MARCH 2026
Issue # 28

Central Staffordshire Conservatives

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/

26 February 2026

Gavin visits McDonald's outlet on Acton Gate

Sir Gavin Williamson visited the McDonald's outlet on Acton Gate to meet with staff and take a look at behind the scenes of the UK's most popular restaurant.

The outlet on Acton Gate opened its doors in March 2021 and its 100-seater two-storey branch is ideally located near Junction 13 of the M6.

Local McDonald's Franchisee, David Knight, who owns and operates the Acton Gate restaurant, said: "I was delighted to welcome Sir Gavin Williamson MP to our Acton Gate restaurant and to discuss the issues that matter most to our local community. At McDonald's, we take our role as a good neighbour seriously and focus on practical ways to support the area we serve.

Employment was a particularly important part of our conversation. At our Acton Gate restaurant, we are proud to employ people from all walks of life, and for many, McDonald's provides their very first experience of work. Developing our workforce and equipping people with the skills they need to thrive throughout their careers is central to this commitment."

Sir Gavin said : "I was delighted to meet with the wonderful team at the Acton Gate McDonald's who work incredibly hard to serve thousands of customers each month with the golden arches' iconic menu.

"I have always been a huge admirer of McDonalds' diversification and recognise their significant contribution to the UK economy and their support of supply chains in many different sectors.

"One of the most impressive aspects about the brand, is their commitment to giving young people their first taste of employment as well as providing progressive career opportunities tailored to individuals.

"I look forward to many future visits to the Acton Gate outlet and would like to thank staff for their hard work."

24 February 2026

Gavin Marks National Apprenticeship Week

Sir Gavin Williamson marked National Apprenticeship Week (9-15th February) by attending a Parliamentary Reception hosted by ADS.

ADS represent over 1,700 members from the UK's innovative, entrepreneurial, and prosperous aerospace, defence, security, and space sectors. They work with national organisations in the aforementioned sector to support people into apprenticeships as well as enabling organisations to recruit the best talent.

The contribution of apprenticeships to the UK's aerospace defence, security, and space sectors was celebrated by many MP's and leading figures in the sector. According to ADS, the sectors directly employ 26,200 apprentices as well as 433,000 people nationwide.

Kevin Craven, CEO of ADS said: "Making aerospace, defence, security, and space industries of choice for our future workforce is critical to security economic growth, national security, and cementing the advantage of the UK's world-leading advanced manufacturing industries.

"Through partnership with academia, industry and Government, our industries deliver well-paid jobs and opportunities throughout the UK. Our sectors already employ over 443,000 people, which has increased by a third in the last decade.

"We are grateful for the continued support from our political stakeholders, and for everyone who chooses to pursue a career in our truly fascinating sectors."

Sir Gavin said: "I was delighted to attend the ADS parliamentary reception and here more about the innovative apprenticeships that are providing young people with the opportunity to launch their careers in a fascinating sector.

"Apprenticeships provide people with a unique opportunity to become equipped with the tools required for a successful career whilst earning and learning on the job.

"I look forward to working with ADS and other apprenticeship providers to ensure that both individuals and organisations can benefit for many years to come."

18 February 2026

Gavin welcomes visit of cancer awareness bus to Stone

Sir Gavin Williamson has welcomed the return of the cancer awareness bus to Stone which will be parked up on Market Street near the library on Monday, 23rd March.

The service, delivered by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB), supports earlier cancer diagnosis, prevention and screening awareness, particularly in communities where access to healthcare may be challenging.

Members of the public can visit the bus during the day of the 23rd of March and speak informally with NHS staff about symptoms, screening eligibility, and when to seek help.

Sir Gavin said: “I welcome that the wheels are in motion for the cancer awareness bus to return to Stone which will give residents a vital opportunity to speak in confidence to staff about any concerns they may have.

“We know that cancer is highly likely to affect ourselves in some way throughout our lifetime – whether directly or via family and friends. Therefore, it is vital that we use all tools at our disposal to identify and treat cancer at its earliest possible stage.

“I would like to thank Staffordshire and Stoke’s ICB for their work in this area, and hope that Stone residents can make use of this service should they wish to do so.”

17 February 2026

Gavin urges Government to act on animal welfare

Sir Gavin Williamson is calling for the Government to urgently enact its animal welfare commitments following fears further delays will be detrimental to improvements in this area.

In December, the Government published the Animal Welfare Strategy for England – including proposals to regulate animal sanctuaries, stop irresponsible dog breeding, and end the use of cages for many farmed animals.

However, concern is mounting that the measures are not being enacted quickly enough – leading to fears animals are unnecessarily suffering due to slow policy implementation from Government. Sir Gavin attended an RSPCA event to further demonstrate his commitment to animal welfare.

