Central Staffordshire Conservatives

APRIL 2026
Issue # 29

Newsletter

MP NEWS

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/

27 March 2026

Gavin calls for better end of life care for those with dementia

Sir Gavin Williamson is calling for those with dementia to receive better end of life after worrying statistics from Dementia UK show a lack of preparedness.

According to Dementia UK, 24% of people with dementia have had their palliative care needs met, just 14% had an advance care plan, and only 12% of families accessed a specialist dementia nurse during the end-of-life stage. Sir Gavin has worked with Nationwide to increase the number of dementia clinics in Staffordshire with the Penkridge branch recently announcing an extension of the support.

Sir Gavin recently attended a Parliamentary event to mark the launch of Dementia UK's new report 'A better death: fixing palliative and end of life care for dementia in Westminster.' This report draws on new research, clinical expertise, and the experiences of people affected by dementia.

Sir Gavin said: "Dementia is a cruel illness that affects so many and we must do all we can to ensure the appropriate support is in place for sufferers and their families.

"I was alarmed to read statistics produced by Dementia UK which shows a significant gap in palliative care for those with dementia – this is unacceptable and we must do all we can to ensure those with dementia are provided with a dignified death.

"I am committed to working with charities including Dementia UK and others to improve palliative care in Staffordshire and beyond."

MP NEWS

24 March 2026

Gavin opens new Post Office in Featherstone

Sir Gavin Williamson opened a new post office in Featherstone which is conveniently located inside Village Food and Wine & Express Ltd.

Sir Gavin has campaigned alongside the Parish Council and local residents to see the post office return to Featherstone which will assist with banking needs as well as exchanging currency. Residents will also be able to send and receive parcels.

The post office will be open for 58 hours a week (Monday to Friday 8am until 6pm and Saturday's from 8am until 4pm) providing residents with flexibility and convenience.

Didar Singh, who will run the service said: "People are delighted that Featherstone Post office is open for banking, and other mail services. It is important for people to have access to cash."

Sir Gavin added: "It is extremely welcome and reassuring to see that postal services have returned to Featherstone.

"Prior to this, the village did not even have a cash machine – meaning residents would need to travel to Shareshill or further afield to access cash.

"With the increasing nature of digital banking, I have long been concerned that access to cash is slowly being diluted – a major problem and inconvenience for vulnerable and elderly residents. I welcome that more post offices and banking hubs are being opened across Staffordshire to closure the digital divide and offer alternatives to online banking.

"I would like to thank Didar and the team at Village Food and Wines for delivering a service which I know is greatly appreciated by residents."

23 March 2026

Gavin showcases Staffordshire for English Tourism Week

Sir Gavin Williamson visited Moseley Old Hall as part of English Tourism Week and to celebrate the cultural offering that Staffordshire delivers.

Moseley Old Hall, which is owned and maintained by the National Trust, has important national significance as Charles II hid there whilst fleeing for his life after the battle of Worcester in 1651.

English Tourism Week, which takes place between 13th March and 22nd March, celebrates England's largest, most valuable industries and supports over two million jobs – contributing £127 billion for the economy annually.

Staffordshire is renowned for its cultural heritage and tourism offerings with places such as Shugborough Hall and Alton Towers visited by millions of people each year.

Phillip White, Deputy Leader of Staffordshire County Council said: "Staffordshire is a really great place to visit, and we are incredibly proud of our tourism offer.

"Tourism is really booming here in the County but for many people we are still a relatively hidden treasure. English Tourism Week gives us a great opportunity to shout about all our amazing attractions as well as our wonderful hospitality."

Sir Gavin added: "Staffordshire is a wonderful place to live and visit. We are extremely lucky to have attractions of national significance including Shugborough Hall and Moseley Old Hall.

"Tourism is an extremely important part of our culture and identity – boosting the economy and creating job opportunities across many sectors.

"I highly encourage people to visit the amazing attractions in Staffordshire and look forward to continuing supporting our industries."

11 March 2026

Gavin campaigns for more bleed kits in Staffordshire

Sir Gavin Williamson is joining Stone based AED Donate to call for the greater roll-out of bleed kits across Staffordshire as knife related crime reached over 50,000 incidents in the year up to March 2025.

