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COGNEWS

Connecting Staffordshire Moorlands

April 2026

INSIDE:

What's on this
Month

Why a
By-election is
Good News

Meet the Farmers
Behind "The
Dairy"

How Developer
Funding & Pride
in Place can help
save a town

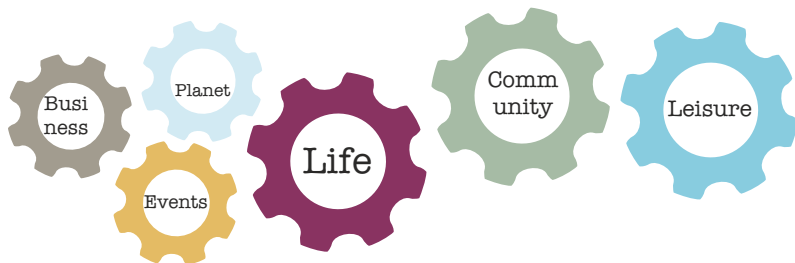
HELLO
SPRING!

Find us online



All About Hedgehogs, What's to Become of Our Historic Buildings?

Produced by COGNEWS for
Cheadle Community Organisations Group



Welcome to April's COG Monthly

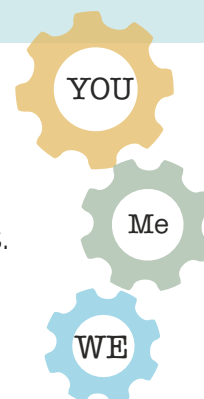
About this publication:

Cheadle COG is a CHEADLE based Community Interest Company (CIC) sharing local news, views information, and life loves in many different ways: Online, in print, on social, audio, video & even courses.

So far readers are preferring the bigger size and unless we receive strong objections we'll stick with it for future editions. Thank you to everyone who donated or helped in other ways to make this print and the previous one possible! We know we're rather heavy this month on local governance news, there is so much you need to know and it's our responsibility to make sure you're aware of decisions which affect you. As our team grows and hopefully changes materialise this will not dominate our news!

At cheadlecog.com you can:

1. Find: local news, views and valuable information.
2. Be heard: Send in your stories, views and woes.
3. Volunteer: to help us spread the word to your friends and neighbours.
4. Subscribe: to our mailing list it's free to join.
5. Sponsor: a page/post or donate to support our work in the local community



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Hosting is free but a donation to cover the cost of the box production would be most welcome.

SPONSOR 03

Here are 3 ways to Sponsor:

Supplement: You can add up to 2 pages per issue often located at the centre of the magazine.

Pages: Have your logo and link appear in a page header and in print. This will have a live link online. Choose from: Life, Sports, Art & Leisure, Community, Planet, Business or Events.

Segment: Sponsoring a segment in an associated area connects directly to your target audience.

Packages start from £100, all sponsors feature in our monthly snippet news round up.

CONNECT YOUR BUSINESS TO COG

Here are 3 wonderful ways for you to connect your business to COGNEWS

WRITE 02

There are two ways to be published at COGNEWS:

1. Anyone can send in their stories and events for publication consideration. You can submit at: theadlecog.com/writethenews. Not for profit items are published free of charge. We will advise you when you submit if we can print and if a charge will apply within 72 hours of submission.
2. You can send in your business stories, share your successes, expertise and more, at any time. Our writing team will ensure your article fits our readership. Your article will remain live indefinitely and we will link it to other relevant articles where appropriate. You can seasonally update your article or create a new one. Publication cost is typically £150 for received copy, updates from £25.

CHEADLECOG.COM

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Save your friends and family from boring, bad or useless information. Join the Cheadle COG team & help your community restore and more.

Warning: you may become the sort of person who asks questions, and spreads good news across the region. Cape optional

LATEST

SPORTS, ART & LEISURE



Inside this Issue

- What's On
- What's On in Historic Staffordshire
- Warm Water Swimming at South Moorlands Leisure Centre
- Put a Spring in Your Step - Local Walking Guide
- Cheadle Flower Club Prepares for Spring

BREAKING NEWS



**this week
We Loved**





What's on this Month

If you're planning days there's plenty happening right across the county. From theme parks to animal adventures and garden trails, here are some highlights to enjoy with the family.

Alton Towers Resort

Enjoy big rides like Oblivion and Wicker Man, revisit Nemesis: Reborn, or head to CBeebies Land, where the brandnew Bluey ride 'Here Come the Grannies!' Opens from 28 March.

Dovedale

There's lots of explore at Dovedale National Nature Reserve, climb to the top of Thorpe Cloud, spot Dippers flying down the river.

Drayton Manor Resort

With over 50 rides and attractions, Easter fun includes Thomas Land and the Care Bears Spring Celebration, running from 28 March to 19 April.

National Trust Ilam Park (Until 12th April)

200 years of Ilam Hall celebrations begins. Spy Saxon and Viking artifacts along the Battlestone path, There is no entry fee for Ilam Park, only a charge for car parking for non members.

McArthurGlen West Midlands

Celebrate the 5th anniversary of McArthurGlen West Midlands in Cannock, with Easter Bunny Meet & Greets, the Doodle Cube Trail, and their Easter Event offering extra savings on top of outlet prices.

National Forest Adventure Farm

Meet baby animals, enjoy Easter shows, ride through Bunny Woods and let off steam in huge indoor and outdoor play areas.

National Memorial Arboretum

Join Albie the Owl for springthemed trails, music workshops, dropin crafts and the popular Stick Man Outdoor Trail.

Peak Wildlife Park

Explore the new capybara walk-through at Peak Wildlife Park and meet their new arrivals Clementine and Marmalade, before tackling the Spring into the Wild Trail with fun challenges, puzzles, and hands-on craft activities.

Statfold Country Park

2 visits for the price of 1 at Statfold Country Park, Tamworth, this Easter. Book to visit from 30th March to 12th April, and you'll get a free return visit to use over the same period - includes the National Fairground Museum with its huge collection of vintage fairground rides and attractions.

Trentham Gardens

Explore the gardens and spot a collection of Snoopy sculptures hidden along the walking route, plus the Spring Bulb Festival, & Lambing Live.

World of Wedgwood

The Clay Club is back at World of Wedgwood for the Easter holidays, featuring pottery painting, children's factory tours, and fun at the potter's wheel, along with the all-new play space in the heart of the V&A Wedgwood Collection, with interactive games, costumes, and a model factory.

Do Check out our partner posts: <https://www.cheadlecog.com/blog/categories/what-s-on>



What's On in Historic Staffordshire

Staffordshire, especially the South Moorlands area, is rich in history. Here's some of what residents and visitors can look forward to.

For Youngsters

Toy Time Travellers

Travel back in time through play, get hands on with historical objects and help fix a toy emergency! Sensory hands on story time for ages 1-6. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

When: Friday 13 March, 10.30am - 11.30am

Location: Staffordshire History Centre, Eastgate Street, Stafford

Cost: Free - donations welcome, no booking required



Archive Animals Storytime

Explore the collections with cuddly critters! Rhyme, wiggle and get hands on with history. Bring your own favourite cuddly toy to join in the fun! Sensory hands on story time for ages 1-6. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

When: Saturday 18 April, 10.30am - 11.30am

Location: Staffordshire History Centre, Eastgate Street, Stafford

Cost: Free but donations welcome, no booking required

Staffordshire Cinderella Storytime

The classic fairy tale, with a Staffordshire twist! Save the day and help Cinderella complete her tasks in time for the party! Sensory hands on story time for ages 1-6. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

When: Saturday 18 April, 11.30am - 12.30am

Location: Staffordshire History Centre, Eastgate Street, Stafford

Cost: Free but donations welcome, no booking required

full story & more at:

<https://www.cheadlecog.com/post/what-s-on-in-historic-staffordshire>

What's On in Historic Staffordshire

Walking Tours



Industrial Stafford

Discover Stafford's industrial past and explore the workers and craftspeople who built the county.

When: Friday 27 February, 10.30am

Location: Staffordshire History Centre, Eastgate Street, Stafford

Cost: £5 per person. Booking required either via our website or at the History Centre

Crime and Punishment

Wander through the horrors of the historical justice system and the stories of unfortunate Staffordians on trial.

When: Wednesday 18 March, 10.30am

Location: Staffordshire History Centre, Eastgate Street, Stafford

Cost: £5 per person. Booking required either via our website or at the History Centre

Spotlight Talks at the Staffordshire History Centre

Spotlight Talks run regularly, covering a wide variety of topics. They last approximately 15 minutes and are well worth attending as part of your visit.



Spotlight Talk: Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield V.C.

Remembering one Staffordshire soldier's incredible courage in the Battle of Arnhem.

Thursday 26 February 1pm, Free



Spotlight Talk: Staffordshire Suffragette

How Alice Hawkins made her voice heard against all the odds.

Wednesday 18 March 1pm. Free

Warm Water Swimming at South Moorlands Leisure Centre

For several years, local residents have expressed concerns that the pool at South Moorlands Leisure Centre has been too cold for a comfortable swim. As there is no local alternative, when several residents informed us about improvements in the temperature, we decided to investigate.

Steve, the leisure centre manager, told COGNEWS that the swimming pool is being kept at 27–28°C, with the temperature moving a little higher when catering for their disabled visitors at the weekend.

Steve is looking forward to the upgrade of the main hall and changing rooms, even though the budget for South Moorlands Leisure Centre refurbishments has been reduced.

Do pop in and dip a toe in to see if Steve is keeping it warm enough for you.



County Council Reports Early Success in Road Improvement Initiatives

According to Staffs County Council news released 27th February 2026, early improvements are already beginning to impact how the county's roads are managed. This follows the county council's launch of a new approach to road travel in October 2025.

The Staffordshire Roadmap to a Better Network is starting to make a difference in how highways are managed. Improvements include:

Highways engineers have changed the way they plan works so they cause less disruption on the highways network and help keep Staffordshire moving.

Improved condition surveys are helping to spot problems earlier too, so issues can be sorted before they get worse.

Residents are getting clearer updates about upcoming works, making it easier to understand what's happening in their area.

