

Autumn/Winter 2023/24 Newsletter



The countryside charity
Staffordshire

CPRE Staffordshire Autumn/Winter Newsletter

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWS FROM CPRE STAFFORDSHIRE
WWW.CPRESTAFFORDSHIRE.ORG.UK

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hello and welcome to our autumn and 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) 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.

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

21st February:
Stargazing night at Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre.

7th September: AGM and visit to Blithfield Hall.

Above photo credit: Tackeroo, Cannock Chase by Derrick Forster.

Chairman's address

Whilst November ushers in shorter days, the autumn and winter bring their own joys - the beautiful colours of an autumnal woodland; the sight of a dark, starry sky on a clear night. Unfortunately I've failed miserably to spot the aurora that's been reported! Winter is also the time of year to plant trees and hedges. We will be planting 2km of new hedgerow around Staffordshire thanks to funding from national CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes project. I'm pleased to welcome Claire Geoghegan to the team as our new Hedgerow Heroes project manager. With over 20 years' experience working in environmental conservation, community development and habitat preservation projects around the world, she will be a great asset to CPRE. We have also received funding from the county council's Climate Action Fund which will be used to plant hedgerow on National Trust land in Kinver. We're grateful to Cllr Victoria Wilson for her help with this.

Our popular stargazing night at Beaudesert will be back in February.

Thanks to Keele Observatory and funding from the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership, children and young people from Scouting and Girlguiding units will once again get the chance to look through powerful telescopes and learn more about stars and constellations.

The stargazing night is just one of the ways in which we're reaching out to young people. We will be encouraging schools who have previously won our Green Schools Trophy to take part in the Green Tree Badge scheme, which aims to get 1 million school-aged children to take part in tree-based activities.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the village of Edingale, the winners of CPRE Staffordshire's Sustainable and Green Initiatives Award in the Best Kept Village Community competition. They've installed solar panels on their village hall, are mowing verges less often to encourage wildlife and attract pollinators, and are

working with other groups to monitor water quality in the River Mease.

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM in August, held in the delightful surroundings of Ingestre Orangery. Next year's AGM will see a return to Blithfield Hall (the venue for the 2012 AGM) on 7th September. I'm pleased to welcome Chris Emsley as our new treasurer. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Anderson and Anna Woolliscroft, who have stepped down as trustees, for their dedication to CPRE Staffordshire.

In the meantime, the more volunteers we have, the more we can do to help protect, promote and enhance Staffordshire's countryside. If you have a couple of hours to spare each week, could you consider helping us map solar farm applications, plant hedges, or even become a trustee? Please visit the volunteering page on our website to find out more. We would love to have you on board!

With best wishes,

Mohammed Khuram.

FUTURE EVENTS

Stargazing Night



Following the success of this year's event, we will be repeating our free stargazing night at Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre on 21st February. Professional astronomers from Keele University's Observatory will bring their telescopes to allow children from Scouting and Girlguiding units to enjoy great views of the night sky. They'll explain what we can see in the night sky, both with and without a telescope. In the event of adverse weather and poor visibility the astronomers will run an indoor activity.

If you run a Scouting or Girlguiding unit (Brownies/Cubs age and above and would like to

attend, please contact the office.

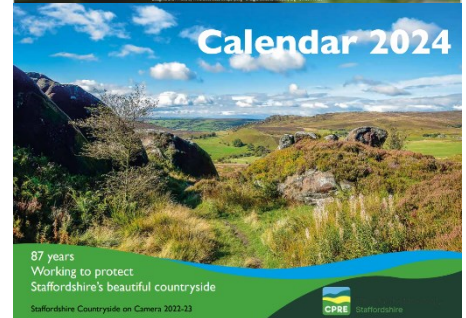
LOCAL NEWS

Countryside on Camera: 2024 Calendar Competition

In need of some Christmas present inspiration? Our 2024 calendars are now on sale, showcasing the beautiful and varied landscapes and wildlife of Staffordshire. Featuring selected photos from our Countryside on Camera photography competition, the calendar is double A4 in size, with plenty of room to write on.

The calendars cost just £8 each (excluding P&P) and can be purchased from our online shop or by using the order form in this newsletter. They are also on sale at Canalside Farm and Springslade Lodge.

All proceeds from the sale of these calendars will support CPRE's work to protect, promote and enhance Staffordshire's countryside and green spaces.



Welcome to the CPRE Staffordshire Hedgerow Heroes Project



Earlier this year, CPRE Staffordshire was named as one of nine successful CPRE groups chosen to take part in the national 'Hedgerow Heroes' campaign. Now in its third year, 'Hedgerow Heroes' is an ambitious project that aims to plant, restore and regenerate hedgerows across a range of landscapes, whilst encouraging local communities to reconnect with nature and participate in activities that improve local biodiversity.

Why focus on hedgerows?

