

# Spring 2022 Newsletter



The countryside charity  
Staffordshire

## CPRE Staffordshire Spring 2022 Newsletter

SPRING NEWS FROM CPRE STAFFORDSHIRE

[WWW.CPRESTAFFORDSHIRE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CPRESTAFFORDSHIRE.ORG.UK)

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hello and welcome to our spring 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.**

#### Sunday 1 May

Stall at Norbury Canal Festival

#### Sunday 22 May

Stall at Stafford Castle Wildlife Fair

#### Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 June

Stall at the County Show

Thursday 22 September, 6:30pm: AGM, Haling Dene Centre, Penkridge.

*Above photo credit: Ally Davies*

## 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.

Please contact the office if you would like to find out more.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Staffordshire Way

#### Volunteering

Thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in our Staffordshire Way initiative, in collaboration with

Staffordshire County Council, so far.

Trustee Steve Anderson has been talking to a number of key contacts, both within and outside of the County Council, and with volunteer Charlie Bigley regarding the section of the Staffordshire Way that meets with the Churnet Valley Way.

We have a plan (with assistance from Staffordshire County Council, Stoke Newcastle Ramblers and other Staffordshire Ramblers groups and volunteers) to use stones provided by the county council to improve the pathway in places where it has become something of a quagmire. Please do contact us if you would like to assist with this section. The date for the work party will be subject to weather.



*Mow Cop at the start of the Staffordshire Way (Stacey Wilkinson)*

### Staffordshire Day Events

Held on 1 May every year, Staffordshire Day, coordinated by Enjoy Staffs, is a celebration of everything we love about Staffordshire. For 2022, the theme is 'The Great Outdoors'

- very much in-keeping with CPRE Staffordshire's ethos!

We have two big Staffordshire Day events planned around the Staffordshire Way. One is for the serious athletes amongst us and intends to set a running relay record for the full length of the Way. This will be undertaken by a team of runners, starting at the north end, Mow Cop, at midnight on Saturday 30 April and proceeding down to the southern end at Kinver to complete by midnight on Sunday 1 May (Staffordshire Day). The plan is to pass a baton with a tracker so that progress can be charted on CPRE Staffordshire's website and social media.

The other event is open to anyone to walk or run one or more sections of the Staffordshire Way during the Staffordshire Day weekend, from Saturday 30 April to bank holiday Monday 2 May. You could also cycle or ride a horse, but please check this is permitted in the section you are covering.

So that we can gauge numbers taking part, and for a chance to win a prize, please complete the Google form: <https://bit.ly/3u3cWdX>

We would like you to send in your photographs, artwork, poetry and prose inspired by the Staffordshire Way and, with your permission, we hope to be able to display your works along the Way. Anyone of any age can take part, and

the results from your submissions could end up being published in a coffee table book or calendar and / or displayed at a subsequent exhibition. Please complete the attached form to take part and provide permission for CPRE Staffordshire to publish and exhibit your work.

For those of you who might not be available for the Staffordshire Day weekend, or are unable to get out along the Way, we have our Staffordshire Way Treasure Hunt running until 5pm on Sunday 1 May (see enclosed order form). It is just £1 a go and the winner will receive a goodie bag including photo, poetry and colouring books, wildflower seeds, a t-shirt and chocolate in the form of a sustainably packaged Easter egg. If your chosen square on the map has already been taken, we will allocate the next nearest one.

Please take care when undertaking physical events - these are taken at your own risk and you must check the disclaimer box on the form to acknowledge this.

### Forthcoming events

We will have stalls at the following events:

Norbury Canal Festival, Sunday 1 May  
Stafford Castle Wildlife Fair, Sunday 22 May

County Show, Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 June

Our AGM will be held in the evening of Thursday 22 September at the Haling Dene Centre in Penkridge.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Ranton's Royal Tree Party

*Schoolchildren dig in to plant trees for the jubilee*



On Friday 18th March, local farmer Graham Ashford joined Mary, Sarah and Sue from CPRE Staffordshire and pupils from All Saints CE Primary School to plant 60 native saplings in a wild corner of Graham's 13-acre farm in the village of Ranton.

The youngsters and their teachers got stuck in to provide hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, dog rose and dogwood saplings, supplied through the Woodland Trust Free Trees scheme, with a new home.

With 2022 being the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

and thousands of individuals and groups across the country planting trees for the Queen's Green Canopy, the timing of the event could not have been better.

