



Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Your Federation officer team wishes you all a Happy New Year

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/

22nd December 2025

Gavin Visits Commonwealth War Graves Site

Sir Gavin Williamson visited the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) site on Cannock Chase to pay tribute to those who died during both World Wars.

During the First World War, the Chase was home to bustling military camps, hospitals, training areas, as well as having its own railway called the “Tackeroo Express.” Now, the site is maintained by the CWGC who continue to lead projects across the world that honour the legacy of Commonwealth military personnel.



The CWGC maintains graves and memorials at 23,000 locations in over 150 countries and territories and visitors to its website can find the location of a soldier’s grave who died during either World War.

Public Engagement Coordinator (West Central) for CWGC said: “It was a pleasure to welcome Sir Gavin to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Cannock Chase and to have the opportunity to share some of the stories of those who lost their lives in the two World Wars, and are commemorated at this important interesting and historic site. “

Sir Gavin said: “It was truly humbling to visit the Commonwealth War Graves site on Cannock Chase which serves as a poignant reminder for the sacrifices so many made so we could enjoy the freedoms we are so lucky to have.

“The CWGC are a wonderful organisation who work tirelessly to preserve the honour and memory of military personnel across the world.

“I would highly recommend visiting the site which is set in tranquil grounds and offers the perfect setting for quiet contemplation.”

Gavin campaigns for access to improved sports facilities in Coven

Sir Gavin Williamson is campaigning alongside Coven United to improve grassroots facilities in the village and the wider area.

Currently, the club lacks the provision of floodlights – meaning that participation is difficult during the winter months.

Many academic studies have demonstrated that grassroots football has an enormous impact on the mental health of young people, as well as boosting confidence and honing transferable skills which can be used in later life through education and employment.

Moreover, according to research conducted by the Football Association (FA) in 2019, grassroots football contributes £10 billion annually to the UK economy whilst saving the NHS £43 million each year. Therefore, it is crucial that clubs like Coven United are supported to thrive.

Chris Tattles, who manages various age groups for Coven United said: “We would like to thank Sir Gavin for meeting with us, the Committee look forward to working with him to promote the growth and development of the club in the local community.”

Sir Gavin said: “I was delighted to meet with representatives from Coven United and discuss how we can work together to ensure the club has the requisite facilities to enable participation all year round.

“Coven United are an inclusive football club who welcome young people of all ages and abilities. It is clear that the nurturing environment helps young people build confidence, learn transferable skills, and socialise with like-minded individuals.

“I look forward to supporting the club grow and development in the years and months to come.”



Gavin calls for clarity over fire service funding

Sir Gavin Williamson is calling for the Government to urgently clarify future funding for the fire service after Staffordshire Fire and Rescue raised concerns regarding the impact of potential cuts.

The Government is currently determining how funding from the Spending Review will be allocated with fire services particularly in rural communities fearing cuts to personnel as well as station closures.

According to modelling commissioned by the National Fire Chiefs Council, standalone fire and rescue services face £102 million real term cuts due to Government grant reductions. This is equivalent to a loss of 1,500 firefighters.

Staffordshire Fire Service Group Manager, Jordan Money said: “It was a pleasure to meet Sir Gavin and discuss the current financial challenges facing the service. We also explored the journey the service has undertaken over the past decade, including our current wide range of initiatives delivered to make our communities as safe as possible.”

Sir Gavin said: “The fire service are a critical part of our emergency response. They do not respond just to fires, but also to road traffic collisions, flooding incidents, rescue missions, and so much more.

“As well as their emergency critical functions, fire staff provide important safety awareness to schools and residents, install and monitor smoke alarms, as well as provide training courses to young people across the country.

“Therefore, it is crucial that the fire service is adequately funded to enable their core functions to continue as well as additional responsibilities which benefit communities. I am concerned that failure to do so will see stations close and loss of personnel.

“I am calling on the Police and Fire Minister to urgently address this issue and for fire services to be adequately funded.”



Gavin supports leading sight loss charity in calling for an end to waits for support

Sir Gavin Williamson attended a Parliamentary drop-in event organised by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), to back the call for an end to unacceptable wait times for essential support after people are diagnosed with a sight condition.

At the event, Gavin met blind and partially sighted people, professional vision rehabilitation specialists, and RNIB staff as well as ambassadors to hear experiences of local authority support and the need to ensure tailored help is delivered in a timely manner.



New research by RNIB shows that the vision rehabilitation support provided by local authorities including essential white-cane training, cooking and technology skills, has become an underfunded service across England.

RNIB Chief Executive Officer Matt Stringer said: “Too many people feel that their life is on pause while they wait for the services they are entitled to. But with the right support and equipment people can live confidently and independently.

“Losing your sight does not mean you have to stop doing what you love. We are grateful to Sir Gavin for joining us today to add weight to our call for action.”