Hedgerows are an iconic and beloved feature of our countryside that provide a wealth of hidden benefits that not only support our health and wellbeing, but that of our wider environment. When managed sensitively, a network of connected and healthy hedgerows provides safe

habitat, passage, food and breeding resources for some of our most vulnerable wildlife species, with studies conducted in 2015 counting 2,070 species in just one 85m stretch.

Hedgerows also help to mitigate the impact of climate-related events by storing carbon, reducing air and water pollution, and preventing soil and wind erosion during times of flooding and drought. These benefits are particularly valuable to the 70% of UK land under agricultural use, where the presence of hedgerows not only provides food and shelter for livestock, but helps to increase the presence of pollinators and reduce the risk of disease and pests that impact upon the success of arable farming.

In short, hedgerows not only form part of our countryside heritage, but are essential to secure the future of our natural environment, our food and our health. It is therefore devastating to know that over 50% of all UK hedgerows have been lost in the last 75 years, with the remaining fragments at increased risk of damage, decay and disease.

What can we do to help in Staffordshire?

The Hedgerow Heroes project provides us with an exciting opportunity to support the future of hedgerows in Staffordshire. Together, we aim to plant and restore over 2km of hedgerow (that's 10,000 plants) at multiple sites around the county, including in urban areas, public spaces, wildlife reserves and agricultural landscapes.

This project also provides us with wonderful opportunities to help communities engage with their local environments and help protect and improve our countryside, as well as our collective health and wellbeing.

How can I help?

Join our enthusiastic and friendly team of Hedgerow Heroes!

Whether you're passionate about planting (no experience necessary), wonderful with words, art or photography, an inspirational educator, or fabulous at making cups of tea, we need you! We have a range of volunteering opportunities available within the project, and are seeking supporters to help with the practical,

social, publicity, digital, educational and wellbeing aspects of the project.

In return you will have the opportunity to learn new skills, meet like-minded people, make a positive difference to our local hedgerows and have the support and guidance of our team.

Project activities will take place within the planting season (November - March), and all roles can be adapted to accommodate your involvement. To receive updates and register your interest in participating, please fill in your details via the online form, or contact the project team:

hedgerows@cprestaffordshire.org.uk

07942269799

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

Edingale wins CPRE award

Congratulations to Edingale, the winners of CPRE Staffordshire's Sustainable and Green Initiatives Award.



CPRE sponsors this award as part of the Richard Winterton Best Kept Village Community Competition.

Edingale have installed solar panels on their village hall, are mowing verges less often to encourage wildlife and attract pollinators, and are working with other groups to monitor water quality in the River Mease.

Above photo: Trustee Steve Hopkins presenting the award.

CPRE NATIONAL NEWS

CPRE's newly-launched **2023 Local Green Spaces (LGS) report** shows that there has been an increase in LGS designations, but deprived communities remain under-served.

LGSs were introduced in 2012 to give Green Belt-like protections to smaller

areas of land that are often identified by communities themselves. Since then, 7,286 LGS have been designated in total, for reasons including their recreational value, beauty and importance for wildlife. [The report](#) reveals that LGS designations have increased by 771 since 2022, most of them in northern England. In London, the total number of LGSs grew by 64%. However, mapping reveals a persistently strong correlation between deprivation and lack of green space. CPRE is therefore calling for a standardised designation process to make it easier for communities to make use of the legislation.

The four key pillars of CPRE's [manifesto](#) for the next **General Election** are rural affordable housing, enhancing Green Belts, rooftop renewables, and a land use framework fit for net zero.

The results of CPRE's inaugural 'Hedgeline Help Out' survey [have now been published](#). More than

2,000 people reporting back on hedgerow height, connectivity, blossom, the wildlife they found and more, as well as how the experience made them feel.

LOCAL PLANNING ROUND-UP

Stafford Borough Council



Outline Planning Application for the erection of 36 dwellings (Use Class C3) including 32 Affordable Units, 4 Custom/ Self-Build Plots; Access, Layout and Landscaping with the Matters of Appearance and Scale Reserved. We objected to this application on a greenfield site at the edge of Stafford, close to Cannock Chase AONB (see picture above). A previous very similar

application was previously refused.

Lichfield District Council

We responded to the online survey on development plans for Curborough Brooks, a large development of around 2,900 houses on greenfield land near Lichfield. A full outline planning application will be submitted in the autumn.

South Staffordshire Council

23/00851/FULMEI | Erection of 135 dwellings with associated access, drainage, green and blue infrastructure (including public open space, planting, landscaping, and part of a Riverside Community Park), ground remodelling and ancillary infrastructure. | Land East Of A449 Land North Of Penkrige.

South Staffordshire Council

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We will be responding to this large greenfield application.

23/00869/OUTM | Outline application for the proposed development of up to 50no detached dwellings (100% affordable), new medical centre, public open space, and associated infrastructure | Rear Of College Farm Close Westbeech Road Pattingham. We will be responding to this Green Belt application.

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.

