



# Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archives Autumn 2018 Newsletter



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## **No New History Centre in Stafford !**

The Archive Service was dismayed at the news from the Heritage Lottery Fund that the bid for support for the construction of a new History Centre around the existing buildings forming the Staffordshire Record Office and the William Salt Library in Eastgate Street in Stafford has not been successful. This is a sad conclusion to some six years of very considerable effort by Archive Service staff and other stakeholders which at times has been difficult and stressful for the participants. An initial bid was started in 2014 but declined by the HLF two years later. The HLF though did consider that the case had merit and indicated that the Archive Service should prepare a further bid, addressing the points the HLF considered weak, and provided a grant of over £300,000 to be spent on preparing the bid. This allowed the Archive Service to engage the service of various consultants to advise on the several elements of the bid and to carry out surveys of the present buildings as well as architects to prepare a new design for the proposed redevelopment, which has been extensively publicised. At all stages there has been public consultation, and further advice from the HLF and the resulting bid was of high quality, as acknowledged by the HLF. There were 30 bids from various organisations in contention but the Staffordshire bid was considered as less compelling than many of the others and was therefore declined.

Quite where this leaves the Archive Service is not at present very clear. Staffordshire County Council has expressed support and a continued commitment to the Archive Service but is in no position to provide additional funds to replace those now not being forthcoming from the HLF.

The Archive Service though is not as yet totally without financial resources and there is a limited amount available to address some of the more pressing needs which are around additional storage space for the Archive Service and for some exhibition space for the County Museum . Plans are being prepared but it will be into the New Year before any decisions can be made. The Trustees of the William Salt Library also have difficult decisions to make given that one of the main drivers for this project is the poor state of the Library Building and its inadequacy as a place to store valuable archive material.

FoSSA will continue to support the Archive Service as much as possible and members are expected to continue to work with the Archive Service in the project team and in stakeholder groups.

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## Tithe Maps

In 2014 FoSSA started a project to raise funds for the digitisation of the diocesan collection of tithe maps for the county of Staffordshire, then held in the Lichfield Record Office but now either in the Staffordshire Record Office or in the out store at Stafford. With the valued support of members, local history societies, parish councils, women's institutes and other organisations we have raised sufficient funds for this. However the HLF offered as part of the New History Centre project to match funds for the amount raised (£16,000) but only if the money was not spent until the start of the implementation phase of the project. This match funding is now not available and we are free to start the process of digitisation. The Archive Service has started work to select a contractor and as soon as this is done we expect the digitisation to start although there are a few practical issues to consider. We very much regret the delay in this project which in the event has been to no purpose whatsoever

but look forward to making the digitised maps available to researchers.

We continue to offer talks on tithe maps to interested groups ; our next visit will be to Mile Oak Women's Institute in 2019. Ask for details.

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## FoSSA Membership Renewal 2018/19

It is that time of year when members need to renew their membership. If you are a "Life" member or have set up a standing order you need do nothing, if not, please find enclosed with this newsletter a personalised renewal form.

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As a part of the bid for Heritage Lottery Funds FoSSA was asked to raise the sum of £25,000, to which the HLF would add a similar amount so that the Archive Service would benefit to the tune of £50,000. The amount we raised towards the digitisation of the tithe maps would count towards the £25,000 which left us with a further £9,000 to raise. After some lengthy discussions (the first suggestion was rejected by the HLF) the Archive Service suggested that we raise funds for the purchase of equipment that could be used to make digital copies of items in the archives from microfiches and microfilms. Stoke on Trent archives already have such equipment which is very popular with users and the proposal was to purchase three sets, one each to be placed in Stafford, Burton and Lichfield. The equipment is computer controlled and this can be connected to the internet. As the HLF bid has collapsed FoSSA is no longer required to raise this money (we were intending to launch a campaign in November 2018.) We are wondering if we ought to continue with this project anyway. Views please.

## New Book

### Keele's Templar Window and the Templars Jacques de Molnay and Thomas Totty

By **Robin Studd** A new interpretation of the medieval stained glass in the church of St John Keele by one of Staffordshire's foremost historians based in part on the 1311 interrogation under torture of Thomas Totty the Templar once of Keele but who ended his days at Merton Priory.

Published by the North Staffordshire Press 10 Queen Street Newcastle under Lyme ST5 1 ED 161pp paperback at £12.50.

