



# Shropshire National Trust Social and Supporter Group Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Issue 92



in support of **National  
Trust**

**SHROPSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE**  
**PRESIDENT: Mr David R Brown**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chairman:** Miss Thelma Foster

**Hon Secretary:** Mrs Pat Matthews

**Hon Treasurer:** Mrs Gillian Davey

**COMMITTEE:**

**Walks Coordinator:** Mrs Carol Danby

**Programme Secretary:** Mrs Isobel Parfitt

**Newsletter Editor:** Maureen Formby

**Membership Secretary:** Marjorie Farnsworth

**Vice Chairman and Website:** Mr Les Jones

**Events coordinator:** Alison Bates

Are you willing to receive your newsletter by email? If so please send an email to [sntcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:sntcmembers@gmail.com) giving your name and address. This will save postage costs and leave more funds for us to donate to National Trust properties locally.

Email will also be used to keep you up-to-date with outings, walks and events extra to the programme.

Your details will not be passed on to any other organisation.

**Book now!**  
**For Thursday 27 September 2018**  
**There is a trip to**  
**Weaver Hall Museum and Workhouse &**  
**Metropolitan Cathedral Liverpool**  
**email: Pat Matthews**  
**sntcmembers@yahoo.com**

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES JULY 2018

We start a new season with opportunities to change some of our methods of working and communication. We need to focus on our aims to encourage more people to join in the activities of the Centre.

It is good to welcome Marjorie Farnsworth as our new Membership Secretary. Marjorie comes with a wealth of experience in membership management and we look forward to working with her. Our newsletter has been taken over by Maureen Formby as Editor. We know that her experience in teaching and managing business skills courses will help us to update our communication styles.

Les Jones has bravely taken over the management of the web-site which we hope to use more in communicating with you. Pat and Isabel are going to work the projection system at the lectures but we need more help from you.

As we have not had a lot of response with help to run events and outings, the committee have put on some interim visits and your Chairman has bravely taken on the holiday next year! After that, over to you!

The walks programme is now on hold as we still need someone to do this. We need ideas for events to raise money for NT projects and anyone is welcome to come forward with ideas and even just to run one event would help. So please come forward and help. You may be surprised how much you will enjoy it.

Have a lovely rest of Summer.

*Thelma Foster*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

At the AGM in April the Membership agreed to the following donations:

£200 Coastline Campaign  
£300 Wenlock Edge Bird Food Account  
£715 Attingham's trailer canopy for Park rides.

I have also paid the following:

For Sunnycroft £2,992.63 for the restoration of paths and roses.

For Attingham £1,500 for Picture Gallery lighting.



Due to rising costs it was agreed that the lecture admission be raised to £4.

I hope that you will support our events and lectures over the winter months as these will help to swell the funds available for our donations next April.

*Gillian Davey*



**Thursday 27 September 2018**

**WEAVER HALL MUSEUM AND WORKHOUSE  
& METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL LIVERPOOL**

The trips I am planning to the Weaver Hall Museum and the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool promise to be individually different and interesting.

When we arrive at the Weaver Museum in Northwich, formerly a Workhouse, we will be given an introductory talk, followed by a film then gallery exhibits to explore. Refreshments will be available, either on arrival or after the film as the party may have to be split in two.

We then travel to Liverpool. As our Cathedral tour has been arranged for 2.15 pm this will give us time to visit the Gift Shop where tickets to the Crypt and Treasury can be purchased, price £3 (not included); allow 30 minutes to an hour for this. The Shop and Piazza Café are at the entrance to the Cathedral. The Café serves snacks and light lunches.

