



Newsletter

General Election 2024

Rishi Sunak announces the
General Election for
4th July 2024





The date of the next general election has been set

– and it's just 6 weeks away.

That means it's game on, and now is the time for the whole Party to get out there and tell the voters why we deserve their vote.

Because it is only us – the Conservative Party – who are on Britain's side.

It is the Conservative government that has transformed our country for the better over the last 14 years, and the choice at this election is clear.

Sticking with Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives who are working through a clear plan and will take the bold action needed to deliver a secure future for you, your family and for Britain in an increasingly uncertain world.

Or going back to square one with Sir Keir Starmer and Labour, who don't have the conviction, courage, or plan needed to navigate an increasingly uncertain world and secure a brighter future for our country.

And as one of our amazing Members, you know that whether it is Labour, the Lib Dems or the Greens the result would be the same – a weakened, less secure Britain, our economic growth put at risk and the bright prospects of future generations thwarted.


You see it in your communities and understand the importance of Conservative leadership for everyone in Britain.

So now is the time for you to step up. We are galvanising our Members and activists for the important battle ahead of us over the next 6 weeks and beyond. But we need your help.

We need you to help in any way you can and it is vital that we do not waste any time in this campaign.

If you need information on how to get involved, you can find details of all your nearest campaign sessions here: <https://volunteer.conservatives.com/events>

The next 6 weeks are going to determine the future of our country – what are you going to do to help?





The choice at this election is clear

The Prime Minister has set out what's at stake:

Sticking with Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives who are working through a clear plan and will take the bold action needed to deliver a secure future for you, your family, and for Britain in an increasingly uncertain world.

Or going back to square one with Sir Keir Starmer and Labour, who don't have the conviction, courage, or plan needed to navigate an increasingly uncertain world and secure a brighter future for our Country.

CAN YOU HELP?

We urgently need people to help our campaigns to elect our Conservative candidates for Stafford, Theo Clarke and Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge, Sir Gavin Williamson CBE

If you can spare some time and want to get involved, please fill in our brief volunteer survey and let us know what you can offer. You'll find the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/2eRUxavFpNekSFaZ9>

Our members are already on the campaign trail supporting Theo and Gavin, but this election is crucial and we need as many people as possible to get out in support of our candidates, so please, get in touch and help us keep Stafford and Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge blue.

Any Member who receives the newsletter by post and would like to help us, please get in touch with the Office and we'll put you in touch with Jack Taylor, our Volunteer Engagement Officer.



VOTESOURCE TRAINING

CAN YOU HELP?

Data is going to be incredibly important for us in this election. We use VoteSource, a very powerful tool, to collect Voting Intentions and we're hosting a training event on Tuesday 28th May at our Castle Street HQ to give interested Members some useful training on how to use VoteSource.

If you are able to help us, please come along on **Tuesday 28th May** at **7PM**.

Gavin & Theo Launch their Campaigns at Castle Street

On Saturday 25th May, Sir Gavin Williamson and Theo Clarke launched their GE24 campaigns at our Castle Street HQ.

They each gave rousing speeches to the assembled group of local committed activists and set out their plans for the coming 6 weeks.

Federation Chairman, Duncan Sandbrook said "Join us in shaping the future! Your voice and effort can make a real difference in this campaign. Whether it's knocking on doors, making phone calls, or spreading the word on social media, every action counts. Together, we can achieve great things. Volunteer today and be a part of the change you want to see!"



Theo Clarke MP hosts successful birth trauma report launch



Theo Clarke MP hosted a successful launch of the APPG on Birth Trauma's report on 13th May 2024. The launch event featured an at-capacity audience of witnesses, MPs, journalists, and representatives of charities and other interested parties. There were speeches from: Theo Clarke MP, Kim Thomas (the report's writer), The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Gill Castle (campaigner and Special Advisory Group member), Suzanne White (representing the launch's sponsor, Leigh Day), and the APPG's co-Chair Rosie Duffield MP.

The Secretary of State provided a welcome boost to the event, with an announcement of the Government's immediate acceptance of many of the 12 recommendations. Ms Clarke looks forward to seeing these implemented, and she will continue to campaign for acceptance of all the APPG's recommendations.