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**The William Salt Library** in Stafford closed its doors to the public on 1 October 2018. The reason given was the need to prepare the extensive collection of books and manuscripts in order to move them into the main Record Office building in advance of work starting on the new Staffordshire History Centre. It is still possible to do urgent research as some items can be accessed until 27 December with prior notice to the Record Office.



The Library has been in this building for decades (the Librarian used to live on the premises). The interior, much loved by older historians, was very atmospheric having the ambiance of a nineteenth

century antiquarian's private study, but was increasingly out of step with modern needs of historical researchers. This combined with the poor state of the fabric of the building led to the decision by the Trustees to move the more valuable items (actually the bulk of the collection) to a new building . The amalgamation of the two collections in Stafford into one place would have meant that there would be no need to scurry round in the wet and cold from the Record Office to the Library front door and ring the bell for entry when looking up a particular reference whilst working in the Record Office ; something that will not be missed although the peace and quiet of the downstairs rooms will be.

**The Library will reopen on 2 January 2019 after the annual December closure for stocktaking with the opening hours as usual.** The Trustees will need to make careful consideration of their position, their duties as trustees of a valuable collection and the limited funds available to them for its maintenance and there is no guarantee that these opening hours will continue.

Bunnies in the Archives ; we never loose an opportunity to reproduce illustrations taken from medieval manuscripts which feature rabbits. Here is one showing two bunnies leading a malefactor to the lock up.

[illegible]



## Study Days

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service

Extracting the Past: the archaeology of modern day quarrying in Staffordshire  
Saturday 24 November 2018 10.30am-4.00pm

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service with VCH – Staffordshire

Staffordshire's Early Modern Towns  
Saturday 1 December 2018 10.30am-4.00pm

Further details including the full programmes and lists of speakers are available on the Archive Service's website under 'Events' . Both are to be held in the Staffordshire Record Office Stafford and tickets (£10 each) may be reserved by telephoning the Record Office 01785 278373.

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**LABOUR ACCOUNT BOOK**  
**OF THE CHILLINGTON**  
**ESTATE**

**1823-1828, 1925-1926**

It was early on a Tuesday evening in June when FoSSA was notified about the auction of an interesting book relating to Staffordshire with the sale occurring about mid-day on the Wednesday. The auction was in London so there was no chance of viewing the book in person. It was listed as a “Staffordshire Builders’ Ledger” with only one page to view and loose papers relating to Chillington Hall. Following a frantic evening of emails and telephone calls it was decided to bid for the book. Registering to bid was difficult with proofing identity but with the help of the Auctioneer’s assistant a commission bid was placed. In the end, it was only FoSSA who was interested in bidding. With an opening price of £75 we were successful with a single bid of £80, but with the addition of the buyer’s premium, post and packing, we eventually paid £115.

We eagerly awaited delivery of the package to discover what we had bought. Upon arrival,

the book was found to be in good condition, having been well wrapped by the auction house. Some pages were scanned and circulated via email to the FoSSA committee members and also to Joanna Terry at the Stafford Record Office. Initially, upon inspection, it was thought to be a Land Agents Ledger working on behalf of the Chillington Hall Estate, possibly H. G. Duncalfe & Co of Wolverhampton.

The ledger was shown to John Giffard of Chillington Hall who was very pleased that it had returned to Staffordshire and would be deposited at the Record Office. The first entry is dated 1823. Each page of the Ledger was headed by the property name belonging to the Estate, recording the date, name of a tradesman, type of trade and monies paid. John confirmed that some of the properties were sold in the 1850's(\$), some in the 1970's(£) and others in a 3,000 acre sale in 1918 (\*) (see newspaper cutting describing the sale). This would be ideal for someone researching their ancestors working in the areas listed.

When the Ledger was deposited at the Record Office, Liz Street established that it should be better described as a "Labour Account" book which fitted neatly in with a series of similar books for the Estate, already in the Archives. It would have been kept by an Estate Manager or Agent.

Document Reference 7645/1

Accounts for work carried out, arranged by property such as farms, mills, and the smaller estates.

Some of the entries just give the surname of the person paid and the sum, others give the type of trade such as a bricklayer, carpenter, blacksmith, or the purchase of materials, and others give more detail of work, such as work at granary, repairing well, repairs of weir. The entries are neat and uniform, so probably written retrospectively.

