

Summer 2022 Newsletter



The countryside charity
Staffordshire

CPRE Staffordshire Summer 2022 Newsletter

SUMMER NEWS FROM CPRE STAFFORDSHIRE

WWW.CPRESTAFFORDSHIRE.ORG.UK

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hello and welcome to our summer 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) 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 14th August, 12-4pm:
Stall at Friends of Victoria Park Community Day, Victoria Park, Stafford.

Saturday 10th September:
Stall at Edingale Summer Show, Edingale Village Hall, Edingale, Tamworth B79 9LT.

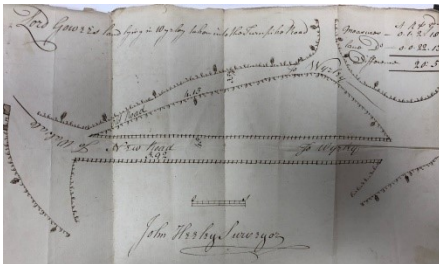
Thursday 22 September, 6:30pm: Picnic, talk and AGM, Haling Dene Centre, Penkridge.

Above photo credit: Boathouse at Shugborough, Robert Cartwright.

FUTURE EVENTS

Picnic and talk on 'Staffordshire Place Names and the Rural Environment' followed by AGM: Thursday 22 September, 6:30pm

Please come and join us for a picnic and talk by John Baker of the Institute for Name Studies at the University of Nottingham.



After enjoying a picnic in the lovely grounds of the Haling Dene centre at 6:30pm (weather-permitting!), we'll head inside for John's talk. Please bring a camping chair or picnic rug if you have one. If the weather is bad we will eat inside.

The entry charge will be £5, which includes the cost of picnic refreshments. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

John's research has a particular focus on place-

names and their potential as tools for understanding past landscapes and medieval society and culture.

The full venue address is Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5DT. Home to Penkridge Parish Council, the centre is a Grade II listed building built in 1841 for a retired Colonial Bishop. Its extensive grounds have ample parking, including disabled spaces.

Penkridge has a rail station and is served by Arriva buses. Local taxi operators are Pegasus of Penkridge (01785 712 982) and ABA (01785 636 363) and should be booked in advance if required.

Please have a look at the agenda (enclosed) and send in any nominations for the committee by no later than 5pm on Friday 16 September. Please note that you may nominate yourself and we would be very happy to welcome new committee members.

Please do attend if you possibly can: this is an important event in your

local CPRE calendar offering opportunity to participate in the nomination process and influence the direction of your CPRE group. Please book your place via Eventbrite:

<https://StaffordshirePlaceNames.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you don't have Internet access please call us on 01785 277890 to book your place or write to CPRE Staffordshire, 2 Staffordshire Place, Stafford ST16 2DH.

Could you be a trustee of CPRE Staffordshire?

We're passionate about making the countryside in Staffordshire a better place for everyone to enjoy. Our team of volunteers inspire people to care for the countryside and enjoy the benefits it brings wherever they live.

Volunteering with us is an important way to help us champion environmental issues such as the climate emergency, renewable energy, biodiversity and sustainable transport.

With your support we can do even more! As a trustee you'll have an essential role in contributing towards the future direction of our charity.

Training and support is always available and using your skills and experience you'll help us to achieve our objectives.

Please contact the office to find out more.

LOCAL NEWS

Relay runners take on the Staffordshire Way



Well done to our brilliant team of relay runners! Braving the dark, mud, rain and wobbly stiles, they covered the whole 96 miles of the Staffordshire Way - from Mow Cop to Kinver - in just under 18.5 hours.

The team, organised by CPRE Staffordshire and local running clubs, took on the Staffordshire Way long-distance footpath as part of the celebrations for this year's Staffordshire Day.

The Staffordshire Way runs from Mow Cop Castle on the edge of the Peak District in the north of the county to Kinver Edge in the south. It traverses Congleton Edge to The Cloud near the Peak District boundary before joining the towpath of the Caldon Canal, the Churnet Valley and the River Dove towards Uttoxeter. From there it follows the Trent and Mersey Canal towards Shugborough Hall. Cannock Chase and Highgate Common are both visited before finally reaching the sandstone escarpment of Kinver Edge.

Sadly, in recent years the route has been somewhat forgotten, and the only published guide has been out of print for 25 years. There is little online material to help plan a walk, while in places the waymarking has sadly become lost and the path

overgrown. As a result, in 2021, we launched a project to breathe new life into Staffordshire Way. An enthusiastic team health-checked the route, logging problems such as stiles in need of repair, and logged information on public transport, accommodation and places to eat and drink.

As far as we know, this relay running event is the first of its kind and we hope it inspires lots more interest in the Staffordshire Way.