Having planted their trees during the Platinum Jubilee Year, the children are eligible to add their trees to the Queen's Green Canopy virtual map and download a virtual plaque which can be proudly displayed on their website.

### A Hedgehog-Friendly University

It all started with a Tweet! Staffordshire University are a hedgehog friendly university or, at least, they have a hedgehog-friendly campus in the form of their nature reserve at their Leek Road site in Stoke-on-Trent.



Identifying a partnership opportunity, Sue and Sarah made contact with Eleanor Atkins, lecturer in Biological

Sciences and a key member of staff heading up the hedgehog-friendly project. Thanks to the Woodland Trust's free trees for schools and communities scheme, Sue was able to attend to help students Jasmine Barton and Emily Baughn and groundsman Andy Warham to extend a long section of native hedging alongside their River Trent walk a further couple of hundred metres.

The new hedging will provide a barrier between the sports fields and the nature reserve. Trees including hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, crab apple, oak and goat willow will provide food, cover and shelter for hedgehogs, a variety of bird species and other wildlife.



Jasmine and Emily are also part of the Wild Staffs project, funded by Staffordshire University's Sustain Staffs campaign, to increase wild habitats and biodiversity on campus. The project has already seen the creation of a bug hotels and a new pond and the installation of bird boxes and establishment of 'no mow' areas to allow for wildflowers for bees and other pollinators.

The 10-hectare nature reserve at Leek Road is owned and managed by the University, the Reserve is bordered to the north by the River Trent and to the South by an area of grassland used for teaching and research. It encompasses a rich diversity of habitats including reed marsh, deciduous woodland and secluded pools. Also in the area, the ERDF Sunrise project, led by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, focuses on improving the health of this stretch of the River Trent to provide deep and shallow and fast- and slow-flowing sections where the river was previously canalised.

If you would be interested in joining in with any further planting at Staffordshire University, or if you would like to start a hedgerow project of your own, please do contact us. With our new volunteer, Leaf Pendragon, and prospects of applying for further funding in this area, we would very much like to hear from communities, groups, landowners and other individuals who are keen to plant native trees and hedgerows. It is important, if you have a location in mind, that you have or can obtain permission to plant there.

### Ladies Who Lamb

On a bright sunny March morning, Office and Publicity Manager Sue Kneill-Boxley headed off to Helen and

Graham Ashford's farm in Ranton to greet some new spring arrivals.



Sue had been invited to the Lambing Ladies morning to experience some time with the lambs, feeding and tagging, while raising funds for the Farming Community Network (FCN) - a charity that helps the farming community through difficult times - offering support with issues concerning financial matters, animal disease and mental health.

The Ashfords' farm is home to a flock of Texel cross ewes and some Jacob sheep. The Texel originates from the island of Texel off the Dutch North Sea coast and was crossed with Lincoln, Leicester and Wensleydales in the late 19th century. The Jacob is a British breed of domestic sheep - piebald in colour and often multi-horned.

Thirty lambs had already arrived with one ewe still

waiting for the arrival of her little one(s). Some ewes had produced three lambs, often resulting in one lamb not getting as much milk as its siblings. The first duty was to take out some bottles, ready made up with milk formulated for the lambs, and feed those who needed a bit extra. The youngsters were quite keen but very well-behaved and there was no squabbling!



Following this, Sue and accomplices Angela and Linda helped Graham to herd the sheep (mainly Texels as the Jacobs are a little more awkward!) into a holding pen where some of the lambs were ear-tagged and matched up, on paper, with their mothers. Each 'lambing lady' tagged a lamb and Sue noted that, "It is very much like piercing ears, not that I've ever done that before, very quick and the lambs are quite unbothered by it." Graham demonstrated some hoof-trimming and

described problems sheep can have with their feet while an antibacterial purple spray was applied to both a sheep's feet and, accidentally, Graham!

The FCN has provided a lifeline for farmers and their families in the ever-changing world of farming as it copes with challenges such as Brexit and Covid.

## Poetry of the Countryside



In partnership with Offa's Press, we held a poetry reading event - Poetry of the Countryside - at the Museum of Cannock Chase on 22nd January.

Celebrated local poets Kuli Kohli (the Poet Laureate of the City of Wolverhampton), Simon Fletcher, Marion Cockin, Tom Allsopp and Janet Jenkins read and performed their poems from the book *In the Sticks*.