In January, the county council announced an extra £15 million over the next two years to tackle the backlog of road defects. These will be identified by local repair teams, another key aspect of the Roadmap, who know their patches well and can act quickly when problems arise.

Why Walking is Good for Us



According to NHS UK, walking is simple, free, and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight, and become healthier. It can be overlooked as a form of exercise, but walking briskly can help you build stamina, burn excess calories, and make your heart healthier too.

Put on Spring Your

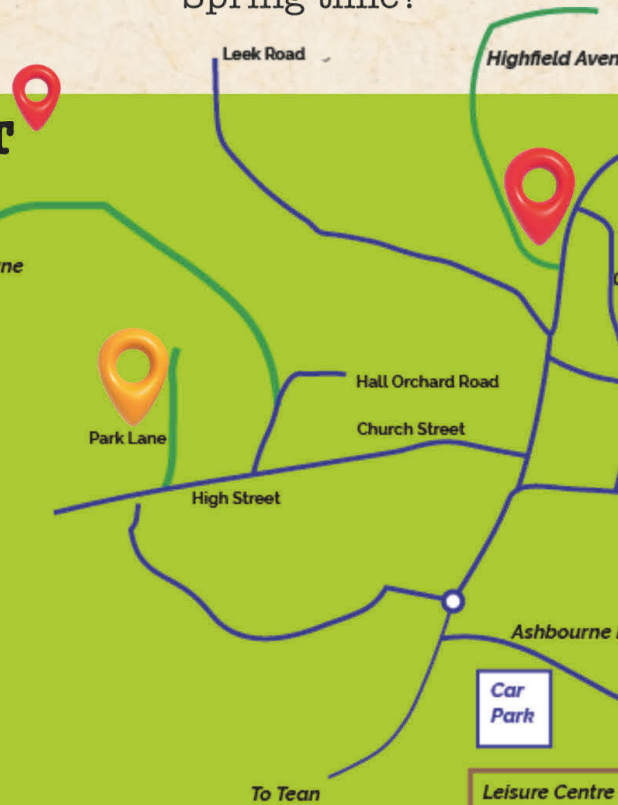
Spring is the perfect time to get out and enjoy the countryside already coming back in. Do you have any wonderful winter walks? What are your Spring-time?

The one to Kingsley Village - ST10 1JT

Walk down from the Froghall Road end of Highfield Avenue until it emerges into an open field. Take the gate that leads into this field and follow the well trodden path through many fields as far as you want to go or until it emerges at Kingsley Village.

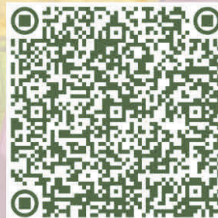
The one with play equipment - Donkey Lane - ST10 2ED

Just past the Persimmons Pottery Gardens Estate is a footpath on the right. Go past the play equipment (open for all to use), and out into countryside which can lead back into Cheadle emerging at Tay Close.



Walking with family & friends

Walking with family and friends can be a great low cost way to get fitter and make memories. To keep everyone interested check out our post about creating your own walking tour.



Walking in Steps!



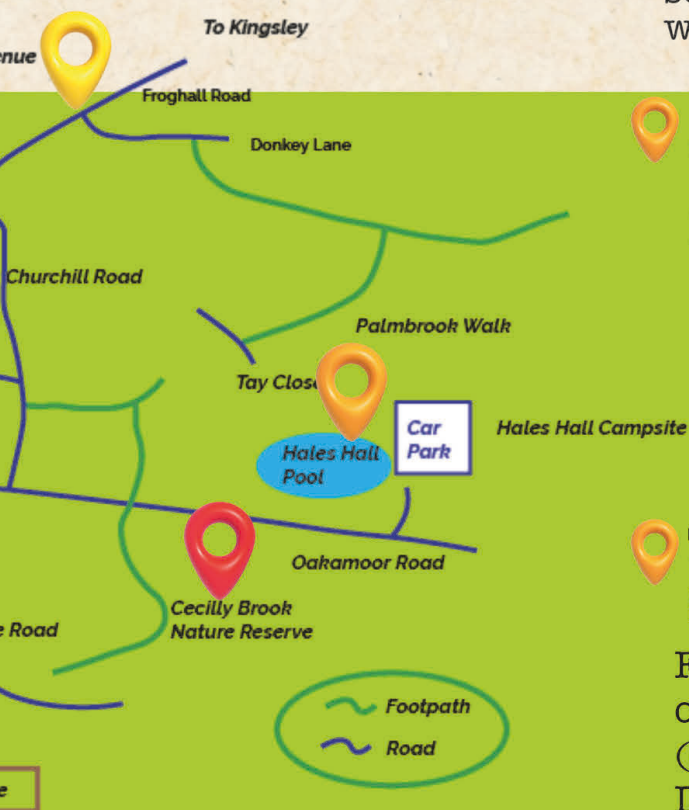
...me of year to get outdoors
...side and with many plants
...nto bud, why not revisit our
...ks and enjoy the beauty of

Walking Essentials

Look After Your Feet: You'll need comfortable shoes or trainers, which provide sufficient support and do not cause blisters.

Be Prepared: You may want to take some water, healthy snacks, a spare top and sunscreen in a small backpack. A good waterproof jacket and other warm clothing will keep you cosy in spite of the weather.

Safety First: Do tell someone when and where you plan to walk and if you're going into the countryside consider sharing your location with someone you trust using the what three words app.



The one around the fishing pool, Hales Hall Pool - ST10 4QR

Cecilily Brook Nature Reserve Walk - ST10 1HJ

The one with a pub - Park Lane - ST10 1PD

Follow the path at the cul-de-sac end which opens out into fields. Keeping Cheadle in sight, (on your left) this route leads out towards Dilhorne and at the crossroads is the popular Huntsman Pub.

[post/wonderful-winter-walks-a-new-www](https://www.facebook.com/post/wonderful-winter-walks-a-new-www)

Footsteps & Friendships

Cheadle has a number of walking groups. A new one to try is Footsteps & Friendships. It's especially suitable for people who would prefer to walk with a group but at a slow pace. Joining a group is a great way to get outdoors and see something of the area in a safe way and meet new people.



Created by COGNEWS for www.cheadlecog.com



Cheadle Flower Club Prepares for Spring

Cheadle Flower Club Chairman, Sheila Jones, welcomed members and friends to a 'Spring Workshop' for their February meeting. Sheila was also the host for the evening with a demonstration of creating a spring door wreath

Everyone was provided with a wicker woven wreath, together with a huge selection of silk flowers, spring bunnies, Easter eggs, butterflies, and ribbon for decorating their wreath. Sheila demonstrated how to wire and hold the flowers in place and also how to use cable ties to secure the material onto the wreath.

All of the wreaths were absolutely beautiful and very individual to members who created their own lovely designs and ideas, enabling everyone to produce beautiful and unique 'Spring Wreaths'.



The Club's next meeting

Will be a demonstration by Karen from Rudyard Flowers at the Oakley Room, Guild Hall, Tape Street, Cheadle, on Wednesday, 18th March at 7.30 pm. All flowers used are grown on her farm in Rudyard.

Everyone can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. Contact Sheila, on 07974577572 or sheilajones53@hotmail.com for further information.

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- Protect Your Vehicle from Theft
- Residents Reassured About Changes to Waste and Recycling

BREAKING NEWS



Major Improvements to Staffordshire Moorlands Roads Underway

Crews continue to make repairs and improvements throughout the Moorlands in the coming weeks and months.



The following works and improvements are due to take place:

Hollow Lane, Cheddleton | April 2026

Dilhorne Road, Cheadle | April 2026

Compton, Leek | April 2026

Pothole News

Crews will also be out dealing with the backlog of lower-level potholes that are being seen around the county. While the most serious defects are repaired within 24 hours or seven days depending on their severity, lower-level potholes can take longer. And, with machines such as the JCB Pothole Pro, Thermal Road repairs and our velocity patcher, residents should see more defects repaired over the coming months.

Leek improvements have also begun

A series of highways improvements across Leek are in progress and are due to be completed in late April. Having started earlier last month (March 2026), highways crews are carrying out the nighttime works on roads across the town.

full story & more at: <https://www.cheadlecog.com/post/upcoming-roadworks>

Cont... Major Improvements to Staffordshire Moorlands Roads Underway

Work being undertaken includes preparatory works and repairs ahead of a preventative treatment for the roads scheduled for next year. To make sure the improvements can be carried out safely, a combination of temporary overnight road closures and traffic lights are in operation.

Overnight closures start at 8pm until 6am the following morning. Signed diversions will be in place as required and access for residents will be maintained wherever possible.

The roads involved in the six-week works are:

Macclesfield Road, Monday 9 March – Thursday 19 March

Mill Street, Friday 20 March – Friday 27 March

Cheddleton Road, Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April

Compton, Tuesday 7 April – Monday 13 April

St Edward Street, Tuesday 14 April – Friday 17 April

Southbank Street, Monday 20 April

Get your tickets for the Festival of Brilliance 2026

get the festival latest at:
<https://www.cheadlecog.com/post/get-your-tickets-for-the-festival-of-brilliant-2026>



Photo by Andrew Billington.

Dates: Friday 10th July (schools & community groups) and Saturday 11th July 2026 (families)

Location: Biddulph Old Hall

Who it's for: Everyone! Especially children across the Staffordshire Moorlands

The Festival of Brilliant is back for 2026 - a joyful celebration of children's books, stories and creativity, shaped by local young people, artists and book-lovers. After two brilliant years at Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire Libraries are excited to return

during the National Year of Reading for another imagination-fuelled festival.

Books and stories have the power to change the world. Families and school children from across the Staffordshire Moorlands are invited to join in, alongside a raft of brilliant authors, illustrators and artists, for an inspiring programme of readings, workshops, performances and creative activities.

Tickets are now available via the Outside Website:
<https://outsidearts.org/events/the-festival-of-brilliant/>

Leek Mourns the Loss of Historic Mill Building

A man has been arrested in connection with the fire and police are appealing for further information.



Friday, 28th March 2026, the Big Mill on Mill Street in Leek burned. The alarm was raised at 9.22pm when smoke and flames were seen coming out of the building on Mill Street. At its height, up to six crews worked to contain the blaze alongside colleagues from Staffordshire Police. No-one has been reported injured.

