

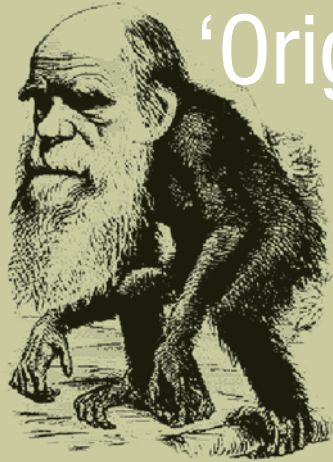
# 2009 Celebrations

What a year 2009 promises to be!



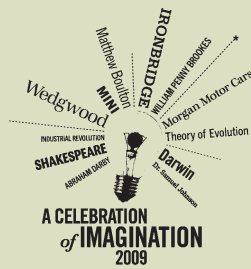
250th anniversary of **Wedgwood** the company

200th anniversary of the birth of **Charles Darwin** and 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's



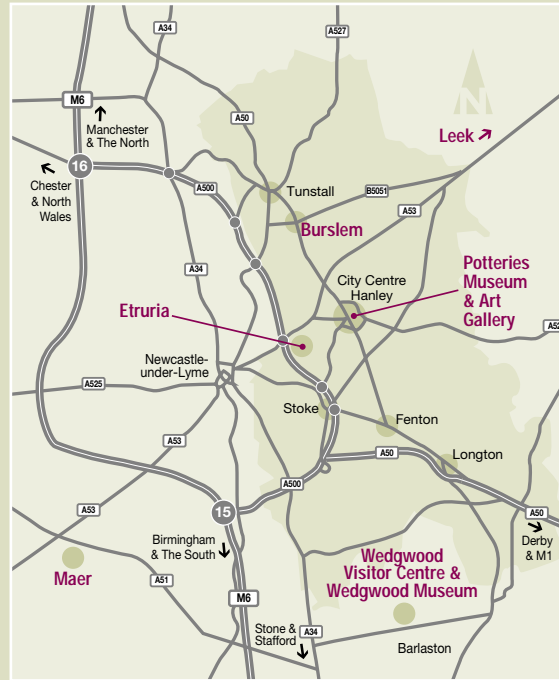
'Origin of the Species'

100th anniversary of the death of **Thomas Wardle**



2009 is the year that we celebrate the imagination behind the innovations that defined the Heart of England region. For centuries the Heart of England has been at the heart of evolution, revolution, transportation and much, much more.

You can join in these celebrations by visiting special events and exhibitions just click onto [www.acelebrationofimagination.co.uk](http://www.acelebrationofimagination.co.uk)



## Stoke-on-Trent Tourist Information Centre

Victoria Hall, Cultural Quarter, Stoke-on-Trent City Centre ST1 3AD  
 Telephone: 01782 236000 Fax: 01782 236005  
 Email: [stoke.tic@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:stoke.tic@stoke.gov.uk)

Open: Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm, Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Visit our website at: [www.visitstoke.co.uk](http://www.visitstoke.co.uk)

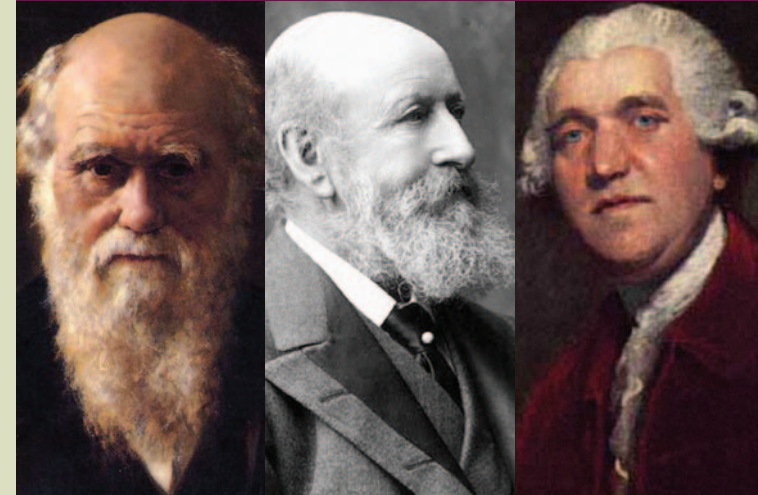
Telephone for further information and to book tickets for the walks and talks



Published by Stoke-on-Trent Tourism. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is correct, Stoke-on-Trent City Council cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.

# Anniversary Events 2009

A year of celebration in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire



**Darwin Wardle Wedgwood**

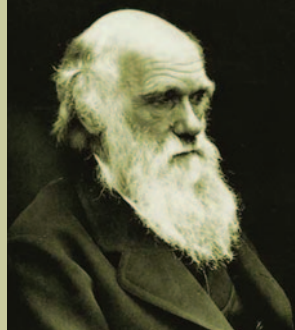
## Programme of events for

Stoke-on-Trent  
 Newcastle-under-Lyme &  
 Staffordshire Moorlands

[www.visitstoke.co.uk](http://www.visitstoke.co.uk)

# Darwin

Darwin is now a household name whose ideas over the last 150 years have revolutionised our understanding of nature and our place within it. Darwin challenged the thinking of the day because his observations - that every living thing is related and belongs to one big family - placed humans firmly within the natural world.



