



South
Staffordshire
Council

South Staffordshire Review



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New Jaguar factory fast tracks South Staffordshire economy

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SENSATIONAL
SEASONAL
OFFER



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JOB CLUB
SUCCESS



TURBULENT TIMES
FOR AIRCRAFT
MUSEUM



BRING ON THE BIG CAT!



Jaguar's plans to build a new factory in South Staffordshire, bringing in 750 new jobs, have been hailed as "a massive boost" to the local economy.

The world-renowned car maker put the District in the national spotlight when it unveiled its £355m plant on the i54 development zone.

The move to South Staffordshire, announced by Business Secretary Vince Cable in September, will see the new facility manufacture new, advanced technology, low-emission engines.

announcement – and claim that South Staffordshire has proven its case to be a centre for international business.

Bosses at South Staffordshire Council, Staffordshire County Council and Wolverhampton City Council are celebrating the news that JLR will be moving to the 370 acre site in Bilbrook, just north of Wolverhampton and next to the M54. They claim that the jobs created from this deal will provide a welcome 'shot in the arm for the local economy'.

The three councils have also revealed that they had been locked in secret talks with JLR for months ahead of the official announcement as they pulled out all the stops to make i54's bid as strong as possible.

Councillor Brian Edwards, Leader of South Staffordshire Council said: "These things don't just happen overnight. We've been working tirelessly to make sure the i54 bid met the expectations you'd expect from a global company like JLR."

"Our area has a long and proud history in the motor car industry – and this deal

signals the start of a brand new chapter. With Moog, Eurofins and now one of the world's finest motor car companies on board at i54 – this could really change the face of our local economy for generations to come.

"JLR is a huge international brand and to see this move to South Staffordshire and invest in our local economy is just wonderful news for everyone involved. It's a massive, massive boost."

Staffordshire County Council leader Philip Atkins added: "This is tremendous news

for Staffordshire, the Midlands and the UK. It's close to the home of Jaguar and means we're at the heart of the automotive industry. We know that this momentous decision means that international business views Staffordshire as the place to be."

One international design and manufacturing aviation company, Moog, has already started construction at the site while a second, Eurofins Scientific, has announced it will locate there too next year.

"Our area has a long and proud history in the motor car industry."

The plant at i54 is expected to create up to 750 highly-skilled engineering and manufacturing posts at JLR, along with thousands more highly-skilled manufacturing jobs in the supply chain and the wider UK economy.

Work on the site could begin as early as February 2012 – with the plant expected to be fully operational within two years.

Leaders from the three local councils who have worked with local MPs and the Government to bring JLR to South Staffordshire have welcomed JLR's



Staffordshire County Council Leader, Philip Atkins with the Leader of Wolverhampton City Council, Roger Lawrence and the Leader of South Staffordshire Council, Brian Edwards at the i54 site in Bilbrook

Get a FREE Home Fire Risk Check - see page 11 for more details

REVIEW IS 50 NOT OUT!

South Staffordshire "Review" is celebrating its own golden jubilee - its 50th edition!

The Council's newspaper, exclusively for residents of the District, has been bringing you news on important local issues, informing you about future plans and upcoming events and helping to promote local businesses and tourism since 1974.

We hope you find it interesting, informative and intelligent - and to keep it that way we've decided to mark the 50th edition with a design makeover. We hope you like your new-look Review.

Meanwhile, the editorial team has been delving into the archives to find the very first newspaper the Council sent to residents (see far right image).



It was delivered to homes across the District in November 1974, just after the Council came in to existence under the Local Government reorganisation that year. South Staffordshire Council was created when the former Cannock Rural District and Seisdon Rural District authorities were merged.

It's now 37 years on, and Review will still be bringing you the latest news and information about what's going on in South Staffordshire.

We've got the 'IT' Factor

South Staffordshire Council has pulled off its own bit of giant killing by clinching first place in a prestigious national communication awards.

The Codrall-based District Council's Information Technology team were celebrating after beating off competition from big guns like Leeds City and Kent County and grabbing top prize for 'Contact Centre technology'.

It came at the Good Communication Awards 2011, held at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, London in July.

South Staffordshire caught the judges' eye by saving tax payers nearly £3,000 a year by developing its own in-house call handling and queuing system for its Customer Service Team.

The new software, designed by council employee Alan Eagles, helps put customer queries, when they visit the Council, into a queue before being answered by customer service advisors.

The software also generates customer service announcements and visual announcements on display screens at the Council's offices in Codrall.

Leigh Brookes, ICT Manager at South Staffordshire Council explained why South Staffordshire was a winner: "There are plenty of similar products on the market, but we thought we'd design something ourselves and we think it's better than a lot of the market leaders - and it costs an awful lot less too."

