



Transforming **People** • Transforming **Places** • Transforming **Society**



## Connected Communities Newsletter July 2023

Hello,

Welcome to the third instalment of Staffordshire University's Connected Communities Newsletter.

This newsletter looks at all the different events, and projects happening between communities and the University.

Some of the things in this issue:

- Staffs CAN
- Community Spotlight: Closer to Home Walking Network
- Young People and Climate Anxiety

- Connected Communities Team

[connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk)

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# Staffordshire University Community Advisory Network (Staffs CAN)




Staffs CAN is Staffordshire University's Community Advisory Network, which brings together people from across Staffordshire to talk about the things that matter to them.

This session will outline what Staffs CAN aims to achieve in the next 12 months. We've spent the last few months listening and learning from the community members that have attended our sessions since the first CAN event in November 2022. As well as outlining the next steps, this event is an opportunity for you to connect and chat with like-minded individuals and new networks.

The next Staffs CAN:

 11th July

 The Catalyst Building

 12:00 pm

 Free Parking

 Tickets available via [Eventbrite](#)

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## Community Spotlight: Closer to Home Walking Network



On 22 May Staffordshire University and [Closer to Home Walking Network](#) collaborated to lead a walk through the Nature Reserve on the Leek Road campus in Stoke-on-Trent. Dr Jane Robb (Lecturer in Outdoor Learning and Biodiversity at Staffordshire University) and Monienne Stone, member of the Closer to Home Walking Network and Staffordshire University Civic Fellow came together to make the walk happen.

Monienne shared more about Closer to Home Walking Network and the walk through the nature reserve:

*"I've been a walk leader with Closer to Home for 5 years. I used to walk with the Ramblers. I was inspired to get involved as I know at first hand the benefits of walking and wanted to make walking accessible for all.*

*Closer to Home Walking Network organise free short health walks throughout Stoke-on-Trent. We aim to encourage more people to become more active and to get out to meet and socialise with others through the simplest form of exercise, walking. We also want people to explore the beautiful parks, woodland, and nature reserves of our city.*

*Walking improves physical and mental wellbeing, reduces the risk of*

*some chronic illnesses and helps manage the symptoms of long-term health conditions.*

*The walks last between 30 and 60 minutes and are suitable for all ages and abilities including those with health conditions and limited mobility.”*



*“I organised the guided walk of the nature reserve because many people are unaware it exists or think it is not open to the public. Also, it would be an opportunity to engage with the local community and showcase the work being done.*

*The group learnt all about how the reserve, river and pools are maintained by the staff and students to increase biodiversity and also the wildlife. This includes bats, badgers, heron, coots, woodpecker and various fish species.*

*Dr Robb also talked about the new Forest School and plans to further develop links with local schools to provide opportunities to experience outdoor learning and provide community participation opportunities.”*

All of Closer to Home Walking Network’s walks are very friendly and are led by trained walk leaders. There's no need to book, just turn up at the meeting point. More information is available via [Facebook](#) or email [c2heast@gmail.com](mailto:c2heast@gmail.com).

 [Walks in Stoke Central, North, East & West](#)

 [Stoke South Walking Group](#)

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local community, placement opportunities for University students, and training courses for outdoor educators. If you are interested in finding out more about what we can offer at the Woodlands Forest School and Nature Reserve, please contact [jane.robbs@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:jane.robbs@staffs.ac.uk)



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## Young People and Climate Anxiety

### Young People and Climate Anxiety



Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services ([SCVYS](http://www.scvys.org)) and Staffordshire University are working together to support young people to have a say about the environment and what they think needs to change.

Between March and July 2023, we will be working with young people from across Staffordshire to build a strong network of young people's voices that can help decision makers address climate change and environmental issues.



So far members of the partnership team have been speaking to young people all across Staffordshire, including The Staffordshire Moorlands, Lichfield, Tamworth, Cannock Chase, and Stafford, with Burton and The South Staffordshire region taking part in consultations about the climate in early July.

As the project progresses more information and updates will be available via SCVYS [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and Staffordshire University Connected Communities [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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## Mindset: Performing Under Pressure



Researchers from Staffordshire University are offering free Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for coaches, teachers and leaders based on recent research into how you can enhance wellbeing and performance.

Dr Paul Mansell and Dr Katie Sparks have recently run a research project called "Mindset: Performing Under Pressure" (MPUP) with a combination of students and athletes. The project aims to encourage young people to think about stress differently, so that it can work to help their wellbeing and performance.

This event will be to share some of the findings from the MPUP project, provide strategies that can be used by teachers, coaches and leaders when working with individuals who are required to perform well under pressure.

 Thursday 13th July

 09:30 - 13:00

 Staffordshire University Leek Road Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE

 [Tickets available via Eventbrite](#)

As well as the event, Dr Paul Mansell and Dr Katie Sparks have produced a [brochure](#) that explores their research in a little more detail.