Bleed kits help stem severe bleeding from deep wounds before emergency services arrive and have been known to save dozens of lives across the country since their installation in communities. AED Donate in Stone, supply bleed kits as well as defibrillators and work with community groups, local authorities, and others to maintain the devices.

Sir Gavin was given a demonstration of how to use a bleed kit which includes equipment such as a haemostatic (blood-clotting) dressing, compressed gauze (for packing deep wounds), pressure bandages and other items to stop the flow of bleeding.

Julie Lawton, AED Donate Community Trainer, said: “Severe bleeding can become life threatening within minutes.

“Having bleed control kits in publicly accessible locations, giving bystanders the equipment they need to take immediate action and potentially save a life before the ambulance service arrives.

“These kits are simple to use and can make a crucial difference in those few moments of an emergency.”

Sir Gavin added: “Bleed kits are increasingly become more prevalent in our communities, and this is thanks to the work by charities including AED Donate.

“Sadly, knife crime continues to increase in some parts of the country, and whilst our efforts must remain on bringing perpetrators to justice and community work to deter offenders, it is welcome that bleed kits now sit alongside defibrillators as easy-to-use life saving devices.

“I look forward to continuing to work with AED Donate to ensure more bleed kits are available across Staffordshire.”

Could YOU be a Conservative Councillor
for the new Unitary Authority for Staffordshire?
We're looking for committed, passionate Conservatives to stand as council candidates for the new Unitary Authority for Staffordshire.
Interested in making a difference in your community?
GET INVOLVED!
Serve your local area
Stand up for Conservative values
Help shape the future of Staffordshire
Conservatives
To find out more, contact us today!
Email: contact@staffordshireconservatives.org.uk
Call: 01785 252 273

Join the Campaign. Shape the Future.

Your Federation is calling on members to get involved and help spread the Conservative message across our two Parliamentary Constituencies:

- Stafford
- Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge

By joining our campaign groups, you'll be supporting Conservative candidates and promoting Conservative values at the heart of our local Staffordshire communities.

IMPORTANT COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAY 2026

We have vital council elections taking place in May 2026 in Loggerheads and Maer & Whitmore wards.

We are looking for members who would like to volunteer to help us campaign in advance of these very important elections.

Campaign activities include:

- Delivering leaflets
- Door knocking
- Collecting voter data
- Spreading the message about Conservative candidates and Conservative values

No experience is required – just enthusiasm and a willingness to help.

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP CAMPAIGN GROUPS

Stafford Campaign Group: https://l1nk.dev/KEdkt
Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge Campaign Group: https://acesse.one/rpUmZ

GET IN TOUCH

If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact us:
Tel: **01785 252 273** or email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Together, we can deliver strong Conservative results across Central Staffordshire.

FEDERATION NOTICES

AGM 2026

At our recent AGM, members confirmed the Federation's leadership team for the year ahead, alongside our honorary positions.

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

Honorary Positions
President: The Rt Hon Viscount Newport
Vice-Presidents: Ann Foster, Diane Holmes, Roger Barnard

Officer Team 2026
Chairman: Duncan Sandbrook
Deputy Chairman Political: Jonathan Price
Deputy Chairman Membership: Jack Taylor-Walker
Constituency Officer – Stafford: James Cantrill
Constituency Officer – Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge: Mark Sutton
Digital/Young Conservatives Officer: Joseph Hill

The Federation would also like to place on record its sincere thanks to **Wendi Sutton**, who has stepped down as Deputy Chairman Membership, and **Peter Martin**, who has stepped down as Treasurer. Both have made a significant contribution to the Federation through their dedication and service, and we are grateful for all they have done.

We look forward to building on their work as we continue to strengthen the Federation in the year ahead.

Federation Executive Council – Call for Interest

Following our March 2026 AGM, we are inviting members to step forward to serve on the Federation's Executive Council.

The Executive Council is the Federation's governing body between General Meetings, overseeing strategy, governance and finance, and ensuring we remain effective and focused locally.

Ward Representatives play a key role, serving one-year terms, representing members in their ward, and helping shape Federation priorities.

Where Branches exist, Ward Representatives are elected at Branch AGMs. The South Staffordshire Branch and the Eccleshall, Gnosall & Woodseaves, Seighford & Church Eaton Branch have already completed this process.