Cllr Robert Reade, Cabinet member for Support Services at South Staffordshire Council who received the award on behalf of the Council said: "What a wonderful achievement. We were up against the big boys but although we're only a small Council, we showed them that we're innovative; we're resourceful and we're putting our customers at the heart of what we're trying to achieve."





RURAL TRANSPORT

We're on the right road

It's been a year since we first told you about our Rural Transport Partnership - and our plans to make rural communities feel less isolated by getting our public transport system moving.



Councillor David Billson

Deputy Leader of South Staffordshire Council and Chairman of the Rural Transport Partnership.

Providing reliable public transport in rural areas is always difficult. But that shouldn't stop us trying to make things better - which is exactly what the Rural Transport Partnership has been trying to do.

Councils no longer run the buses or control their routes, but they do step in to help fund services and routes which don't make a profit. But the numbers of people travelling on public transport in rural areas are low and without these services - some parts of our community could be completely cut off - and we can't afford for that to happen.

My message to local people is simple. We can't afford to lose these services. We need to use our local transport - or risk losing it for good. It's been a long road - and we know things won't be perfect for everyone. But thanks to you - the partnership has been able to deliver real change - and make a real difference.

Here are just some of the projects we've helped to deliver over the past twelve months:

People living in the most rural areas of South Staffordshire are beginning to feel the benefit of the co-ordinated public transport policies launched just over a year ago.

One of the Council's priorities is to get public transport moving so that small communities and hamlets are no longer so isolated. If you have a car, all well and good, but many people don't and that's why the Council set aside £200,000 two years ago to improve access to public transport.

To help make this happen, the Council joined forces with Staffordshire County Council and other local agencies from across the public and voluntary sectors, to address growing

concerns regarding rural accessibility and to launch the South Staffordshire Rural Transport Partnership. The Partnership has been looking at how links between our rural villages and neighbouring cities and towns such as Wolverhampton, Dudley, Cannock, Walsall and Stafford can be improved.

And thanks to feedback from local people, the Partnership has started to make a difference. Of course, the improved services will only remain viable if they attract enough customers. If you have access to rural public transport, the watchword could be:

'Use it - don't risk losing it'



You said bus service no. 69, Cannock - Wolverhampton, stopped too early in the evening. So we introduced a new late evening service which we're funding until April 2012.



You said that the 76 bus Stafford - Wolverhampton only ran every two hours on a Sunday. So we've put on an hourly service on Sundays between Penkridge, Lapley, Wheaton Aston, Bishops Wood, Brewood and Coven.

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/travel



You said access to buses in rural areas around Pattingham and Kinver can be tricky. So we teamed up with Shropshire Council to extend their 'Shropshire Link' service into these rural areas.



Residents in Wedges Mills and other smaller villages in the north have difficulty getting out during the week. So we put in a new taxi-bus service which links them to Cannock and Penkridge on market days, twice a week.



Residents in Wheaton Aston wanted a bus service to Telford. So we've put on a new Saturday service linking Penkridge, Wheaton Aston, Brewood and Coven to Telford.



You said the 88 bus in Penkridge, Wheaton Aston, Brewood & Coven was unreliable. So we've got the county council to re-design the route to improve its reliability.



You said that early morning bus services from Pattingham needed to be better. So the county council introduced a new early morning service.



Voluntary groups told us that they're facing real difficulties in finding volunteer drivers. So we're supporting our local schemes and helping to break down the barriers to volunteering.

THANK YOU FOR ENTERING

The correct answer to the word search in Issue 49 of Review was **HERITAGE**. A big thank you to everyone who entered and well done to those who got the answer correct!

Word Search Competition

Can you find the following makes of British (or British made) vehicles - both past and present - hidden in this puzzle? They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and could be backwards or forwards.

- ASTON MARTIN
- BENTLEY • DAIMLER
- JAGUAR • LAND ROVER
- LOTUS • MCLAREN
- MORGAN • MORRIS
- RELIANT • ROLLS-ROYCE
- ARIEL • SUNBEAM
- LEYLAND • FODEN
- VAUXHALL • MG • MINI
- TOYOTA • NISSAN
- AUSTIN • GUY MOTORS

E	M	S	R	S	S	M	V	C	Y	J	R	N	M
A	C	G	U	U	R	A	O	E	O	A	E	A	O
D	A	Y	T	N	U	O	L	R	N	G	L	S	R
Y	N	O	O	X	B	T	T	I	G	U	I	S	R
I	L	A	H	R	N	E	T	O	N	A	A	I	I
E	N	A	L	E	S	S	E	E	M	R	N	N	S
Y	L	I	B	Y	U	L	D	N	N	Y	T	N	D
L	A	A	M	A	E	O	L	A	L	M	U	G	A
S	G	G	N	T	F	L	R	O	G	C	T	G	I
L	A	N	D	R	O	V	E	R	R	L	O	S	M
N	I	T	R	A	M	N	O	T	S	A	Y	U	L
S	A	T	U	E	I	R	V	H	R	R	O	N	E
S	E	T	A	N	R	B	E	A	M	E	T	U	R
A	R	I	E	L	L	I	G	U	P	N	A	I	O