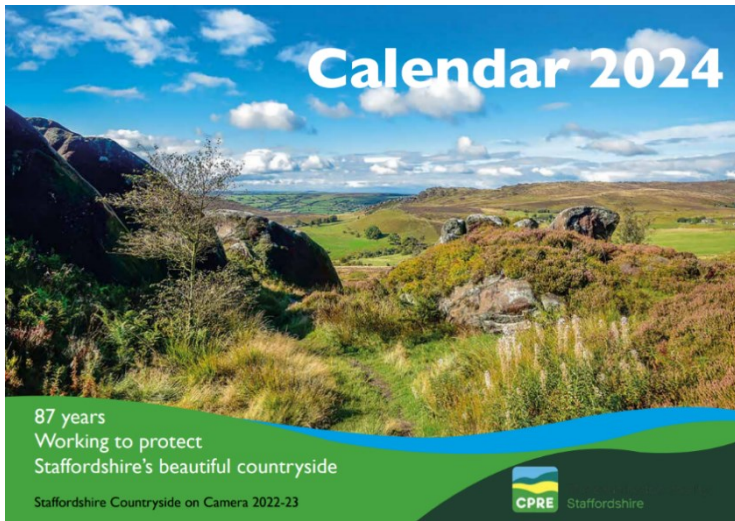
CPRE Staffordshire Branch Order Form: To order items, please complete the form below and return to CPRE Staffordshire, 2 Staffordshire Place, Stafford ST16 2DH with your payment, or email it to protect@cprestaffordshire.org.uk. Phone enquiries 01785 278230.

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Countryside on Camera 2024 Calendar	£8		
Books:			
A Wonder Woman			
In the Sticks			
		Quantity/Design	
Greetings Cards:			
Large greetings card (A5) (see designs overleaf) <i>Please specify design and quantity.</i>	£1.20		
Small greetings card (A6) (see designs overleaf) <i>Please specify design and quantity</i>	80p		
Postage and packing	Orders including calendars and/or books: £3 Orders for cards only: £1.50		
Please make cheques payable to 'CPRE Staffordshire' Please contact us if you would prefer to pay by bank transfer or PayPal.		TOTAL COST	£

Name:

Delivery Address:

Email/Telephone Number:



Beautiful **CPRE Staffordshire 2024 calendar** featuring stunning scenes of Staffordshire landscapes and wildlife photographed by talented local amateur photographers. The calendar, printed on high quality card and spiral bound by The Calendar Company in Stafford, is double A4 size in landscape orientation when hanging and has plenty of space to write down those important appointments and notes.



This item showcases the best photos from CPRE Staffordshire's Countryside on Camera competition. Shortlisted photographs were voted on at the AGM at Ingestre Orangery on 31st August.

DECEMBER 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	31					1
2 <small>Rural Holiday (Good Friday)</small>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day (XMAS)</small>	26 <small>Boxing Day (XMAS)</small>	27	28	29

▲ Robin by Steve Higgins

▼ Frozen by Graham Corfield



Notes



The countryside charity
Staffordshire

www.cprestaffordshire.org.uk

GREETINGS CARDS - BLANK INSIDE - PRICE NOW REDUCED



A

Robin, Cannock Chase by Jason Rowley
Small/Large



B

Womere, Cannock Chase by Derrick Forster
Small/Large



C

Snowy Sylvan Sentinels, Brocton
Cannock Chase by Karen Davies
Small/Large



D

Frosty Start, Crown Meadow, Stone
by Noel Bennett
Small/Large



E

Autumn, Cannock Chase by Sally Arnott
Small/Large



F

A Winter Walk by The Trent by Jeremy English
Small/Large



G

**Naturally Lit, Cannock Chase by Trevor Ludlow
Small**



H

**Huntington Sunset by Gary Austin
Small**



I

**Field of Gold nr Chartley by Rob Cannell
Small**



J

**Dexter Cow nr Alton by Ann Elphick
Small/Large**



K

**Cormorant at Ford Green Nature Reserve
by Michael Erwin
Small/Large**



L

**Bluebells at Aqualate by Tony Leech
Small**



M

**Aston Marina Sunrise nr Stone by Alan Bennett
Small**



N

Naturally Lit, Cannock Chase by Trevor Ludlow
Large



O

Huntington Sunset by Gary Austin
Large



P

Field of Gold nr Chartley by Rob Cannell
Large



Q

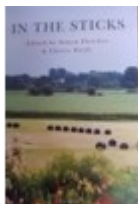
Aston Marina Sunrise nr Stone by Alan Bennett
Large



R

Springtime at Ilam Hall
Small/Large

BOOKS



A Wonder Woman by Kuli Kohli
In the Sticks by various local poets

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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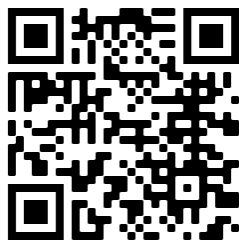
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Current CPRE Staffordshire Executive Committee Officers:

Chairman: Mohammed Khuram

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

Vice President: Philip Atkins OBE

Vice Chairs: Mrs Mary Booth and Mrs Anne Clendon BEM

Executive Committee Members: Dave Evans 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.