The old mill building, of historic and local significance, burned down after having stood empty and neglected for decades. Local people are deeply saddened by the loss, and it has left many of us wondering why this lovely old building was allowed to languish for so long, especially when housing and other development are much needed across Staffordshire Moorlands. A planning application was submitted in 2019 and went a long way through the process.

Cheadle View

Our sympathies go out to our neighbours in Leek on the loss of this important building. It's a cautionary tale for our own empty buildings too, with anti-social behaviour high and youth engagement poor.

We asked County Councillor and former firefighter Gary Bentley for his view on the fire. "It was a great shame to see the Big Mill in Leek burned down. Putting my old firefighter's helmet on, it would be a very scary job. They are professionals, but you still have chances of injury on big jobs like that."

"My concern locally would be for the Royal Oak. It's been on fire once, and there's activity with children getting into it regularly. They board it up, and the children get in again. I think we should be keeping a special eye on the Royal Oak on Cheadle High Street, with what's happened in Leek."

Construction Set to Start on Royal Gardens Housing Development

Thursday 26th February 2026, saw the reserved matters for the New Royal Gardens development off Froghall Road in Cheadle discussed and agreed at the SMDC planning meeting, Stockwell Street, Leek.

While outline planning (the decision for the development to go ahead) had been approved for this second phase of the Persimmon Homes development, reserved matters on this application for access, layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping had not been approved.

Northern Director of Persimmon Homes, Ian Halliker, and Councillor Matthew Spooner spoke in favour of why the development should be built, while residents Jeff Wood and Bernard Charlesworth spoke against it. Jeff, as site manager for the Silver Street Caravan and Static Homes, spoke mainly about the loss of the view he and his tenants had enjoyed of the countryside for many years, and how this peaceful view would be lost due to the development. Bernard highlighted the problems of maintenance of the surface water drainage, the narrow road in front of the proposed school being

blocked by parents during the school run, and the lack of provision for an acoustic fence for Silver Street residents to reduce noise and dust pollution during construction.

Head of Planning, Ben Haywood, said that he will ensure a maintenance agreement is set up regarding surface drainage. An acoustic fence will be the first priority for the builders, but the issue of school parking is outside his control, as this will be the sole responsibility of the county council.

Silent, but in the public gallery, was County Councillor Gary Bentley. COGNEWS hopes he will have some influence on the school parking arrangements, even if it's not his ward, it was good to see him at this important meeting.

Councillor Matt Spooner expressed his satisfaction with the biodiversity net gain achieved in this development. We anticipate seeing how he, as the ward councillor for this area, will influence the upcoming decisions.

Cllrs Ian Plant & Vicky Wheeldon are the Cheadle representative on the district council's planning committee, present at the meeting but did not add to the discussion.



Site of the new development.

full story & more at:

<https://www.theadlecog.com/post/another-135-homes-now-approved-for-froghall-road>

Construction Set to Start on Royal Gardens Housing Development

Ian Halliker, Persimmons Northern Managing Director, spoke about how Persimmons wants to ensure local people stay in local homes and informed the meeting of their local homes guarantee. This is a scheme where 50 percent of the homes in this development will be reserved for local people or those with a strong local connection for the first six months.



Planning Officer Heywood and Cllr Spooner expressed their disappointment that the site will be mostly for 3 and 4-bedroom family homes.

Bernard spoke to the Northern Director of Persimmons, Ian Halliker, after the meeting, who told him he would ensure that the footpath by the side of the development would be kept open during the building process, and any problems would be addressed by Quin Cordeux, the proposed site manager for Phase II, or by himself. Both Bernard and Jeff have Quinn's phone number in case of problems occurring during construction.

The meeting was recorded on 26 February from 2:20 p.m. and is available for public access by typing the following into a computer browser: <https://staffsmoorlands.public-i.tv>. Then scroll until you find "February 2026 Planning Applications Committee" and press the play symbol to see and hear what was said word for word.

COGNEWS will keep you up to date online and in print.

Bus Service Update Staffs Moorlands

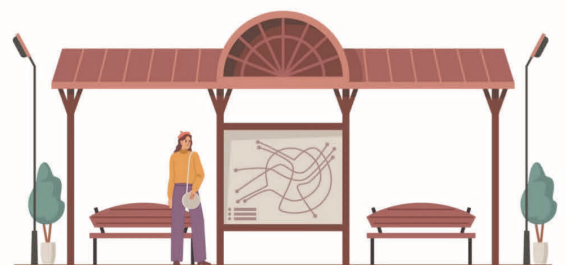
Changes for March 2026

from 14 March

- D&G Bus service 32A (Uttoxeter - Stoke) will have seasonal timetable revisions.

from 29 March

- Ashbourne Little Bus service A53 (Leek - Buxton) will have a revised timetable.





Readers Letter's

Your News & Views in Print



Since COGNEWS began we've always encouraged local people telling us their views and ask questions about things on their minds. We've never really shared this information before now, preferring to investigate and then let the individuals know our findings, helping where we can set things straight.

So we're delighted to be able to bring

you this new segment - Reader's Letters, where you can share things that bother you, things you're celebrating, or things you'd like others to know.

So do write in or send a voice clip - we will need your full name, address and telephone number to prove you're a human. Your address and phone number will not be shared and your name can be withheld if you tell us when sending in your letter. We can't print everything but will do our best to include your letter wherever possible.

Here's how you get in touch:

From our contact us page include the subject as Readers Letter

From our WhatsApp 07830 382219 or 07519 297470 start your message Readers Letter

Via our email use the subject line Reader's Letter to cheadlecog@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

I have just read on COG news website that the council has given a donation to the Guild Hall for furniture and repairs - I must ask why they have given our council tax money to a Catholic Church owned business. Do they intend to recoup this money to be put back into the town which is surely the purpose of council tax revenue?

A Concerned Resident

Name & Address Supplied

We asked the town council and they told us:

"The Guildhall is not funded externally, and it's Management Committee rely solely on hire fee's and a small amount of grant income. Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, Cheadle Town Council has the power to consider and authorise Grants on application. The application submitted by the Guildhall Management Committee was for a Miscellaneous Grant, for which the Council can authorise up to £200. In its application, the Guildhall Management Committee identified the many community groups that use the

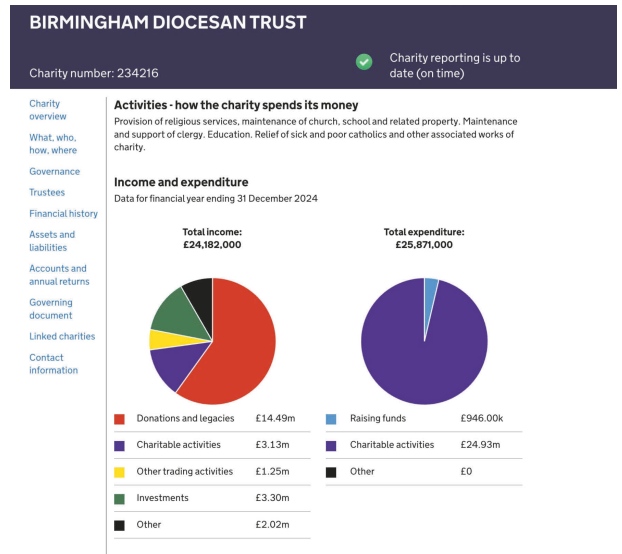
facility, and following review by our Finance & Resources Committee, a Grant of £150 was subsequently approved by Full Council, specifically toward its maintenance and upkeep of internal furnishings as requested. Our Grants Policy can be found on the Town Council website, and explains this in more detail." Dave Mullington Town Clerk. <https://cheadletowncouncil.org.uk/grants/>

According to St Giles website: "The local Catholic priest, John Joseph MacDonald ('Fr Mac'), bought the hall for the town and it has remained the property of the Catholic church ever since (Archdiocese of Birmingham - Regd Charity No 234216). The Church now runs the Guild Hall as a service to the community of Cheadle.

According to the Charities Commission website >>>

According to Section 137 of the Local government act: councils can only give grants where the expenditure directly benefits the area/residents, and the amount is limited annually per elector.

Does maintenance and upkeep of internal furnishings directly benefit the area/residents? Should the town council be giving council tax to a charity who reported an income of over £24,000,000? Has this happened before? We'd like to thank our reader for sending in this great question and Mr Mullington for his prompt reply.



Local Government News

March Update from Cheadle Town Council

Churchill Road Recreation Ground

Tenders have been approved, and work could start as soon as this month for the park upgrade. No details were given at the meeting on how this would be managed or communicated to residents.

Improvements Needed to Cheadle Cemetery - Ecology Plan

Even though planning permission has been granted for the cemetery extension (SMD/2023/0361) there are

conditions that needed to be met. It is alleged that plans to extend the cemetery have been stalled by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on the grounds of biodiversity loss.

Councillor Ellis said, "We are putting more biodiversity into the land. How much more do they need?" Cognews spoke to a local ecologist in Cheadle, Mr. Keeling, who said this to-and-fro of letters between developer and client is normal and that a conclusion can normally be reached quite quickly.

Ease of Parking Congestion for Tean Road Recreation Ground Planned

Committee Chair Councillor Plant said that he has spoken to District Council CEO Andrew Stokes, and he may deliver an extension to Tean Road Car Park, which becomes full when footballers use it. No mention was made as to whether this would also be used to ease congestion for the nearby cricket club, which also struggles for space, and the council has received complaints from residents about hazardous parking practices.



Churchill Road Recreation Ground to be developed soon

District Council Legacy

The District Council is asking the Town Council if they can leave a legacy after the closure of the council in a few years' time. No comments were received from those present, they agreed to discuss any ideas they have at the next meeting.

How To...

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

STAFFS COUNTY COUNCIL - For the big stuff like highways education and health:

Tel: 0345 604 2886

Visit - www.staffordshire.gov.uk/

STAFFS MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL - For the day to day like council tax, bins and planning:

Tel - 0345 605 3010

Visit - www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

PARISH OR TOWN COUNCIL - For parks, cemeteries and allotments

GOT A QUESTION? - Write to COGNEWS
Email: Cheadlecog@gmail.com



Election Announced for West Ward Cheadle Town Council Seat

An election has been called for the West Ward of Cheadle, according to the Cheadle Town Council meeting yesterday.