There is one word in the list that is **NOT** included in the grid. Write it on the back of a postcard (or sealed envelope) TOGETHER WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS and send to:

Helen Dye
Word Search Competition,
South Staffordshire Council,
Council Offices, Codsall,
South Staffordshire. WV8 1PX

The first correct entry picked after the closing date of

14th December, 2011
 will win a
£25 Prize

WORDSEARCH WINNER:

Congratulations to **Patricia Mason** from Great Wyrley who won £25 in the Word Search Competition in the Summer 2011 Edition of the South Staffordshire Review.

A CLEANER, GREENER & LEANER COUNCIL



South Staffordshire's 'green' credentials have been put to the test - and the Council has passed with flying colours.

The watchdogs who monitor what organisations are doing to clean up their act in terms of the environment has awarded South Staffordshire "international standard" accreditation.

The award, from the National Standards Body for the UK, recognises what the Council has done to reduce its own carbon footprint and shows that it is practising what it preaches.

Over the past few years South Staffordshire has worked hard to ensure the harm the Council does to the environment is drastically reduced.

Some excellent examples are the amount of waste collected for recycling, reducing the electricity consumption of the authority's computers & printers and making its fleet of vehicles more fuel efficient.

But claiming a 'green' badge isn't just about protecting our environment, it's also about saving money.

Last year the Council used less water, less electricity and less gas than the year before. So that means not only a greener and leaner operation, it's also saving cash!

All that was taken into account when the National Standards Body for the UK (BSi) sent an inspection team to Codsall recently to assess the Council's 'green' performance.

Their verdict: an **"international standard"** accreditation.



Fly tippers steer clear of South Staffordshire

South Staffordshire is continuing to make big advances in its war on illicit rubbish dumping.

Latest figures show fly-tipping in the District has been cut for the third year in a row and is now down by a massive 40 per cent over that period.

During the past year, 11 people have been successfully prosecuted by South Staffordshire Council for fly-tipping related offences. Between them, the offenders were forced to shell out £7,043 in court costs and fines as well as £2,000 in fixed penalty notices.

In 2007/8 there were more than 700 incidents of fly-tipping, whereas last year there were 270 fewer cases, bucking the national trend which shows an increase in this environmentally-damaging crime.

As well as reducing the mess in the countryside, the reduction in fly-tipping is also saving the Council money in terms of cleanup costs. In the past 12 months that amounted to £20,000, money which can be better spent in the tough economic climate.

Council chiefs are convinced the fall in fly-tipping is the result of South Staffordshire's no-nonsense approach to the problem, reflected in the 11 successful prosecutions over the past twelve months:

Cllr Roger Lees, Cabinet Member for Public Health Protection Services at South Staffordshire Council, said: "Year by year the number of fly tipping cases are coming down. A 40% reduction in the number of cases in just three years is a great result. We're bucking the national trend and we're determined to get these figures down again next year.

"We've said from the start that it's not fair that local tax payers should have to pay to clean up the mess which other people have wantonly dumped."



Don't sit on the fence...

There's still time to register to vote at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/elections

or call 01902 696121

IF YOU WANT A JOB, JOIN THE CLUB

Jobhunters in South Staffordshire can boost their chances of finding employment by checking out one of the District's Work Clubs.

There are five clubs at accessible locations across the District, each staffed by job-finder experts to dispense the knowledge, the tools and the confidence you need, for that big step back into work.

Also there will be local employers looking for staff, volunteers to give extra help and other jobhunters to meet and share tips and experiences with.

The clubs have no fees, no application forms and no formal rules - just turn up, sign in, and take all the help for **FREE**.

They're here to help you find the job you're looking for - and to get access to the qualifications and training you need to succeed.

Come along for a cup of coffee and a chat, as you browse the internet and newspaper job pages for the job you want. But that's only the start ...

What else do I get?

Build your confidence and qualifications and get top tips and advice on everything from CV writing and interview techniques to IT skills and advice about setting up your own business. You could also get the chance to gain valuable work experience with local businesses.

Plus, you can get the latest news about local jobs from the website at www.southstaffsworkclubs.co.uk as well as from the clubs' very own Facebook page and Twitter feed.



Here's how Work Club helped one local jobhunter:

Richard, aged 28 from Brewood, signed up to the work club in Featherstone. This is his story:

"For the past ten years or so I was working, mostly, in the printing industry. I also spent four years as a Special Constable with West Midlands Police.