Copies of *In the Sticks*, an anthology of fun and serious poems about farming, the changing environment and village life, nature, rural isolation and romance, are available from our online

shop or using the enclosed order form for £9.95 including postage.

## THE ORCHARD REVISITED

Now living in Ontario, Canada, Sylvia Pugh grew up in the village of Gayton, two miles from Weston. Here she shares a poem reflecting on her childhood memories of the countryside.

*The mud, the mire, the tracks of the tractor tyre*

*That trundles down the lane,*

*The smell of the flowers, the memories of many hours,*

*Down the orchard down flooding again.*

*I romped, I played, I climbed the trees,*

*Those with branches which would allow*

*Me to pick apple blossom surrounded by bees,*

*And perch myself on a stout bough.*

*Such were those days, which in many ways,*

*Filled me with memories galore,*

*I would sing many songs as I swung on my swing,*

*Down low and up high I would soar.*

*My swing was in the damson tree*

*That stood over near the bank,*

*Which divided us from the Moseley field*

*Where the gypsies would annually camp.*

*Those gypsies had children with little to do*

*Except to make and sell wooden flowers,*

*They would sometimes go into the orchard too*

*Where they also would spend many hours.*

*As is said, "idle hand with nothing to do"*

*mischief was oft their pursuit,*

*The rabbits which numbered 12 or more*

*Were placed in one pen, taboo.*

*Forgetting all time, counting the hens*

*And watching the ducks on the pond,*

*I would check to see that all in their pens,*

*Before the orchard I would abscond.*

*Picking gooseberries as I skipped along,*

*I would sometimes search in vain*

*For I could hear a little bird's song,*

*From where I know not it came.*

*The mud, the mire, the tracks of the tractor tyre that trundles down the lane,*

*The smell of the flowers, the memories of many hours, down the orchard came flooding again.*

## Cannock Chase AONB



*Trevor Ludlow*

Each year, more people visit Cannock Chase, England's smallest AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), than the Cairngorms, the UK's largest national park. How best to manage this visitor pressure, especially with the Commonwealth Games coming up later this year, is an ongoing problem and was one of the topics discussed at the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership's online annual conference on 3 March.

Cannock Chase AONB has opened a new call for applications to its Sustainable Development Fund. The fund supports projects that contribute towards conserving, enhancing and raising awareness of the natural beauty of the AONB, its

wildlife, heritage and communities. They are particularly interested in hearing from artists, sculptors, performers, photographers, and writers looking to develop inclusive arts projects linking people with our special landscape. The closing date for applications is midnight 9th May 2022 and projects must be completed by 31st March 2023.

## Celebrating Easter Sustainably - 7 Top Tips!

How can we celebrate Easter in a sustainable way? From Easter eggs to Easter decorations/gifts, through to the traditional Easter roast, there is a lot of potential for improvement in terms of sustainability.



1. Choose to buy less plastic packaging in Easter eggs. Aside from the usual supermarkets and local wholesale food shops, there are also companies online where you can find Fairtrade and plastic-free options such as the Ethical Superstore, The Vegan Kind, and &Keep.

2. Source ethical and Fairtrade Easter chocolate - You don't have to skip

chocolate to celebrate an eco-friendly Easter. Instead, try and choose a Fairtrade-certified chocolate brand, which makes sure cocoa farmers have safe and environmentally friendly working conditions and are paid fairly. Some of the best Fairtrade certified chocolate brands to consider are Alter Eco, UnReal and Endangered Species Chocolate.

3. Plan an Eco-Friendly Easter Hunt - An Easter egg hunt is a great way to keep the children occupied. Try to use already what you own to carry the eggs in, for example, a bucket or spade from beach trips. Also, try to buy ethical and plastic free eggs where possible (see the list above in tip number 1 for companies who offer plastic-free options).

4. Make an Eco-Friendly Easter Basket. Green plastic grass is often used to fill up hampers and Easter baskets. Instead of using it, why not get creative and use seaweed, straw, paper, shrubs, fabrics, ribbons or scarfs you no longer wear or need. For the Easter basket, don't use a plastic one, but a more sustainable material like cardboard, an egg carton or wood (for example, willow baskets work well).

5. Naturally Dye Easter Eggs - Dyeing Easter eggs is a fun tradition, especially with children. However, artificial food dyes used to colour

Easter eggs are often chemical substances made from petroleum. Therefore, try to use alternative water-soluble paints (for example, some are made from avocado pits), or use non-toxic materials rather than glitter.

