



Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – February 2026

Hello Centre Members.

I hope that you are all looking forward to taking part in our programme of events for 2026. We have a good variety of talks arranged which continues this month with Nigel's talk on Sweet Soul Music on the 10th. Nigel is also leading our first walk of the year – an interesting look around the history of Stone Town on March 25th.

We've also been offered an additional single room for our holiday to Scarborough in May, so if there are any late bookers out there – this is your chance!

Finally, if you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so as soon as you can. It's easy to do online just. [Click here.](#)

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](#).



Sweet Soul Music - 10th February

A Talk by Nigel Holmes



This talk, with musical interludes, takes its title from Arthur Conley's 1967 song of that name, where he pays homage to the blues and soul artists of that era; Lou Rawls, Sam and Dave, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding and James Brown.

However, the story didn't stop there; let's not forget the likes of Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder and many more. In the UK, rare Tamla Motown records along with imported recordings from little known US artists, formed the basis of the Northern Soul movement.

So, "if you like good music", then we feel sure that you'll enjoy this talk.

Diary dates :-

10th March – Stories of Shugborough by Keith Alldritt

14th April – 52nd Annual General Meeting

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. . We hope to start our 2026 series in March – watch out for details in the bulletin and on the website.



Stone Town – 4.8 m – Wednesday 25th March



The walk will start and finish at the Star Inn. We begin by passing under the road to Westbridge Park, and eventually join the Trent & Mersey Canal towpath, which we follow past the town, and up to Meaford Locks. Here, we pick up a footpath towards Outlanes and the Common Plot. The route then takes us around Alleynes High School, before crossing the A520 to Nanny Goat Lane and returning to The Star, via St Michaels churchyard.

There's plenty of history associated with Stone, so we'll pause to look at things of interest along the way... for example, we'll take a look at the historic Joules brewery buildings, the new Crown Wharf, and the old buildings at

the end of Mill Street (associated with milling flint for the potteries and flour for Hovis bread).

The route consists of towpaths and public footpaths, with just two well-maintained stiles (one with a gate alternative) and, of course, we'll stop for a coffee break. Boots or strong shoes/trainers recommended.

Start: 10.15am at the Star Inn Car Park, to depart at 10.30am. As the pub won't be open at this time, public toilets are located just around the corner, in Crown Street Car Park. We should be back for lunch by 1.00pm.

Sat Nav: ST15 8QW (nearest). Approach via the A34 (follow the signs to Stone). The entrance to the Star Inn car park is on Stafford Street (opposite M&S).

Lunch: The Star Inn, 21 Stafford Street, Stone, ST15 8QW. I'll send out menus nearer the time, as they may vary from the standard Marston's offering: marstonspubs.co.uk. If you wish to join us for lunch, then please let me have your menu choices by Monday 23rd March

Organiser: Nigel Holmes

Potential walk leaders... If you would like to organise a circular walk next year, typically 4 to 5 miles (6 miles maximum), with parking and a nearby location for lunch, then please get in touch. Thanks.

Diary dates :-

Watch this space and the website for details of our 2026 walks programme.



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



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