I've been out of work since November 2010 after I got made redundant. It's been a tough few months but I've tried to keep myself busy by doing a few temporary jobs - but nothing permanent cropped up.

It was pretty demoralising to be honest. But I heard about the new work club which was being set up in Featherstone so I thought I'd pop along and see what it was all about.

Within a few minutes I had a cup of coffee in my hand and was chatting to specialist advisers who were giving me some really useful tips about how to make sure my CV was right.

Within two weeks I was applying for new jobs - and within the month I was attending my first interview with Amazon.

The Work Club gave me all the support and confidence I needed - and I got the job!"

To find out more about the free Work Clubs - pop in and visit us at our drop-in sessions in ...

Work Club / Cafe	Location	Time	Date and Frequency	Contact
Perton	Perton Library WV6 7QU	2pm - 4pm	1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month	Becky Raven Smith 01785 312220 Michael Pritchard 01543 420848
Featherstone	Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre. WV10 7TR	10am-1pm	Every Friday, Weekly	Cllr Bob Cope 01922 414420 Graham Hughes 01785 242525
Bilbrook & Codsall	Childrens Centre, Lane Green First School. WV8 1EU	10am-12pm	Fortnightly every Thursday starting 15th September	Cllr Val Chapman 01902 846413 Jayne Carter 01902 434305
Huntington	Children Centre, Littleton Green Primary School. WS12 4UD	10am-12pm	Fortnightly starting Thursday 3rd November 2011	Jackie Ilic 01785 312140
Wombourne	Wombourne Library WV5 9EZ	10am-12pm	Fortnightly starting Tuesday 29 November 2011	Becky Raven Smith 01785 312220 Cllr Mary Bond 01902 896571



Richard Williams who has been successful in finding employment from using the work club



NO DRAGONS FOR SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE BUSINESSES

Budding business entrepreneurs don't have to go to the Dragons' Den to get ahead - try right here in South Staffordshire.

Small businesses are the heart and soul of the local economy and whether you are starting up from scratch or have a concern looking to expand, South Staffordshire could have just the deal for you.

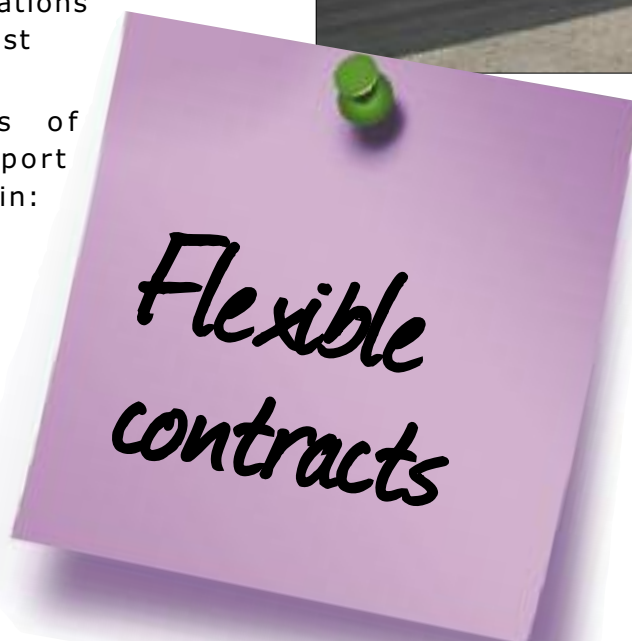
Right now might be a good time to take that first step into business or move to new premises, when people are looking for innovation and value for money.

The Council has newly refurbished industrial units in the best business locations in the District - it could be just what your business needs.

Located within minutes of motorways and main transport routes, there are units to let in:

- **Huntington**
- **Cheslyn Hay**
- **Great Wyrley**
- **Essington**
- **Four Ashes**
- **Wombourne**

They all offer competitive prices and flexible contracts.



Call **01902 696000** or email commercialdevelopment@sstaffs.gov.uk

quoting reference 'Review50' to find out more about the latest offers including rent-free periods and reduced rent rates!

AT YOUR LEISURE

SANTA'S GOT SUSSED WINTER FUN IN HIS SACK!



Get ready to round your kids up for lots of winter fun with the Council's SUSSED activity programme.

Bring them down to one of South Staffordshire's leisure centres and they'll be entertained for hours!

The Christmas SUSSED programme has lots of festive activities for kids aged 5-14.

For more information visit www.sstaffs.gov.uk/sused or contact our leisure centres.

FUN IN THE SUN AT PERTON

Hundreds of locals and visitors joined in the festivities at Perton's third annual Fun Day.

The event featured a host of attractions in the centre of the village and a good time was had by all.

The family fun day included a bouncy castle, the Play Bus, a mobile skate park and a drop-in visit from Dippy the Clown.