**Details**

Depart Abbey Car Park	9.00 am
Arrive Northwich	10.00 (approx)
Leave Northwich	11.30 am (approx)
Leave Liverpool	3.45 pm
Arrive Abbey Car Park	5.00 pm

**Cost:**           £15

All enquiries to Pat Matthews via email [sntcmembers@yahoo.com](mailto:sntcmembers@yahoo.com)

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**REPORT ON TRYSULL WALK - 22 JUNE**

When the walk details appeared in the programme, I had never heard of the village but I wasn't the only person in the walking group who had to get out a road atlas and find out where Trysull was. We had nothing to fear however, it being a delightful village with friendly locals and a superb pub. The Bell is owned by Holdens, brewers of my favourite Black Country Bitter, and did simply amazing food all at £7 per portion, fantastic value.

However, 14 of us had come for the walk, and having received dire warnings of nettle infestation along the Shropshire Way, we were all well equipped in long trousers. This was the first walk on which Carol had been able to join us for a long time and everyone was thrilled



to see her back and in action. She suggested that she and Maria act as joint back markers, but to prove she was back on top form, Carol soon forgot as she was too busy chatting. No change there. No problem, nobody was lost. The walk was mainly across open and flat farmland, which was just as well given how hot it was. There was one slight climb which took us up onto Abbot's Cliff Hill, a lovely long wooded ridge (hence shade - our leaders thought of everything) giving wonderful views in all directions.

This having been a collectively organised walk, our thanks to Maria, Colin, Phil and Carol for opening our eyes to an area which several members hadn't previously known and which is lovely walking country with attractive villages and a good choice of pubs.

*John Farley*

### SHROPSHIRE NT WALKING GROUP - THE END OF AN ERA

On looking back, one is always blessed with hindsight. It would have been great if we had kept detailed records of each walk the group has done, who came on it and how much money we raised for the NT. Had we done so, we would have a clear record. As it is, all we have to go on is more recent documentation and details we can extract from John's diary, which he has kept since he retired in 1998. To go through all the last 20 years would be a mammoth task and would also involve opening up some personal insights which would probably best be left buried in the depths of the diary.

What we do know is that the first walk was held on 9 May 2002 around Wenlock Edge and was attended by 12 members and ended up with lunch at the Wenlock Edge Inn, now sadly closed. In those early days we charged £3 per person per walk and this was later increased to £4 per person. The early programme comprised 4 walks per year during the summer months and initially walks started from National Trust properties. When we had exhausted all the "local" ones (as far as Erddig), we extended the scope to start from English Heritage properties after which we normally used convenient pubs as our start, and end, point. In 2005 we did our first "Snowdrop walk", something which became a major feature of the programme for subsequent years.



Following the first walk, John produced a report to include in the Centre Newsletter. Very soon the reports were supplemented by photos taken by group members. Another feature of the walks programme began to emerge, when members who came on the walks took on writing the reports and a certain "irreverent" style was developed, often with the humour being at the leader's expense. We were told by several non-walking members of the Centre that they considered the reports to be the highlights of each Newsletter.

For the first 12 years the programme was run by John, who also led all the walks, aided by wife Wendy and one or other of their dogs (Wilf the Airedale followed by Tipper the Irish, both terriers), which became respectively the group mascot. In 2012 Carol came on her first walk with the group and two years later, when John wanted to step back, she was persuaded/volunteered to take on the running of the group. Carol brought fresh ideas which included involving a number of members in leading the walks although John continued to lead some. Carol also extended the “season” and number of walks each year, we went “all weather”. At the same time Carol replaced John as a member of the Shropshire NT Centre committee.

Since its inception we believe the group has run getting on for 100 walks and raised in excess of £6,000 for the National Trust. Feels like it was worth doing.

Despite what we have achieved, we have concluded that now is the time to step back and to wind up the group for the present. We just feel that we have reached the point for both of us to call an end to the formal and regular walking programme. We both hope and expect to have the support of the committee to still organise the occasional event, be it walking or otherwise, but on a more ad-hoc basis.

