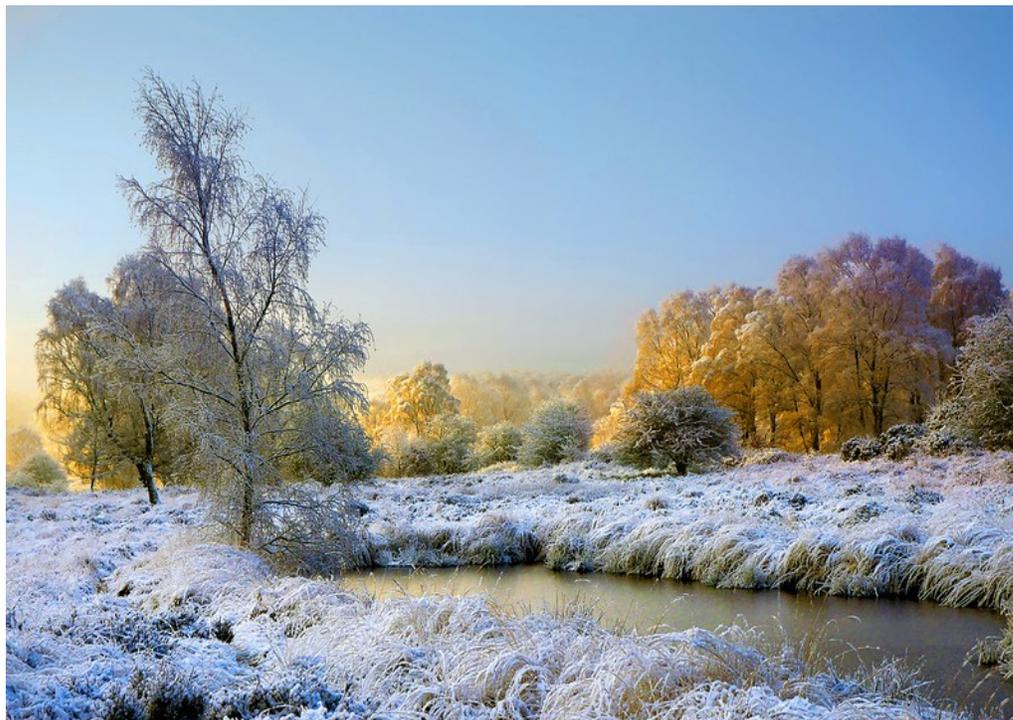


# Autumn/Winter 2021 Newsletter



The countryside charity  
Staffordshire

## CPRE Staffordshire Autumn 2021 Newsletter

*1936-2021: 85 years  
of standing up for  
Staffordshire's  
countryside*

AUTUMN NEWS FROM CPRE STAFFORDSHIRE

WWW.CPRESTAFFORDSHIRE.ORG.UK

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hello and welcome to our autumn/winter newsletter. If you've received this newsletter in the post, that either means that we don't have an email address for you, or that because of the GDPR, we haven't had confirmation that you wish to continue receiving emails from CPRE. If this applies, please email Supporter Services ([supporterservices@cpre.org.uk](mailto:supporterservices@cpre.org.uk)) to confirm that you are happy to receive CPRE emails.

As well as reducing our printing costs, signing up for e-mail newsletters means you will get your news earlier. We will never pass your email address on to anyone else. Please also let us know if you do NOT wish to receive the newsletter or other communications from us.

**Please let us  
know if you  
would like a**

**large-print  
copy of the  
newsletter.**

### Forthcoming events

Saturday 22 January: poetry reading from *In The Sticks*, Museum of Cannock Chase, Hednesford.

*Above photo credit: Womere, Cannock Chase, Derrick Forster*

## Could you be our new Chair?

If you are interested in being our new Chair, or know someone who might be, please contact the office - you can also find out more and apply on CPRE's volunteering website, Assemble. There will be plenty of support for anyone taking on the role from our dedicated trustees and officers and you would be welcome to come along to some of our meetings first to find out what's involved. As chair you'll provide leadership to our board of trustees and oversee the future direction and development of our charity. You'll ensure the requirements of the constitution are met and that our governance complies with charity law and best practice.

We're ideally looking for someone with leadership and charity board experience and a passion for environmental and countryside issues.

Our outgoing Chairman Mary Booth received a CPRE Volunteers' Award (presented here by Steve Hopkins) in recognition of her dedication to CPRE Staffordshire over many years. Mary stepped down as Chairman at the AGM after three years in post, but will remain a trustee.