The date is provisionally booked for the 16th of April, and polling is likely to be in two of our three primary schools. The Town Council has voted not to use polling cards, and at this time, does not plan to inform members of the public how they might go about standing for the election.

Democratic Services at SMDC told COGNEWS that nominations for candidates will open on the 11th of March and close at 4 p.m. on the 18th of March. Anyone interested in standing can call the electoral team on 01538 395500 for an application and visit: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-parish-council-elections-england/what-you-need-know-you-stand-a-candidate> for more information on how to become a candidate and why you might want to.

Staffordshire Parish Council Association kindly sent us this link to help potential candidates decide if council life is for them: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor/what-parish-and-town-councils-and-councillors-do.html>.

If there is only one candidate, then the person who applies will become a councillor automatically.

This election follows 10 co-options to the Cheadle Town Council in less than two years. This might seem unimportant, but a high turnover of councillors means new councillors coming in will need to take some time to learn this important role. Meanwhile, the work that the council does can be jeopardized by inexperience and over-reliance on an undemocratic number of people. In effect, the council may be run by just a small group with a very specific voice, and co-option rather than election means that general powers of competence cannot be used, a valuable method of working if a council wishes to evoke change, which is certainly coming with devolution, a new school, further housing developments, and playing fields refurbishments planned.

It is undemocratic for councillors to suggest that holding an election is a misuse of funds. Funds are kept specifically for this service.

SMDC will confirm to us the date for the election when it is known. We will update you on progress as it happens. You can hear the debate at the town council from our recording of the meeting on our article post, details at the top of the page.



Cheadle Town Council office, Tape Street

Local Government News

February Update from Cheadle Town Council

The council welcomed three new councillors and received another resignation.

They will also be joining the local council award scheme, and some councillors want to go for silver and gold awards, while others prefer bronze awards. The earliest date would be 1st May.

A member of the public asked for support for a defibrillator from the council. The gentleman will raise the funds from a sponsored cycle ride (CogNews article to follow shortly). No decision was made.



Good News for the Guild Hall

The Guild Hall has been given a grant for furniture and repairs.

And for Attendees at Council Meetings

The town council meetings and agendas are now available on the town council website at cheadletowncouncil.org.uk. Any member of the public can attend, and there is always a slot for the public to speak on an issue that concerns them.

FROM STAFFS COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARY BENTLEY:

The county council will be focusing on getting the potholes fixed, as well as addressing any highway issues.

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR VICKY WHEELDON:

Cllr Wheeldon informed the chamber on how the council is controlling the budget, but stated that some increase is required.

Dearly Departed

COGNEWS respectfully reports the passing of the following local residents. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Peter HOUGH Peacefully on the 24th March 2026 at his home in Cheadle, surrounded by his loving family, Peter aged 91 years. Devoted husband of the late Nancy and Jean, loving dad of Tracey, a dear step-dad of Beverley and Paul, cherished father-in-law of Warren, Gaynor and the late Sid, proud grandad of Rachel, Nikki, Natalie, Jodie, Alex and Tom and a treasured great grandad.

Pearl Hazel WARD At peace on 16th March 2026 at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Pearl, aged 84 years of Alton, the devoted wife of Brian, cherished mum of the late Matthew, a dear mother-in-law of Rachel and much-loved grandma of Daisy and Owen.

Frank Spencer MACHIN At peace on 16th March 2026 at the Douglas Macmillan Hospice, Frank, aged 86 years of Cheadle. The devoted husband of Margaret, cherished father of Debbie and Gary, a dear father-in-law of Pamela, a much-loved granddad of Robert and Jennifer.

Lilian Iris THEOBALD Peacefully at rest on Sunday 15th March 2026, whilst in the care of Wetley Manor Care Home, Iris aged 92 years of Cheadle, now reunited with her beloved husband David. A loved mum of David, much loved mother-in-law of Julie and a treasured nan of Sophie.

Ivor BASSETT Peacefully at home in Cheadle on 3rd March 2026, Ivor, aged 80 years. Beloved husband of Valerie, devoted father to Alison and Heather, a much-loved father-in-law, and a dearly adored grandad and great grandad.

Anne Isabella SHAW At rest on 28th February 2026 in the care of the RSUH, Anne aged 81 years of Cotton. The beloved wife of the late Ian McAlister Shaw.

Ann JACKSON At peace on 26th February 2026 in the care of the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Ann, aged 70 years of Cheadle, loved wife of the late Peter and a dear sister-in-law and aunty.

Doris HARRISON Peacefully at rest on Wednesday 25th February 2026, whilst at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Doris aged 76 years of Cheadle. A much loved mum of Shane and Jason, loved sister of Christine, treasured grandma of Tymara, Mila and Eleanor.

Evelyn Jean RATHBONE Peacefully at her home in Cheadle, after a short illness, Evelyn, aged 87 years, devoted wife of the late Keith, much-loved mum of Dale and John, loved mother-in-law of Sharon and Evelyne, and a treasured nan of Leighton and Reagan.

Gladys WILSON Gladys passed away on 23rd February 2026 at her home, with her daughter and granddaughter by her side. Gladys, aged 92 of Cheadle. Much loved wife



of the late Terrance, loving mum of Diane and Thomas, mother-in-law of Rob, treasured grandma of Rhian, Melanie, Jason, Kai and Sophie, loving nanny duck to 6 great grandchildren.

Colin FORD Peacefully at rest on Monday 23rd February 2026, whilst at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Colin aged 82 years of Cheadle. A much loved husband of Anne, cherished dad of Tim and Jonathan, loving father-in-law of Sharon, treasured grandad of Beth and dear great-grandad of Monty. Loving brother of Eileen, dear brother-in-law to Cherry, and a loving and caring uncle of Zoe, Paul and Karen.

Richard John BIRD Suddenly on the 16th February 2026 at his home, Richard aged 60 years of Longton. Much loved dad, grandad, brother and uncle.

William John MYATT Suddenly on the 15th February 2026 at the RSUH. Bill aged 85 years of Cheadle. The devoted husband of the late Helen, much loved dad of Rob and the late Clare, loved father in law of Nicola, treasured gan gan of Kobi.

Ronald William Samuel WHIELDON Suddenly on the 12th February 2026 at the RSUH. Ron aged 78 years of Cheadle. Loving and devoted husband of Gina, much loved dad of James, loved father in law of Kelly, treasured grandad of Jacob and Ethan, loving brother of Jen and Les.

Doris WEBB Retired Nurse, Midwife and Nursing Tutor. At peace on 12th February 2026 at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Doris, aged 91 years of Cheadle. Doris leaves behind her devoted husband Barry, her loving sisters, nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends.

Protect Your Vehicle from Theft

Staffordshire Police are reminding residents across Staffordshire Moorlands to take extra steps to protect their vehicles, particularly keyless models, as they continue to see organised criminals target cars using relay theft methods.



What is Relay Theft?

Relay theft involves offenders using electronic devices to amplify the signal from your car key, even if it is inside your home. This allows them to unlock and start the vehicle without ever having the physical key.

How to Protect Your Vehicle

Use a Faraday Pouch

A Faraday pouch (or signal blocking wallet) is one of the most effective ways to stop thieves from relaying your key's signal. Keep your main keys and spare sets inside a pouch at all times when not in use.

Test your pouch periodically by trying to unlock your car while the key is inside.

Consider "Sleeping Battery" Technology

Some modern key fobs have a "sleeping battery" or "sleep mode" feature which stops the fob transmitting a signal when it's not being moved. Sleeping batteries can be purchased online and can be fitted in most vehicle keys.

Additional Security Measures

Use steering wheel locks – a strong visual and physical deterrent.

Park smart – wherever possible, park in a garage or block your vehicle in with another car

Report Suspicious Activity: If you see anything unusual—people loitering near vehicles, unknown individuals using electronic scanning equipment, or latenight activity—please report it.

1. In an Emergency - Call 999
2. Non Emergency - Call 101 or LiveChat
3. Report Anonymously via CrimeStoppers

Residents Reassured About Changes to Waste and Recycling

Residents across the Moorlands are being reassured that upcoming changes to their waste and recycling services as a result of the national scheme to introduce weekly food waste collections will not require households to have a fourth bin and will not result in fines.

full story & more at:

<https://www.theadlecog.com/post/residents-reassured-about-changes-to-waste-and-recycling>

LATEST

Community News



Inside this Issue

Pride in Place Takes Its First Steps in Cheadle

What Does Section 106 Money Mean for Cheadle?

Residents Oppose Plan to Allow Vehicles on Rural Footpaths

Understanding the Reasons Behind the By-election

County Council Unveils New Community Safety Strategy

BREAKING NEWS



this week We Loved



Pride in Place Takes Its First Steps in Cheadle

Following the government's announcement to empower ordinary people to enhance their communities, small meetings have begun between local people keen for Cheadle to be improved.



Cheadle Carnival how it was - currently being reinvented for 2026



Cheadle Library a community space run entirely by local volunteers

One resident told COGNEWS that "we've lost so much. Years ago, we had a cinema, indoor and outdoor markets, and a thriving town centre."

While some things can't be reinstated and new needs have emerged, Cheadle certainly needs the investment and improvement a connected community can bring. To be a part of Pride in Place for Cheadle, you are invited to join us for coffee - the COG equivalent to a survey, to explore the possibilities for your hometown. All are welcome, and the coffee is on COG.

"Pride in Place" is the UK Government's decade-long strategy aimed at revitalising towns and cities throughout Britain. It is intended to empower local residents, instead of central and local authorities, to take charge of enhancing their own communities.

This investment is crucial for the town of Cheadle, particularly after Deputy Mayor Ian Plant announced at the last town council meeting that the funds for upgrading the Cheadle Leisure Centre have been cut, although no specifics were provided.

The good news about this fund is that it's about empowering local residents and groups to tackle deep-rooted deprivation. We are reminded of local needs following the closure of Moorlands Home-Link a few weeks ago, which has provided services for our elderly and disabled residents since 2014.

