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Connected Communities Newsletter

Spring 2024

Hello,

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

This newsletter looks at some of the ways Staffordshire University are helping to make a difference in partnership with communities across Staffordshire.

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Thanks for reading!

-Nic, Dana and Ryan

connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk

Stay up to date with everything we have going on

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Staffordshire University Community Advisory Network (Staffs CAN)



At this Staffs CAN we asked the question "What does Civic mean to you?"

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.

On Tuesday 5th March we held the first Staffs CAN of 2024. At this Staffs CAN we asked members of the community "What does Civic mean to you and your community?".

[Read more about this session here.](#)

We're looking for people to join our mailing list, specifically made for Staffs CAN. [To join send an email to connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk.](mailto:connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk)

Want to find out more about Staffs CAN?

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) E-mail](#)

[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) Website](#)

The impact of Connected Communities work at Staffordshire University

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY'S **CONNECTED COMMUNITIES IMPACT**



In 2022-23, Staffordshire University tested the Connected Communities Evaluation Framework. This framework evaluates social, community, or cultural events aimed at benefiting the public or civil society partners.

The purpose of the Connected Communities Evaluation is to understand our collective impact as an engaged civic university.

Last year we worked with Staffs CAN to be advised on how the document could be edited and developed on in this year's report and for future years.

[You can browse the published evaluation here.](#)

If you would like a physical copy of the report, [please email connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk) with your name and postal address and we will have one sent out to you.

Public Engagement Innovation Grants

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY'S **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INNOVATION GRANTS**



Our team have recently launched Public Engagement Innovation Grants (PEIG) for members of staff to apply for at Staffordshire University. The grants are designed to help university staff to collaborate with and share information, expertise, ideas, or experiences with members of the public and community organisations.

We asked members of the Staffs CAN network to join the decision making panel for the grants to make sure that community voices could be involved with the process.

On 21st March the panel met to make the decisions. In total 7 grants have been awarded PEIG funding.

We want to take the opportunity to thank all members of Staffs CAN that showed an interest and especially to the two members that supported us to make decisions. We hope to involve members of the Staffs CAN in future activities such as this!

Raising Voices: Taking Action



Raising Voices: Taking Action is a project led by All the Small Things CIC, Expert Citizens CIC and Staffordshire University that aims to connect people to discuss the issues that create and make poverty worse in Stoke-on-Trent and empower them to act as a collective.

The new project aims to build on the impact that has been made in [Get Talking Hardship \(2019\)](#) and [Raising Voices \(2021\)](#).



To help us take action we will be holding Chat for Change events, across the city. Chat for Change is an opportunity to join other people

to talk about poverty in a safe place over a hot drink and a piece of cake.

Chat for Change events are free to all. Bring your kids, friends and family. Share your ideas and find out about how we can take action on poverty together! Chat for Change sessions will be held across the city, in different community spaces.

We are currently looking for community organisations and charities who would like to host a Chat for Change event. If you're interested in hosting one of these events or if you'd like to get involved with the project, please contact:

Penny Vincent, All the Small Things CIC

allthesmallthingscic@gmail.com

Phil Parkes, Expert Citizens CIC

volunteer@expertcitizens.org.uk

Ryan Fox, Staffordshire University

Ryan.fox@staffs.ac.uk

Announcing the speakers for the TEDxStaffordshireUniversity



A line up of speakers have been revealed to take part in the second [TEDxStaffordshireUniversity](#) in May.

Among them are British middleweight champion boxer **Nathan Heaney**, award-winning playwright **Deborah McAndrew** and North Staffordshire based sculptor **Andy Edwards** who will all be giving talks aligned to this year's theme "Back to the Future".

Also taking their place in the spotlight will be co-founder of Affordable Food Stoke **Nikki Barrett** and foodie entrepreneur **Cris Cohen** of FEASTED, both passionate about effecting positive change in the area.

[The full lineup and reaction is available on the Staffordshire University Website.](#)

Limited to 100 guests, the exclusive event will take place on Thursday 16th May at the Catalyst on Staffordshire University's Stoke-on-Trent campus. Free tickets for the event will be released in April.

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

Events



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

Vacancies



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

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