

May edition

mystaffordshire

your monthly email newsletter from



Staffordshire
County Council

It's Staffordshire Day!



Today marks the third annual **Staffordshire Day**, with [more than fifty events taking place](#) across the county to celebrate all the great things about Staffordshire.

Music and food festivals are in the line-up along with a celebration of the Staffordshire oatcake. Local libraries are getting involved, and a special campaign to recognise some of the county's most famous historical figures including [Josiah Wedgwood](#) and [Dr Samuel Johnson](#) has been launched.

And remember, we're also asking people to share a photo with a Staffordshire made mug on social media to celebrate the county's world-famous pottery industry. So go on, join in the celebrations using [#staffordshireday](#).

Pothole campaign begins

New healthy lifestyle service launched



A new Healthy Communities Service has been launched to target and support those people in Staffordshire most at risk of developing poor health in later life.

Aimed at the 50 to 74 age group, the service will be offered to residents living in the 52 areas identified as those which could benefit most from the lifestyle support – so if you get an invite for a check or see a drop in-session in your area then please do take up the offer.

Of course keeping healthy and active as possible is important for us all. Everyone can check out how healthy their heart is and find out more about the new Healthy Communities Service and how we have teamed up with Everyone Health [here](#).

Digital open day at Stafford's Shire Hall



We know potholes can be a pain for everyone, especially after the winter we've had.

We've listened to feedback, and as a result we have launched a campaign that will see an extra 11,000 weather-related potholes fixed across the county.

We've invested an extra £5 million into fixing potholes and prolonging the life of the county's roads. When we did this last year, it meant we were able to fix 35,000 potholes, compared to 20,000 in a normal year.

You can keep up-to-date with where our four 'pothole zappers' [have been in the county](#), and [read more about our investment](#) in the county's roads.

Latest fostering campaign asks, Is it Time to Foster?



We're gearing up for Foster Care Fortnight, which runs from 14 to 27 May this year.

People from all walks of life can have what it takes to foster, so during Foster Care Fortnight we will be asking people who are interested to get in touch with us online, over the phone or in person at one of our events.

There are lots of different types of fostering which is why we need lots of different foster



Stafford's historic Shire Hall is hosting a one-off digital skills event for adults and children.

Stafford's landmark building is the venue for the Microsoft UK Digital Skills Live event on Thursday, May 24th, which will offer a day of practical help, advice and fun for people aged seven upwards.

Suitable for teachers, students, apprentices, civil servants and business owners, the event is designed to provide basic digital skills, fire young people's imaginations, or show businesses how the 'cloud' can help them.

Find out more about the [Microsoft UK Digital Skills Live event](#).

More job opportunities as county sees near full employment



We are continuing our efforts to create an increased number of better paid jobs in Staffordshire.

The big employment sites the county council has helped to develop are nearly all full as

carers, whether you can foster for one weekend a month or take a sibling group on a long-term placement we want to hear from you.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer [can find out more here](#) or by calling 0800 1692061.

Go Wild in Staffordshire



Over the May bank holiday or half term why not get on the wild side of Staffordshire at any one of the many local zoos and animal parks?

Meet the keepers and 750 animals at [The Animal Zone at South Staffordshire College](#), while [Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Wolseley Centre](#) is a haven for local wildlife, with plenty of kingfishers, ducks and creepy crawlies to look out for.

See species from around the world at [Peak Wildlife Park](#) (pictured), full of immersive animal habitats, walk-throughs and VIP packages giving you the chance to feed meerkats, lemurs, penguins, wallabies and giant tortoises.

Go back to nature with cows, goats, pigs and more at the [National Forest Adventure Farm](#) and [Lower Drayton Farm](#),

And remember that there's also [Trentham Monkey forest](#) and [Drayton Manor Zoo](#).

[Lots more ideas about what to see and do in May here.](#)

business construction continues.

Thousands of people already work at i54 South Staffordshire, Redhill Business Park, Four Ashes and Kingswood Lakeside in good quality jobs. With more businesses on the way, more jobs will be created.

[Latest figures show](#) that people claiming out of work benefits in Staffordshire account for just 1.3 per cent of the local population.

Photo caption: Simon Jenkins, development director at First Pannatoni (left) with county council finance leader Mike Sutherland at the latest development at Four Ashes Park.

Award Winning Staffordshire Attractions



The [National Memorial Arboretum](#) has been named the UK's best large visitor attraction at the prestigious VisitEngland Awards for Excellence ceremony.

The arboretum near Lichfield, the UK's National Centre for Remembrance, fought off competition from Blenheim Palace to win the Gold award in the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year category.

And in a successful afternoon for Staffordshire, [World of Wedgwood](#) won the Silver in the Guided Tour of the Year category, while [Colton House](#) near Rugeley won Bronze for Sustainable Tourism.