The properties and estates listed are: Hyde Mill (pool) near Brewood(£), Hungary Hill near Bishops Wood, Langley Lawn between Bishops

Wood and Codsall Wood, High Onn Cottage(\$), Wooley Farm near Brewood, Meredith's House in Brewood, Whitemoor Farm next to Hungary Hill, Walton (Hurst), Bridgeford, Gunston (Bedford) at Codsall, Engleton Mill in Brewood, Hyde Mill (house) (£), Park Cottage Land in Brewood, Blackladies Farm(\*),Chillington Cottages, Home Farm, Walton Repairs near Eccleshall, Whiston Estate near Albrighton or Penkridge(\$), Enson Moor between Yarlet and Stone, High Onn Estate(\$), Hattons (Jebb) near Codsall(\*), Hattons (Wilson), Gunston (Fielding), Bratt's Building (Staffordfield), Goosemoor at High Onn, Mercer's Farm, Whitehouse Farm at Codsall Wood(Chambley), Keeper's Cottage in Marston, Enson (Hines north of Stafford)(\$), Bath Farm near the Hall, Marston (Bakewell's), Orslow at High Onn(\$), Walton (Addison's), Walton Estate, Long Compton, Bromhall, Hurst Farm, Marston

## CHILLINGTON ESTATE SALE.

An important sale of freehold agricultural properties, comprising outlying portions of the Chillington estate, amounting to nearly 3,000 acres, took place on Wednesday evening at the Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton. Messrs. Walker, Lloyd, and Hill were the auctioneers. The lots offered included the historically interesting residence of the Tudor period, "The Blackladies," near Brewood, which occupies the site of the once well-known Blackladies' Nunnery. The sale was the biggest of its kind that has taken place in Wolverhampton for years, and considerable interest was taken, the room being crowded. Biddings throughout were brisk, and every lot was sold. The following are the prices realized, growing timber in each case being included:—

|                                            | A.  | R. | P. | £      |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|--------|
| Gunstone Villa Farm, Codsall               | 158 | 9  | 31 | 5,550  |
| Upper Hattons Farm, Coven                  | 225 | 3  | 27 | 8,050  |
| Hattons Farm, Coven                        | 132 | 3  | 18 | 3,350  |
| Old Hattons Farm, Coven                    | 310 | 1  | 5  | 10,300 |
| Long Birch Farm, Coven                     | 318 | 3  | 38 | 5,725  |
| Accommodation Land, Gunstone               | 43  | 2  | 23 | 1,020  |
| Plantation, Gunstone                       | 14  | 2  | 13 | 1,550  |
| Small Holding, Park-lane, Brewood          | 12  | 0  | 21 | 650    |
| Brewood Park Farm, Coven                   | 558 | 1  | 20 | 11,000 |
| Broomhall Farm, Stretton                   | 176 | 3  | 27 | 5,400  |
| Accommodation turf land, Watling Street    | 6   | 3  | 9  | 330    |
| Birk's Barn Farm, Stretton                 | 64  | 0  | 27 | 1,675  |
| Woodlands, Birk's Barn, Stretton           | 8   | 2  | 4  | 1,450  |
| Kiddemore Villa Farm, Brewood              | 183 | 2  | 18 | 5,400  |
| Cottages and Gardens, Kiddemore Green      | 1   | 35 |    | 50     |
| "The Black Ladies" and Farm, Bishop's Wood | 304 | 3  | 19 | 9,000  |
| The Crown Inn and Farm, Kiddemore Gr       | 26  | 3  | 15 | 1,525  |
| Small holding, Bishop's Wood               | 24  | 0  | 0  | 1,075  |
| Accommodation turf land, Bishop's Wood     | 4   | 1  | 34 | 200    |
| Cottages and gardens, Bishop's Wood Common | 1   | 0  | 11 | 120    |
| Small holdings, Bishop's Wood              | 7   | 0  | 32 | 300    |
| Small holding, Bishop's Wood               | 7   | 2  | 17 | 500    |
| Cottage and garden, Bishop's Wood          | 26  |    |    | 150    |
| Small holding, Bishop's Wood               | 5   | 1  | 10 | 325    |
| Garden ground, Bisp's Wood                 | 1   | 3  | 37 | 130    |
| Accommodation turf land, Bishop's Wood     | 11  | 2  | 34 | 650    |
| White Pump Farm, Stretton                  | 167 | 3  | 15 | 4,900  |
| The Hawkshutts Farm, Stretton              | 151 | 2  | 6  | 3,600  |
| Bell Fields Farm, Stretton                 | 165 | 1  | 33 | 55     |
| Cottages and gardens, Brewood              | 56  |    |    | 320    |
| House, buildings, and garden, Brewood      | 2   | 3  |    | 320    |
| Accommodation turf land, Brewood           | 1   | 3  | 29 | 120    |

The total sum realized amounted to £88,170. The vendors were represented by Messrs. Fowler, Langley, and Wright, solicitors, and Mr. H. G. Duncliffe, estate agent, both of Darlington-street, Wolverhampton.

