



Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – May 2026

Hello Centre Members.

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM, where we elected Katie as our new Secretary and Nigel as Membership Secretary, after David and Joan have stepped down. We also have a new committee member – Angela Bourne – who you will come to see before too long. This means we now have our full compliment of twelve committee members.

Nigel is leading our first visit of the year – to the Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker in May, as well as the rescheduled walk alongside part of Carsington Water and around Hognaston in June.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next talk – The Staffordshire Film Archive on the 12th.

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](#).



The Staffordshire Film Archive - 12th May

A Presentation by Ray Johnson MBE



Ray Johnson founded the Staffordshire Film Archive in 1980 and has been developing it ever since. Alongside thousands of original archive films are many hours of complementary material generated by Ray to inform and enhance the films; interviews, relevant audio/visual materials and complete documentary video productions – several broadcast on television here and abroad.

The collection footage of the industrial background and social history of the Staffordshire area. Included in the collection is rural footage from around the County and footage of many of the local trades once found in the locality. Ray will be showing a series of film and video clips of many of these with a particular emphasis on the Stafford area.

Diary dates :-

9th June – The History of Sweets – Martin Peet

14th July – Bravo November by Jess Boydon-Jukes

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 18th June



Note revised date – this walk has been rescheduled. 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. 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). **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. **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').

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 15th.

Organiser: Nigel Holmes

VISITS

Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker – Thursday 21st May



A Car Visit on 21st May



Hidden deep in the Cheshire countryside, the bunker stayed secret for more than 50 years. Now the blast doors are open and we will have a guided tour around the labyrinth of rooms and authentic equipment used to run this defence region in the event of a National Emergency.

There is a nuclear weapons display together with with generations of our nuclear defence and a N.A.A.F.I. Canteen for your survival rations!

Accessibility : Please note that there are only stairwells down to the lower level and the tour itself lasts 90 minutes to 2 hours. This visit is NOT suitable for those with mobility issues.

Price: £20.50 Admission gets you an annual ticket so you will be able to revisit at your own pace over the following 12 months.

Lunch: If you want to join us for lunch we'll be calling at 'The Boar's Head', London Rd, Nantwich CW5 7LA, on the way home, Alternatively, you might just want a snack in the Bunker Cafe let us

Meet: 10:00 at Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, Hack House Lane, Baddington

Sat Nav: CW5 8BL Please try and car share, if you are able.

Organiser: Nigel Holmes



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