



Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – May 2025

Hello Centre Members.

Margaret is off for a well-earned break in Northumberland at the moment, so that's why I'm leading the charge this month. Thank you to all of you who came to the AGM in April and saw us hand over a cheque for £6,000 to Shugborough, bringing the total that we have donated to Shugborough since it reverted to the National Trust to over £27,000. We also gained a new committee member – Nigel Holmes - who has edited our Newsletter for the past three issues and will continue in that role, as well as leading walks and giving talks to the group.

After a very successful preview of the new Forest Garden at Shugborough last month, our second walk of the year – around the Sandon Estate - takes place at the end of May, courtesy of our newest walk leader, Terry James, and our next visit – to St Bartholomew's Church at Tong - is in June. Hope to see as many of you as possible on Tuesday, 13th for our May 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](#).



RAF Stories – Women in Aviation – 13th May

A Talk by Jess Boyden-Juckles



Jess will share stories of ladies as aviators, long before the first woman pilot (Julie Gibson) officially received her RAF wings in 1991.

Personal stories will give insight to unknown women who made a difference and without question saved lives.

There will be video clips, where they share snippets of their life stories. One is from South African born frontline paramedic, Jackie Moggridge, who flew with the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) as a pilot during the second World War. She flew 82 different types of war planes when the RAF wouldn't allow female pilots!

Diary dates :-

10th June – Unpicking The Thread by Shaun Farrelly

8th July – The Man Who Never Was by Andrew French

WALKS



Booking for walks has been updated. You will now get an immediate confirmation email, giving you the organiser's contact details. 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.

Sandon Estate – 4.5m – Wednesday 29th May



Please note there are several stiles on this walk but all are in good order. Starting from the pub car park, we will walk to the canal towpath. This is a tricky section of road walking, so extra care is needed.

After approximately 1 mile we will leave the towpath at Salt Bridge and cross the A51, before entering the Sandon Estate, skirting Pitts Column and crossing several fields and meadows before a gentle climb to the Trentham Monument. Total ascent of 320ft.

The final section of the walk passes the moated house, through Sandon Church grounds and returns to the Dog & Doublet for a well-earned lunch. This is at approx. 1.00, but should be booked with the pub by Monday May 26th. Please join the walkers if you would like lunch only.

Meet: Dog & Doublet car park in good time for a 10.15 start. Toilets will be available at the start.

Sat Nav: ST18 0DJ **W3W** ///depths.slant.sympathy

Lunch: Dog & Doublet at 1.00 (approximately) If you are joining us for lunch please ensure menu choices are with me before midday on Monday 26th of May

Organiser: Terry James

Diary Dates: -

Thursday 12th June, (NB revised date) Swynnerton, Beech and Tittensor Chase from the Fitzherbert Arms.

Thursday July 17th

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

VISITS



St Bartholomew's Church, Tong

A Car Visit and lunch on Wednesday 25th June



A day not to be missed.

St Bartholomew's Church at Tong is renowned as a 'treasure house', its historical and architectural significance being well documented. It is a Grade 1 listed building because the present church has remained almost intact for 600 years with only one later addition, the chantry chapel - called 'The Golden Chapel' because of its rich colouring and magnificent fan-vaulting.

The church, together with a priests' College (now disappeared) and Infirmary (ruined) were the

inspiration of Isabel de Pembrugge in the early 15th century. The misericords in the chancel testify to her desire for 13 poor people to be cared for by 5 clergy provided they prayed there 3 times a day and said masses for her deceased husbands.

It has a superb collection of medieval alabaster tombs and effigies, original carvings and brass work. The church is unusual as it has a central square tower that becomes octagonal just above the roof level with an octagonal spire on top. It houses the Great Bell of Tong, the largest swung bell in Shropshire dating from 1518.

The tour will take us around the church and it's surrounds and tell of its literary connections (Shakespeare and Dickens) as well as royal historical associations: Henry Tudor, Catherine of Aragon and King Charles II, following his escape after the Battle of Worcester when he hid at Boscobel nearby.

The tour will be followed by lunch in the Parish Rooms.

Meet: Tong Church – near Weston Park, Weston under Lizard at 11.15am

Sat Nav: TF11 8PW **Organiser:** Ruth Williams

Booking deadline: June 15th

Price: £17 pp - includes lunch of meat and salads, dessert and tea/coffee (please specify any special dietary requirements when booking).

HELP NEEDED



Midden Yard – Recruitment Days



We hope that you've all enjoyed the Easter holiday but now we're looking to recruit volunteers to man our stand in the Midden Yard to try and sign up some new members and spread the word about supporter groups in general.

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 shifts, I'm sure we could find someone to man the stand with you. We not sure of the exact timings for the Book Sale event, but they are unlikely to be very different to our normal mid-week displays. We are currently looking for people to help us on the following dates: -

Wednesday	14-May	Thursday	15-May
Tuesday	27-May	Wednesday	28-May
Wednesday	11-Jun	Thursday	12-Jun
Book Sale day	Saturday	28-Jun	

Shugborough have again been very supportive of us in doing this and we will be by the Tack Room again to protect us from the elements as well as providing tables and chairs for the displays. We are particularly short of volunteers on the May dates so, if you can help us by volunteering to help man the stand on any of these dates, please get in touch with me (John Willis) and I will get back to you.



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