The Staffordshire Advertiser June 22, 1918

Coppice near Stafford, Riddings (Parkes), Lodge (Thomas Rostans), Leper House on Whitehouse Lane, Barnhurst Mill, Brewood Cottages(\*), Hawkshutt Farm(\*), Whiston Mill, Hockerel at Hocker Hill Brewood, Street-road House on Watling Street, Hyde Farm, Brewood Parks Farm(\*), Walton (Bank Farm), Enson Hills, Kiddermore Green Cottages, Catchums Tinkers Lane Brewood, Marston (Ponder's), Lion Inn at Brewood (The family Coat of Arms still remains above the fire mantle).

There is then a section titled General Repairs, 1823-1825, mainly sawing, materials, labour.

The book then appears to have been brought back into use after a hundred years' gap, with labour entries Sep 1925 to Feb 1926. These entries are written in pencil, with a surname and work, but no sums. The area often referred to is "Hell Floor" which is a wooded area close to the Hall, used for game shooting.

At the back there are some loose items: two delivery notes for the Chillington Estates Company, care of HG Duncalfe & Co. of Wolverhampton, 1928-1929; two letters from Duncalfe & Co. addressed to Mr G Madeley of Giffard's Cross, Standeford, 1929; one sheet of labour accounts for Chillington Hall (no names), Mar 1929; account for fencing at Brewood Hall, 1932. Jack Madeley was the foreman at the Hall at this time.

| Blackladies Farm. |                             |           |           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1824              | Materials                   |           |           |
| Jan 24            | paid for slaughtering etc   | 1. 14. 2  |           |
| July 10           | Radford etc                 | 2. 16. 0  |           |
| Sept 29           | do                          | 5. 12. 0  |           |
|                   |                             |           | £10 7 2   |
|                   | Materials                   |           |           |
| Dec 28            | paid Green (Gains)          | 85. 14. 0 |           |
| 1825              | Radford slaughtering etc    | 5. 14. 0  |           |
|                   |                             |           | £91 13 11 |
| 1825              | Labour                      |           |           |
| Jan 14            | paid Jenks                  | 20. 0. 0  |           |
| Feb 22            | do                          | 10. 0. 0  |           |
| July 12           | Radford                     | 1. 10. 2  |           |
|                   |                             |           | £31 10 2  |
|                   | Materials                   |           |           |
| Dec 22            | paid for lime for repairs   | 10. 7. 5  |           |
|                   | Green half year's allowance | 50. 0. 0  |           |
| 1826              | do balance of former year   | 14. 1. 0  |           |
| Jan 70            | Jenks & Ellis               |           |           |
| Jan 17            | Green half year's allowance | 50. 0. 0  |           |

| Hungary Hill. |                    |          |          |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| 1826          |                    |          |          |
| Aug 5         | paid J. Sep.       | 7. 0. 0  |          |
| 25            | do                 | 5. 0. 0  |          |
|               |                    |          | £12 0 0  |
| 1827          |                    |          |          |
| Jan 9         | Radford Smith work | 3. 16. 2 |          |
| Aug 4         | John Taylor        | 12. 0. 0 |          |
| Sept 4        | do                 | 12. 0. 0 |          |
|               |                    |          | £27 16 2 |
|               |                    |          |          |
| Oct 12        | John Taylor        | 10. 0. 0 |          |
| Nov 5         | do                 | 5. 0. 0  |          |
| 10            | Jenks              | 10. 0. 0 |          |
| Nov 17        | Taylor             | 10. 0. 0 |          |
| Jan 8         | Radford Casement   | 1. 3. 4  |          |
| Feb 1         | John Taylor        | 8. 0. 0  |          |
|               |                    |          | £44 3 4  |

Typical pages from the early part of the volume relating to Blackladies farm and Hungary Hill for the 1820s. Now available for inspection at Stafford D7645/1

