



Staffordshire Centre



see more, explore more, discover more – together

News Bulletin – October 2025

Hello Centre Members.

Well, as you may have heard, our 2026 Holiday to Scarborough is now not only open for bookings but is definitely going ahead. Prices start at only £495 per person.

Our next walk is on 22nd October, with lunch at the Woolpack Inn at Weston and I hope to see as many of you as possible for the talk on Tuesday, 14th.

We are trying to spread the word about our group by having a Christmas tree at the Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church in Stafford this year. If you have any friends who are going to the festival, get them to look out for our tree and find out what we're all about.

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](#).



Life Aboard The Jam Butty – 14th October

A Talk by Wild Side Preserves



A Preserver's Year. This talk is delivered by Helen and Andy and covers preserve making, foraging, their life on the canals and the story behind The Jam Butty & Wild Side Preserves.

Wild Side is a business born from an enthusiasm for cooking, boating, waterways and hedgerows. It is run by Helen Tidy who was keen to combine her love of cooking with husband Andy's enthusiasm for narrow-boating. Noticing that the towpath hedgerows were an overflowing larder of wild food, Helen began to experiment with making homemade preserves. Wild Side Handmade Preserves is the end result of these labours.

The business is called Wild Side, reflecting the foraged aspect of

the ingredients, they are probably better known as The Jam Butty on account of the 27ft engineless boat that they tow behind their main narrowboat.

Diary dates :-

11th November – Famous Folk of Staffordshire by Kath Reynolds

9th December – Idioms and Expressions by Steve Williams

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.

Weston, Salt, Sandon & Gayton – 4.5 miles – Wednesday 22nd October



This circular walk starts and finishes at the Woolpack, Weston. There are plenty of parking spaces at the rear, and although the pub doesn't open until midday, we hope that we will have access to the toilets for 15 minutes when we arrive. The route does involve crossing a couple of busy roads, but there are safe crossing places in all cases. The majority of the route is on quiet roads and footpaths, and there are some stiles, but most are well maintained.

Leaving the village, we follow the A518 almost to Weston Hall, before carefully crossing the road to Willowmore Banks and on to Salt. As we approach Salt, you can see Pitts Column in the distance. Next, we cross a substantial, but disused, stone railway bridge over the former Stafford and Uttoxeter Railway, which served the Salt and Sandon station.

After crossing the River Trent, the Trent & Mersey Canal, and the A51, we join a part of the 'Stone Circles' route (and also part of the recent Sandon Walk). As we enter the wooded area, look up to your left to see Pitts Column (which is currently quite overgrown).

Our route then takes us on to Gayton Brook, which we cross and follow for a short distance, before heading to Gayton Church, then back to the Woolpack for lunch.

Meet: in the Woolpack car park at 9:45, ready to depart by 10:00.

Sat Nav: ST18 0JH – **W3W:** ///wing.stunt.dominate

Terrain: One small climb, seven stiles and some uneven paths, so boots/strong shoes recommended, but not essential.

Organiser: Nigel Holmes

Diary Dates: -

Thursday 4th December – Our next walk in 2025 is our annual get-together for Christmas At The Rag. This year you have a choice of two courses for £28 or four courses for £38 from the Christmas Fayre lunch menu. Details now on the website. To book a walk [click here](#)

Holiday Update

Our holiday to Scarborough is now confirmed as definitely going ahead. So, if you know anyone who has been hesitating about booking, tell them to get off the fence as we still have twin and some double rooms available if anyone wants to go. Full details on the website. [Click here](#) to see more.



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