For wards without a Branch, we are now inviting volunteers to come forward. If there are more applicants than places, a ballot of ward members will be held.

To volunteer, email chairman@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or call 01785 252 273.

WILL YOU HELP US GROW?

STAFFS2026 PROMOTION

On 1 April, Staffordshire Conservatives launched **STAFFS2026** - a county-wide campaign to grow and strengthen our local Conservative network. Every Federation and Association across Staffordshire is taking part.

And the most important part of this campaign is **you**.

If you have friends, family or contacts who share our values, now is the perfect moment to invite them to join us. A personal recommendation is the most powerful way to grow our movement locally.

For a limited time, **new members** and **returning supporters** can benefit from a **discounted first-year membership** using our **STAFFS2026** promotion (Standard Membership only).

This is a real opportunity to bring new energy into our local Party - helping us campaign more effectively, support our communities, and win elections.

Find out more and share the link:

www.tinyurl.com/STAFFS2026

Together, let's build a stronger, more active Conservative presence across Staffordshire.

FEDERATION NOTICES

THANK YOU - PENKRIDGE SUPPER CLUB

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the members of the **Penkridge Supper Club** for their generous donation of £1,500 to the Federation.

This contribution is greatly appreciated and will support our ongoing work across Central Staffordshire, including campaigning activity and the continued upkeep of our headquarters.

We are grateful for the Supper Club's continued support and the important role it plays in bringing membersand supporters together while contributing to the strength of the Federation.

The **Penkridge Supper Club** meets four times each season — in October, December, January and March. The next event of the 2026/27 season will take place on **7 October 2026** at the **Peace Memorial Hall, Penkridge**.

Interested in joining the Penkridge Supper Club? Contact penkridgesupperclub@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

The **Friends of St Stephen's Church**, Great Haywood are organising a **SILENT AUCTION** to raise funds for a new church organ.

When: 11 April 2026
Time: 7:30pm
Where: Great Haywood Memorial Hall, Main Road, Great Haywood, Stafford, ST18 0SU

There is free admission and supper (bookable in advance at a cost of £10) will be provided by the Four and Twenty Pie Company. Please contact **Mary** on **07962723401** or **Sheila** on **07758598706** to book the supper.

Stafford Friends of Dougie Mac Children's Hospice are hosting a **FUNDRAISING DINNER** at Essence of the Orient, Stafford on **Thursday 16 April** and would welcome your support. **(Tickets £25 per person)**

The group raises funds for Dougie Mac Children's Hospice in Trentham, supporting children with life-limiting conditions across Staffordshire. Over the past 20 years, more than £100,000 has been raised.

Tables are available for groups of all sizes, and dietary requirements can be accommodated with advance notice. Bookings (with payment on the day or in advance) must be confirmed by 8 April.

If you are interested in attending please contact contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk and we will assist you. If unable to attend but would like to support the charity, donation details are available.

100 Club

MARCH WINNERS:

1st Prize: BARBARA CARTWRIGHT

2nd Prize: MARK SUTTON

3rd Prize: BARBARA RIDDLE

Congratulations!

TO BOOK:

Email: events@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Telephone: 01785 252 273

WhatsApp: 07523483281

Contacting the Federation

The Federation is run entirely by volunteers and the office is not permanently staffed. Our telephone line is diverted to a mobile and will be answered when someone is available. As our volunteers work full-time, it may not always be possible to take your call — please leave a voicemail and we will respond as soon as possible. Members can also contact the Federation by email at contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk which is often the quickest way to reach us.

New Car Parking Arrangements - Now in effect

From 1 April 2026, new arrangements have come into effect for the use of our Castle Street HQ car park.

The car park provides an important source of income for the Federation, helping to fund the ongoing maintenance and improvement of our headquarters. Built in 1968, the building is now in need of significant investment, and this income will support our long-term plans to modernise and improve the facilities.

All users are now required to book and pay for parking online: www.castlestreetparking.co.uk

Members continue to benefit from a preferential rate of **£3 per day**, compared with £4 per day for non-members.

Thank you for your continued support as we invest in the future of our Federation headquarters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23 APRIL SUPPER CLUB, The Moat House, Acton Trussell - 7PM

If you'd like to get involoved 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

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