



Newsletter

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Your Federation team wishes you all a very merry Christmas

Member of Parliament for Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge:

The Rt Hon Sir Gavin Williamson, CBE MP

For news and other information visit: www.gavinwilliamson.org/

28th November 2025

Gavin visits Bishton Hall

Sir Gavin Williamson visited Bishton Hall in Colwich and met with TV antiques expert Charles Hanson who now owns the historic building.

The Hall dates back to 1750 with the first recorded resident being Miss Charlotte Sparrow (she founded Colwich Primary School in 1827) who was born in 1786 and died in 1876 – she lived at Bishton Hall for all her life. The Hansons became owners in 2019.



The Grade II listed building hosts events all year round, whilst people can visit the tea rooms as well as the gardens and attend auctions held by Charles Hanson who is best known for appearing on Bargain Hunt.

Charles Hanson, said: “I was delighted to meet with Sir Gavin and I was pleased with the enthusiasm I was greeted with.

“Together I felt reassured that we can make local business for local people thrive; but more so to ensure that local culture and history in Staffordshire is maintained in a forward thinking way for future generations to enjoy.”

Sir Gavin said: “It was a real pleasure to visit Bishton Hall which is steeped in history and a fantastic tourism attraction for Staffordshire.

“Charles has further put the Hall on the map with his work on some of Britain’s most watched antiques programmes – subsequently boosting visitor numbers and bringing more intrigue to the Hall and Staffordshire as a whole.

“I look forward to working with Charles in the future as we consider plans to boost tourism which will have a demonstrable impact on local businesses and the economy.”

Gavin campaigns for the future of Shareshill Church

Sir Gavin Williamson is campaigning for the future of Shareshill Church after speculation suggested the historic building is under threat.

The church's structure dates from the 14th Century and has historical importance to the local community whilst also being previously used to hold a BBC Songs of Praise performance.

Now hundreds of years of history, community pride, and cultural significance is under threat with residents demonstrating their unhappiness about the rumours on social media as well as making representations to elected representatives.



Bob Cope, South Staffordshire District Councillor for Shareshill said: “The community value the existence of this 400 year-old church and are concerned about its closure for future generations.

“It is accepted that the congregation has reduced in recent years, however, we would like further consultation with the diocese with a view to discussing any alternatives which may safeguard the church's future sustainability.”

Sir Gavin said: “I am deeply concerned to learn of reports that suggest the future of Shareshill Church is under threat.

“Churches are an extremely important part of communities. They offer a place for relaxation and a moment to pause for thought. Churches are at the centre of life from christenings, weddings, and funeral.

“Most residents in Shareshill will be able to point to a part in their life where the church holds a poignant memory. And churches are not just for religious based events – it is also a place for people to come together and meet for a chat as well as to combat loneliness.

“Therefore, I will work with locally elected representatives such as Bob, residents, and others to ensure the church can be a focal point of Shareshill for many generations to come.”

Gavin calls for faster access to Huntington's Disease treatment

Sir Gavin Williamson is calling for the Government and health authorities to accelerate new treatments to treat Huntington's Disease.

Huntington's Disease is a genetic brain disorder caused by a faulty gene in DNA. It is a progressive, life-limiting illness that affects cognitively, movement, and behaviour. Symptoms vary from person to person but include: forgetting tasks, involuntary movements, and changes in mood as well as personality.

It is estimated that over 8,000 people are living with Huntington's Disease and a further 32,000 are at risk of developing it. Therefore, advancing treatment is vital to ensuring those living with the disease can live as comfortable a life as possible. Sir Gavin is also calling for any future treatments to be accelerated through the approval processes that govern clinical guidelines.

Cath Stanley BEM, Chief Executive of the Huntington's Disease Association said: "Huntington's disease touches entire families, and every bit of understanding and support matters. We are determined to make sure that when a treatment becomes available, everyone who can benefit from it will have a chance to access it.

"I look forward to working with Sir Gavin in the months and years ahead to secure a better future for those living with Huntington's Disease."

Sir Gavin said: "I welcomed the opportunity to attend this extremely important event that focussed on ways we can continue to support those living with Huntington's Disease as well as their friends and family.

"When new, effective, treatments become available, it is crucial that these are proscribed to those with the condition as soon as possible. Whilst safety is paramount, clinically proven medication should not encounter delays.

"I'm also keenly aware that those with Huntington's disease need support now. I will be committed to campaigning for access to treatment and as much support as possible."



Gavin calls for considerate use of fireworks

Sir Gavin Williamson is calling for the considerate use of fireworks after attending a Parliamentary event hosted by the Fireworks Impact Coalition (FIC).

The FIC consists of a group of charities including The Dogs Trust and the RSPCA who are all calling for a stricter use of fireworks. In particular Dogs Trust is calling for: fireworks limited to licensed, public occasions at certain times of the year and organised events only, a requirement for local authorities to take animal welfare into consideration when granting a licence, and noise level restrictions.



