Staffordshire Centre

in support of National Trust

see more, explore more, discover more – together

News Bulletin – November 2026

Hello Centre Members

We were fortunate to have good weather for our recent Burston & Aston Walk, but now the weather seems to have turned distinctly autumnal, as we start the run down to Christmas. Our next short walk for members*, is on Thursday **10th December**, prior to our Christmas meal at **The Rag** in Rawnsley. Our walks program is due to resume in March, but we are always in need of walk leaders, so if you have a favourite, circular, local walk, with somewhere for lunch afterwards, then please let us know.

* *If you are not already a member, and would like to come on our Christmas event, you can Join Us now, and your membership will be valid until the end of December 2027.*

Our next two talks are Christmas themed, with **The Magic of Pantomime**, on Tuesday **10th November** and **Christmas Crackers** on Tuesday **8th December**. We look forward to seeing you at Walton Village Hall soon. And, if you are going to the St Mary's Christmas Tree festival from 2nd to 8th December, be sure to look out for our tree, which we will be raffling off at my talk on the 8th.

Nigel Holmes
on behalf of your committee

TALKS

The Magic of Pantomime – by Dean Nixon

Tuesday 10th November



This amusing and informative talk is interspersed with entertaining videos. Pantomime is an amazing part of our cultural heritage and the script often reflects society and what is happening in the world at a specific moment. It is 'a genre for whole families based on fairy tales, nursery and real-life stories, usually staged at Christmas but not directly referencing Christmas'.

If you want to know more about Pantomimes, their origins and traditions, then please come along to this talk.

Other talk dates for your diary

Christmas Crackers by Nigel Holmes, on Tuesday **8th December**

Chimney Sweeps' Climbing Boys by Steve Booth, on Tuesday **12th January**

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

Christmas at The Rag – 3m (NTSC members only)

Thursday 10th December



Our traditional Christmas stroll around Castle Ring, followed by Christmas lunch at the Rag is an excellent way to meet up with fellow members. The optional walk has some steady climbs, but no stiles. It begins with an uphill stretch along a quiet lane, before turning off into a wooded area. We then connect with the "Heart of England Way", and follow this to Castle Ring to see the far-reaching views over the Staffordshire countryside.

Please wear suitable footwear as it will almost certainly be muddy. We have been asked by the restaurant, to be back by 11:45 to be seated, and ready to eat by 12:00.

Start: 10:15. The Rag car Park for a 10:30 start

Sat Nav: WS12 0QD

Booking deadline: Saturday 6th December

Please note: To book this walk and lunch at The Rag, **only** use the [**Book The Rag**] button.

Organisers: Walk: Nigel Holmes / Lunch: John Willis

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 Walks

Walks will resume again in March 2027.

VISITS

Please note: Your committee are still working hard to arrange a holiday, and some interesting places to visit in 2027, and we will, of course share the details with you, just as soon as bookings are confirmed.