Many community leaders have already signed up for the idea. We are informed that there is up to £20M available for each approved project. The strategy also includes a "Community Right to Buy" to take over derelict buildings such as pubs, for example, and a strategic goal to make neighbourhoods safer.

Something much needed for Cheadle is that our young people have not been receiving the funding they need for social and lifestyle development. *Cheadle has not had a youth club for 15 years, unlike Leek and Tean, and the army cadets are now also closed. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Ben Adams, praised Cheadle youth during his public visit to the town last year for their self-improvement, but nothing has materialised to support them so far.*

You can read the prospectus here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus>.

Cheadle COG is working with a number of organisations and individuals to support this investment. Interested parties should contact Bernie Charlesworth for further information, please use our contact form and your details will be forwarded directly.

What Does Section 106 Money Mean for Cheadle?

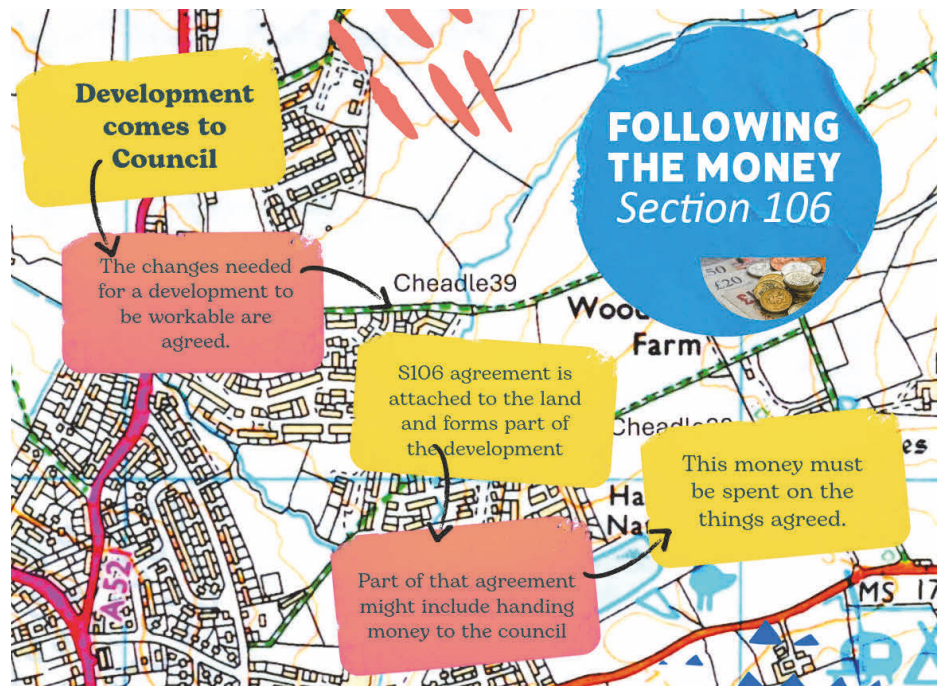
Sounds dull doesn't it? But it is a most brilliant beautiful way to transform towns if only we allow it.

Section 106 money can only be used for the things agreed between the council and new housing developers to impact losses which would otherwise prevent planning being granted. Where this is going wrong is that councils are not considering properly the needs of a growing town and the future of that town grown up which has devastating consequences if left unchecked and we are already beginning to see the impact of this in Cheadle.

This Money can be negotiated for use on:

- affordable housing
- green space provision
- providing educational facilities
- traffic calming measures or road improvements
- public transport contributions
- NHS contributions
- local employment initiatives

In 2019 the Town & Country Planning Act was amended to remove the regulations restricting putting together more than 5 planning obligations (S106 agreements) towards a single piece of infrastructure such as a school or health centre. This means more money can be grouped to help provide the needed facility, giving councils greater scope and security



of funding. The new item should then influence positive growth for an area - who wouldn't want better facilities?

Section 106 money is part of a bigger suite of finance and tools governing how development happens across the county called the National planning framework

Many problems which could have been solved before development starts go unnoticed. & there are many examples of where councils, including SMDC, have hurt the existing residents, whose rights are protected, and failed to come close to a solution for the issues their decisions created. This can be life-changing stuff with devaluation of property, mental and physical health issues, etc.

For example, it's easy to blame the NHS for lack of doctors' appointments or the education system for overcrowded classrooms. The reality is if planning is done well, then systems such as health and education not only cope but thrive.

There are also clear rules on what councils have to report and how they breakdown the use of funds. They have to tell the public what they spent the money on. Some councillors would have the public believe that section 106 money is sensitive and they are not allowed to talk about it. Actually, the reverse is true; the government has instructed councils to be honest and transparent about where this money goes. You can find out more about this in SMDC's Infrastructure funding statements, published on [cheadlecog.com](https://www.cheadlecog.com) - link above.

The responsibility for S106 and other development money lies with local councils, made up of ordinary folk who often don't have the experience or skill of a professional town planner or business negotiator. This is where concerned residents, community groups, and local businesses can really help them to understand the needs of local people. This can be done either through objecting to a specific planning application, speaking at a planning or other meeting, writing to your local councillor, and following it through—don't let it slip and don't be fobbed off..

Residents Oppose Plan to Allow Vehicles on Rural Footpaths

Residents living along Common Lane in Boundary have formally objected to proposals that would permit motor vehicles to use two long-established public footpaths, raising concerns over legality, environmental impact and public safety.

In a letter submitted on 23rd March, Cllr Michelle Wells, supported by a group of local residents, criticising Staffordshire County Council's handling of application Red LP609G. The proposal seeks to upgrade sections of Public Footpath 17 and Public Footpath 8 to Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs), a designation that would allow vehicular access.

The group argues that the council has failed to follow statutory procedures required under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. According to the letter, no public notices were displayed, no advertisement appeared in local newspapers, and key stakeholders — including landowners and some parish councils — were not formally notified.

Describing the application as “procedurally defective,” residents insist it should not proceed. Residents also report that other footpath upgrade notifications have recently been received by stakeholders locally, raising questions about why multiple proposals are emerging at the same time and whether there has been a broader, unpublicised review of rights of way in the area?

The proposed route would begin at Common Lane, located at the crossroads with Daisy Bank and Cheadle Road — a junction residents describe as an accident black spot. From there, the track runs through the rural landscape, passing through the Blake Hall Fisheries area before continuing towards Brookhouses and linking up with the Huntsman junction, another location locally regarded as hazardous.

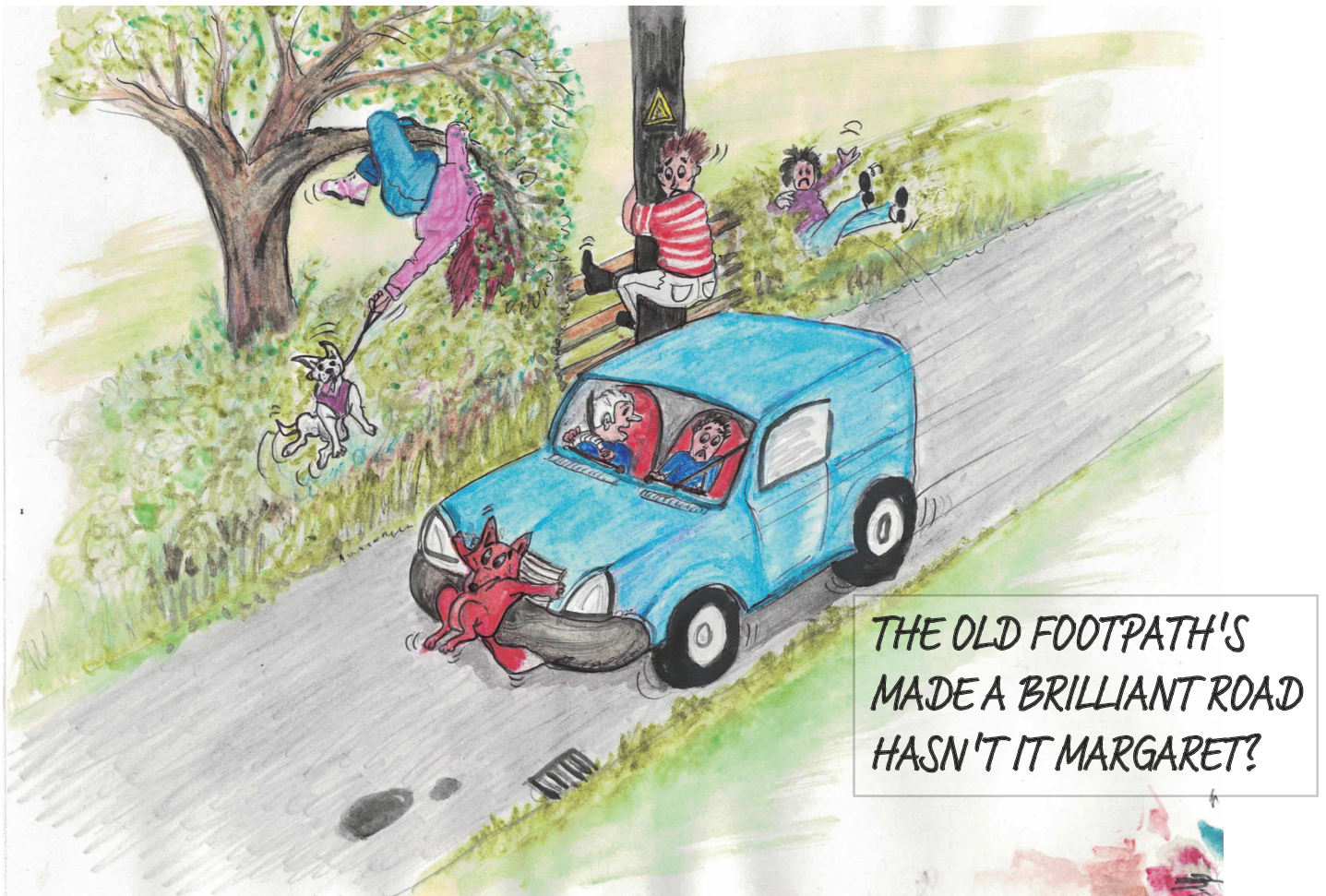
Residents argue that opening this route to vehicles would significantly increase traffic along what is currently a quiet, narrow pathway, potentially exacerbating safety risks at both ends of the route.