It has always been a pleasure to be involved with running the group, to be on walks in beautiful countryside and to make so many friends over the years. Those friends have made the effort that went into producing and running the programme all worthwhile. Whilst the funds raised for the NT have been important, the fun and fellowship has been the most rewarding aspect of doing the job. And we cannot end without thanking all those who have over the years supported us so brilliantly. From us both, many, many thanks to everyone.

*John & Carol*

## WALK - TREASURE HUNT - MUCH WENLOCK (APPROX 2 MILES)

**DATE:** Thursday 18 October 2018  
**START:** 10.15 am  
**MEET:** Gaskell Arms, Much Wenlock  
**LEADERS:** Paul and Sue Young

Our 18th October event is a Treasure Hunt themed walk in the Olympic Village of Much Wenlock. We will follow a trail in and around the town to find the location of the hidden Hoard, followed by lunch (venue to be advised nearer the date) and of course the revealing of the true location of the Treasure.




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## REPORT ON VISIT TO THE FISHPOOL RESTORATION PROJECT AT CROFT CASTLE

Those centre members who attended this year's AGM will have heard Imogen Sambrook talking about the Fishpool restoration project at Croft Castle.

She invited us to Croft to see this project, and on 28 June, three committee members - our Chair Thelma, Les Jones and myself - and four centre members took up Imogen's offer.

Many of you will have visited Croft, probably more than once, and will be familiar with its elevated setting and wonderful views. You may not have taken the walk around the Fishpools, however. They are a series of pools and dams, designed to cascade gently down the hillside, but they have fallen into disrepair over the years. Work is under way to restore the dams and pools so that the original scheme can be revealed again.



The vegetation has run riot over the years, and a big part of the project is the removal of trees which have grown up to obscure the intended views. Even in its current state, we were charmed by the walk's peace and beauty, and, on a very hot day, welcomed the shade provided by the trees.

Along the way, we met a group of volunteers who were making gates from felled Sweet Chestnut trees. They passed on a tip about the wood from

chestnut trees; the wood is much more rot-resistant than woods such as oak, and will last longer in the ground.

The walk is set higher than the Castle itself, and we caught glimpses of what the views will be like when all of the unwanted trees are cleared. It will be an uplifting walk, guaranteed to lift the spirits of those who take it. I believe that Wellbeing will be a future theme for the Trust, and this walk will certainly contribute to that. In the meantime, it will also be very relevant to one of the 2019 themes, Green Guardians.



We did also walk around the Castle and grounds, plus Walled Garden, as they are very friendly, welcoming places to visit, with a pleasant cafe for refreshments or more substantial meals. We thought that, although Croft is familiar to many of us, it would make an interesting trip in a few years' time to see the finished project.

Imogen was a great host on our walk, explaining what was happening and what the project's aims were, and we thank her very much for this.

*Alison Bates*

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### **Christmas Outing Thursday 29 November 2018**

#### **Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre**

I am planning to take a trip to Worcester to the Victorian Christmas Fayre on Thursday 29 November 2018.

There is much to see and do in the City; visit the Cathedral, explore the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum and the National Trust's Greyfriars' House and Garden, not forgetting the Fayre and the shops! I am sure you will find much to fill your day, and perhaps some solutions for your Christmas present list! Do come.

#### **Details**

Depart Abbey Car Park 9.00 am  
 Arrive Worcester 11.00 am  
 Leave Worcester 4.00 pm  
 Arrive Abbey Car Park 6.00 pm (approximately)

**Cost £16**





## ATTINGHAM PARK TRAILER REFURBISHMENT

The following thank you has been received from Jodie Furniss who is the Senior Visitor Experience Officer at Attingham Park

'Thank you very much for your generous donation to enable us to get a new roof and sides for our trailer. I have attached some photographs which I hope show you how wonderful it looks now. Plenty of children, families and adults have benefitted from the new covers. So far we have had 13 school groups use the newly refurbished trailer this Spring/Summer as well as several rides during the May half term to take family groups around the Deer Park to watch the deer. Needless to say the rest of June and July are looking busy too and we have Deer Park Safaris and Park Explorer rides to the front of



the park every Tuesday through the Summer holidays so it will be well used. We are obviously hoping this lovely weather lasts and the sides don't have to come into play too much but I'm sure there will be days when we need them to keep everyone warm and dry on board.

