 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 but there will be a raffle.

Diary Dates :

13th May – Women in Aviation by Jess Boyden-Jukes

10th June – Unpicking The Thread by Shaun Farrelly

WALKS



The first of our walks for 2025 is now open for booking. 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.

Pirehill and Aston-by-Stone – 5.5m – Thursday 17th April



Our starting point (and lunch afterwards) is at the Star Inn, where there is plenty of parking. The pub doesn't open until midday, but public toilets are available just around the corner, in Crown Street Car Park.

We begin our walk by passing under Stafford Street, to Westbridge Park, before crossing the River Trent via the Old Walton Bridge to Cherryfields. Having viewed the local floodplain, we cross the A34 via the footbridge to Walton, then up on to Pirehill Lane.

After passing North Pirehill Farm, we take a footpath on the left, across the fields, with good views towards Aston-by-Stone. There are some stiles at this point on the route, but most also have gates that can be opened.

After passing Pirehill House (former fire HQ, now a training centre), we head down towards Aston-by-Stone, and St Saviours Churchyard, before joining the Trent and Mersey

Canal towpath and returning to the Star for lunch.

Meet: in the Star Inn car park at 9:30, ready to depart by 9:45

Sat Nav: ST15 8QW – **W3W:** ///somewhere.absorb.images

Lunch: 13:00 (approx.) Please let me have your menu choices by Tuesday 15th April

Organiser: Nigel Holmes

Note: If you feel like a short walk (less than two miles), prior to the meal, then please meet us (around 12:00) at St Saviours Churchyard (ST15 0BJ – W3W: ///bluff.frail.hinders).

I can provide a lift back there (for 2 or 3 people) after the meal.

Diary Dates: - Thursday 29th May, Thursday 12th June, Thursday July 17th

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

VISITS



Skittles at The Royal Oak, Gnosall

A Car Visit and lunch on Tuesday 29th April



Sadly this event isn't meant to be. Our inaugural skittles event last year had to be cancelled, due to problems with the venue. Now the Royal Oak has closed its doors again so this event has now been cancelled.

However, full details of our visit to St Bartholomew's Church at Tong, on 29th June are on the website. So go to our [Visits page](#) to book now



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