Concerns have also been raised about the impact on recent property purchases. Several homes near the route have been sold since 2021, yet residents claim no reference to the application appeared in local authority searches during conveyancing. The group says it is now seeking legal advice over whether proper records were maintained.

Residents further contend that vehicular access has not been historically exercised, noting that



Residents Oppose Plan to Allow Vehicles on Rural Footpaths



the route has been blocked to vehicles for more than 50 years. A locked gate has reportedly been in place since the 1970s, casting doubt on claims that driving rights exist.

The objection also cites a court ruling from the 1980s concerning nearby land, which is said to have rejected vehicular access and required compensation for restoration. Residents believe this decision remains relevant to the current proposal.

Environmental concerns feature prominently. The route runs through countryside associated with Blake Hall Fisheries, where previous planning considerations have highlighted the sensitivity of the Green Belt and surrounding environment. Residents argue that permitting vehicle access would risk damaging local habitats and contradict earlier decisions intended to protect the area.

Advice has also been sought from the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust regarding potential ecological impacts, including disturbance to wildlife and loss of biodiversity.

The group questions whether sufficient historical evidence exists to justify reclassifying the paths. The Definitive Map currently records them as footpaths, legally restricting their use to pedestrians.

Safety is another key issue. Residents describe the route as narrow and unsuitable for vehicles, warning that shared use with walkers, families and organised groups such as ramblers could increase the risk of accidents and cause damage to the paths.

The letter concludes by urging Staffordshire County Council to formally register the objection, suspend the application process until proper procedures are followed, and ultimately reject the proposal.

Understanding the Reasons Behind the By-election

On the 16th of April, there is to be a by-election for Cheadle Town Council in the West Ward (roughly Brookhouse Road to the High Street). We've not had a by-election in a long time, so why now and why is it important?

The town council is elected every four years. At the last election, only 17 people stood, and as 21 is a full council for Cheadle, everyone got a seat. There is very little training and support offered for volunteer councillors, and many complex rules & rituals in local government. Three tiers of local government (Staffs County Council, Staffs Moorlands District Council, & Town Council) offer little in the way of accountability, making it easy for new councillors to be duped into bad decision-making, inertia for fear of doing the wrong thing, or trying to make changes only to hit a brick wall from colleagues and clerks who, in any other organization, would be mandated to nurture and support them. All of these things offer an explanation as to why there have been 10 new councillor co-options at Cheadle in less than two years.

A co-option is where a vacancy is advertised and local residents apply to join and the existing councillors vote them in. Given the difficulty of all organizations in getting volunteers right now, there's not a big queue of volunteers to become councillors. A high turnover of councillors, like in Cheadle, means more new councillors coming in who will need some time to learn this important role, and there are fewer people to help them because others have left.

Meanwhile, the work the council does can be jeopardized by the inexperience and over-reliance on an undemocratic number of people. In effect, the council may be run by just a small group with a very specific voice, and continual co-option rather than election also means that general powers of competence cannot be used - a valuable method of working if a council wishes to evoke change. Local people need now more than ever good councillors to represent them through these changes.

Eighteen people contacted the district council to say they didn't want another co-option, which means a by-election has to be held. Local residents pick who gets to be a councillor, not the existing councillors.

Some experienced town councillors voiced their objections to this, saying it was a waste of money. They even voted against having polling cards, which show those who can vote in the election where their polling station is, preferring to "save money" rather than support the democratic process.

It's a rude awakening for the remaining established councillors. Something which



Candidates Lee Bentley for Reform UK and Emma Chatwin for the Green Party

is obvious but they haven't debated yet, is that it is their failure to support and work with council colleagues for the good of the town, which would have helped to avoid so many people leaving in the first place. Councillors do have an option to take six months off if needed, so the fact that 10 people chose to leave instead of taking a sabbatical does require investigating working practices and learning the lessons in order to stem the stampede. Alternatively, they will need to face the fact that elections which cost over £5000 each could become the norm.

A by-election brings a strong independent voice as chosen by the public.. We've interviewed both candidates for the west ward by-election, both strong, intelligent, passionate people who want the best for their town. We've no doubt whoever is elected on the 16th will be a breath of fresh air to the council and support for those councillors especially some of the newer ones to build a better Cheadle.. You can find out where to vote on our partner post here:

<https://www.cheadlecog.com/post/cheadle-west-ward-voting-information> or search for our candidate interviews and listen to the election debate too.

County Council Unveils New Community Safety Strategy

Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet has agreed the authority's first Community Safety Strategy, a new, three-year plan designed to make a visible and measurable difference to neighbourhoods across Staffordshire.

The strategy sets out how the county council and its partners will protect vulnerable people, reduce the risk of crime and antisocial behaviour, and give communities — including rural villages, market towns and urban areas — a stronger voice in shaping the places they live.

"Safety shouldn't be something people have to hope for; it should be something they can rely on. We're now moving ahead with a clear, shared plan to prevent harm, protect the most vulnerable and strengthen the places people call home."



For the first time, Staffordshire County Council has set out its own organisational approach to community safety built around prevention, early action and shared responsibility. It aims to stop problems before they escalate, strengthen local resilience, and ensure residents feel safer, more supported, and more confident in their local area.

The strategy focuses on four priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable people – targeted, practical support for those most at risk.
- Safer and stronger places – creating neighbourhoods that are safe, proud and resilient.
- Prevention – tackling the root causes of harm before they take hold.
- Effective partnerships with clear accountability – ensuring each agency understands its responsibilities, how progress will be measured, and how the public will see the results.

Superheroes Wanted...

SAVING THE TOWN FROM
**New Hero
Alert!**
BAD INFORMATION



Sign up or
find out more



call 07519
297470

Save your friends and family from boring, bad or
useless information.
Join the Cheadle COG team & help your community
restore and more.

*Warning: you may become the sort of person who asks
questions, and spreads good news across the region.
Cape optional*



Staffordshire Moorlands
Businesses Triumph in Tourism
Awards

The Family Business Behind
"The Dairy"

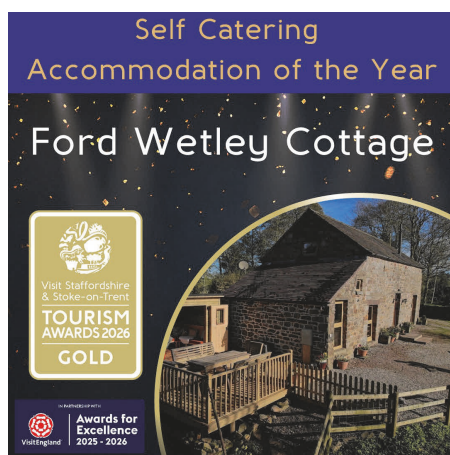
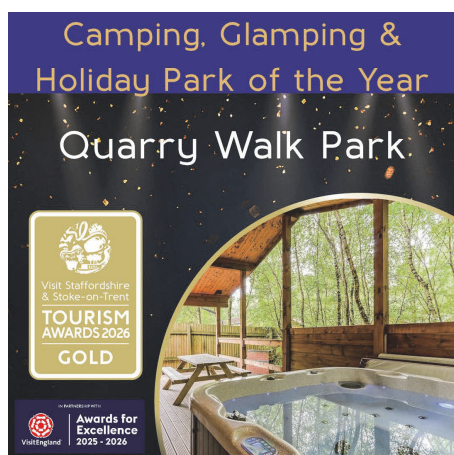
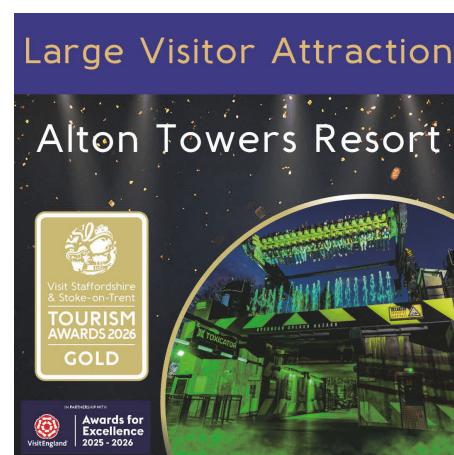
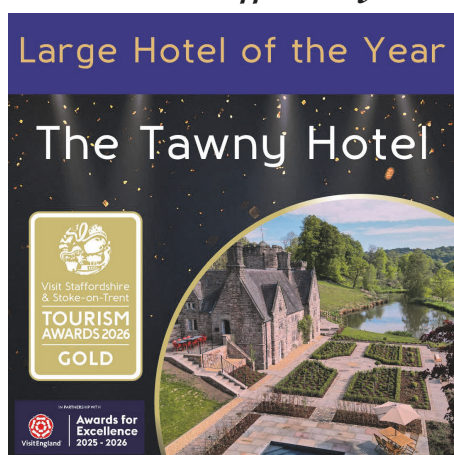
New Central Business Hub
Announced by UK Government

The Missing Assets List...



Staffordshire Moorlands Businesses Triumph in Tourism Awards

Accommodation and dining, national visitor attractions and experiences, plus inclusive, accessible tourism and more proves again that Staffordshire Moorlands officially has the best in the business.



The 2026 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Tourism Awards showcase the very best of tourism across the region and many Moorlands businesses brought home awards.

Five local businesses took the top awards in their categories: The Tawny Hotel won the top award in the Large Hotel of the Year and the Taste of England Restaurant of the Year for The Plumicorn at The Tawny

Alton Towers took gold in the Large Visitor Attraction category, Ford Wetley Cottage was named Self-catering Accommodation of the Year and Quarry Walk Park topped the Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year category.

