



Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – June 2026

Hello Centre Members,

Well, we all enjoyed ourselves on the holiday – thank you to Phil for all the hard work in putting it all together for us – as one holiday maker said – “I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and thought it was excellent value for money, and superbly organised. If there is another similar Coach Holiday next year, I would definitely plan to go.”



It's a shame that we were unable to see the Staffordshire Film Archive presentation in May, as the speaker was unavoidably detained. However, Ray Johnson has prepared a video of the film clips that would have been included, which you can see by going to our Talks page, and selecting the **Watch the Video** button on that talk. Also, many thanks to Keith Alldritt for stepping in at short notice, to fill the void on that occasion.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next talk – **The History of Sweets** on **9th June**. Then, on **18th June**, Nigel is leading the rescheduled **Carsington Water & Hognaston** walk.

Best wishes
Margaret Winfield

TALKS

The History of Sweets

by Martin Peet on Tuesday 9th June



Martin Peet is descended from generations of confectionery shopkeepers, dating back to 1891. He is the lucky man, who has realised every kid's dream, of owning his own sweet shop. Martin founded Mr Simms, with a vision of celebrating the best of British sweet shops from times gone by. Come along to this talk, if you would like to hear more of Martin's story

All talks start at 2:30 pm at Walton Village Hall. To book for a talk, please go to the Talks page on our website: ntstafford.org.uk/talks.

Other talk dates for your diary

Bravo November by Jess Boydon-Jukes, on Tuesday 14th July

The English & Gardening by Danny Wells, on Tuesday 11th August

Sleight Of Mind by Peter Turner on Tuesday 8th September

WALKS



Carsington Water & Hognaston – 4.2m

Thursday 18th June



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 (fully accessible), then join us for lunch afterwards at the Red Lion Inn.

Terrain: Some uneven paths, so boots or strong shoes recommended.

Lunch: 13:00 (approx.) - no need to pre-order.

Organiser: Nigel Holmes

Swynnerton – 3.6m

Wednesday 1st July

This circular walk starts and finishes at the Fitzherbert Arms. The car park is at the rear, and there's more parking outside the nearby village hall (Early Lane), if the pub car park is full.

The route consists of mainly off-road footpaths, with a few well-maintained stiles on the last section and one of the green footpaths is slightly overgrown, but passable with care (however, shorts are not recommended).

Terrain: Some uneven paths, so boots or strong shoes recommended.

Lunch: 13:00 (approx.) Please let me have your menu choices by Monday 29th June.

Organiser: Judith Carder



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. To book for a walk, please go to the Walks page on our website: ntstafford.org.uk/walks.

VISITS

Historic Uttoxeter

An Evening Car Visit, on Wednesday 15th July



Uttoxeter is an attractive market town, that retains its medieval centre, built upon the success of its historic sheep and cattle market. Its origins are Anglo-Saxon and following the Norman Conquest, the town passed from the Earls of Mercia via the Crown to Henry De Ferrers, Lord of Tutbury. In 1251 it was granted a Market Charter which was held on Wednesdays. Today there is a monthly Makers Market. The Market Place has several notable memorials, the War Memorial, the Millenium Monument and the Conduit (Dr Johnson Memorial) where, in 1780 Dr Samuel Johnson stood in the rain as a penance for not helping his father who had a bookstall at the market.

There are many examples of historical architecture from 16th century timber framed buildings to beautiful Georgian properties. Our guide will take us on a walking tour around the buildings and alleyways, telling us more about them. At the end of our tour we will retire to Redfern's Cottage, the Museum of Uttoxeter Life, for refreshments.

Meet: The Maltings Car Park, Silver Street, Uttoxeter (free parking after 18:00)

Sat Nav: ST14 7QD Start Time: 18:30

Price: £11.50 per person. Places are limited and booking is essential.

Organiser: Ruth Williams

Booking deadline: 4th July.

To book on a visit, please go to the Visits page on our website: ntstafford.org.uk/visits

Note: All visits must be paid for in advance.



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