Harriet Main, Public Affairs Manager at the RSPCA said: “It was brilliant to welcome Sir Gavin and other Parliamentarians to this special event and highlight how we can make many of the welcome ideas in the Animal Welfare Strategy for England into law.

“It is so important that the UK Government builds on their commitments by publishing clear timelines for delivery; and we also believe an annual debate in Parliament would help review progress and keep the public informed.

“Laws are also only valuable if they can be properly enforced – so we are also calling on the UK Government and MP’s to work with local Government to ensure they have the tools they need on the front line.”

Sir Gavin said: “Like many of residents in Staffordshire, I care deeply about animal welfare and it is vital we use all the legislative tools at our disposal to ensure standards remain high and improvements are made where necessary.

“Charities such as the RSPCA undertake amazing work across the country to protect animals and raise awareness of animal welfare standards that we should all adhere to.

“I am urging the Government to prioritise animal welfare legislation so animals do not suffer any further due to gaps in policy.”

3 February 2026

Gavin welcomes Hitachi's new state-of-the art Staffordshire facility

Sir Gavin Williamson visited Hitachi Energy's new £20 million purpose-built building on Beacon Business Park in Staffordshire.

The ground-breaking facility marks the company's next stage of growth in the UK, with the new facility set to create hundreds of jobs in addition to retaining the 400 staff that are currently based at the Stone site. The sustainable design of the facility will also include a New Innovation Area as Hitachi continues to deliver critical energy infrastructure to customers across the country.

Founded in Japan in 1910, Hitachi operates globally across key sectors including digital systems, power/energy, railway systems, healthcare, and industrial machinery.

Laura Fleming, Country Managing Director for Hitachi Energy in the UK and Republic of Ireland said: "We are very excited to continue building our long legacy in the Staffordshire area. Our new campus will have a strong local economic impact, as well as enabling us to pioneer technologies that will be crucial for the UK's future energy system in becoming more sustainable, secure, resilient, and affordable. It will further expand our ability to become resilient, through home-grown energy, and make energy more affordable.

"2026 sees momentous expansion through the opening of new offices in Glasgow, Staffordshire, building on its success in 2025 and additional project office in Inverness. The investment decisions show our commitment to key customers and partners in helping to deliver the critical infrastructure needed to deliver UK energy targets and will provide an economic boost in the UK.

Being able to provide for our existing employees a new campus that meets our growing needs is truly exciting, as is the opportunity that it will bring to new talent joining our industry."

Sir Gavin said: ""It was such a pleasure to visit Hitachi's new site at Beacon Business Park and to learn more about their exciting and innovative plans for Staffordshire. This is a significant investment in our area which will greatly boost the local economy as well as boost employment.

"It is estimated that three billion people globally benefit from Hitachi's technology. This is an incredible statistic which outlines the company's influence in diversification as well as fulfilling our energy needs with sustainability at its heart."I am grateful that Hitachi has chosen Staffordshire for this wonderful facility, and I look forward to seeing the finished facility in the near future."

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

Federation Executive Council – Call for Interest

As we approach our 2026 AGM, we are inviting members who may be interested in serving on the **Federation Executive Council** to step forward.

The Executive Council is the Federation's governing body between General Meetings. It oversees strategy, governance, finance and general direction, ensuring that our local voluntary party organisation remains effective, compliant and focused on delivering strong Conservative representation across Central Staffordshire.

Ward Representatives form an important part of the Executive Council. They serve for 1-year terms and represent members within their local ward, provide grassroots feedback, and help 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 recently elected their Ward Representatives at their respective AGMs.

For wards **not currently covered by a Branch**, we are now inviting members who may be interested in serving as a Ward Representative — and therefore joining the Executive Council — to step forward.

If we receive more expressions of interest than available positions in a ward, members in that ward will be invited to vote to choose who they would like to represent them.

If you are interested, please register your interest by **Friday 13th March.** Simply email chairman@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or call the office on 01785 252 273.

Wards without branch representation:

Newcastle-under Lyme Borough Council area:
Loggerheads, Maer & Whitmore

Stafford Borough Council area:
Baswich, Common, Coton, Doxey & Castletown, Forebridge, Haywood & Hixon, Highfields & Western Downs, Holmcroft, Littleworth, Manor, Milford, Milwich, Penkside, Rowley, St Michael's & Stonefield, Walton and Weeping Cross & Wildwood.

South Staffordshire District Council area:
Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon, Penkridge South & Gailey

Conservative Policy Forum

Join the Discussion

The **Conservative Policy Forum** is back! Join us at Castle Street on **Monday 23 March at 6:30PM** for an engaging discussion on **Britain's housing challenge**.