6. Other Eco-Friendly Easter Decorations - There are other fun ways to make Easter themed decorations. One example is Easter themed bunting. Fabric bunting can be reused every year or children might enjoy making various shapes to hang from string.

7. Easter Food - If you are a meat eater and want to cook lamb for Easter, try to support a local butcher rather than buying the lamb from a supermarket - or prepare a vegetarian or vegan option.

*Grace O'Connell*

## CPRE NATIONAL NEWS

### Reviving county farms

Often the first rung on the farming ladder for people without an agricultural background, council farms are under threat. A new report from CPRE sets out a vision for council farms that recognises their value, rejuvenates their purpose, and puts in place long-term protection, funding and support to make them flourish.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/reimagining-council-farms-full-report/>

### Star Count

CPRE's annual Star Count took place from 26 February - 6 March. The results will show where the darkest skies are. By showing on a map where light pollution is most serious, we can work with local councils and others to decide what to do about it.



### Local Green Spaces

New CPRE research has found that a total of 6,515 Local Green Spaces have been designated in the decade since their introduction, making a combined total of 30,000 acres of protected green space.

The Local Green Space policy was introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of 2012. The policy gives communities the chance to apply for a Local Green Space designation, affording the same level of protection as Green Belt or National Park status.

CPRE's new analysis shows that there is considerable scope for greater take-up. The north of England, for instance, has half as many designated Local Green Spaces as the south, and third of those found in the Midlands. Matters are also complicated by policy responsibility for LGS designation being split across different departments.

<https://bit.ly/3uKFFDk>



### Changes to Farming

The government has released more details on its post-Brexit plan for agricultural subsidies. The Local Nature Recovery scheme will pay farmers for local actions, such as creating wildlife habitat or planting trees, and the Landscape Recovery scheme will support wider changes.

### Short-term lets

[CPRE has published research](#) showing a surge in the number of homes marketed for Airbnb-style short term lets is crippling the residential rentals market. 148,000 homes that could otherwise house local families were available on Airbnb-style lets in

September 2021, compared to the 176,000 rural families on social housing waiting lists. CPRE is calling for tighter controls on second home ownership, including higher council tax on second homes and the requirement for short term lets to have planning permission.

<https://bit.ly/38ophRz>

### Planning U-Turn

On 9 January, the House of Lords Built Environment Committee published its report 'Meeting Housing Demand', to which CPRE gave detailed evidence last autumn. The Department's own submission to the Committee clearly states that 'even where the broad principle of development is agreed through the plan, all the details would still need to be consulted on'. This is a huge shift of position compared to the White Paper proposals which would have sidelined consultation on planning applications. Further information is on CPRE's website:

<https://bit.ly/3K1kbZ8>

### Biodiversity Net Gain consultation

[Defra has launched a consultation](#) on proposals for how the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements set out in the Environment Act 2021 will be implemented through the planning system. BNG is

described as 'an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before'.

### Government Response to Glover Review



On 15 January, the Government published its response to the 2019 Landscapes Review: National Parks and AONBs. This was an independent review led by Julian Glover that made 27 proposals, including strengthening AONBs with new purposes, powers and resources and renaming them National Landscapes. The Cannock Chase AONB Partnership and CPRE have both welcomed the opportunity to reinvigorate the status of AONBs.

## LOCAL PLANNING ROUND-UP

### Newcastle-under-Lyme Issues & Options

Our response to the consultation stated that Option 1, the New Standard Method, is most appropriate for the provision of housing. The target of more than 350 dwellings per annum is

challenging but achievable. The response also stated that NULBC should look closely at the available brownfield sites and take account of historic and future likely windfall rates before deciding on the amount of greenfield land to be allocated for development.

The feeling is that the 'vision' for NUL borough is rather disappointing; too limited, lacking imagination and too insular. For example, there is no emphasis on providing high-quality affordable sustainable housing or objectives to improve existing housing stock that does not meet standards on heating and insulation; there is lack of relationship considered between Newcastle and adjacent areas, such as the Potteries and lack of a 'brownfield first' approach.



We have major concerns about the allocation of a strategic employment site in the Green Belt and particularly the huge AB2 site southeast of Junction 16 of the M6 (pictured above). We also stated that site KL15 - Land to the south and east of new development site, Keele University, should not be considered for Green Belt release.

### Stafford Borough Council

**21/34983/ESS** | Screening Opinion - Construct a solar photovoltaics (PV) farm | Land Adjacent To Haberdashers Arms Flashbrook Road Knighton Stafford Staffordshire).