## AGM 2021



The minutes of our AGM, held on 21 September, are now on our website. This was our first-ever hybrid event and we are pleased to report it went very smoothly, with no technical problems. Special thanks to our guest speaker, Dr Simon Segar of Harper Adams University, for an excellent presentation on entomology. Insects are vitally important both in ecological terms and for food production, and the many threats to insect populations, including habitat loss, climate change, intensive agriculture, and invasive species. Simon also described some of the research and monitoring being undertaken

in the UK and around the world into insect populations.

Scientists have known for some time that insect populations are declining, and there is much anecdotal evidence from car windscreens to suggest that insects are less numerous than they were a few decades ago. However, it is difficult to identify a specific cause, and many factors interact, such as hotter temperatures and the increased use of pesticides; climate change may also cause mismatches in phenology.

Tropical insects may be more susceptible to climate change. In terms of local measures, Simon talked about the need for habitat connectivity at a landscape scale, increased afforestation in areas where forest has been lost (for example, a single oak tree can support hundreds of insect species). Initiatives such as No Mow May have a role to play and education and outreach are very important.

## FUTURE EVENTS

We will be joining forces with staff and students at Staffordshire University to plant hedges on their campus as part of efforts to create a nature corridor and make it more wildlife-friendly. We have applied for free trees from the Woodland Trust and will be holding a hedge-planting event at some point in the winter.

Application forms for the Green Schools Trophy will be sent out in the spring.

## LOCAL NEWS



As covid restrictions eased, we were able to get out and about during the summer. We had stalls at the No Planet B! Green Arts festival in Stafford, the county show, the Victoria Park family fun day, and the Community Energy and Heritage Day at the Rugeley Rose theatre.

## Grand Summer Draw 2021

Our Grand Summer Draw raised £204. The top prize was a one-day canal boat excursion courtesy of Norbury Wharf. The winning tickets were drawn at our AGM on Tuesday 21st September. We are grateful for the help of volunteer Lisa Salt, who sourced the prizes.



List of winners:

B Metcalfe - Norbury Wharf boat trip (pictured above)

J Ahmad - Dimmingsdale Afternoon Tea

V Wood - Canalside Farm & Shop hamper

J Booth - Portmeirion pottery

G Salt - Jacksons Garden Centre vouchers

K. Davies - bottle of M&S port

S Hopkins - Trentham Monkey Forest tickets

V Prince - one year CPRE membership

D Ebberson - Cakes-a-Daisy Tea for Two

## Beaudesert Trust



You may have heard of Beaudesert Park, or you may be a regular visitor to the area, but in case not, here is some of the history regarding it and CPRE Staffordshire.

Beaudesert Park was a seat of the Marquis of Anglesey in Cannock Chase, four miles north-west of Lichfield. To the north of the estate is Castle Ring, a large Iron Age hill fort which dominates the area and originally would have housed over a thousand villagers. The Chase was a royal hunting ground. King Henry VIII gave the house and land there to Sir William Paget, an ancestor of the first Marquis of Anglesey.

The Old Hall, originally a stately old Tudor house, was enlarged over time and many treasures were added to it. However, around 1935 many of these treasures were sold off in a demolition sale. The building is now a ruin.

In 1937 the Marquis of Anglesey gifted the parkland at Beaudesert to the Scouts, Guides and youth of Staffordshire via a Charitable Trust, 'The King George V

Memorial Scouts and Guides Recreational Lands', now usually referred to as the Beaudesert Trust. The Staffordshire Branch of CPRE was involved in setting up this trust, and our Chairman is therefore an ex-officio trustee. The centre now offers opportunities for young people from a wide range of youth organisations and educational establishments to take advantage of activity, camping and residential experiences in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The 2021 AGM of the Beaudesert Trust was a hybrid meeting (both online and in person). The previous year had been a difficult one as the site had to be closed to Scouts, Guides and school visits due to the pandemic. Some staff were made redundant. The site manager and his wife moved into a house on site, so that they could keep the site secure. Finance has been a problem. The Trust applied for, and eventually received a Bounce-Back Loan within the Government's scheme. Bookings are starting to be received again, especially for next year, and some activities have already been successfully held. Staff are being re-hired or advertised for.

Many buildings on the site need maintenance and there is a plan to bring them up to standard and also restore the Old Hall. It is estimated that these works will cost around

£2m and take about 20 years to complete. Lottery and other funds are being sought. Jeremy Cotton DL was re-elected as Chairman of the Trust. The AGM agreed to co-opt the new Chair of CPRE Staffordshire when one is appointed.

