



Staffordshire Centre

in support of **National Trust**

see more, explore more, discover more – together

News Bulletin – September 2026

Hello Centre Members

The weather has cooled now, with a welcome drop of rain for the parched ground, and apparently there's more on the way. However, our Norbury walk, took place on one of the hottest days of the year. Fortunately, Cathy had planned the walk in two halves, so we did the first half, and still have the second half to do (at some point in the future). Instead, we enjoyed welcome refreshments at the Café, followed by a pleasant lunch at the Junction Inn. Details of our upcoming talks, walks and visits are given below, but we'd like to know if you might also be interested in other types of fund-raising events, such as a quiz evening? Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome.

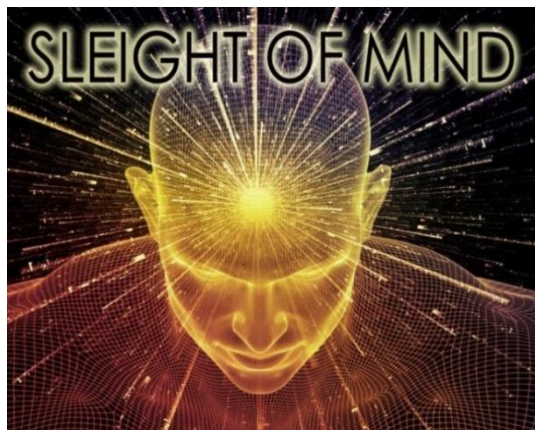
Nigel Holmes

on behalf of your committee

TALKS

Sleight of Mind by Peter Turner

Tuesday 8th September



This is a fascinating exploration of the brain and perception. You will be taken on an interactive journey through the science of perception and cognitive illusion. Did you know that the brain, despite weighing only around three pounds, is capable of astounding complexity? With a network of blood vessels long enough to circle the Earth four times, the brain shapes our intelligence, personality, and even charisma. Yet, scientists worldwide are still mystified by how it truly works.

It's not a magic show, but a thought-provoking lecture that reveals the science behind perception and illusion. Sit back, enjoy the journey, and experience the mysteries of the human mind.

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

Passionate About Penguins by Danny Wells, on Tuesday 13th October

The Magic of Pantomime by Dean Nixon on Tuesday 10th November

All talks start at 14:30 at Walton Village Hall. To book for a talk, please go to the Talks page on our website: ntstafford.org.uk/talks.

WALKS

Brewood Weston – 4m

Wednesday 23rd September

This is a relatively flat walk with no stiles – mainly across fields, wooded areas and along the towpath of the Shropshire Union canal, although there is a country road to cross and a short section on quiet country lanes with traffic, so care will be required. Full route details can be found on the website.

Meet: 9.45 for a 10.00 am start at the cross roads at the centre of Brewood. Some car parking is available behind the Co-op (access from Stafford St) and along the road in front of the church. **Sat Nav:** Co-op, 2 Market Place is ST19 9BS. **Lunch:** 1.00 pm at The Three Stirrups, 1 Engleton Lane, Brewood, **Sat Nav:** ST19 9DZ **Parking:** is available at the pub for those who are joining us for lunch. Please let Bob know if you're going to the lunch by Monday 21st September.

Organiser: Bob Whitehouse

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, go to the Walks page on our website: ntstafford.org.uk/walks.

Other 2026 Walks

We're planning a walk in October, and there'll be a short stroll around the Castle Ring prior to lunch at The Rag in December (details to follow).

VISITS

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.

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 12:30.

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:** Tues. 15th September.

Organiser: Judith Carder

Note: All visits must be paid for in advance.

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



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<https://ntstafford.org.uk>



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