We responded to say that the environmental objective of developing renewable energy through large solar farms should not come at the expense of the beauty, character and tranquillity of Staffordshire's countryside. The large size of the proposed development would have an adverse impact on the landscape character, natural beauty and tranquillity of what is currently a quiet rural area, and would result in the loss of valuable agricultural land. CPRE believes that the most suitable location for solar technologies is on industrial and other buildings with major roof surfaces. There are also many suitable brownfield sites where we would support the construction of solar farms, such as the one currently under construction on a former landfill site in Wednesfield, which will supply New Cross Hospital with power.



### Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

**SMD/2021/:** Land East Of, Froghall Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire Outline for up to 228 dwellings with access considered (all other matters reserved). We objected on the grounds that: Staffordshire Moorlands has made more than adequate provision for additional new housing, well in excess of the requirements using the Government's 'New Standard Method' for calculating housing requirements; the applicants, in their Planning Statement, claim that the Council cannot meet a 5 year housing supply but do not provide clear evidence for this; we support Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in following the adopted Local Plan, in which this greenfield site is not allocated for development, and refusing planning permission.

### Lichfield District Council

**22/00106/FULM** | Full planning application for a residential development (109 units) with associated works and public open space, and access from Horner Avenue and Ward Close | Land Off Horner Avenue Fradley Lichfield Staffordshire.

This is an unusual case in respect of it being a site allocated for employment use in the currently adopted Development Plan. However, the previous application

(20/01178/FULM) was not recommended for refusal on policy grounds and the applicants for the current application clearly expect approval without reference to planning policy. The response stated that it was challenging to understand Lichfield District Council's reasoning for this approach as, if accepted, it would create a precedent for other employment allocations to be treated as housing allocations.

### Walsall Arboretum

The Black Country Plan has identified the Green Belt Site WAH242 alongside Walsall Arboretum for a development of 500+ new homes. To fight the proposal, a local campaign group called Save our Green Belt - Alongside Walsall Arboretum has now set up a website. At a public meeting on 22 March, Gerald Kells, Strategic Policy and Campaigns Advisor to CPRE West Midlands, gave a presentation setting out the issues involved.

<http://www.greenbelt-arbo.co.uk/>

### Public Rights of Way in Staffordshire



During the Covid pandemic

lockdown restrictions, people were only allowed to exercise near to home and as a result many discovered the joys of walking on their local footpaths. These are mainly public rights of way, whether footpaths, bridleways or other types of access protected by legislation and set out on Staffordshire's Definitive Map. A version of this map is available online (not the Definitive Map) is available on the Staffordshire County Council (SCC) website if you search for 'definitive map' and then look for 'View rights of way map'.

If you find any faults on a public footpath or bridleway, they can be reported directly to SCC at <https://prow.staffordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>. There will be a need to create a login, but the information required to do so is minimal.

All users of Public Rights of Way should follow the Countryside Code <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors>

Historic paths We were delighted to learn that the Government is to scrap the 2026 deadline for recording historic paths in England. This deadline has, for more than 20 years, been hanging over us. It meant that on 1 January 2026 public rights over many historic paths, which are

public highways but not yet recorded as such, or not yet recorded correctly, would have been extinguished, with those rights being lost forever. If a way is not recorded on the definitive map and statement of rights of way, it can disappear under development. According to the Open Spaces Society (OSS), as we know locally, users have been frantically researching the historic evidence to claim paths, but there was no way that they could research them all before the deadline.

On 16 February 2022 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) told the stakeholder working group (SWG: made up of representatives of users, landowners and farmers, and local authorities) that it would ditch the 2026 deadline, since considerable work remained to get the proposals ready for legislation. Defra, Natural England, and the SWG have been working on this since 2008.

However, there is concern that Defra proposes instead to focus on implementing measures to give landowners a right to apply for path changes, e.g. diversions and closures, which some feel could divert hard-pressed local authorities into prioritising proposals which are not in the public interest.

Experience in a local Parish The footpaths in each civil parish are numbered, eg in my

case Gnosall FP1, 2, 3 etc. There are around 120 public rights of way (PROWs) in the Parish of Gnosall, which is more than average. In 2018 we set up a local PROW Group under the auspices of the Parish Council, initially to try and record any historic paths left off the map. We moved on to surveying paths to see if they need maintaining, e.g. vegetation problems or stiles in poor condition. A new group of Gnosall Footpath Friends then was set up, consisting of 35 volunteers, each assigned a 'patch' of footpaths to survey twice a year and report back on. This is developing very well. You can see maps of the patches on the website <https://gnosallparishcouncil.org> and the section 'rights of way'.