For more information, see [www.beaudesert.org](http://www.beaudesert.org).

*Mary Booth*

## CPRE NATIONAL NEWS

### Planning U-Turn

In September, the government announced it was pausing its plans to introduce a zonal system for planning. The changes proposed in the Planning for the Future White Paper would have forced all councils to draw up 10-year plans with all land zoned for protection, renewal or growth. In growth areas, any proposal meeting local design codes would automatically gain approval, with no opportunity for the public to comment on it.

This was followed by encouraging words from the Prime Minister at the Conservative Party conference about building on brownfield. Subsequently, as part of the Budget statement, the Chancellor confirmed the government will invest almost

£2bn in bringing brownfield land back into use for housing and related infrastructure. The total includes £300m in locally led grant funding, which will be distributed to combined authorities and councils "to unlock smaller brownfield sites for housing and improve communities in line with their priorities". The remaining £1.5bn is earmarked for regenerating under-used land and delivering transport links and community facilities.



*The Fairways, new housing on a brownfield site in Stafford*

### New research shows space for 1.3m homes on recycled land is being ignored

CPRE's latest report on the state of brownfield in England has found that this previously developed land could accommodate over 1.3 million new homes - an increase of almost 10% on 2020. But with the proportion of brownfield plots with planning permission currently the lowest since records began - down from 53% last year to 44% now - it is clear that these sites are not being prioritised.

Instead, housing developers continue to target the countryside's green fields, even as they become more vital than ever for tackling the climate and biodiversity crises.

CPRE's Recycling our land report cites the example of Trafford in Greater Manchester, where the council is proposing that warehouses, 5,000 homes and four new roads are developed on Carrington Moss - an area with significant amounts of Green Belt, peatland, woodland and prime agricultural land - despite plentiful supplies of suitable brownfield land in the area.

CPRE wants the Government to incorporate a comprehensive 'brownfield first' policy in the National Planning Policy Framework, to ensure suitable brownfield land is developed before any greenfield or Green Belt land is considered. This doesn't mean disused sites that are important for wildlife, but the wasted spaces that blight so many communities.

CPRE's new online brownfield toolkit aims to help people to tell their local council about brownfield sites that might be developed, and to ensure they are included in the council's Brownfield Land Register and Land Supply dataset.

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### Young People and the Countryside



New research commissioned by CPRE has shown that poor public transport, not enough affordable housing and feelings of loneliness mean that only two in five of the young people surveyed expect to stay in the countryside over the next five years. Young people said that genuinely affordable housing was their biggest concern, with a massive 84% telling us the chronic absence of suitable housing was a major factor in them being likely to leave.

### The future of farming

CPRE want to see farming working with nature, and with farmland making up two-thirds of our countryside farming is responsible for so much more than the food we eat. We all need to support farming that as well as feeding us, puts back habitats for wildlife, provides fresh air and clean

water, stores carbon and looks after the landscapes that make our countryside so special.



*Field of Gold, Rob Cannell*

And farmers are having to understand a "once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform agriculture" called the Future Farming and Countryside Programme. This consists of schemes targeted at enhancing the environment, protecting the countryside, improving the productivity of the farming sector and improving animal health and welfare. Existing farm support disappears completely by 2027 with annual reductions up to then.

Defra is piloting three components, starting with an initial cohort of farmers from October 2021 and it will be launched in full in 2024. Defra intends to launch some core elements of Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) at scale in mid-2022. Central to these proposals are the Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM), the primary mechanism for distributing the funding previously paid under CAP. Instead of CAP direct

payments linked to the land, ELM will pay farmers for undertaking actions to improve the environment.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will be open to all farmers and will pay them for actions to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable way. As well as this Local Nature Recovery will pay for more complex actions that deliver benefits at a local level and aims to encourage collaboration between farmers and Landscape Recovery will support large-scale projects to deliver landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term land-use change projects such as large-scale tree planting and peatland restoration.



*Dexters Cow near Alton, Ann Elphick*

The current issue for farmers and CPRE is, despite Defra and its delivery partners working hard in challenging circumstances to design ELM within the planned timescales, important elements are not yet in place, creating risks to environmental outcomes and value for money.

And achieving the environmental outcomes from

ELM depends on high levels of participation. Defra has improved its engagement with farmers, but it still has a lot to do to regain their trust.

CPRE welcomes these new measures to make farming work better for the environment, but we're also mindful it's not an easy time to be a farmer. The very future of farming in our country is at risk, despite willing and enthusiastic young people who are keen to make a life of this most skilled of trades.