Staffordshire Way Treasure Hunt



The winner of our Staffordshire Way Treasure Hunt was Lisa Conn of Stafford (pictured above) and the winning

square was B6 up by Rudyard Lake.

Lisa won a CPRE tote bag full of 'treasure' including activity books, wildflower seeds and CPRE Staffordshire branded stationery.

Thank you to everyone who had a go!

Green Schools Trophy

Congratulations to Picknalls First School in Uttoxeter, who have won our 2022 Green Schools Trophy plus £50 to put towards their conservation work. The school is passionate about engaging with and caring for nature and is on a mission to promote the benefits of nature and gardening to pupils and their families.

At school, the children have grown a range of vegetables and created a wildflower garden. Every child brought in a tin or milk carton from home which they painted and then planted up with flowers to create a recycled flower garden. Staff brought in old shoes and boots to plant up. Damaged shopping baskets

from Tesco have been given a new life as hanging baskets. The children also recycle plastic, card and paper.



Trustee Steve Hopkins presenting the CPRE trophy

Children and helpers at the school planted an impressive 420 saplings around the school boundary. The school has also started to create a wildlife corridor by leaving a 1-metre corridor of uncut grass around the edge of their grounds. Ultimately, all of this isn't just a one-off project. It is something that staff want to embed into the

very ethos of the school - for the benefit of children, nature and the wider community.

Young Hedgerow Heroes get stuck in at Ranton



On a lovely sunny July day, nine Year 4 children and two teachers from All Saints Primary School, Ranton, joined CPRE Staffordshire volunteer, Leaf Pendragon, and farmer, Graham Ashford, in surveying Graham's ancient hedgerows on his smallholding in the Staffordshire village of Ranton.

Graham keeps Texel cross ewes, Jacob sheep and chickens and has wildlife ponds and a conservation area which he keenly maintains with the help of local school children and CPRE Staffordshire involvement with planting trees.

The hedgerow project is supported by Stafford Borough Councillor Mark Winnington, and funded by Staffordshire County Council's Climate Action Fund - the aim being to assess the health of the hedgerow with a view to doing some infilling planting in the coming autumn.



The children had lots of fun on the day recording various species of tree and invertebrate, and especially searching for CPRE Staffordshire's cuddly hedgehog and woodlouse, learning lots about hedgerows - how they provide food and shelter for wildlife, a barrier for livestock and, importantly, how they can absorb large amounts of carbon, amongst other pollutants, safely locking it away and keeping the air fresher and cleaner.

The pupils brought along 'yard sticks' and diligently measured sections of hedgerow, estimated heights of mature trees, and determined the number and size of gaps within the hedgerow. Looking at existing species (including oak, hazel and hawthorn) and assessing the dominant species enabled the children to formulate a plan for future

planting to keep the hedgerows healthy and robust.

CPRE Staffordshire thank Graham and the Ashford family, All Saints Primary School and volunteer, Leaf, for a wonderful afternoon of fun and useful work and hope to work with them again, in the coming autumn, on some further planting.

If you are interested in planting hedgerows in your area, please contact us on 01785 277890 or protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk.

Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay 2022



Office & Publicity Manager Sue Kneill-Boxley joined fellow baton-bearers in braving the 39C heat to take her place in the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay 2022 in Stone on 19th July. Representing CPRE Staffordshire after being nominated by former Chairperson, Mary Booth, Sue said she was proud to be a baton bearer and to be nominated for her work for the charity - though a little nervous.

Sue kicked off the first leg in Stone, starting near Stone Leisure Centre on Westbridge Park, Stafford Road and handed to Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman of Chebsey Parish Council after her 200m stretch. Despite the heat, she managed to maintain a good jogging pace for her 200m leg however, despite being a seasoned runner, she said it was quite far enough in the intense sunshine! The Stone section concluded with a canoe paddle with Julia Bailey of the local canoe club and Newcastle Staffs Athletic Club taking the baton.

Former CPRE Staffordshire Chairman, Mary Booth, said:

I asked Sue Kneill-Boxley if she would like me to nominate her to be a baton bearer in this special event, as I knew she had expressed interest. She said she would like me to do so, and below is what I sent in with the nomination. I was delighted that Sue was chosen, especially as she carried the baton in Stone, where her family has lived for some time.

"Susan is keen to be a baton-bearer. She has worked tirelessly for the Countryside Charity CPRE Staffordshire for several years, with the aim of protecting and enhancing the countryside and encouraging the community to appreciate it more through walking and running in it, organizing photo competitions, litter-picking, rural poetry and dealing with threats regarding loss of the

environment. During lockdowns she has put together packs for children stuck at home, including colouring materials and information about the countryside. She is a keen runner in her free time, especially on Cannock Chase. I am delighted to nominate her.”

CPRE Staffordshire hope that those attending the Games have had a safe and enjoyable experience.