Local Cllr David Billson and Police Community Support Officer Ashley Tooth entered in to the spirit by challenging local youngsters

to a bout of sumo wrestling!

The Fun Day was backed by Perton Parish Council and South Staffordshire Community Partnership, together with a donation of £1,000 from Cllr Billson's Staffordshire Local Community Fund.



Young trailblazers step it out

Youngsters from a Pattingham primary school were given the honour of formally opening a brand new village walk.

The two mile circuit around Burnhill Green village is called the Jubilee Walk.

And what better way for the pupils at St Chads Primary School to perform the opening ceremony than to pull on their boots and walking shoes and complete the circuit!

They were joined by Crown Estate staff, elected members and officers from Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshire Council.

The Jubilee Walk around the picturesque South Staffordshire village was conceived by The Crown Estate following the completion of a new housing development in the village last year.

It starts at Snowdon Road and continues through fields to the north of the village, before returning back along Bennetts Wood and Burnhill Green Road. It also takes in St Mary's Church at Patshull.

And for those who build up a thirst on the route - the walk finishes off at a popular village pub, The Dartmouth Arms.

Cllr Joan Burton MBE, who represents the village at South Staffordshire Council, said: "Burnhill Green is a beautiful place and I'm so pleased that we've got this new walk because there really is no better way of getting into the heart of our countryside.

"The children from St Chads had a wonderful day out and as well as getting some fresh air exercise they were able to find out lots more about the

nature that's on their doorstep."

Cllr Burton also expects the new walk to boost the village's economy: "We're a small village but we've got some wonderful things to see. Hopefully people will come and have a stroll around the new walk and see for themselves exactly what we have to offer".



Beautiful Baggeridge makes it lucky 13

The coveted Green Flag - a symbol of Britain's best open spaces, will be flying over Baggeridge Country Park in South Staffordshire again this year for the 13th time in a row.

An extremely popular visitor attraction, Baggeridge is one of a select band of sites which manages to maintain its standards year after year and retain its award.

But it is not the only a Green Flag flying over South Staffordshire, Council bosses were delighted to hear that the Wom Brook Walk has earned the award for the third year in succession.

The popular nature reserve attracts hundreds of walkers every year and makes

up part of the popular South Staffordshire Railway walk.

Only a handful of parks in the West Midlands got the national Green Flag award this year - and South Staffordshire is proud to have TWO of them.

Baggeridge, which is run by South Staffordshire Council, is a popular attraction for families, walkers and wildlife fans with thousands of people flocking to the popular beauty spot each year.

The park hosts events throughout the year including live concerts, whilst visitor numbers have been boosted by the aerial ropes adventure which now operates on the site.

Cllr Joan Williams, Cabinet Member at South Staffordshire Council, said: "Yet again Baggeridge and Wom Brook Walk retain their place amongst the very best open spaces in the whole country.

"Thousands of people come to Baggeridge each year so I'm delighted that the judges have recognised the hard work which goes in to making the park so special."

Cllr Mrs Joan Williams, helps to fly the Green Flags at Wom Brook Walk (left) and Baggeridge Country Park (right)



SEASONAL SAVER GET DECEMBER COMPLETELY FREE!!!

Our Seasonal Saver's back!

Sign-up for a membership at any of our centres between 1st - 14th November ... and get December completely FREE!

For more information visit

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure

or contact one of our leisure centres direct.

SWIM-FIT IS SIMPLY SPLASH-TASTIC!

There's no need to splash the cash to swim at South Staffordshire's Leisure Centres.

Thanks to the backing of the local Health Service, the Council is providing FREE instructor advice about how to benefit most from your swim!

Swimming is just about the best form of exercise you can do and the instructors will be on-hand to support your pool session, offering tips and advice.

If you're over 18 and already a decent swimmer, get in touch with your nearest centre to find out more - or sign-up online at:

www.swimming.org/swimfit



* Please note that while the instructors come free of charge, the normal adult swim fee will apply.



Affordable Fitness

We cater for everyone's needs and budget

Our membership rates are **Frozen!**

Why join us

- o Friendly staff and facilities
- o No joining fees
- o Free inductions and trials available on selected activities
- o Flexible memberships to suit your needs and budget
- o Only a 3 month commitment
- o Short term student memberships
- o Low cost memberships for people in receipt of specific benefits
- o Inclusive fitness facilities for the less mobile
- o Pay as you go option available

We have something for everyone. Fitness for the whole family!

Still unsure?

Give us a call and we can have a chat about what's on offer and how we can help you get the most for your money. You can even enjoy a free tour of our facilities to see for yourself exactly what we have to offer.

