



Staffordshire Centre



see more, explore more, discover more – together

News Bulletin – August 2025

Hello Centre Members.

Well, we are still enjoying the warm weather, even though it is not so sunny at the moment and we have even had a few welcome showers. August is traditionally a holiday month and I hope that those of you who have been or are going on holiday have an enjoyable time.

This month our speaker is Ruth Williams, one of our committee members and we are looking forward to hearing about "Staffordshire Gems".

Don't forget to book for our coach visit to Coughton Court in September. The property is reverting back to its family owners later this year, so this is a last chance to visit it under the ownership of the National Trust.

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](#).



Staffordshire Gems – 12th August

A Talk by Ruth Williams



A whistle-stop tour of the county from north to south, stopping to look at some interesting places along the way some of which you will definitely recognise but others you may not be familiar with. We commence our tour at The Roaches that iconic outcrop of gritstone and pause at Tittesworth reservoir, Mow Cop and Ilam making our way through a couple of villages to Cheadle and Pugin's Gem.

A few miles from Cheadle is Tean with some interesting buildings. Through Alton, Croxden and Uttoxeter to look at the Conduit.

Did you know that we have the largest floating peat bog in Britain and where it is situated?

Looking east we see Tutbury and the Fauld Crater not far away. Our county town is briefly featured as are one or two nearby villages and Cannock Chase

Lichfield, Tamworth, Brewood and Enville all have sites to be explored and we conclude our Staffordshire visit at Blore Heath, site of one of the battles of the Wars of the Roses.

Diary dates :- 9th September – Every Night Something Awful by Dean Nixon

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.

Seighford Lanes – 4 miles – Thursday 7th August



We start and finish at The Hollybush, Seighford, where there is plenty of parking

The walk is in a figure of eight around the village, on country lanes, rough farm tracks and a footpath through pastures. The route is mainly flat, with slight hills and no stiles but can be muddy in parts after rain so stout walking shoes or boots with long trousers are recommended.

From the pub we head towards St Chad's church. This was originally built around 1066, but following the collapse of the Norman tower, it was rebuilt in brick ca 1610.

We proceed to cross the Millian brook and carry on to a track called Love Lane, adjacent to New Grange (dairy) Farm, which wends its way past the cow sheds, between fields and woods to meet another dirt track called Moor Lane. From here, a circular permissive path over land of the Seighford Settled Estates, takes us back to the pub via the ford and the churchyard.

This completes the first loop of the walk, where some may prefer to return to the pub for coffee and wait for the return of the rest of the group for lunch.

Those walking the second loop continue past the pub into Clanford Lane and cross part of the old airfield. A little further on you can see lovely 15th century timber framed Clanford Hall Farm

We head back to the Stafford road adjacent to the village 'kick about' field. We cross to reach a wide grass verge and return to the pub about 12:30 to enjoy a well-earned drink before having lunch.

Meet: 9:45 for a 10:00 start at the Holly Bush, Main Rd, Seighford (toilets available). **Sat Nav:** ST18 9PQ

Lunch: The Holly Bush at approximately 1.00. If you are joining us for lunch you should **book directly with the pub** by 2nd August, making sure to tell staff that you are with the walk group.

Organiser: Cathy Evans

Diary Dates: -

September – We hope to be able to organise a walk around Barlaston in September but the original plan for the 24th has been cancelled

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

VISITS



Coughton Court

A Coach Visit on Friday 12th September

This is possibly your last chance to visit Coughton Court using your Trust membership to gain free entry, before it reverts to the Throckmorton family. This is an imposing, Grade I listed, English Tudor country house. Twenty-one generations of the Throckmorton family have lived at Coughton



Court since 1409. They still live here today, and over the last six centuries there are many stories to tell, including that of the Gunpowder Plot, in which the family were related to the key conspirators. In spring this year, the Through the Roof conservation project to replace the roof at Coughton was completed and can be viewed via a viewing platform. The Tower Room offers far-reaching views over the countryside and we have a guided tour of the church. The family created and manage the gardens including a riverside walk, bog garden and a beautiful display of roses in the walled garden.

Price: £30 (in addition, non-members of the Trust have to pay the normal admission charge of £17.00) **Booking deadline:** August 12th

Pick up: 09:20 at Wildwood Shopping Centre (the usual pick up at Stafford Station has been abandoned due to the Queensville roadworks).

Organiser: Margaret Winfield

Accessibility: Second floor is only accessible by flight of stairs. For further details of accessibility and facilities. Accessible toilets, route and/or map, Braille (guide or menu), induction loop, ramped access/slopes, level access to food outlet and shop. The coach parking is approximately 150 m walk to the house and gardens. Manual wheelchair and powered mobility vehicle available on request.

HOLIDAY

Scarborough 2026



Our holiday next year will be based in Scarborough - at the Esplanade hotel. All the bedrooms in the hotel are currently being refurbished so they'll be ready for us in the new year.

Five days, four nights from Wednesday May 6th until Sunday May 10th.

Prices will be from about £500 per person and the full itinerary – around the Whitby, York and Bridlington area - together with details of how to book - will be available towards the end of the month.

So, keep a note of the dates in your diary and watch out for further information on the website.

A non-refundable deposit of £100 pp will be payable on booking with the balance becoming due on February 6th.



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