Silver awards went to: Peak Wildlife Park in the Team of the Year category, Alton Towers won in the Accessible and Inclusive Tourism category & CBeebies Land Hotel at the resort won joint silver in the Large Hotel of the Year category. Peak Wildlife Park also took home silvers for Experience of the Year for its Polar Bear Experience and Regenerative Tourism. The Knot Inn at Rushton Spencer took silver in the Pub of the Year category & The Black Lion Inn at Butterton was silver winner in the Taste of England Casual Dining Award

The awards kept coming for Peak Wildlife Park which took bronze in the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year category. Also winning bronze in the Taste of England Casual Dining category was The Star at Cotton. Two Moorlands businesses narrowly missed out on the top three places but were highly commended - The Black Lion at Butterton in the Small Serviced Accommodation of the Year category and The Royal Oak at Rushton Spencer in the Taste of England Casual Dining Award.

"Tourism is a vital part of our local economy - visitors to Staffordshire contribute £2.7 billion annually to the county's economy and over £580 million to the Moorlands local economy where thousands of people work in the tourism industry." Councillor Matt Swindlehurst, Cabinet member for Leisure and Tourism.

The Family Business Behind "The Dairy"

Antony and Michelle run Bradeley Farm in Cheadle. You may be familiar with their fun farm shop, "The Dairy," where you can get a great milkshake and other treats 24/7.



The ladies responsible for bringing our milkshakes

Antony and Michelle run Bradeley Farm in Cheadle. You may be familiar with their fun farm shop, "The Dairy," where you can get a great milkshake and other treats 24/7.

Antony has been supplying raw milk to Wheat Brothers who is Anthony's cousin, a milk processor with the doorstep deliveries. He's has been in farming all his life. Michelle told us that she grew up with a father who was an engineer. They produce 1.7 million litres of milk each year, and although there are 3,000 doorstep customers and supply for the town's shops, it only amounts to a third of their yearly production. So they have to sell through supermarkets to survive.

He told our reporter that they have had a reduction in the price they sell their milk from 43p per litre down to around 33p per litre. That 10p per litre becomes a significant reduction in dairy farmers top line. It's a huge blow and one which leaves no spare capital for reinvestment and development of the farms.

Antony told us, "We did have the perfect system, which was the Milk Marketing Board. They controlled the price and gave a steady year-on-year increase and no decreases. You got your milk quota, which was all within the hands of the dairy farmers and ruled output. Now the only thing to rule output is market price, so it is going up and down in repeating cycles. You've got some dairy farmers getting 43p per litre and some others getting 24p per litre. That's a 24p difference in price, which is a very unfair system."

It was Anthony's idea to open the farm shop, and because he loves vending machines, he also gets a better price selling from them. And when people come and buy, they are getting fresher milk than from the supermarkets too.

Antony explained, "The milk we sell is pasteurised, but the milk you buy from the supermarket is also homogenised, which means it passes through the human body quicker, which for some presents false lactose intolerance. It is also standardised, which means fat is removed and added."

Michelle and her daughter Helaina run their shop together. Michelle does the baking, and they share the ice cream making duties. Michelle's byline is, "Give us a try and you won't look back."



A few of the many delights at The Dairy

The Missing Assets List...

Since the announcement of devolution for Staffordshire, town and parish councils in Staffordshire Moorlands have been asking for a list of assets owned by the district council for their area.



South Moorlands Leisure Centre



Tape Street Short Stay Carp Park



Cheadle Market: closed following purchase by SMDC

Cheadle Deputy Mayor, Cllr Plant, is a district councillor and a locality champion for the devolution process at the district council, yet this information is still shrouded in mystery, with councillors still talking about the lack of a list as recently as February.

The list is valuable because going into a new local government structure, the information will not only help the town council understand what is owned by the district and therefore the new council but also allow them to review suitability for purpose and how these assets fit into the local economy. It might, in some cases, mean that the town council could take on these assets as they did prior to 1974 when SMDC replaced the Cheadle and District Council.

We've discovered that not only is the list not confidential as is being suggested but available to anyone who takes a casual look at SMDC's website. We've made this available on our website for you to download and support your local councillors with their quest to improve our town.

You can see it here:
<https://www.cheadlecog.com/post/the-missing-assets-list>.





New Central Business Hub Announced by UK Government

The UK government has announced a new central hub for businesses looking for clear, trustworthy and relevant support at each stage of their journey. The platform brings together guidance on starting up, growing, exporting and investing, making it easier for businesses to access the information they need.

Business.gov.uk Search

Find the right support for your business

Every business benefits from easy access to trusted information, expertise and services. Tell us what stage you're at to get started.

-  [Starting a business](#)
-  [Running and growing a business](#)
-  [Selling overseas from the UK](#) *Coffee & Cake with Emma Chatwin*
-  [Investing and expanding in the UK](#)

The site tailors its support to individual business by asking a few straightforward questions about their sector, stage and location. From there, it provides personalised resources on funding options, compliance, hiring, exporting, digital adoption and more.

This means you can quickly identify the steps that will have the biggest impact—such as improving products and services, expanding to new markets or adopting new technology—to accelerate sustainable growth.

Find out more here: <https://www.business.gov.uk/>

Editors Note: Having supported many SME's over the past 20 years one big problem especially for start-ups is something Chris Voss in his book *Never Split the Difference* refers to as Black Swans, that piece of information that is really important but you didn't know existed, and so couldn't make the right decision because you didn't even know what questions to ask! This hub should give us all the opportunity to have much of the available information at our fingertips. It won't be perfect but should provide a decent reference point something up until now we've lacked.

All About Hedgehogs

Introducing Emma Chatwin:
Your Candidate for Cheadle West
Ward By-Election

Caring for Your Kitchen's
Largest Tin Can

Is Our Access to Food Under
Threat and What We Can Do
About It?

Celebrating Cecilly Brook



All About Hedgehogs

On Thursday, 19th March, at the Guild Hall, Cheadle, a small group of residents was treated to a free event provided by The Friends of Cecilly Brook and Hales Hall Pool. It was a talk given by Jody from Baddeley Green Hedgehog Rescue Centre.

Jody described how hedgehogs help to increase biodiversity and are our garden friends. Jodie has been interested in hedgehog rescue for about four years and works with Claire, the lady who runs the hedgehog rescue centre. Her interest has grown such that her garage is now a hibernation station, and her garden is filled with hedgehog houses.

Hedgehog Facts

- Lifespan is 5–6 years.
- Hibernation takes place after five nights of sub-zero temperatures.
- They are quite clean animals; if they have fleas, the species will not jump onto humans.
- Seeing ticks on them will mean they are not well.

Hedgehog Babies

The mothers are very attentive to their young, and pregnancy is about 32 days. Mum can delay birth for a few days if the weather is bad. Normally they have a litter of 5–6. They are small pink creatures about the size of your thumb. Within 24 hours, small white, rubbery spikes will develop. The females can have two litters a year.

What to do if you spot a hedgehog in daylight

Hedgehogs will eat slugs and snails, but they are full of parasites, so unless they limit their diet to 5%, they will get ill because the parasites will damage their internal organs.

“A hedgehog out in the day, not OK.”

That is when you will see them out and about in daylight, and that is definitely not OK. Pick them up using gloves—it's not true about fleas; they are clean animals—and put them in a high-sided box with some water, no food, a tea towel or a warm bottle, and take them to a rescue centre where they can be treated and brought back to health.

Pictured is Rhian, a domesticated hedgehog. The females always wake up from hibernation early and tidy the nest ready for the males, who sleep longer. Rhian is very sociable. She has quite long legs and can get a move on when needed. She will be slowly adapted to living in the wild before being released, which will be when she is 800–900g in weight.

Listening for Hedgehogs

You may be lucky to hear a male during the mating season. He will typically make noises like a steam train, a huffing sound, until the female has given way to his advances. The young also make a chirping sound, rather similar to baby birds.





Learn how
to help our
hedgehogs
& colour or
paint these
pictures

Find out more at
Cheadlecog.com



How to Help our Hedgehogs



- 1 Our gardens may have concrete or wired fences which are difficult for hedgehogs to get through to find food on their nightly expeditions, so a hole in the fence about the size of a CD case is ideal.
- 2 It's good to put out water, but only in a shallow bowl.
- 3 If you want to feed them, then buy kitten food with the highest amount of meat. Wildlife food is not good for hedgehogs as it is not regulated.
- 4 If you have a pond in your garden, make sure a hedgehog can climb out via a ramp—even rocks will do.
- 5 If you want to provide hedgehog accommodation, make sure it's not made of plastic, has a 90-degree bend in the entrance, and is kept out of direct sunlight. A more natural habitat is a warm compost heap or a pile of logs.

The Baddeley Green Hedgehog Rescue Centre can be contacted on:

Email Address info@hedgehogrescuecentre.co.uk

Address 22 Baddeley Hall Rd, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 7JZ

Introducing Emma Chatwin: Your Candidate for Cheadle West Ward By-Election

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Introducing Emma Chatwin: Your Candidate for Cheadle West Ward By-Election

Emma Chatwin, Green Party Candidate

She told us that she wishes to be proactive and loyal to the people of the town and to do her best to help the community, but she does recognise the limitations town councillors have.

She works as a quantitative analyst and is very good with numbers. Her family loves Cheadle, and she enjoys the market in Greyhound Walk. She is looking forward to the market square opening sometime. Her children attend a local nursery, and her son enjoys swimming at our leisure centre. Her husband is a teacher.

Emma has concerns about young people being safe on our streets. She's a non-driver, so she understands firsthand the problems of our local bus services in the town. She would like to see a bus service provided for the new Aldi store and is concerned about the high

level of traffic in the town and would like to see it reduced. Road safety is also a concern in the West Ward. She's passionate about putting the community first before the party as a Green Party candidate.

Her view on housing is that the town does not need any more housing development, as there is not the infrastructure for additional houses, and why would you want to build on such lovely countryside anyway?

"My focus is on my town more than the party I represent." - Emma Chatwin

She believes strongly in the town having a community centre, a youth club, as well as good tourist links. Business is important, and she would listen to the needs of local business people.

Emma has kindly shared with COGNEWS the list of where West Ward Residents can vote. This is currently causing residents an issue largely because Cheadle Town Council voted against providing polling cards, preferring to save the cost.