Chedley Hay Leisure Centre 01922 417790 chedleyhay@sstaffs.gov.uk
 Codsall Leisure Centre 01902 344033 codsall@sstaffs.gov.uk
 Penkridge Leisure Centre 01783 714132 penkridge@sstaffs.gov.uk
 Wombourne Leisure Centre 01902 895202 wombourne@sstaffs.gov.uk



www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure



CALLING ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS!

Help and support for volunteer organisations and community groups across South Staffordshire is available, just for the asking.



Thousands of local people give up their valuable time each week to help their local community.

Many of them are still unaware of a body set up 25 years ago to provide practical assistance and advice for them.

It's called South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Action (SSCVA), an independent charity which helps any voluntary, community, not-for-profit or charitable organisation FREE OF CHARGE.

Simply by registering - for free - with SSCVA, members get up-to-date news and information, funding opportunities, training, good news stories from local groups and much more.



To give you an idea of how SSCVA can help your organisation, here are just some of the local groups which have reaped the benefits:

Codsall Village Hall & Playing Fields

The Codsall Village Hall Management Committee needed help to get funding to undertake some much needed repair works to the original parts of the village hall.



Thanks to the help and support of SSCVA, they helped secure a grant for almost £9,500 to get a new kitchen and equipment from the Big Lottery Awards for All scheme.

SSCVA also helped the committee secure £9,000 for new boilers and a new disabled toilet.

Brewood Pipe Organ Appeal

Another group to benefit from the expertise of SSCVA was the Brewood Pipe Organ Appeal organisation which set about the daunting task of raising £50,000 to restore the organ at Brewood's Grade 1 listed St Mary & St Chad church.



With help from SSCVA - the group was able to find almost £25,000 worth of funding. The organ restoration work is now well under way.

To find out more about SSCVA:

visit: www.sscva.org.uk

call: (01902) 851675

Twitter: @SouthStaffsCVA



Aircraft museum faces uncertain future

The future of the highly-regarded Boulton Paul Heritage Museum at Bilbrook is up in the air.

Set up over 20 years ago, the Museum is home to some of the most famous aircraft built by the company since its aircraft division was founded in 1915.

But it is also on the site of a working manufacturing operation belonging to aviation giants Moog - and by December next year the firm will have moved to the new i54 site on the Wobaston Road.



Jack Holmes, Chief Engineer and former Boulton Paul apprentice, said: "After December 2012 we're not quite sure what will happen to

us. We've got a team of volunteers here who give up their time to help preserve our proud aviation heritage and we'll be heartbroken if we lose the museum."

South Staffordshire Council bosses, however, have pledged to do all they can to make sure the Boulton Paul Heritage Museum has a future. The Council and local MP Gavin Williamson have been supporting the museum in its bid to stay open.

Cllr Brian Edwards, Leader of the Council, said: "We really can't afford to lose such a significant piece of our economic history. Boulton Paul used to be one of the finest names in the aviation and engineering industry and it would be such a shame to lose that.

"Of course we'd love to see the museum stay where it is, but if it had to move then we'd obviously want to keep it as close to the original site as possible. We'll keep our fingers crossed and do all we can in the meantime to support the volunteers and keep the Boulton Paul connection with South Staffordshire alive."

Boulton and Paul was founded in Norwich in 1797 but moved to the Wobaston Road site in 1936. Now home to the museum, the site boasts full scale replicas of a Defiant Bomber Destroyer and a Balliol T2 Trainer, the final aircraft to come off the production line.



The museum is also home to a photographic history of the company, thousands of historic aviation documents and drawings, as well as a team of volunteers who spend their time restoring and replicating some of Boulton Paul's finest creations using the original tools and machinery rescued from the factory over the years.

Hundreds of visitors come to the museum every year. The museum has Open Days throughout the year and is also open most Fridays between 1-4pm.

Admission: £3 Adults, £2 OAP, accompanied children FREE

For more details call Jack Holmes on 01902 843573 or visit www.boultonpaul.com

PLANNING TO GET THE BALANCE RIGHT

Some say South Staffordshire is a great combination of green open spaces, business opportunities and places to live.

People and firms want to come here, and the pressure is always on for expansion.



The trick is to manage that growth, to provide the new homes and new businesses which are so important for our villages, while maintaining the District's rural appeal.

That's why the Council has been working for the past few years to make sure that plans for the future development of the District are right for our villages and right for you.

The level of growth in the District in the future is important to us all. The Council has always said that it wants to protect and enhance our local environment, especially our Green Belt.

But there's also a real need for new homes for local people and local families, especially affordable homes. It's crucial that the need for new homes and jobs is carefully balanced with the protection of our environment.

The Council wants to support new developments - but only when



they're right for our villages. It can be done by creating a clear local plan on how, and where development should happen in the future.

A Local Plan for Local People

Hundreds of local people have been consulted over the past few years to help make sure that the Council knows exactly what's important to you. These comments have helped to create this new local plan.

