

# NORTH STAFFS BRANCH OF THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

## Events 2011/2012

*NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ANCIENT LANGUAGE IS REQUIRED TO ENJOY AND TAKE PART IN OUR EVENTS,  
OTHER THAN READING GROUPS*

**PLAY READING:** (in English translation) of Aeschylus' *Libation Bearers*  
Copies will be available, but please bring the Penguin Classics edition, if you are able  
7.30 p.m., Tuesday 15 November 2011,  
Priest's House, St Wulstan's, Church Lane, Wolstanton, ST5 0EF

**LECTURE:** Dr Trevor Fear (Open University)  
'OF ARISTOCRATS AND COURTESANS: SENECA'S *DE BENEFICIIS*'  
7.30 p.m., Tuesday 29 November 2011, St Wulstan's (RC) Primary School,  
Church Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 0EF

**PLAY READING:** (in English translation) of Sophocles' *Ajax*  
Copies will be available, but please bring the Penguin Classics edition, if you are able  
7.30 p.m., Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2012, Meeting Room,  
*The Leopard*, 21 Market Square, Burslem, ST6 3DA

**LECTURE:** Dr Patrick Finglass (University of Nottingham)  
'MYTHOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN SOPHOCLES' *AJAX*'  
7.30 p.m., Thursday 2 February 2012,  
Senior Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG  
*Joint meeting with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies*

**READING:** (in English translation) of Cicero's *Pro Caelio*  
Copies will be available  
7.30 p.m., Tuesday 21 February 2012, Priest's House, St Wulstan's, ST5 0EF

**LECTURE:** Professor Jonathan Powell (Royal Holloway, University of London)  
'CICERO AS AN ADVOCATE', 7.30 p.m., Thursday 19 April 2012,  
Senior Common Room, Keele Hall, University of Keele, ST5 5BG  
*Joint meeting with the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies*

**ANNUAL COACH TRIP, Saturday 19 May 2012, this year to Cumbria,**  
(Museums and other sites South of the Wall), led by Dr Andy Fear. Booking details to follow in  
New Year and on web site. There is a charge for this event.

**LECTURE:** Dr Jason König (St Andrew's University)  
'THE ANCIENT OLYMPICS IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND BEYOND:  
A LOOK AT PAST OLYMPICS IN THE LIGHT OF THE 2012 LONDON GAMES'  
7.30 p.m., Thursday 24 May 2012, Drama Studio,  
Clayton Hall Business & Language College,  
Clayton Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 3DN

**All welcome - all the above events, other than the coach trip, are free of charge**

Please see the branch web site - <http://www.northstaffsca.org> – for further details of the  
programme in the course of the year and the monthly reading groups.  
Hon. Secretary: STEPHEN CLIFFORD, Kalathos, Cherry Tree Lane, Woore, Shropshire,  
CW3 9SR, Tel: 01630-647765, email: northstaffsca@yahoo.co.uk

## North Staffs Branch of the CA - Report for the Year 2010/11

As the Treasurer reports elsewhere, we maintained our healthy financial position with a further increase in membership. We now have 63 paying members, all at the full £5. (58 and 1 at the old £3 standing order last year.) Unfortunately our attendances seem to have settled at the lower level recently noted.

In the Autumn we began with a lecture at Keele by Kate Cooper (Manchester) to mark the 1600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of Rome in August 410 (attendance a very pleasing 31). The planned lecture by Philip Burton (Birmingham) on the early Latin Bible could not take place in November for personal reasons affecting his availability, but we had a play reading of Sophocles' *Philoctetes* at The Leopard, Burslem (attendance 7).

As agreed at the last AGM we did not hold a January Social this year, and the first meeting of 2011 was a play reading of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* at Keele (attendance 11), preparatory to the Hellenic Society joint talk, also at Keele, on the play by David Carter (Reading), (attendance 22). We are grateful to Keele SCR for free use of the room for these meetings and also for the March lecture, by Roger Brock (Leeds), on Wine in Ancient Greece (attendance 15).

In March and April we tried a new form of reading, Book IV of the *Aeneid* instead of a play, and were pleased by how well this worked, in two parts a month apart, with pauses for discussion (attendance 8, 7 of whom were able to return for the second half!) Members present were in favour of something similar this year. The Roman Society joint meeting in May was by Susan Walker (Keeper of Antiquities at the Bodleian) on Mummy Portraits in Roman Egypt (attendance 15). This was at Clayton Hall Business & Language College, to which we are again grateful. Our annual coach trip, in May, was as usual open to other bodies and was to Lincoln Museum and remaining Roman sites in the city, followed by a visit to Southwell Minster on the return leg (attendance 35). We are grateful as ever to Andy Fear for joining us at the Museum to lead us round Lincoln.

The Latin and Greek reading groups have continued to run approximately monthly throughout the year, independently of the core programme, despite hospital trips by two of the leaders.

### Pro Forma Information

**Branch Name:** North Staffordshire

**Number of Members:** 63

**Number of Schools in contact:** 9

**Chairman:** Fr Anthony Dykes, PhD

**Treasurer:** Mr Richard Wallace

**Secretary:** Mr Stephen Clifford  
Kalathos, Cherry Tree Lane  
Woore, Shropshire  
CW3 9SR

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