Sir Gavin said:” It is crystal clear to me that this service is vital to supporting those with sight loss in Staffordshire retain their independence in carrying out everyday tasks including cooking, navigating transport, and thriving in the workplace.

“I welcomed the opportunity to meet with RNIB staff as well as partially sighted people to further understand the vital importance of vision rehabilitation services.

“I am calling on the Health Secretary to commit to ensuring blind and partially sighted people get the emotional and practical support they need, when they need it most.”

READOPTIION OF SIR GAVIN WILLIAMSON

Sir Gavin Williamson was formally readopted as the Conservative Candidate for the Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge Parliamentary Constituency at a meeting of the Federation Executive Council on December 18th.

Federation Chairman, Duncan Sandbrook, said “Sir Gavin has demonstrated, over many years, a deep and unwavering commitment to the people he serves. He is a hardworking constituency MP who is visible, accessible, and consistently engaged with local residents, community groups, and stakeholders across the constituency. His record shows a strong understanding of local priorities and a determination to secure the best outcomes for our area.”

“Beyond his parliamentary service, Sir Gavin has been a steadfast supporter of our Federation. He works constructively with our officers, councillors, and members, and he values the vital role that our voluntary party plays in campaigning, organisation, and community engagement. That relationship of mutual respect and cooperation is important, and it has been clearly demonstrated.”

“On a personal note, I am happy to give my full endorsement to Sir Gavin’s reapproval. I believe he remains the strongest possible candidate to represent this constituency, to champion Conservative values locally, and to support the ongoing growth and effectiveness of our Federation.”

Sir Gavin said “I’d just like to say what an honour it has been to be the candidate first and then the Member of Parliament for Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge over the last 18 months. What I have tried to do in the time of being both the candidate and the Member of Parliament is to make sure I am in all different parts of the constituency consistently. It’s fair to say that you sometimes feel a bit like a yo-yo going up and down from one part to the other but what I have tried to do is try to make sure there is a presence felt, there’s a sense that their MP is there to represent them and feel part of the community. I’ve also tried to use the privilege of being the Member of Parliament and use the House of Commons chamber to raise local issues.”

“If I am fortunate enough to be your parliamentary candidate going into the next general election, I want to make sure people realise I am out there campaigning, making sure they understand as their MP, I am there for them, I am willing to put the constituency first and make their voices heard. I hope by doing so that people who are not always Conservative, maybe don’t always vote Conservative will actually think we’ve got someone here who is a strong local representative and realise we put this constituency first.”

“I want to make sure that wherever people are, whatever age they are, they see that you are a representative that first and foremost is there to represent them in Westminster not to represent Westminster in Staffordshire. I would like to think that’s what I have always done over the 15 years I have been a member of Parliament. It is certainly what I would hope to continue to do for however long I have the great privilege of serving this wonderful constituency.”

SPRING CONFERENCE TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

HARROGATE 6TH - 8TH MARCH 2026

Join campaigners and friends from across the country for a development-led weekend of renewal and action - packed with energy, ideas and the practical skills to win.

In partnership with the Conservative Councillors' Association and the Campaign Academy, Spring Conference will equip campaigners and councillors with the tools and support to lead winning campaigns.

Get ready to level up your campaigning with sessions including:

- Digital and social media that cuts through
- Tried-and-tested campaigning techniques
- Essential briefings for agents and campaigners
- You'll hear keynote speeches from the Shadow Cabinet, MPs and senior conservatives, plus enjoy networking opportunities, social events and evening entertainment. The National Convention will also meet during the weekend.

Whether you're a first-time organiser or a seasoned campaigner, this is your rallying point for Campaign 2026 and the future!

The programme is being brought together and will include speeches from the senior members of our Party and a range of development opportunities for councillors, activists, officers, agents and the wider membership. Working in partnership with the Conservative Councillors' Association (CCA), we expect this to be an enjoyable occasion to either get last minute tips (for those with elections in May) or to plan further ahead for those with elections in 2027 or 2028.

Alongside this there is also the opportunity for you to join

- a Drinks Reception hosted by the CCA
- a pub quiz and social event
- a Reception with the Candidates Department
- a Members' Gala DinneR

So there will be plenty of opportunities to meet with friends and colleagues. All of these can be added at the point of purchase, and some are space-limited so an encouragement to book early.

Tickets are available at: conservatives.com/spring-conference/2026

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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

DECEMBER WINNERS:

1st Prize: JEAN TABERNOR

2nd Prize: ANDY ADAMS

3rd Prize: JONATHAN KIDSON

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>

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

Details of any upcoming events will be advertised in our monthly newsletter and on our website EVENTS page.

If you'd like to get involved with our campaign activities, please join our WHATSAPP groups. Contact Deputy Chairman Political, Jonathan Price for further information.

Key Contacts

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation
Castle Street
Stafford ST16 2ED

Telephone: **01785 252 273**

Email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk