

Summer 2023 Newsletter



The countryside charity
Staffordshire

CPRE Staffordshire Summer 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.

31st August: Picnic at Ingestre Orangery, guided tour of St Mary's Church, Ingestre, followed by AGM.

Autumn/winter: Various hedge-planting events around the county.

Above photo credit: Colwich Lock, Alan Tunnicliffe.

Chairman's address

It's hard to believe that almost a year has gone by since I took over the reins at CPRE Staffordshire. I would now like to take this occasion to reflect on what we have achieved over the past year and to let you know about some of our plans for the future.

This year's AGM on 31st August will be a bit different. Instead of a guest speaker, we'll have a guided tour of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Ingestre, which is the only church outside London to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren. There will also be a picnic at Ingestre Orangery, where the 'business' bit of the AGM will be held.



I'm very pleased to report that our bid for funding under Phase 3 of national CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes project has been successful. We will be

organising several hedge-planting events over the autumn and winter months to meet our ambitious aim of planting just under 4km of new hedgerow around Staffordshire. If you might be interested in volunteering to plant trees and hedges, please register your interest online or contact the office:

https://form.jotform.com/CPRE_Staffordshire/hedgerow-heroes

If you are a farmer or landowner and would like us to come and plant hedges on your land, please do get in touch. Similarly, if you know of a community group that might like to get involved with planting, please drop us a line.

For the keen photographers amongst you, our photography competition offered the chance to win Canalside Farm vouchers and have your photographs featured in a 2024 calendar showcasing the beautiful and varied landscapes of Staffordshire. We hope you will enjoy voting for your favourite shortlisted photos at the AGM and

thank everyone who took the time to enter the competition.

We have lots of other plans as well! As well as our Hedgerow Heroes project, we plan to run our popular stargazing night again, enabling more children to enjoy the wonders of a dark, starry sky. We also hope to organise events with under-represented groups who may struggle to enjoy all that the countryside has to offer.

With best wishes,
Mohammed Khuram.

FUTURE EVENTS



Picnic at Ingestre Orangery and tour of Ingestre church

Please join us for a late summer picnic at Ingestre Orangery, followed by a

guided tour of the nearby Church of St Mary the Virgin in Ingestre. Built in the 17th century by Walter Chetwynd, it's believed to be the only church outside London to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren. We will then have our (brief!) AGM business back at the Orangery.

The ticket price includes buffet refreshments and a guided tour of the church. Please let us know when booking if you have any dietary requirements.

Members and non-members welcome. Approximate timings are as follows:

From 12pm: Picnic at Ingestre Orangery (buffet refreshments provided by Canalside Farm)

1:30pm: Tour of St Mary's Church, Ingestre

2:30-3pm: AGM at Ingestre Orangery

Please book your ticket on Eventbrite or phone the office if you do not have Internet access.

Ingestrechurchtour.eventbrite.com

The deadline for any nominations to the executive committee must be received by 25th August.

Hedge-planting volunteers wanted!

We are pleased to report that we have been successful in our bid for Hedgerow Heroes funding from the national CPRE charity. We plan to organise a number of planting events around the county in autumn/winter 2023-24. To help assess our volunteer capacity, please fill in our online form or contact the office if you might be interested in taking part.

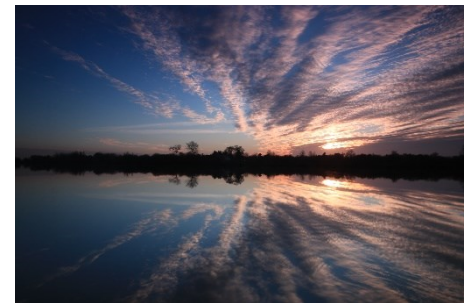
https://form.jotform.com/CPRE_Staffordshire/hedgerow-heroes

LOCAL NEWS

Countryside on Camera: 2024 Calendar Photography Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our Countryside on

Camera competition. We received 85 entries from 36 photographers. Our judges are now in the process of shortlisting the winning photographs, which will be voted on at the AGM on 31st August.



Some of the entries received, top to bottom:

Goldfinch Squabble (Steve Higgins), Starburst Sunset at Croxall Lakes (Graham Corfield), the Roaches (James Busher) and Kinver Edge (Dave McGirr).

The winners and other photographers will have their photographs featured in the calendar. This will be on sale to CPRE Staffordshire members, supporters, and the general public.

Green Schools Trophy



This year's winner of our Green Schools Trophy was Burton Fields School in Burton-on-Trent, who were presented with a trophy and £50 cash prize at a special prizegiving assembly on 21st July. The pupils have suggested and implemented many changes to ensure that nature has a space to

flourish and the school has improved their pond, created a dead hedge around it to provide habitat, planted over 100 trees, installed stepping stones and bark chippings to limit the damage to grass on frequently used routes, installed bird boxes and created bug hotels. They've also created a bog garden, planted a wildflower meadow and created a designated wild area.