The CPF leads national policy consultations on key issues, giving local associations the opportunity to shape Conservative policy. This round focuses on an important question: How can the UK increase housing supply, expand home ownership and restore affordability for future generations?

Our session, led by Treasurer **Peter Martin**, will explore these issues using the CPF briefing paper available at www.conservativepolicyforum.com

All members are warmly invited. The evening will be informal, with tea, coffee — and perhaps a glass of wine. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your views.

Do please let us know if you can join us. Please email contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or call the office on 01785 252 273.

100 Club

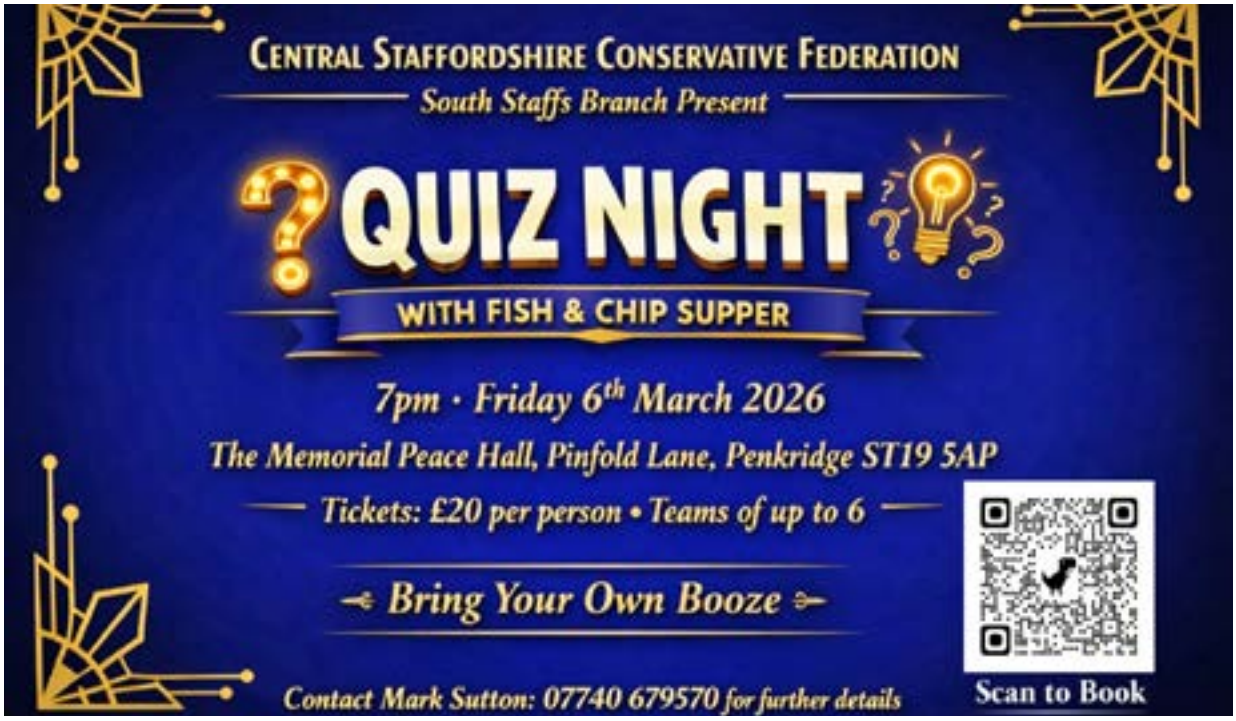
FEBRUARY WINNERS:

1st Prize: WENDI SUTTON

2nd Prize: JEREMY PERT

3rd Prize: JAMES CANTRILL

Congratulations!



Some limited places still available!
Book your ticket now.