CPRE Staffordshire is also working hard on some rights of way issues, including the long-distance path, the Staffordshire Way. You can read about this elsewhere. We aim to encourage people to get out and walk in the lovely Staffordshire countryside on our doorsteps and to be able to continue to do so responsibly into the future.

**Mary Booth, CPRE Staffordshire trustee**

## 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

### Leaf Pendragon



Hello! My name is Leaf. I was lucky enough to spend my entire childhood in the countryside, growing up surrounded by wild hedgerows (sometimes established for centuries), ditches, fields with corncrakes, skylarks, and swifts. I used to play in the ditches and study the plants and animals around me. Sadly, I also noticed the destruction of the hedgerows and orchards of my youth.

Like so many of you, I have noticed changes in our countryside, with the once common sights of a lapwing or

the song of a skylark are becoming rarities. When I was a child, I used to think that the buzzard was an American bird. Now they are an almost common sight in the sky and every time I see one, I think how lucky we both are to be living in 2022.

Ecology and conservation have always been a passion. As I became a mother and then grandmother, I realised something had to be done. Knowing they may never know a corncrake in a field or even a swift screaming high above made my voice louder. I have a love and absolute passion for hedgerows, without which we will continue to lose so much. Proper maintenance is vital.

I have gone back to college ( I am a VERY mature student) to follow my dreams studying conservation, now my daughter is grown. I very much hope to meet with you soon and we can work together to make countryside sing once more! I am very excited to be volunteering for the CPRE, so come on over and say hi ! :)

## Support CPRE Staffs by playing the Lichfield Community Lottery



You can support CPRE Staffordshire by playing the Lichfield Community Lottery. You do not have to be resident in Lichfield district to play and you will have a weekly chance of winning the £25,000 jackpot. For every £1 ticket you buy, 60p will be donated to CPRE Staffs. In addition to weekly prizes, ranging from £25 to £25,000, the lottery offers special prizes from time to time including, currently, a £1000 B&Q voucher for tickets bought before 23rd April.

Good luck to all those who take part!

<https://www.lichfieldcommunitylottery.co.uk/>

## CPRE Staffordshire Best Kept Village Community

### Sustainable & Green Initiatives Award

CPRE Staffordshire is sponsoring a Community Spirit award in The Community Foundation for Staffordshire's Best Kept Village Community competition. The award is to encourage projects that reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.



This could include clean air, energy usage, transport, farming, waste management etc. projects. An idea could involve having solar panels installed on the village hall roof or obtaining a community minibus to reduce car usage for a sport club's events. We are excited to see what innovative ideas communities come up with.

We are encouraging communities to take a look at the Centre for Sustainable Energy's online Impact tool <https://impact-tool.org.uk/> as a good starting point to gauge where the higher emissions, regarding carbon and other gases, come from within their parish.

### Students' Trophy Design Competition

As a supplementary competition, CPRE Staffordshire is inviting Staffordshire students to design a trophy for its BKVC award. The trophy needs to be designed for indoor display, not more than 30cm high. It should have on it the logos of The Best Kept Village Community Competition and CPRE Staffordshire, the countryside charity, as well as the name of the award - 'Sustainable and Green Initiative'.

There will either be room for the name of the winning community, with the year, to be added each time or for the name to be changed for

example with a label slotted into the trophy.

It must be easy to make and durable and the materials should not be expensive.

The closing date for submission is 1st June 2022 and entrants should contact [protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk) for further details, copies of the required logos and an entry form.

Entrants must be studying at a college or university within Staffordshire but do not have to be permanently resident in Staffordshire.

A prize of a free year's membership of local and national CPRE, the countryside charity, plus CPRE Staffordshire branded goods will accompany publicity and the formal recognition of the winning student's design skills.

## 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 £267.70 over the 2021-22 financial year.

Aroma Tranquility, based Castlefields, Newport Road, Stafford ST16 1BQ and neighbour Roots Larder (plastic-free shopping), have a box for collecting the items in their recycling shed. 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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**Mailing Address:**

2 Staffordshire Place  
Stafford  
ST16 2DH  
01785 277890

[protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk)



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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.