The future of farming as a diverse and innovative sector is being threatened by declining opportunities just when they are most needed for new and young farmers to start their own business on a council farm leading to renting a private sector farm.

The new roadmap outlines a means for new farmers to get a foot in the (barn) door - a New Entrant Support Scheme, which is great to see. We've also seeing amazing results and inspirational young farmers such as Sam Bailey, Young Farmer of the Year 2019, who farms a Staffordshire county farm, and from the private sector Sam Hall, Young Farmer Finalist 2020.

And so it will come as no surprise that, whilst CPRE recognise great value in the New Entrant Support Scheme, we're still urging the

government to keep supporting the amazing local resources that county farms can represent.

While these changes will contribute to a countryside CPRE wish to see, this uncertainty and late introduction of the schemes means a successful launch of to farmers will be even more critical to the ultimate delivery of the intended environmental outcomes. All this while retaining a living countryside that provides at least 60% of the food that feeds us at the same time. If farming is profitable, good environmental practice will follow.

The beautiful countryside we see in Staffordshire is mainly shaped by man. Farmers like most of us live for the moment, more so as it is a dangerous job, but thankfully they farm as though they will live forever as custodians of our natural countryside.

*Philip Atkins, Vice-Chairman*

## LOCAL PLANNING ROUND-UP

### Black Country Plan

CPRE West Midlands has urged local authorities to review their plans to release land from the Green Belt for development in its response to the Black Country Plan, a joint Local Plan prepared by Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and

Wolverhampton that will direct where new development will be located up to 2039. CPRE opposed plans for nine large new developments on controversial sites in Walsall's Green Belt, as well as on several smaller sites in the Green Belt around Wolverhampton and Dudley.



*Save Stourbridge Green Belt*

The response also questions the methodology used to calculate the high housing targets used to justify releasing land from the Green Belt (see the CPRE-commissioned assessment of the Black Country Urban Capacity Review). The policy on climate change is in our view inadequate as it is not a consideration when planning the location of new development.

CPRE's response was covered by the Express & Star.

We will be responding to the South Staffordshire Preferred Options (closing date 13 December) and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Issues & Options

consultations (closing date 24 January).

## Staffordshire Needs Trees!

CPRE Staffordshire is encouraging parish councils, community groups and landowners to take advantage of the Woodland Trust's Free Trees scheme. We can apply for free trees from the Woodland Trust on your behalf. The area must have some community involvement or be publicly accessible.

All you need is an area to plant, which can accommodate the number of trees on offer within your chosen pack, a group of willing volunteers (we will happily pitch in!) and some shovels!

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/free-trees/>

## Volunteers' Corner

### Georgia Lycett

Hey, I'm Georgia - a new volunteer for CPRE Staffs. I help with the social media across Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



I'm an avid enthusiast of the outdoors. In my spare time, I

go hiking, climbing and horse-riding.

Being outdoors most of my life has taught me to appreciate the countryside. I moved to Staffordshire two years ago and have fallen in love with what this county has to offer. I wanted to dedicate some of my free time to highlighting what's great about our countryside and how we can preserve it, so we can continue to enjoy it for many generations to come. That's why I started volunteering for CPRE Staffordshire.

## Christmas Quiz



Why not have a go at our Christmas Quiz to get you in the festive spirit!

For the chance to win a small prize, email or post your answers to us with an optional £1 donation by 31 December. Answers will be published in the spring newsletter.

- 1) What colour are the berries in mistletoe?
- 2) What does the word 'advent' mean?
- 3) Which two famous actors appeared together in

plays at the old Victoria Theatre?

4) Which part of Stone was once called Pump Square?

5) What fruit do you need to make a Christingle?

6) Starting at Cannock Chase and ending at Bourton-on-the-Water, this 100-mile-long distance path is known as what?

7) In what city does Miracle on 34th Street take place?

8) Which writer of fantasy novels was stationed in Staffordshire during the Great War?

9) In what country was eggnog invented?

10) Who recorded 'Blue Christmas'?

11) In what year was 'Do they know it's Christmas' written?

a) 1981 b) 1984 c) 1990 d) 1982

12) Which village in the Staffordshire Moorlands, at 1514 feet above sea level, is reputed to be the highest in England?

a) Newton b) Reapsmoor c) Flash

13) What secret 'place of worship' is associated with the Arthurian legend of Sir Gwain and the Green Knight?

a) Lud's Church b) The Cathedral of the Moors c) St Edward's Church

14) Which famous Arts and Crafts textile designer worked in close collaboration with Sir Thomas Wardle in Leek between 1875-1877?

a) Edward Burn-Jones b) William Morris c) Norman Shaw

15) Guess the punch line for this Xmas themed joke.... Why does Santa have three gardens?