Typical later page from the book

| Chillington Hall |                                                 | £  | s     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----|-------|
| 929              |                                                 |    |       |
| Mar. 2           | 1/2 dy 1-hr cart: logs to ditto                 | 6  | -     |
| " 8              | 1/2 dy 1-hr " materials from A.D. to ditto      | 6  | -     |
| " 28             | 1/2 dy 1-hr " logs to ditto                     | 6  | -     |
| Old Park         |                                                 |    |       |
| " 5              | 1 dy 1-hr cart: timber for mak: bridge at ditto | 12 | -     |
| " 8              | 1/2 dy 1-hr " hay to Cowhouses                  | 6  | -     |
| " 28             | 1/2 dy 1-hr " " " "                             | 6  | -     |
| Gardens          |                                                 |    |       |
| " 16             | 1 dy 1-hr cart: manure to ditto                 | 12 | -     |
| " 19             | 1 dy 2-hrs ploughing ditto                      | 1  | 0     |
| " 20             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| " 21             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| " 22             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| " 23             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| Timber Yard      |                                                 |    |       |
| " 6              | 1 dy 2-hrs cart: timber to ditto                | 1  | 0     |
| " 7              | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| " 18             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| Horse Paddock    |                                                 |    |       |
| " 25             | 1 dy 2-hrs trashing timber out at ditto         | 1  | 0     |
| " 26             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| " 27             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
| " 30             | 1 dy 2-hrs " " "                                | 1  | 0     |
|                  |                                                 | £  | 14 14 |

Diary Date

Visit to Sinai Park House near  
Burton on Trent

Wednesday 10 April 2019 at  
2.15pm.

Sinai Park is a half timbered mansion from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century once owned by the Paget family of Burton upon Trent and Beaudesert Hall. Half of the mansion has been restored and it is this we shall visit. The other half remains in a decayed state although much of the timber framework exists and it is this that gives us a glimpse of what the original building looked like. We shall tour the property and have a cream tea to finish off an afternoon's visit here. Full details will be given in our Spring 2019 newsletter. Meanwhile mark the date in your diaries!

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**A Transcript of a 1580 Inventory of Burton Manor** by Pam Walker is an article published in volume 50 of the Transactions of the Staffordshire Archaeological and History Society, available this autumn. Burton Manor was then owned and occupied by Thomas Paget, his family and entourage, including the composer William Byrd. The inventory is extensive and detailed providing a snapshot of the level of comfort provided for a wealthy family in the late sixteenth century. The original inventory is in the Staffordshire Record Office and can be seen there but for those

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not familiar with High Elizabethan Secretary hands then this excellent transcription offers an accessible version including a glossary. The family were clearly very musical as the inventory records several virginals and one pipe organ. One can envisage cosy evenings around the fire with the family singing one of William Byrd's madrigals to his keyboard accompaniment. The reference to Byrd makes this one of the more famous manuscripts in the Archive Service's collections. D(W)1734/2/7/8



**Testament to Democracy :  
J.C. Wedgwood, British  
Politics and the struggle  
against Fascism, 1933-  
1943,**

The School of Humanities, Keele University, the History of Parliament Trust and the Remembering Eleanor Rathbone Group are holding a one-day academic conference on Thursday 22nd November 2018 at Keele University. 2018 is the 75th anniversary of the death of Josiah C. Wedgwood MP: the founder of the History of Parliament Trust, MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme (1906-1943) and a man who, although largely forgotten today, campaigned passionately for wide ranging causes including land tax reform, personal freedom and the future of the British Empire. The latter part of his campaigning career was dominated by the fight against Nazism and fascism in the 1930s and early 1940s, including the support of the Kindertransport rescue effort which evacuated thousands of predominantly Jewish children out of Nazi occupied Europe.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of Neville Chamberlain's infamous Munich Agreement, which proved to be a turning point in British attitudes to \*\*\*\* Germany and Wedgwood's determined campaign against appeasement placed him at the centre of this key debate in British

**Keele University, Thursday  
22 November 2018  
10.00am to 5.00pm**

politics. This conference will explore Wedgwood's career and use it as the starting point to facilitate a discussion of the British political reaction to Fascism and anti-Semitism. We are also pleased to announce that the keynote address will be given by Dr Laura Beers of the University of Birmingham.

This is a full day conference starting at 10.00am followed by a drinks reception at 5.00pm.

Tickets and details from [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) are £15 or for enquiries: [ssurgess@histparl.ac.uk](mailto:ssurgess@histparl.ac.uk)

Full programme on the event website; <https://democracywedgwoodworkshop.wordpress.com/>

This is to be followed in the evening starting at 18.45 by a free talk, a chance to see the touring exhibition about J C Wedgwood and a question and answer panel discussion. To be held in Keele Hall and for details see as above, and tickets from eventbrite.