The Next Steps

The plan is now in its final stages. Once finally in place, it will

be used to help councillors and planners make decisions on planning applications.

It will be the basis for deciding where new sites for housing, employment, community facilities and public open spaces should go.

To see how the plan affects you and your village then you can take a look online at

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/corestrategy

If you want us to keep up to speed on the plan and get all the latest news, sign-up online at the above web address.

United we stand against the pests

Two Staffordshire councils have joined forces to help rid South Staffordshire homes and businesses of vermin - and save local taxpayers money at the same time.

The pest control services of South Staffordshire Council and Stafford Borough Council are being merged to pool their resources and share best practices.

The move will ensure residents get top quality front line service with five experienced pest control officers covering both districts.

And by cutting out duplication of administration and other costs, the two Councils are expected to save more than £60,000 a year.

Sharing services is nothing new for South Staffordshire Council - it already shares its 'Audit' function with Lichfield District Council and procurement and some legal services with Staffordshire County Council.

People needing the help of a pest controller to deal with vermin such as rats, mice, wasps and other infestations now have a new dedicated telephone number: **0845 505 7378**. All calls are charged only at the local rate.

Cllr Roger Lees, Cabinet Member for Public Health Protection Services at South Staffordshire Council, said: "Not only are we protecting one of our most popular front line services, but we're saving the tax payer money too."

"This is a new and innovative way of working in Staffordshire and residents can rest assured that they'll be getting the same top quality service which they've come to expect from us."

Cabinet Member for Environment and Health at Stafford, Councillor Frank Finlay,



The new pest control team

said residents of both districts would see benefits from the new service.

"The important thing is that our councils continue to support important front line services for the community and one of the ways we can do this is by teaming up with our neighbouring local authorities."

More details on pest control are available online at:

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/pest or www.sstaffs.gov.uk/pestcontrol

Leaflets are available from South Staffordshire Council's offices in Wolverhampton Road, Codsall and the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford.



Cllr Frank Finlay from Stafford Borough, and Cllr Roger Lees from South Staffordshire, are overseeing the new joint venture.

Pestport Annual Contract

For little more than the cost of one pest control treatment you could be covered for a whole year against pests within your home.

A Pestport contract includes unlimited treatment for rats and wasps with up to three treatments for ants (not flying ants) and fleas.

The cost is only **£66.40** if you require an initial treatment at the start of the contract or **£35.70** if you join when you have no existing pest problem. For an extra **£5.10** we will also treat for mice.

50% reduction for residents in receipt of a means tested benefit.

Prices include VAT (and all materials) and are correct until 31 December 2011.

Peace of mind for little more than the cost of a single pest treatment.



Telephone: **0845 505 7378**

CARING FOR THE CARERS

Support and help is on the way for people selflessly looking after a family member or dear friend.

South Staffordshire Carers Association is launching new support cafés in Penkrige and Codsall, where carers can chat to specialist advisers, meet new friends and share tips and experiences with other carers.

The cafés welcome carers who just want to pop in for a cup of coffee and reassurance that they are not 'on their own'.

Here are the opening times:

Penkrige

The café is being held at the Haling Dene Centre on the last Monday of every month.
10.30am - 1.00pm.

Codsall & Bilbrook


The café is being held at Codsall Fire Station in Duck Lane, on the first Friday of every month.
10am - 12 noon.



If you - or someone you know - give hours of unpaid care and help to someone at home due to an illness or disability, CASS, the Carers' Association, wants to hear from you.

For more information call
01785 606675





150 years in 2010
R.A.B.I.
Supporting Farming Families



Supporting Farming Families



Past, Present and Future

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution
has been providing support for the farming community for over 150 years

R.A.B.I provides financial assistance to farmers, farm workers and their families, to help meet everyday expenses when they are facing need, hardship or distress

Ways in which we help include:

- Awarding regular quarterly grants and one-off payments to elderly people and those of any age who are disabled;
- Helping with applications for state benefits. Our welfare staff help secure around £300,000 in benefits per year;
- Paying for help on the farm when working farming families are facing a crisis such as illness or bereavement;
- Offering assistance, both financial and practical – such as payment for home help and lifeline alarms – to pensioners who wish to remain in their own homes;
- Paying for specialist equipment such as stair lifts, electric wheelchairs and other disability aids;
- Where residential care is more appropriate, R.A.B.I pays top-up fees. We also own and manage two residential homes;
- When crises such as foot and mouth outbreaks or major flooding cause wide-scale hardship, R.A.B.I offers a lifeline by providing emergency grants to help with immediate domestic needs.

