

Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – April 2026

Hello Centre Members.

It is now properly Spring, now that the clocks have sprung forward, even though the weather seems more like winter! The time for the AGM has come round again and this year we will have an update on some of the longer term aspirations for the Shugborough estate. Nigel is leading another walk in April alongside part of Carsington Water and around Hognaston. A bit further afield than our normal ventures so – if you want to car share, let us know via the Contact Us form on the website.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

Best wishes
Margaret Winfield

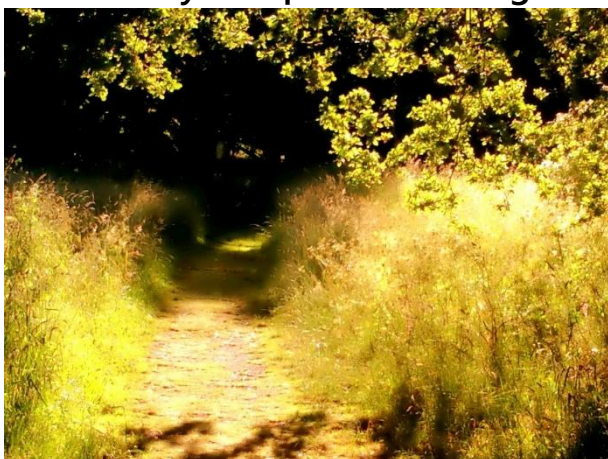
TALKS

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](#).



52nd Annual General Meeting - 14th April

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 or to 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 by Hayley Mival in which we will hear about some of the longer-term plans for some of the more familiar features of the estate.

The Park Farm buildings (and the watermill), the arboretum, the servant quarters and the southern walled garden.

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.

Diary dates :-

12th May – The Staffordshire Film Archive – Ray Johnson

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. .



Carsington Water & Hognaston – 4.2 m – Thursday 16th April

Note revised date. This circular walk starts and finishes at the Red Lion in Hognaston, and includes a visit to Stones Island, plus a walk along the length of the dam, which was built in the 90s, to create Carsington Water. It took 10 years to build and when full, it holds around 7.8 billion gallons of water, making it the ninth-largest reservoir in England.



Those wanting a short walk, can park at Carsington Water, and visit Stones Island (Note: [parking charges apply](#)). Toilets and refreshments are also available at the Visitor Centre, and these areas are fully accessible. To see a map of the route [click here](#)

Start: Red Lion Inn Car Park, Hognaston at 9.45am, ready for a 10.00 start (toilets will be available on arrival).

Terrain: If you intend to do the full walk, please wear boots or strong shoes, as some of the walk is across fields and uneven ground. There are also a small number stiles to negotiate (including a few Derbyshire 'squeeze stiles').

Sat Nav: DE6 1PR – allow at least one hour for the journey. Parking spaces are limited, so if you can car share (offer a lift or accept one), that would be helpful (please let us know, using the Contact Us form – link at the bottom of this page).

Lunch: The Red Lion Inn, at 1pm. Menus will be emailed a week before (to those that have registered for the walk). Please let Nigel have your meal choices by Monday 13th.

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.

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

VISITS

Diary dates:-



Two car visits to kick off our 2026 visits programme. Full details on the website.

21st May – Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker

15th July – Historic Uttoxeter



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