Thank you very much again and please pass our thanks and the photos on to the centre - you have definitely made a big difference

to the experience school children and families to Attingham receive.

Many thanks,  
Jodie'

## HOLIDAY 2019 - THE HISTORY, GARDENS AND HERITAGE HOUSES OF SUSSEX

The holiday departing on 3 July 2019 will be for four nights on a half board basis at the **3\* Best Western York House Hotel** on the sea front close to the pier at Eastbourne. All rooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, iron and ironing board, and tea and coffee making facilities. The hotel has a bar, restaurant and indoor swimming pool.



We will visit **Polesden Lacey** on the way to Eastbourne. The next day we visit **Herstmonceux Castle and Gardens** and then go on to **Bateman's**, the home of Rudyard Kipling.

On day 3 we visit the NT's **Sheffield Park and Garden**. This is a Grade I Capability Brown garden. We continue to Sheffield Park station and travel on the **Bluebell Railway** heritage line to East Grinstead. We then visit National Trust's **Standen House and Gardens**. The house was designed by Philip Webb and is one of the finest examples of Arts and Crafts workmanship. There are Morris & Co. interiors which are warm and welcoming.

The fourth day takes us to the **Brighton Pavilion** for a guided tour with our Blue Badge guide. A fine example of Regency splendour built between 1787 and 1823. The afternoon visit is to **Charleston House**, the home of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, where members of the Bloomsbury Group met. We then return to **Eastbourne** for the rest of the day.



On day 5, after checking out of the hotel, we will visit **Chartwell**, the home of Winston Churchill from 1924 until the end of his life.

The cost of the holiday is £449 with a single supplement of £69. Insurance if you need it is £24. Tailored Travel's insurance has an upper age limit of 85. This is not generally needed in this country but it does give you cover in case of unexpected cancellation. NT properties are free to members, but other visits will be extra.

We may be able to have 2 pick up points. Please contact me if you are interested in this holiday either by post or I will have details at the autumn lecture meetings.

## REPORT ON WILDERHOPE WALK - 17 JULY 2018

Led by John Farley, our group of 14 set off to enjoy a walk through this area of wonderful 'Old English' countryside. We were not disappointed. The sun shone and the views were amazing. Ripening wheat fields added to the beautiful canvas of colour (mainly brown with the summer heat) with the Clee Hills as a back drop, it was a sight to behold. There is something about walking through sheep fields that I find very relaxing and there were plenty. Not quite so chilled with the cows, but they were too hot to be bothered with us. Meadows, woodlands and views of Wilderhope Manor across the valley. What a fabulous last walk in our programme. Lunch at the Swan, Aston Munslow followed, with our normal laughter and chatter. A wonderful day enjoyed by all. Thanks John, you never fail to amaze us.



*Carol Danby*



## SUMMARY OF FUTURE EVENTS

*All talks are at Prestfelde School and begin at 7.30 pm,  
except the AGM which starts at 7.00 pm*

### 2018

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 19 September | Carl Faberge - Court Jeweller to the Czar<br>A J Crowe           |
| Thursday 27 September  | <i>Weaver Hall Museum and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral</i>   |
| Wednesday 17 October   | The Best of Shropshire<br>Richard Bifield                        |
| Thursday 18 October    | <i>Walk and Treasure Hunt - Much Wenlock</i>                     |
| Wednesday 21 November  | The Pine Marten Project in Shropshire<br>Stuart Edmunds          |
| Thursday 29 November   | <i>Christmas Outing - Victorian Christmas Fayre at Worcester</i> |

### 2019

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 16 January  | The Berwicks in Italy<br>Saraid Jones of Attingham Park                                 |
| Wednesday 20 February | River Severn - Bridgnorth to the Sea<br>Brian Draper                                    |
| Wednesday 20 March    | Aristocrats of the Air<br>Keith Offord (Ornithologist)                                  |
| Wednesday 17 April    | AGM - 7.00 pm start<br>Restoration of the Pleasure Gardens at Attingham<br>Rob Thurston |
| Monday 3 July 2019    | <i>Holiday - The History, Gardens and Heritage Houses of Sussex</i>                     |

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Email will also be used to keep you up-to-date with outings, walks and events extra to the programme.