This is a joint conference arranged by the University of Keels and the History of Parliament Trust. It has not been well publicised and for example does not appear on Keele's Events programme but don't let this put you off going.

## FoSSA visits 2018



*A visit to the site of St Thomas' Priory near Stafford, remains above and below ground*



*Topiary at Elvaston Hall*





*Afternoon tea in the dining room at Chillington Hall courtesy of John Giffard*

We had three events in the Spring of 2018, a visit to Elvaston Hall Gardens guided by Dianne Barre , a walk around the site of St Thomas' Priory near Stafford guided by David Wilkinson and a visit to Chillington Hall near Brewood where we had afternoon tea followed by a ride in a tractor drawn trailer around the estate including the lake and the buildings and bridges around it.

We also held our Annual General Meeting which was followed by a talk on chimney sweep's climbing boys by Steve Booth of Stone.

If there is a particular visit or talk that you would like us to arrange please contact us at [richard.totty4@gmail.com](mailto:richard.totty4@gmail.com) It has been a while since we last had an event but we have one in December – see below.

Views expressed in this letter are those of FoSSA and not the Archive Service.

Editor Richard Totty [richard.totty4@gmail.com](mailto:richard.totty4@gmail.com)

## Winter Event

**An Enchanted Evening at Weston Park Tuesday 18 December at 6.00pm**



New for 2018 – join us this December to see the beautiful Temple Wood lit with magical, captivating lights. With a mince pie and mulled wine on arrival !

As night falls, visitors to the Enchanted Weston experience will follow an illuminated trail over half a mile through the woodland on a serene and magical walk. Picking out some of the scenic landmarks, towering trees and other hidden delights of Weston Park, the half-mile woodland walk will create an enchanting backdrop to an unforgettable festive night out for children and adults alike.

Alongside **Enchanted Weston** visitors we can enjoy **Festive Fizz & Eats** in the Stables Courtyard. This pop up eating and drinking experience by Fizz Festivals will capture the essence and vibrancy of a winter festival atmosphere. Festive Fizz and Eats is where you'll find comfy seating, faux fur throws and a fire pit to sit around. The perfect place to luxuriate and enjoy the season in style, there will be a wide selection of street food and cocktails to choose from, as well as essential winter warmers such as hot chocolate and marshmallows. There will be live music each

evening, as well as some fabulous Christmas shopping opportunities.

Meet at the entrance to Weston Park at 6.00pm. We have the mince pie and the mulled wine (included in the price) then the walk starts at 6.30 pm. Numbers Limited. Snow not guaranteed.

Please book me .....places on the enchanted evening visit to Weston Park, members £12.50. non members £14.00. Send cheque made out to FoSSA to Malcolm Price 23 The Flashes Gnosall Stafford ST20 0HL with a sae if you would like a receipt (or indicate if you would like an e mail receipt).

Name..... email.....

Address

.....

Post code..... Telephone.....



## More new books;

‘Crown Ducal Ware’ by Gerrard Shaw. A comprehensive study of A G Richardson & Co Ltd’s production between the wars. Includes a list of workers at the Gordon Works in Pinnox Street Tunstall and many images of the products and staff. £25 + £7.50p&p from [susan@susanrowe.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanrowe.eclipse.co.uk)

‘Rugeley -150 years of a county town’ by Ernest C Toye £7 from Rugeley Library or the Landor Society

## Snippets

Book Sale – the Record Office’s book sale continues – see the display in the search rooms.

St George’s hospital Stafford (also known as Stafford General Asylum, Stafford County Lunatic Asylum, Stafford Mental Hospital) is featured in a display in the SRO search room which includes photographs of some of the patients. Pop in and see it when you are next in Stafford!

Eighteenth century humour ; A man asked his wife, "How the devil could you stand and hear people speaking ill of your husband?" "I did not stand to hear them speak ill of you," replied she, "I sat down and asked if they had any more to say."

Our Lichfield correspondent informs us that the St Mary Centre in the Market Place is due to reopen in mid December after a lengthy refurbishment. Included will be a local history room in the care of the Archive Service and we await with some interest an inspection of the contents, none of which will be original documents. Those volunteer projects still running in the former Lichfield Record Office will move to the new centre in the New Year.



From the Minton Archives (Stoke City Archives) 'In 1851 Exhibition part of a dessert service purchased by Queen Victoria'