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# Action on Poverty at Staffordshire University

## Action on Poverty



At Staffordshire University our Action on Poverty team has been busy finalising plans for the new MA Leadership in Action on Poverty degree course.

Course leader, Julie Tipping, spoke to us about the new course:

*“Our commitment to raising awareness of poverty and hardship in all its forms never wavers and this new MA will appeal to those with an interest in learning more about poverty, locally, nationally, and globally, its drivers and causes, and ultimately finding solutions to minimise and eventually eradicate poverty.”*

*“We have taken much of what the sector said they wanted from a post-graduate course and have designed this into the MA Leadership in Action on Poverty course. We have included theoretical and knowledge gaps, along with ensuring that students get equipped with relevant skills to work in leadership roles in the sector. We have some exciting modules of study covering national and global social policies, political and social narratives, and the Sustainability Agenda, coupled with modules studying practical leadership skills designed to enable you to hit the ground running in senior positions in the field. Practical skills include partnership working, mentoring others, conducting evaluations, developing theories of change, and bid writing.”*



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*“At Staffordshire University we value your experiences in addition to formal qualifications and those already working in a related field can take advantage of our commitment to assess your suitability for the course based on all your skills and experience in addition to any formal qualifications.”*

*“The course is moving to the final stages of approval and validation ready for recruitment in September 2023, just in time for our next Action on Poverty Conference.”*

If you are interested in joining this masters degree cohort, please contact the course leader Julie Tipping via email: [Julie.Tipping@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:Julie.Tipping@staffs.ac.uk).

### **Action on Poverty Conference 2023**

This year’s Action on Poverty conference will be on the evening of 18th September and all-day 19th September, at the Staffordshire University campus in Stoke-on-Trent.

More information and booking links will be made available soon but to prebook your place or for more details on the conference please contact [Sarah.Page@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Page@staffs.ac.uk).

If you want to get a sense of last year’s [Action on Poverty Conference](#) take a look at the video clip below.



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# Free Training through Staffordshire University

## Staffordshire E-Skills & Entrepreneurship Gateway



As part of the Staffordshire E-Skills & Entrepreneurship Gateway (SEGway) project we offer a number of fully funded courses in digital and business skills. The courses are free to all businesses with a maximum of 250 employees (SMEs) based in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, as well as to students and graduates living or working in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. General details of the courses can be found on the [SEGway webpage](#).

This is the email address for enquiries about any of these courses:  
[employers@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:employers@staffs.ac.uk)

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- **Artificial Intelligence Overview:** 10-week course starting on the 18th of July (online, Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00)
  - **Business Building Through Digital Simulations:** 9-week course starting on the 18th of July (online, Tuesdays, 17:30-19:30)
  - **Data Analytics:** 10-week course starting on the 20th of July (online, Thursdays, 14:00-16:00)
  - **Introduction to Python Programming:** 12-week course starting on the 27th of July (online, Thursdays, 10-12)
  - **Introduction to Ethical Hacking:** 10-week course starting on the 8th of August (online, Tuesdays, 14-16)
  - **Entrepreneurial Marketing Masterclass:** Thursday 10th of August (online, 17:30-19:30)

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## Staffordshire Higher Skills and Engagement Pathways (SHSEP)



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Lifelong learning doesn't stop!

Summer is the perfect season to enrich your skills or foster your team's development!

Whether you're a student looking to keep the learning momentum going after the end of an academic year, a graduate eyeing new skills, or an SME looking to upskill your team, our FREE\* training courses are an open opportunity.

Courses scheduled for July, August and September delivered by Staffordshire University experts and industry professionals cover a diverse range of subjects:

- **CPR and Defibrillator Awareness** (July date to be confirmed)
- **HR Law and Legislation** (two sessions on 19th and 25th July)
- **Managing, Leadership and Performance** (three sessions starting 19th July (Stafford) and 9th August (Stoke))
- **Digital Marketing** (July date to be confirmed)
- **Social Media Marketing** (July date to be confirmed)
- **Project Management** (one session on 15th August)
- **Web-Based Computing** (one session on 22nd September)

### **What's in it for you?**

Not only will you have access to cutting-edge knowledge in your area of interest, but you'll also gain skills in high demand across industries. Remember, lifelong learning is the key to unending growth.

For more information contact [employers@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:employers@staffs.ac.uk) or visit our [website](#).

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## Community Spotlight



Do you want to shine a spotlight on the things that you, your community, or your organisation do?

We're looking for community contributions towards future instalments of the newsletter, to amplify the voices of our community.

For more information please contact [connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk)

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## Events



[View all the latest events going on at Staffordshire University](#)

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## Vacancies



[View all the latest work vacancies at Staffordshire University](#)

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