Theo Clarke MP attends Stafford Mayor-making ceremony



Stafford MP Theo Clarke was delighted to attend the Stafford Council and Mayor Making Ceremony at Shire Hall on 11th May 2024.

'One of my favourite days of the year is seeing our new Mayor installed in Stafford. It was excellent to see public turning out in support for both the Civic Service and parade. Thank you to outgoing Mayor Cllr Andy Cooper for all your hard work and fundraising for local charities.'

Theo Clarke MP celebrates Conservative Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioner re-election



3rd May 2024: Stafford MP Theo Clarke has celebrated the re-election of Ben Adams, Staffordshire's Conservative Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioner. As one of only five Commissioners in the country with joint oversight of the Police and Fire services, the Staffordshire PF&RC Commissioner plays a vital role in ensuring the emergencies services work more smartly and are deeply integrated.

'I am delighted to see Ben re-elected to such an important role. His oversight over the past three years has been key to them continuing to become better services. I look forward to continuing to work with Ben to make our health and fire services more agile, and to combat the scourge of rural crime.'

Help Campaign for the Conservative Party in Staffordshire

Are you passionate about making a positive impact in your community?

Do you believe in the values of the Conservative Party and want to support our local efforts in Staffordshire?

We're looking for dedicated volunteers like you to join our campaign team!

Specifically, ***we need volunteers who can help deliver letters in their neighbourhoods***. This is a crucial part of our outreach efforts to connect with residents and share our message effectively. By volunteering your time, you'll play a vital role in helping us engage with voters and make a difference in Staffordshire.

If you're interested in lending a hand and supporting our cause, please get in touch with us today. Together, we can work towards a brighter future for Staffordshire and our country.

Thank you for your commitment to making a difference!

To volunteer or learn more, please contact Jonathan Price (contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk) or call 07792 024858 .

Gavin Rallies Support for Local Rail

14th May 2024: Sir Gavin Williamson spoke up for Staffordshire during a debate in Parliament about public transport services in the West Midlands.

During the debate, Sir Gavin was keen to push for greater improvements to local rail services.

He celebrated recent successes in the region, including the Government's investment in the Chase railway line, which serves Cannock, Rugeley, and Landywood stations. Since the investment, residents in Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay have benefitted from even more frequent services.

In particular, Sir Gavin addressed the Minister of State for the Department of Transport, Huw Merriman, to request further improvements. He called on the Minister to consider increasing the frequency of services from Penkridge station at the weekend to support links to Stafford and Birmingham. Moreover, his suggestions to provide disabled access to Stone Station were enthusiastically received by the Minister, who replied with reassurance that £350 million in funding has been allocated for accessibility purposes.

Following discussions about train services, Sir Gavin prompted debate about road surfaces. Having spoken on the matter with many constituents, Sir Gavin asked the Minister to prioritise pothole repair in Staffordshire.

Sir Gavin said: "I was grateful for the opportunity to address the Minister and make the case for Staffordshire's public services. It is worth celebrating that we have already successfully campaigned for greater services at Landywood station near Penkridge and Great Wyrley. However, I will keep pushing until this progress has been extended to all stations across Staffordshire. It is absolutely essential that our rural transport networks are prioritised just as urban networks are."

Gavin Backs Better Rail for Staffordshire

16th May 2024: Sir Gavin Williamson joined representatives from Avanti West Coast, alongside Rail Minister Huw Merriman, to discuss the company's plans for the future.

Sir Gavin met with the Managing Director of the company, Andy Mellors, who was keen to inform him of the improvements that Avanti are making to their services. The company announced a £117m investment to refurbish their Pendolino trains, electric high-speed passenger trains designed with tilting technology to provide a faster and smoother journey. They've also invested £350m in sustainable travel with the aim of providing a more consistent and reliable service.

The Rail Minister commended the constant improvements companies like Avanti are making to their services and spoke about further opportunities for development.