Owen Sharp, CEO of Dogs Trust said: “Every year, we hear from dog owners who have watched their beloved pets shake with fear or injure themselves while trying to escape the sound of fireworks.

“Alongside the distress we witness in our rehoming centres across the country, this suffering could be reduced through a few simple measures, such as introducing controls on the dates and times fireworks are permitted.”

Sir Gavin said: “I was pleased to attend such an important event which focussed on looking at ways we can all reduce the impact that fireworks can have on people, wildlife, and pets.

“As a dog owner myself, I know all too well how scared and frightened our beloved pets can be with increasingly loud and consistent fireworks. However, fireworks can be a source of joy and entertainment, so it is about trying to strike the right balance.

“As well as the affect on pets, fireworks can really affect those who have served in the armed forces and may suffer flashbacks, whilst we should also be conscious of the impact on vulnerable people.

“I will continue to work with Ministers, stakeholders, and charities to ensure that fireworks can be celebrated in a considerate way.”

Gavin meets new Housing Plus Chief Executive

Sir Gavin Williamson met the new Chief Executive of Housing Plus in Penkridge to discuss future plans for the organisation as well as to raise queries on behalf of constituents.

The housing group appointed Wayne Gethings as their new Chief Executive at the beginning of this year, following Sarah Boden's retirement. As well as his role at Housing Plus, Wayne chairs the National Housing Federation's Housing, Asset Management, Maintenance, and Regeneration Group – further shaping housing policy across the UK.



In January, Housing Plus Group and Wrekin Group merged together to create a 33,000-home provider operating across Staffordshire, Telford, and the Wrekin. The group plans to invest an extra £55 million across the region to build new homes.

Wayne Gethings said: "It was great to welcome Sir Gavin to Penric, to share with him my vision for Housing Plus Group as a placed based leader across Staffordshire.

"Following our merger, we are focussed on creating places that people are proud to call home. Our engagement with local MPs, and a range of key partners, is a vital component of how we can influence positive changes on behalf of our customers and communities."

Sir Gavin said: "I welcomed the opportunity to meet with Wayne and hear his vision for the group and how they will deliver housing for people across Staffordshire.

"It's vital that we have adequate, quality, social housing in Staffordshire that is built in appropriate settings and is designed with local landscapes in mind.

"I regularly receive Housing Plus related queries from constituents and will do all I can to ensure residents are receiving the best possible service by engaging with key stakeholders and others to meet residents' needs."

FEDERATION NOTICES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL?

The Executive Council is the governing body of the Federation and we have some vacancies for ward representatives for the following areas:

Maer & Whitmore, Essington, Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon, Great Wyrley Landywood, Great Wyrley Town, Huntington & Hatherton, Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston, Penkridge North & Acton Trussell, Penkridge South & Gailey, Baswich, Coton, Doxey & Castletown, Forebridge, Highfields & Western Downs, Holmcroft, Littleworth, Milwich, Rowley, St Michael's & Stonefield and Walton.

If you'd like more information, please contact the Chairman at the following address chairman@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or at our Castle Street office address.

100 Club

NOVEMBER WINNERS:

1st Prize: MARK SUTTON

2nd Prize: VERA WILKINSON

3rd Prize: JOHN FOSTER

Congratulations!

Our 100 Club helps raise funds to keep the Federation running.

If you can spare £4.34 a month or £52 a year, you could help us with keeping our Federation going...and you might win one of our prizes!

PLEASE JOIN TODAY

If you'd like to join, request an application form by calling 01785 252 273 or via email to contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Help support the Federation and have a bit of a flutter at the same time!
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.

Full details (application forms and other information including the terms and conditions) can be found on our website:

<https://www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk/100-club>

Could YOU Be Our Next Conservative Councillor?

Do you care about your community? Do you want to make a difference in local decision-making and stand up for Conservative values where it matters most?

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation is looking for enthusiastic and committed people to step forward and represent us in the **Loggerheads** and **Maer & Whitmore** wards at the **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council** elections in **May 2026**.

Becoming a Conservative Councillor is an opportunity to:

- Serve your local community and influence how services are delivered.
- Support residents and be their champion on the council.
- Promote Conservative principles of responsibility, opportunity, and community.
- Gain valuable experience in public service and leadership.

No prior council experience is required — just energy, commitment, and a belief in Conservative values. Training and guidance are provided to help you succeed.

Interested? Get in Touch Today

Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political
contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk
Tel: 01785 252 273

Step forward. Speak up. Make a difference.



CHRISTMAS AT CASTLE STREET

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! *

Bookings are now open for our
Christmas Luncheon at Castle Street.

Sunday 7th December 2025
(1PM)

TICKETS: £35 per person

BOOKINGS CLOSE
MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2025

To book: please contact Federation
office on 01785 252 273
or by email to
contact@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

5th December - Penkridge Supper Club, Penkridge Peace Memorial Hall, 6:30PM

7th December - Christmas at Castle Street, 1PM

Key Contacts

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