Spring and summer stalls



We have been out and about this spring and summer spreading the word about CPRE and raising much-needed funds, with stalls at the Norbury Canal Festival, the Wildlife and Country Fair at Stafford Castle, the County Show, the Eccleshall Festival and the Gnosall Canal Festival (pictured above).

CPRE NATIONAL NEWS

Star Count: a brighter outlook for a darker future?



CPRE’s 2022 Star Count found that stargazers are enjoying their best views of the night sky since the citizen science project began in 2011. It’s likely that working from home - and, sadly, current concerns over soaring energy bills - appear to have produced a ‘lockdown legacy’ - resulting in a clearer view of the stars.

More than 2,500 people took part in the annual Star Count, the country’s biggest citizen science project of its kind, between 26 February and 6 March this year. The results suggest that severe light pollution, defined as being able to see 10 or fewer stars with the naked eye, has continued to fall. After peaking in 2020, when 61% of participants reported seeing 10 stars or fewer, severe light pollution fell to 51% in 2021 and continued its slide this year, to 49%.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/new/s/night-skies-outlook-is-bright-our-star-count-results-suggest/>

CPRE calls for land strategy and new planning rules to guard food security

There has been a hundred-fold increase in our best farmland lost to development in little more than a decade, new CPRE research on food security has found. In total, almost 14,500 hectares of the country’s best agricultural land, which could grow at least 250,000 tonnes of vegetables a year, has been permanently lost to development in just 12 years. This is enough to feed the combined populations of Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield their recommended five-a-day fruit and vegetables.



In addition, 60% of England’s best agricultural land is at the

highest risk of flooding from climate change. CPRE says that with enough previously developed 'brownfield' land to provide 1.2 million homes, and south-facing rooftops that could meet much of our energy needs, we have a chance to tackle the climate, housing and cost-of-living crises without sacrificing our farmland.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/we-call-for-land-strategy-and-new-planning-rules-to-guard-food-security/>

The Countryside Next Door: Investing in Green Belts

Allocating a greater share of government funds towards the Green Belt could give a huge boost to people's health and wellbeing, according to a new CPRE report. Its new report, *The countryside next door: why we need to invest in greener, healthier Green Belts*, is the first to analyse where agri-environment funding has been spent. The research shows that just over a quarter (28%) of Green Belt farmland is covered by these sorts of government funding schemes, compared with 42% nationwide. Only 7% of all national spending is on Green Belt land, even though Green Belt contains 11% of all England's farmland.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/investment-needed-for-countryside-next-door-to-level-up-access-to-nature/>

Hedgerow Heroes

National CPRE, in conjunction with Farmers Weekly, is inviting farmers to respond to a survey about planting and maintaining hedgerows. Please share the survey with any farmers you know.

<https://bit.ly/3v4MxMz>

Local Planning Round-Up

East Staffordshire Borough Council

P/2022/00302: Erection of a part single and part two-storey building to incorporate a Class E retail unit along with car parking, new vehicular access, servicing arrangements and landscaping. Land adjacent to junction of High Street and Riversfield Drive High Street Rocester ST14 5JU.

Objection due to the impact on the conservation area and the loss of several mature trees.

P/2022/00137: Outline application for the siting of 20 holiday chalets at the Craythorne Golf Club And Centre, Stretton: objection on the grounds of breaching Local Plan Policy and conflict with

the NPPF. The documents accompanying the application suggest that the land is 'Previously Developed Land' and the applicants appear to rely on this to justify the development. We question this reliance and do not accept this assessment.

P/2022/00449: Land at Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. Change of use of land from agricultural to a glamping site and siting of 10 Shepherd Huts, 4 Bell Tents, 2 Toilet Blocks, 2 Shower Block, 2 Outdoor Kitchens and 3 Shipping Containers: Objection due to the difficulty of access and conflict with several policies in the East Staffordshire Local Plan.

Black Country Plan

The Draft Black Country Plan 2039 (Regulation 18) Additional Consultation: Additional Housing Sites in Walsall consultation is open for comments until 5th September 2022. The authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are seeking views on the Draft Black Country Plan and

accompanying
Sustainability Appraisal:

<https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/bcp/>

This consultation follows the Draft Plan consultation, which concluded in October 2021. Following a review of the representations there are three more potentially suitable housing sites in Walsall, which require consideration and should follow the same consultation process as the other sites that were consulted on last year.

Consultation documents are available to view on the Black Country Plan website.

The West Midlands Regional Group of CPRE, together with CPRE Worcestershire and CPRE Staffordshire, recently wrote to planning authorities and councillors about the Black Country Plan. A large amount of housing is proposed in the Green Belt, both in the Black Country and surrounding districts, but we believe that councils have not taken full

account of the overall landscape and amenity impact of releasing some sites.