Coffee & Cake with Emma Chatwin



Caring for Your Kitchen's Largest Tin Can

Every two weeks, we place our grey bin outside, ideally filled with tins, bottles, and plastic, with the hope that they will be recycled, helping to protect our planet from landfill and climate change. But what if we told you there's a larger issue hiding in our kitchen, and it's the unassuming washing machine?

They might be reliable, all the switches and displays work, and the motor runs perfectly, but some manufacturers are hiding a worrying truth: the washing machine drum is sealed. Or, to be more accurate, the two halves of the drum are glued together, making the replacement of the most common failure—the bearings—non-repairable.

Back in the '70s, all front-loading washing machine drums were made in two halves. One half was where you put the washing in, and the back half was where the bearings were, which connected to the motor. When the bearings failed, you simply removed some bolts, and the two halves would separate, allowing you to put in new bearings, which cost only a few pounds. But today, machines have changed. You often have to replace the whole drum, costing more than the machine is worth, because the halves are welded together.

Look closely - inside there are no bolts just glue
What can be done?

Ask before buying - if the machine has a bolted drum, if it's bolted and parts are available your good to go. Or better still, buy a British one which has not traveled halfway around the world and

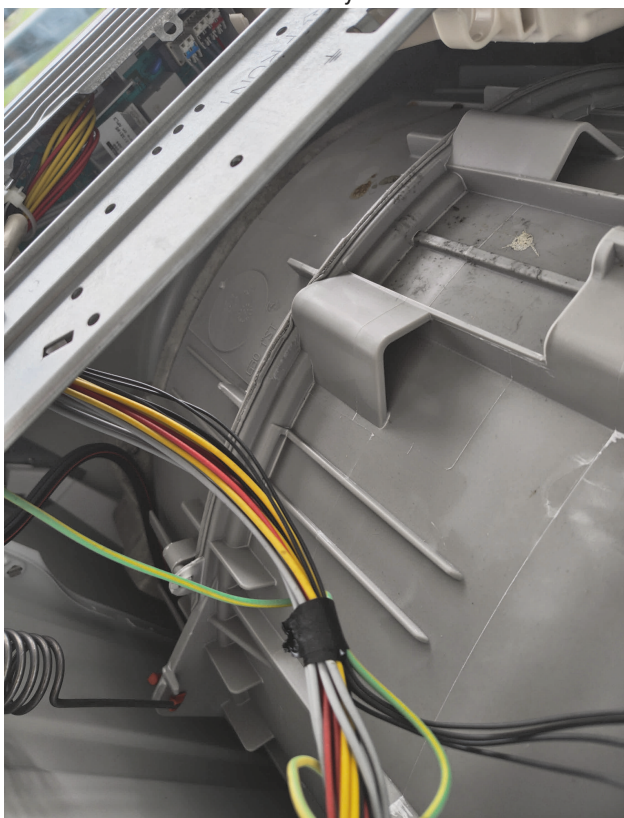


support the UK economy. British machines from Ebac also have split drums.

On first impressions the cost of the Ebac machines seems price heavy but do consider the value, £289ish for a typical 10kg model with one year's warranty or £825 for an Ebac equivalent with a 7 year warranty - £117.82 per year and it's repairable. Ebac have a 1600 rpm spin speed so drying will cost less and they are hot and cold fill so if you are using a heat pump for hot water supply your washing machine and therefore your wallet can benefit too.

What does the law say?

The Consumer Rights Act 2015 implies that your washer should last a "reasonable" time, often interpreted as up to 6 years, so there is some protection in place and no need to buy a warranty (sorry appliance sales folk). But considering that you *now know that many machines can't be repaired - if you're looking beyond the money and more at the ethics, then you can save your biggest tin can from going to landfill for much longer.*



Is Our Access to Food Under Threat and What We Can Do About It?

The UK government has just published its white paper on biodiversity, ecosystem loss and national security. Quite a long title, but what does it mean? And how does it affect us living in Cheadle?



This is the first time an issue related to climate change has been cited as affecting national security. The big issue directly affecting the UK is related to possible food shortages for supermarkets that rely on a nationwide road distribution service to deliver to our shops. Whereas locally produced food could be made more readily available to local people.

What Can Be Done?

We have a relatively small town of 16,500 people with large areas of farmland and our own nature reserve, so we are in a position to make the changes needed to survive, and the good news is it has already started.

Within our town, we have a food bank at the Guild Hall and a social supermarket on the high street next to Savers hardware store. Both will be very useful if we see empty shelves at the traditional supermarkets.

Our butcher, Wooliscrofts, and veg shop, Fresh Produce, both buy food locally and are not part of the supermarket food system. We also have our own dairy, Wheat Brothers, so quite simply, buying locally will help develop our local food economy.

We can encourage councillors at district and town levels to ensure that developers build only the type of housing we need, where and when we need it, and not allow the town to develop without the infrastructure being put in place first. This will enable farmland to be farmed for food and keep our population at a manageable level for the ability of the land to support the numbers.



Is Our Access to Food Under Threat and What We Can Do About It?

We can also start to grow our own food at home, Cheadle has excellent soil and now is a great time to get growing. Home grown always tastes better and saves money too so even without the threat of food shortages growing our own makes good sense. We could convert verges into veg gardens and our neglected community orchards could be a place of abundance.

We are told by the district council that our market square will get its development after the May Growth and Economy meeting. There has been a market charter for Cheadle for over a 1000's years and a market square would provide the space for local producers to provide for our town, not just food but other many other items too.

Read the Biodiversity, ecosystem loss and national security report here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National_security_assessment_-_global_biodiversity_loss__ecosystem_collapse_and_national_security.pdf It is an abridged version found online from the government website. The full version is not available to the public yet but some groups are calling for the information to be released.

Cognews would like to hear your views on the abridged version of the report. Please contact us with your views, current actions and ideas too.

Cheadle Foodbank Receives a Lion's Share Donation

On Wednesday, 25th February, Cheadle Foodbank was presented with a cheque for £250 to help run the service by Cheadle Lions.



COGNEWS was told that they sometimes run short of stock and that this money will help them restock their shelves, as they are totally reliant on donations.

The food bank has been in the town for 12 years and is based at the Guild Hall. They have given out over 125 tonnes of food over that period. They are staffed entirely by volunteers and also provide other services with the help of CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau), which is present at all their sessions, and other partners.

The only condition is that people using the facility must have a voucher from a doctor, school, or local agency. In special cases.

They will issue an emergency voucher when needed. The food bank is open Wednesdays from 9:30–11 am and Fridays from 1:30–3 pm.

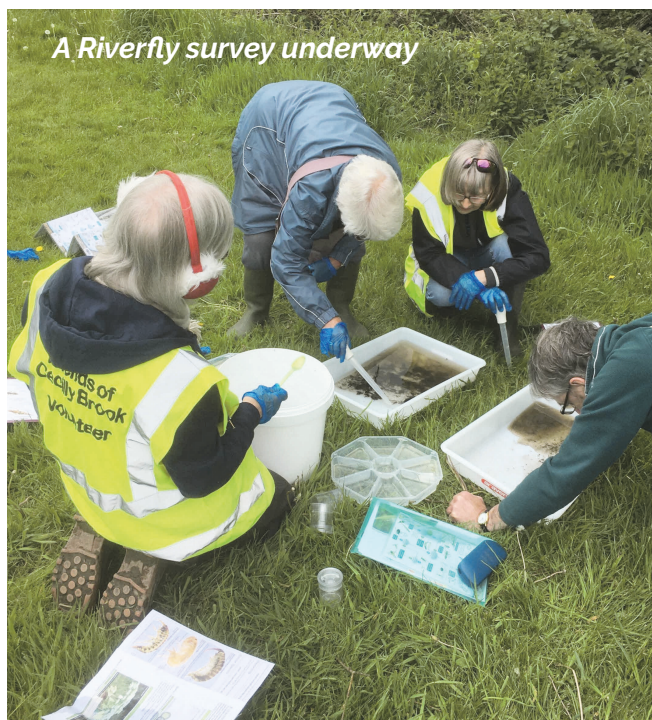
Celebrating Cecilly Brook

Cecilly Brook is a beautiful part of Cheadle's charm. Meandering its way from north to south, this ever-changing area, with rippling water and overhanging trees, delights young and old alike. The accessibility and upkeep are thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers keen to nurture nature for the good of residents, visitors, and most importantly, all the species who call Cecilly Brook home. They are local heroes, we'd like to tell you a little about their work.

The group is called Friends of Cecilly Brook and Hales Hall Pool and you can see their work and some stunning photographs at <https://www.cecillybrooklnr.org.uk/>

The aim of the Friends is to protect, conserve, and enhance the natural environment of Cecilly Brook and Hales Hall Pool, to encourage others to enjoy the reserve and join in with this work so that access to the local nature reserve, its flora, and fauna is preserved and protected for future generations. Working closely with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, a management plan has been put in place, and the group receives guidance from SWT's Senior Land Management Officer. Last year, volunteers clocked up a total of 490 hours.

Projects include a monthly litter pick and monthly water quality tests on Cecilly Brook. Regular maintenance of the art installation "Predator/Prey Labyrinth" near Oakamoor Rd is carried out along with cleaning of the signage at both reserve sites.



Past activities include nest box clearing, maintenance & numbering, plus the addition of new boxes along with hay raking on the meadows & seed sowing to enhance the meadows & bank side vegetation.

Bramble control, path maintenance from Oakamoor Rd to Mill Rd, including path edging & leaf blowing, and balsam pulling all keep the area pristine for visitors to enjoy and species to thrive.

Various surveys have been carried out, including several Riverfly surveys, a Willow tit survey & vegetation & pollinator surveys in several meadow areas.

Cecilly Brook has been accepted as one of the sites for the Nature in Your Neighbourhood Project (NIYN) & has been working with partners to plan & survey baseline data for this project, which will run for five years.

The group has secured funding to organise both a Bat and Moth evening & a mini-series of wildlife talks which are open to everyone.

It's been a busy year for the friends who are now well into their plans for 2026, which include enhancing the meadows as part of the NIYN Project and hedge laying as well as their regular tasks.

To find out how you can get involved, visit:

<https://www.theadlecog.com/supporting-your-local-nature-reserve-volunteering-events>