Sir Gavin said: "I was glad to meet with Avanti West Coast, a service which I frequently use when travelling to Parliament from my home in Staffordshire. It is exciting to hear that over £100 million will be spent investing in their services, which will no doubt make a big difference for passengers. These are the kinds of improvements that I'm campaigning for; better and more frequent services, whether that be on local, regional, or national lines."



Gavin Supports Dementia Action Week

17th May 2024: Sir Gavin Williamson joined Alzheimer's Society in Parliament to discuss how to best support those living with the disease.

Sir Gavin met with representatives from the charity to spread awareness of the condition during Dementia Action Week. In particular, they discussed the need for an accurate diagnosis of the illness, which a third of people currently living with dementia do not receive. This means that a large proportion of those with dementia are not getting adequate support or care for their illness.



In South Staffordshire, only 66.8% of those with dementia are given a diagnosis. Yet even those who are given a diagnosis are often not given access to new and promising treatments. Nationally, only around 2% of those diagnosed currently receive the specialist tests necessary to confirm if they are eligible for new treatments. This means that many will not be able to access new treatments in the pipeline that appear to slow the progression of Alzheimer's.

Sir Gavin said: "It is encouraging to hear that treatments are being developed that have reported incredibly positive results and I hope these treatments will be accessible to patients as soon as possible. It was great to meet with representatives from Alzheimer's Society who do so much for the 1 in 3 people in the UK who will develop dementia in their lifetime."

Gavin Joins Spring Celebrations in Great Wyrley

23rd May 2024: Sir Gavin Williamson visited St Andrews Church's annual spring Fayre in Great Wyrley.

Over the course of the morning, the local community was invited to come together at the lively Fayre. There were a huge variety of stalls, which were greatly enjoyed, selling refreshments, jewellery, second-hand clothes, books and DVDs. Moreover, the children at the Fayre had the opportunity to take part in entertaining activities like face painting, a penalty shoot-out, and tombola. Sir Gavin bought several raffle tickets.



Furthermore, the annual scarecrow trail in Great Wyrley also took place on the same day. Every year, the local community puts together a series of events in order to celebrate carnival. The scarecrow festival weekend kicked-off with a scarecrow trail around the village, which saw residents create and put up their own scarecrows outside their houses. Both adults and children took part in the best scarecrow competition, showing great enthusiasm.

Sir Gavin said: "I was delighted to spend my Saturday morning both at St Andrews Church's spring Fayre and the scarecrow festival in Great Wyrley. It was great to see so many people come and celebrate together on a beautiful sunny day. In addition, I also had the chance to visit the scout hut and catch up with our local youth leaders."

Campaign launched to boost school attendance in Staffordshire



A new campaign to encourage and support regular school attendance has been launched by Staffordshire County Council.

Regular school attendance is important for children and young people, and research shows a clear link between high attendance and educational outcomes. This leads to better life opportunities and the best results for individuals.

The council's 'Little Heroes' campaign focuses on the 'HERO' theme to encourage the message 'Here Everyday Ready and On time'. Selected primary schools will be taking part in the trial to support key stage one pupils, to see if the fun and engaging attendance activities in the classroom have an impact on school attendance.

For pupils struggling with their emotional health, the council has also created a 'Helpful Heroes' workbook. This will help support children to overcome barriers to school avoidance and to help manage their worries through a range of mindfulness activities.

Across the UK, there has been a drop in attendance rates, and school attendance in Staffordshire schools is down by 2.3 per cent, compared to previous years.

Councillor Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education at Staffordshire County Council said: "We are so pleased to be trialing our brand-new Little Heroes campaign across the county.

"We understand that for some families, getting their children to attend school can be a real challenge, and many children face significant barriers.

"Our Little Heroes campaign has been carefully designed to encourage and engage with children about the importance of attending school and to support children that may be avoiding school due to emotional barriers.

"I look forward to seeing the campaign in action and hope that together we can support children in the best way possible, in attending school every day and enjoying some of the best days of their lives."

[People can find out more on the Little Heroes campaign website.](#)

[Watch a short video with Jonathan Price talking about the project.](#)

EVENTS



South Staffordshire Branch of the **Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation** cordially invites you to join them for an Afternoon Tea in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, complete with a guest speaker and superb singer, Kath Perry who will lead you through a sing-along of your favourite tunes from the 1940's.