As well as a clear strategic policy (CSP) to address the impact of development on climate change, before submitting the plan to the Secretary of State, we are calling on councils to take the following actions:

- review the overall housing need, taking account of up-to-date population and housing forecasts;
- reserve the Government's (arbitrary) 35% Wolverhampton uplift for windfall brownfield housing as is clearly intended in the Government's own statement on it;
- review the overall level of windfalls, large and small, as well as the opportunities arising from town and city centre renewal;
- take account of both Green Belt and local impacts remove many, if not all, the large and controversial Green Belt allocations, taking

account also of the impact on landscape, biodiversity and amenity value, as well as access to public transport.

The recent 2021 census results show that there were 9,000 fewer households in the Black Country than the figures the councils are using for their new Black Country Plan. Projections suggest this could rise to 15,000 fewer households over the length of the plan - and that excludes the arbitrary 35% extra homes (5,000) added to Wolverhampton's need by Government just to meet its politically driven national housing target.

At the same time, a study commissioned by the West Midlands Combined Authority, which examined old industrial land and town centres, has concluded there is significantly more brownfield land available than previously thought. CPRE estimates this could be enough to supply between 5,000 and 12,000 homes.

This would be consistent with the experience in

Birmingham, where a Plan was completed in 2017. Between 2017 and 2020 however, additional supply increased by 27% (almost 14,000 homes).

If this is the case the Black Country's claim of a shortfall of 28,000 homes to 2039 could be wildly exaggerated. The current proposed building spree would therefore lead to totally unnecessary Green Belt loss around the Black Country and beyond, increased traffic, adding to carbon emissions and destroying valuable wildlife and landscape areas.

Stafford Borough Council

We responded to the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in June, noting that climate change must be considered in all aspects of policy and decision-making. We welcome the inclusion of climate change adaptation policies in the New Local Plan and the commitments to increase climate adaptation efforts being delivered throughout the Borough, and to require

development to be delivered a way which includes the provision of climate adaptation measures. This is particularly pertinent given the unprecedented high temperatures and devastating fires that we have seen recently.

Whilst we welcomed all the council's proposed adaptive measures, given that "viability is potentially a barrier to delivery" could hamper their adoption, as what is considered "viable" will be open to interpretation by developers. We also called for education, children and schools to be considered in the adaptation plan.

Lichfield District Council

22/00915/FULM: Retention of marquee | Swinfen Hall Hotel, The Drive, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9RE.

Objection due to concerns in relation to the scale and permanence of the large marquee in the Green Belt which appears to be clearly contrary to Green Belt Policy.

Volunteers' Corner

Call for Community Champions

CPRE Staffordshire is looking for volunteers to come forward to champion our cause - this might be online, through social media, or being our eyes and ears on the ground. Below are our thoughts on what a Community Champion might do. We are keen to hear from anyone who would be happy to take on any one of the tasks - we do not expect individual volunteers to fulfil all of the listed duties.

Please contact us at protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk or call us on 01785 277890 if you might be interested.

We also have a short online form you can fill in to register your interest:

<https://forms.gle/bD7YjhPC1bNVmEhs9>

Tasks Champions might take on include:

- 1. Sharing our social media posts**, such as those relating to dark skies or those about our mission and membership, to their own local

Facebook and other online community groups they are members of. This would help us to reach much more of our county community than we do currently. We would expect a commitment of one post a month but would be happy for volunteers to share more.

2. Passing on information to us about proposed building developments in their areas. This can be helped by knowing your local patch, gleaned such information from newspapers and online news, keeping in touch with local Parish Councils and checking weekly planning lists available online from your Local Authority. We can provide training and links to information. A 'check-in' every couple of months would be required but with anything potentially urgent forwarded as it arose.



3. Arranging a dark skies count in your local area, either with a local Scouts/Brownies/Guides Group, local school or any other local group such as the WI or Young Farmers Club. This is a fun event that takes place annually in February and we would provide the information and guidance you need.

If you feel there is anything else you might like to do as a Community Champion - you may have knowledge and skills to offer - please do get in touch and let us know; we would love to hear from you.

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/>



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/>

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) 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>

Copyright © 2022 CPRE Staffordshire.
All rights reserved.

Mailing Address:

2 Staffordshire Place
Stafford
ST16 2DH
01785 277890

protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk



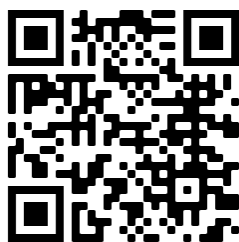
Facebook CPREStaffsPage



Twitter @StaffsCPRE



Instagram @cprestaffs



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: Steve Anderson, Mary Booth, Steve Hopkins and Mohammed Khuram

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.