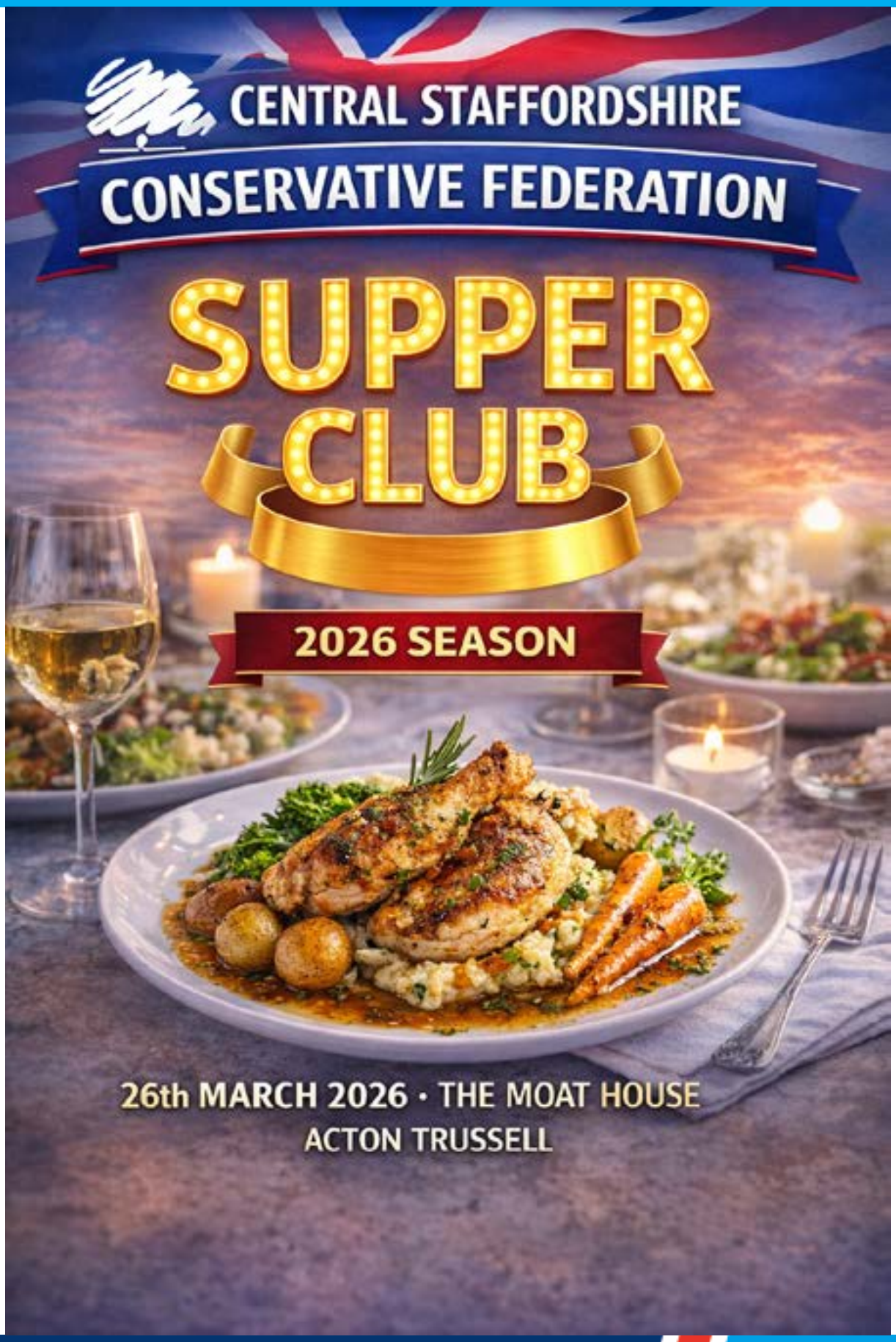
The South Staffs Branch presents a Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper

When: **Friday 6th March 2026**
Where: **Peace Memorial Hall, Pinfold Lane, Penkridge, ST19 5AP**
Time: **7PM**

Teams of 6
(If you don't have 6, don't worry we'll find a team for you to join)
£20 per head
Bring your own drinks
Veggie options available

Any questions, or to book, please contact:

Mark Sutton 07740 679570 or Wendi Sutton 07484 871588


CENTRAL STAFFORDSHIRE
CONSERVATIVE FEDERATION
SUPPER CLUB
2026 SEASON
26th MARCH 2026 · THE MOAT HOUSE
ACTON TRUSSELL

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 – From 1 April 2026

From 1 April 2026, new arrangements will apply to the use of our Castle Street HQ car park.

The Federation generates important revenue from the car park, which goes directly towards the maintenance and upkeep of our headquarters. Our building on Castle Street was originally constructed in 1968 with an expected lifespan of around 25 years. Today, the building is understandably tired and requires significant investment to renovate and modernise its facilities. Income generated from the car park will form an important part of that long-term improvement programme.

Under the new system, all users will be required to book and pay for parking online via our dedicated website: www.castlestreetparking.co.uk

Members will continue to benefit from a preferential rate, paying **£3** per day, compared with the £4 daily rate for non-members. Further details on how to access the member discount will be circulated shortly. We thank members for their continued support as we invest in the future of our Federation headquarters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

20 MARCH 2026 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CSCF HQ, Castle Street, 7PM
26 MARCH 2026 - SUPPER CLUB - The Moat House, Acton Trussell, 7PM
27 MARCH 2026 - PENKRIDGE SUPPER CLUB - Peace Memorial Hall, Penkridge, 6:30PM

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

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