Your details will not be passed on to any other organisation.

### Data Protection Act

Membership details are stored on a computer database solely for the Centre's administrative purposes, and are not supplied to third parties. If you do not wish your information to be held in this way please notify the Membership Secretary.

### Payments

Please make all cheques payable to Shropshire National Trust Centre

### Coach Outings

Outings normally leave from the Abbey Foregate car park in Shrewsbury. At the time of printing, it costs £2.70 to park all day in this pay-and-display car park.

### Talks

Talks are currently held at Presfelde School in Shrewsbury unless another venue has been specified. There is free car parking and admission is £4 for members which includes tea or coffee. There will usually be a raffle.

### WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME 2018 - 2019

*All talks are at Prestfelde School and begin at 7.30 pm, except the AGM which starts at 7.00 pm.*

**Outings are on page 14 of the Newsletter**

**19 September 2018**                      **A J Crowe**  
Carl Faberge - Court Jeweller to the Czar

**17 October 2018**                      **Richard Bifield**  
The Best of Shropshire

**21 November 2018**                      **Stuart Edmunds**

### Insurance

Members aged 80 or over who attend any Shropshire National Trust Centre event are reminded that they may not be covered by any personal accident insurance unless they have their own personal cover.

### Website

**[www.shropsnattrustcentre.btck.co.uk](http://www.shropsnattrustcentre.btck.co.uk)**

***Please note that the date for subscription renewal is 1 October. Any queries to Membership Secretary, Marjorie Farnsworth, [sntcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:sntcmembers@gmail.com)***

The Pine Marten project in Shropshire (Shropshire Wildlife Trust)  
**6 January 2019**                      **Saraid Jones of Attingham Park**  
The Berwicks in Italy,

**20 February.2019**                      **Brian Draper**  
Part II. River Severn - Bridgnorth to the Sea

**20 March 2019**                      **Keith Offord**  
(Ornithologist)  
Aristocrats of the air

**AGM**                      **7.00 pm start**  
**17 April 2019**                      **Rob Thurston**  
Restoration of the Pleasure Gardens at Attingham

*Please let us have your email address so that you can be kept up-to-date with additional outings.*

## Your new programme and membership card

In order to save money on postage your membership card is at the foot of this page. Just cut along the dotted line and you will be able to fold the card as before. This saves having the cards printed separately, thus allowing us more money to donate to various local National Trust projects.

## A message from the Programme Secretary

I hope you will find the list of speakers for the new season September 2018 to April 2019 interesting. Brian Draper is coming back to continue his talk on the River Severn Part 11 in February and I am sure he will be just as amusing. On 20 March we have Keith Offord coming to talk to us on Ornithology "Aristocrats of the Air". I understand he travels all over the world in this connection. These are just a couple of lectures for you all to look forward to for the coming season."

*Isobel Parfitt*  
Programme Secretary



### OFFICERS OF THE SHROPSHIRE CENTRE

Chairman:

Miss Thelma Foster: Tel 01743 350342  
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Hon Treasurer

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Please note that the date for subscription renewal is 1<sup>st</sup> October. Any queries to Membership Secretary

Marjorie Farnsworth Tel: 01743 588144

Email: [sntcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:sntcmembers@gmail.com)

### SHROPSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST SOCIAL AND SUPPORTER GROUP



In support of National Trust

### MEMBERSHIP CARD AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2018 - 2019