To celebrate these major anniversaries there will be a full programme of events from walks and talks, exhibitions, festivals, lectures and lively events. All events will be featured on [www.visitstoke.co.uk](http://www.visitstoke.co.uk) and here are just some examples:

## Etruria Canals Festival 30th and 31st May 2009

The Etruria Industrial Museum is at the junction of the Trent & Mersey and Caldon canals. Josiah Wedgwood was a key funder of the canal network. [www.stoke.gov.uk/museums](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/museums) 01782 233144

## Burslem Festival 2nd May 2009

Arts and crafts market, activities and workshops, an historic walk, music and entertainment in Wedgwood's Burslem. Held between 10am to 4pm. [www.burslemfestival.org.uk](http://www.burslemfestival.org.uk)

## Walks & Talks around Wedgwood's Stoke-on-Trent

A variety of summer walks and talks around Etruria and Burslem with local historians. Starting off at local landmarks providing an insight into the works and life of this famous potter. Full dates and details on how to book on [www.visitstoke.co.uk](http://www.visitstoke.co.uk) or contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01782 236000.

## Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

18th July to 22nd November 2009

Wedgwood exhibition 'Josiah Wedgwood: The Man in the Making'. Display of the museum's collection of Wedgwood and contemporary pottery with activities and events throughout. [www.stoke.gov.uk/museums](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/museums) 01782 232323

## Maer Village

Maer Hall was the home of Josiah Wedgwood II and where Charles Darwin spent a lot of his childhood. It was here in Maer that Darwin wrote the first tentative drafts of what would eventually become 'The Origin of Species'. To celebrate there is a full programme of events throughout the summer including walks around Maer village led by local experts, a Victorian supper celebration and Maer's Victorian Fair. [www.visitstoke.co.uk](http://www.visitstoke.co.uk)

# Who's who Josiah Wedgwood

The Wedgwood Company was established by the innovative Josiah Wedgwood who was born in 1730 in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent. Josiah set up in partnership with Thomas Whieldon where he spent 5 years honing his craft as a potter. It was the request of Queen Charlotte that changed his fortunes when he was asked to make her a teaset from his fashionable cream coloured earthenware. He was rewarded with Royal approval when he presented it in 1765 and the pottery became known as Queensware. Josiah decided to go it alone in 1759, and he was one of the first manufacturers to understand the impact of celebrity endorsement.



## Wedgwood Celebrations

at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre and Museum From 1st May 2009

Exciting activities for all ages giving a glimpse into the amazing history behind the company. [www.thewedgwoodvisitorcentre.com](http://www.thewedgwoodvisitorcentre.com) 01782 282986



## Wedgwood Museum

This new £10.5 million museum showcases the rich history of the Company by drawing on the company's incredible archives to present the world's best collection of Wedgwood through thousands of rare artifacts, documents and priceless arts. Lots of events throughout the summer. [www.wedgwoodmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wedgwoodmuseum.org.uk) 01782 371900

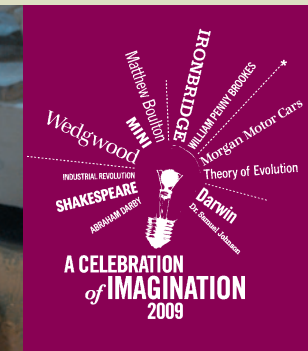
## Did you know?

Josiah Wedgwood is the grandfather of Charles Darwin. Both Charles Darwin and his wife were grandchildren of Josiah Wedgwood.

Charles Darwin married Emma Wedgwood in the church at Maer, a picturesque village near to Stoke-on-Trent.

## Wedgwood's Burslem and Etruria

Josiah Wedgwood's first factory was set up in the town of Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent. Later in 1766, he bought the Ridgehouse estate of 350 acres located between Hanley and Burslem and built a factory which he named Etruria. A crucial advantage of the location of the factory was its position in the path of the projected Trent and Mersey Canal, in the construction of which Wedgwood played an active part.



## Thomas Wardle

Sir Thomas Wardle was an innovator in the textile industry, who collaborated with William Morris during the arts and crafts movement.

### Wardle the Man

The Nicholson Institute Gallery Leek 3rd July to 29th August

A major exhibition unveiling the life and work of local industrialist Thomas Wardle - 'the man', 'the philanthropist', 'the arts patron', and 'the husband' of Elizabeth Wardle, leading light of Leek Embroidery Society. [www.textilefestival.com](http://www.textilefestival.com)



## British Ceramics Biennial 3rd October to 13th December 2009

The British Ceramics Biennial is a prestigious new cultural event that embraces the heritage of the Potteries as the home of British Ceramics. An ambitious and ground-breaking calendar of major exhibitions, innovative public interventions, events and activities run throughout 2009 culminating in an international Biennial festival. [www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com)

All events are subject to change please check the websites before you travel.

Websites to check out:

- [www.visitstoke.co.uk](http://www.visitstoke.co.uk)
- [www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com)
- [www.darwin200.org](http://www.darwin200.org)
- [www.acelebrationofimagination.co.uk](http://www.acelebrationofimagination.co.uk)
- [www.enjoystaffordshire.co.uk](http://www.enjoystaffordshire.co.uk)