16) In Mexico, one town celebrates a special festival on the 23rd December where they make sculptures out of a vegetable? Which vegetable is it?

a) Radishes b) Potatoes c) Parsnips d) Carrot

17) On what date is Christmas day in Russia?

18) What beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?

19) Which traditional Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant?

20) What was the last Shakespeare play performed at Stafford Castle?

Merry Christmas from everyone at CPRE! We hope you have fun completing the quiz!

## Christmas Cards on Sale



*A Winter Walk by the Trent, Jeremy English*



*Robin on Cannock Chase, Jason Rowley*

We have a range of Christmas cards featuring wintry scenes for sale. They can be purchased using the enclosed order form or from our online shop: <https://cp-re-staffordshire.onlineweb.shop/>

We also sell locally themed poetry books: *Wonder Woman* by accomplished West Midlands poet Kuli Kohli, and *In The Sticks*, an anthology with a countryside flavour.

There will be a poetry reading from *In The Sticks* at the Museum of Cannock Chase in Hednesford on Saturday 22nd January from 2:30 to 3:30pm.

## Recycle for CPRE Staffordshire!

# Yes Please

- ✔ Gold or Silver Jewellery
- ✔ Watches
- ✔ Stamps
- ✔ Costume Jewellery
- ✔ Banknotes & coins
- ✔ First Day Covers

The ONLY electrical devices we accept are:

- ✔ Mobile Phones
- ✔ Cameras
- ✔ Video Cameras
- ✔ Sat Navs
- ✔ Electronic gaming devices
- ✔ Ipods/MP3 players
- ✔ Tablet Computers

# No Thank you

- ✘ Laptops
- ✘ Home phones
- ✘ Fax machines
- ✘ DVD players
- ✘ Printers
- ✘ Modems or routers
- ✘ Kitchen appliances
- ✘ Porcelain or glass items
- ✘ Personal Grooming items (straighteners razors, hair dryers, etc.)

We continue to collect a variety of electronics, including mobile phones and gaming devices, jewelry, used stamps and foreign and old coins and banknotes to raise funds through Recycling for Good Causes. Please see the list above for what is and isn't accepted. Unfortunately, laptops are no longer accepted but tablet computers are. We have now raised a grand total of £159.70 since last October..

Aroma Tranquility, based Castlefields, Newport Road, Stafford ST16 1BQ and neighbour Roots Larder (plastic-free shopping), have a box for collecting the items which is now back indoors. You can take items for recycling between 9am and 4pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday (look for the big Shoe Shed sign). Hand gel is available and face masks are encouraged.

If you are not able to take your items to Aroma Tranquility, they can either be dropped in to the Stafford office (by arrangement only - please call [01785 277890](tel:01785277890) or email [protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk)) or post to us or, if small items, post to the Freepost address below in a no larger than A5 envelope:

**FREEPOST RSXA-GJBY-ARRZ**  
**Charity Name: CPRE Staffordshire**  
**Unit 14**  
**Amber Business Village**  
**Amber Close**  
**Tamworth**  
**B77 4RP**

If you have large amounts, please either contact us directly or call Recycling for Good Causes on [0800 633 5323](tel:08006335323) (they are based in Tamworth).

CPRE Staffordshire is a registered charity, number 219443. It promotes and encourages the protection and improvement of the countryside of Staffordshire: its towns, villages and rural environment. Anyone who values the Staffordshire countryside is invited to join us, either as a supporter of our work, or as an active participant.

<https://www.cprestaffordshire.org.uk>

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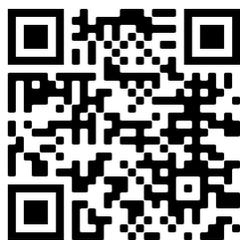
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**Current CPRE Staffordshire Executive Committee Officers:**

Chairman: Vacant

Acting Chairman: Steve Hopkins

President: Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Mr Ian Dudson, CBE KStJ

Vice President: Philip Atkins OBE

Vice Chair & Social Secretary: Mrs Anne Clendon BEM

Executive Committee Members: Mary Booth, Steve Anderson and Steve Hopkins

**Join Us!**

If you would like to join CPRE, please go to:

<https://www.cprestaffordshire.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/>

As a member you will receive discount to attractions nationwide, 15% off Cotswold Outdoor store and national and local news about events, your local countryside and future planning.

Please remember to state **Staffordshire** as the local group or branch you are joining through.