Special mention also to the runners-up, St John's Primary Academy in Stafford (Silver) and the Richard Clarke School in Abbots Bromley (Bronze).

CPRE NATIONAL NEWS

Developers exploiting loophole to build on greenfield land

A new report from CPRE shows how some big housing developers are still exploiting a loophole that enables them to appeal against refusal of planning permission. The proposed change to the National Policy Planning Framework in last December's consultation would remove the

requirement for a local planning authority to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply in cases where there is a local plan with a strategic housing target adopted in the past five years. The research identifies 144 separate major developments on greenfield land that were forced through on appeal in just the two years between 2020 and 2022, after having been denied permission by local authorities. Of those, 91 were clearly going against policies in the local development plan.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Still-targeting-the-countryside-2023.pdf>

Campaign for rooftop solar



CPRE has launched a campaign and petition to unleash the potential of rooftop solar. It has also

published a report stating that over half the solar panels needed to hit national net zero targets could be fitted on rooftops and in car parks. The research, by the UCL Energy Institute, for CPRE, shows that decarbonising the national energy grid requires far less land than feared and reveals that the potential of brownfield sites to generate renewable energy is dramatically underused.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/rooftops-can-provide-over-half-our-solar-energy-targets-report-shows/>

Hedgerow campaign

CPRE's hedgerow campaign, launched in 2021 to call for action to create 40% more hedgerows by 2050, was awarded first prize in the Animals and Environment category at the 2023 Charity Awards.



LOCAL PLANNING ROUND-UP

East Staffordshire Borough Council

P/2023/00416. Partial demolition of the former Abbots Bromley School Buildings, conversion and extension of the remaining school buildings to form 60 dwellings (27 for over 55s), erection of 58 dwellings and garaging (8 for over 55s) and a detached Community Store. Abbots Bromley School For Girls High Street Abbots Bromley Staffordshire WS15 3BW.

P/2023/00417 Listed Building Consent for the partial demolition of the former Abbots Bromley School Buildings, internal and external alterations to facilitate the conversion and extension of the remaining school

buildings to form 60 dwellings (27 for over 55s) Abbots Bromley School For Girls High Street Abbots Bromley Staffordshire WS15 3BW.

We supported these two related applications, stating that we do not object to the conversion of disused buildings into housing. The site is within the Abbots Bromley settlement boundary and would be within walking distance of local services. We suggested partnering with a car-sharing or car club scheme from the start.

Stafford Borough Council

23/36938/FUL | Installation and operation of solar farm and energy storage system with associated landscaping, underground cabling, works, equipment and infrastructure. Lower Farm Drinton Lane, Grindley, Stafford, Staffordshire.

23/37149/FUL
| Construction of a ground mounted solar farm with associated infrastructure
| Land East Of Horsley

Hall Wincote Lane Wootton Stafford Staffordshire

Whilst each application should be considered on its individual merits, CPRE's general position is that the environmental objective of developing renewable energy through large solar farms should not come at the expense of the beauty, character and tranquility of Staffordshire's countryside. We are also concerned about the loss of valuable agricultural land.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan



*Site CT1, one of the sites proposed for development in the Local Plan.
Photo: Ian and Mandy McMillan.*

Our response to the current consultation on the Local Plan (Regulation 18 consultation) reiterates our opposition to the large amount of proposed greenfield and Green Belt development sites, which appear to form over 70% of the number of houses included in the proposed allocations. We also objected to the proposed alteration of the Green Belt boundary in Policy PSD5. We are concerned at the encouragement of (undefined) 'balanced

growth', how affordability will be improved and how choice will be provided. This could be seen to encourage the development of new housing in and around all villages. We regret that no account whatever is taken of potential windfall provision in Table 8 of the consultation document. An allowance for windfalls would be wholly appropriate and in accordance with the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

While our office staff and executive committee keep a keen eye on local planning applications and issues, there may be something happening in your area that you feel has been overlooked. If you think the countryside, rural environment or Green Belt land near you is under threat, please contact us and we may be able to investigate.

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 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).

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 278230](tel:01785278230) 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>

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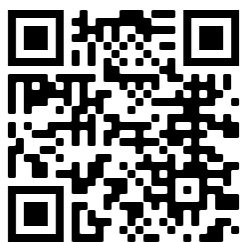
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Current CPRE Staffordshire Executive Committee Officers:

Chairman: Mohammed Khuram

President: His 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, Dave Evans, Steve Hopkins and Anna Woolliscroft.

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.