When: Friday 7th June

Where: Location to be advised to those who have reserved.

When: 2:30PM to 5PM

Cost per ticket £20.

Booking is essential for this event.

To book, please contact the Federation Office on 01785 252 273
or email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

SUPPER CLUB



**The next Conservative Supper Club at the Red Lion, Bradley, will be on
Thursday 27th June (7PM for 7:30PM start)**

TICKETS: £20 per person

BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 21st JUNE

To book: please contact the Federation office on 01785 252 273 or by email to
contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

100 Club

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS ANNOUNCED

1st Prize: JOHN FOSTER

2nd Prize: TREVOR TABERNOR

3rd Prize: BARBARA CARTWRIGHT

Congratulations!

Can you help?

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation only exists because of the generosity of local members and supporters. We do not receive financial subsidies from Conservative Party HQ. All the funds we raise come from membership, local events, and donations. We can only continue to thrive and build a strong voice for local Conservatives with your help. Any donation will make a difference - especially this year when we have the PFCC and General election campaigns ahead of us. If you'd like to make a donation, please get in touch with Duncan Sandbrook, Chairman or see our website for details.

<https://www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk/make-donation>

One way of helping us, and with a chance of winning a prize, is to join our 100 Club! Subscriptions are just **£4.34** a month or **£52** a year for each number entered.

Join our 100 Club today and you could be our next winner.

For more details, please email contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or call 01785 252 273.

Full details and terms and conditions can be found on our website.

IMPORTANT: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you pay for your membership subscription by standing order or bank transfer, have you changed the payment amount and the bank details?

From 1st January 2024 the membership fees have increased. The new rates for all members are:

Standard: £39 per year
Armed Forces: £25 per year
Under 26: £10 per year

Our preferred method of payment is by direct debit. It means less administration for the local team and you benefit from the direct debit guarantee scheme. If you want to set up a direct debit for your membership subscription, please get in touch.

And, as we've mentioned in previous newsletters, the bank details for your membership subscriptions - if you pay locally - have now changed.

The new bank account details are:

Account Name: Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation
Sort Code: 30-98-00
Account Number: 00449122

Most importantly cheques need to be made payable to 'Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation' and if you were previously a member of the former **Stone** or **South Staffordshire** Associations and paid by bank transfer or standing order, **please remember the old bank account details you previously used are no longer valid.**

If you've set up a bank transfer or standing order, please change the details with your bank - and please remember to allow for the new membership subscription rates.

We cannot renew your membership if we receive less than the amount that is due.

If you have any queries about membership please telephone (01785 252 273) or get in touch by email to membership@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Contacting the Federation

Your Federation is staffed by volunteers, the office is not permanently staffed. The telephone line is diverted to a mobile number and calls are answered if someone is available to take your call. But please remember that the volunteers who manage your Federation work full-time, so sometimes it's not possible to answer your calls and in these circumstances you are able to leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note that members can also contact the Federation by email (which is often a quicker way of getting a response) at contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Car Parking at our Castle Street HQ

The Federation generates important revenue towards the upkeep of our Castle Street HQ by renting car parking spaces to both members and non-members.

Occasional parking at our HQ remains free for members, but we would ask that members inform the office if you will be parking at HQ at least 24-hours in advance, with details of the car registration number so that you do not receive penalty notices. You can get in touch with the office to notify your intention to use our car park, by telephone to **01785 252 273** or by email to contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

We would also ask that members please park with consideration for other car park users.

Parking is at the owner's risk. The Federation does not accept any responsibility for theft or any damage, intentional or otherwise, to vehicles or vehicle contents.

Upcoming events

7th June - Commemoration Afternoon Tea, hosted by South Staffs Branch, 2:30PM to 5PM

27th June - Supper Club at the Red Lion, Bradley - 7:00PM

Key Contacts

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Telephone: **01785 252 273**

Email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Promoted by Duncan Sandbrook on behalf of Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation,
both at Castle Street, Stafford ST16 2ED