

Staffordshire Centre

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News Bulletin – July 2026

Hello Centre Members,

Those of you that came to our June talk, will almost certainly have enjoyed listening to Martin Peet, and reminiscing, whilst sampling sweets from years gone by. And, our visit to Hack Green was also thought provoking, albeit in a different way, with a sobering reminder of the potential horrors of a nuclear war. However, several of us enjoyed a pleasant, leisurely lunch at the Boar Inn afterwards. Our walks programme resumed again this month, when we ventured into Derbyshire to take a look at Carsington, water. The walk was originally planned for last month, so I'm pleased that we were finally able to go ahead with it.

Our next walk is around **Swynnerton** on **Wednesday 1st July**. Judith will be leading this short walk, which starts and finishes at the Fitzherbert Arms, and, of course, all are welcome to join us for lunch afterwards. I look forward to seeing you all at our next talk – **Bravo November** on **14th July**, when Jess Boydon-Jukes will return to Walton Village Hall to tell us all about this Chinook helicopter, and the role it played in the Falklands war. Then, on the following day, **Wednesday 15th July**, Ruth has organised an evening car visit to Uttoxeter, with a guided tour of this historic town, followed by refreshments afterwards. Other dates for your diary: On Thursday **13th August**, Cathy will be leading a walk around **Norbury**, and on **Friday 18th September**, Judith has arranged a visit to **Biddulph Grange Gardens**, with a 2-hour guided tour by Paul Walton (see following pages).

Nigel Holmes

on behalf of your committee

WALKS

Swynnerton – 3.6m

Wednesday 1st July



This circular walk starts and finishes at the Fitzherbert Arms. 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).

Meet: in the Fitzherbert Arms car park at 10:15, ready to depart by 10:30.

Sat Nav: ST15 0RA – **W3W:** ///wings.trend.train

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

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

Organiser: Judith Carder (07889 610605)

Norbury – 4.5m

(with shorter walk option)

Thursday 13th August

This figure of eight walk, starts and finishes at the Junction Inn, adjacent to the Shropshire Union canal. If you want a shorter, easier walk, then you can just complete the first loop. The second loop explores a little further, but should be completed in good time for lunch at the Junction Inn.

After lunch, if anyone would like to look at the historic church on the way home, please let Cathy know, and she will try to arrange to open it for us.



Meet: in the Junction Inn car park at 09:45, ready to depart by 10:00.

Sat Nav: ST15 0RA – **W3W:** ///trendy.operating.overtones

Terrain: Mixed, as described above - boots or strong shoes recommended for the second loop.

Lunch: 13:00. Please let Cathy have your menu choices by Monday 6th August.

Organiser: Cathy Evans (07808 821310)

For further details of all walks, and to book, please go to our website: ntstafford.org.uk/walks.

TALKS

Bravo November by Jess Boydon-Jukes

Tuesday 14th July



Bravo November is one of the original 30 Chinooks ordered by the RAF for its heavy lifting capability. In 1982, it was enroute to the Falklands on the Atlantic Conveyor container ship which was struck by Exocet missiles, destroying the vessel along with its cargo. Bravo November was on an airborne task at the time and managed to land on HMS Hermes, gaining the nickname The Survivor. It was the only serviceable heavy lift helicopter available to British forces involved in the hostilities, and remained in service for the rest of the campaign. If you would like to know the full story, then I suggest that you come along to this talk.

Other talk dates for your diary

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

Sleight Of Mind by Peter Turner on Tuesday 8th September

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.

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.

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 (07976 966628)

Booking deadline: 4th July.

Biddulph Grange Gardens

A Car Visit on Friday 18th September

The gardens at Biddulph Grange were created by James and Maria Bateman in the mid-19th century. The National Trust took over the property and gardens in 1991 which became their largest restoration project. The highlight of this visit is a guided tour (lasting approximately two hours) by Head Gardener, Paul Walton, who has been at Biddulph for 30 years. We will be taken on a tour of the world in miniature including a Scottish Glen, Egypt and China. This promises to be a fascinating visit, so do come and join us if you can. Please note that the garden contains many uneven steps, narrow paths, slopes and dark tunnels, so sensible footwear is essential.

Meet : Biddulph Grange car park, Grange Road, Biddulph at 10:15, with tour commencing at 10:30

Sat Nav: ST8 7SD

Lunch: The Tearoom, approximately 12.30pm.

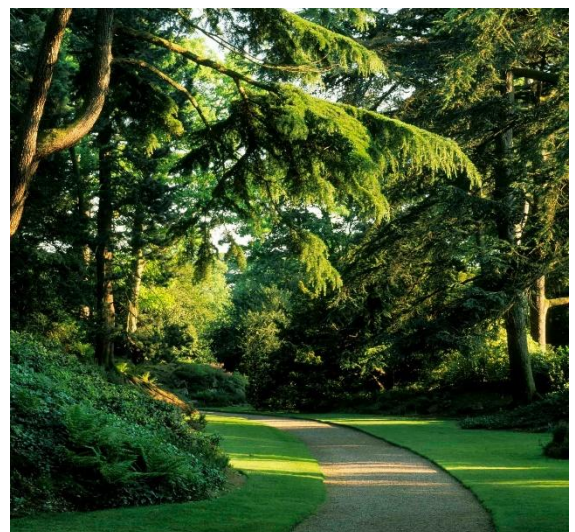
Price: £5 please remember to bring your NT membership card or volunteer card, otherwise you will be charged the normal admission fee (£14) on the day.

Booking Deadline : Tuesday 15th September

Organiser : Judith Carder (07889 610605)

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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