To find out more about the work of farming's charity contact: R.A.B.I, Shaw House, 27 West Way, Oxford OX2 0QH.
Telephone 01865 724931 Fax: 01865 202025
Helpline 01865 727888
Email: info@rabi.org.uk
www.rabi.org.uk Registered Charity No. 208858

A SPECIAL DAY FOR CARERS

Carers' Rights Day 2011 is being marked in South Staffordshire with a special event.

Landywood District Voluntary Help Centre in Great Wyrley will host the event, on 2nd December, with the backing of South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Carers' Association of South Staffordshire (CASS).

Between 10am and 3pm, carers will be offered advice, support and information by experts in the field.

A Social Worker will be on hand to undertake Carers' Assessments, a Welfare and Benefits Officer will offer advice and representatives from South Staffordshire Council will check eligibility for a possible reduction in your Council Tax.

The Fire Service will be demonstrating small pieces of equipment which may be useful to both carers and those they look after.

Come along between 10am - 3pm to Landywood Voluntary Help Centre, 154 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, WS6 6NQ. Telephone: 01922 418381.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Who cares about you? WE DO!

A new county-wide support and advice service has been launched in Staffordshire to help people live more fulfilled lives.

Called simply "Staffordshire Cares", it can be accessed both on the internet and at a range of public buildings throughout the county.

In South Staffordshire, the local access points are at the District Council Offices.

Specially trained Staffordshire Cares Advisors are now ready and waiting to act as a gateway to the many services offered through Staffordshire Cares, the groundbreaking new service that will help people live fulfilling, healthier and more independent lives.

People can find out about anything from how to get help at home and in the garden, living with a disability or health problems, how to keep safe at home and in the community, local things to do and how to meet other people and much more, all in one place.

Cllr Roy Wright, Cabinet Member for Direct Services at South Staffordshire Council, said: "The new website for Staffordshire Cares is great but of course not everyone has access to the internet or the skills and confidence to get online.

"That's why I'm delighted that we can help. Thousands of local people come through our doors every year so if you want help and advice about Staffordshire Cares and the things you can do locally to live independently, then there'll always be someone here who can help".

County Councillor Matthew Ellis, Cabinet Member for Adult Wellbeing, said: "Staffordshire Cares is about giving people the choice, control, opportunities and ideas they need to help them live

a more independent life.

"Survey after survey has shown us that people want a service that gives them advice, in one place that helps them to live independently. These local advisors are a key element of this.

"Although the website has been specially designed to be very easy to use, a lot of people prefer to speak with someone face to face. This is exactly what the local advisors offer - contact with a specially trained advisor who will listen, and can point people in the direction of the services they need."

People can drop in to see any of the local advisors during opening hours or ring **0300 111 8010** to make an appointment.

Staffordshire Cares provides people with an easy way to find information whether they have a disability, changing health needs, or just getting that bit older.

Visit www.staffordshirecares.info, call **0300 111 8010** or speak to a local advisor.



Cllr Roy Wright joins customer service advisor, Carol Phypers, and County Councillor Matthew Ellis.

South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

Opening Hours

Monday	Civic Centre, Gravel Hill, WOMBOURNE , WV5 9HA 9.30am - 12.30pm Tel: 01902 897757
Tuesday	The Senior Citizens Club, High Street, KINVER , DY7 6HL 9.30am - 12.30pm
Wednesday	The Village Hall, Pinfold Lane, CHESLYN HAY , WS6 7HP 10.00am - 4.00pm Tel: 01922 413338
	Community Centre, Church Road, PERTON , WV6 7PD 9.30am - 12.30pm and 1.00pm - 4.00pm Tel: 01902 745667
Thursday	The Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road, PENKRIDGE , ST19 5DT 9.30am - 12.30pm Tel: 01785 716767
	Codsall Village Hall, Wolverhampton Road, CODSALL , WV8 1PW 10.00am - 1.00pm Tel: 01902 843412
Friday	The Civic Centre, Gravel Hill, WOMBOURNE , WV5 9HA 9.30am - 12.30pm Tel: 01902 897757

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

County Wide Telephone Advice: Staffordshire Advice Line:
08444 111444

Open between 9.30 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday
(Excluding Bank Holidays)

HOUSE REPAIR LOANS THAT DON'T GO THROUGH THE ROOF!

Cash for vital repairs or home improvements could be yours under a loan-based funding scheme called Houseproud.

The scheme, which is endorsed by South Staffordshire Council, provides easy-access funding for the over 60s and households that include a disabled person.

Whether you have a leaking roof, windows or doors letting in the cold, a kitchen that needs updating or central heating problems, but don't have the cash, Houseproud could be the answer

- at rates that are a lot cheaper than you think.

If you are a homeowner over the age of 60, or if you, or someone you live with has a disability, then you could get access to the cash you need to make those important home improvements and repairs!

Houseproud is a loan-based funding scheme offered by the Home Improvement Trust, delivered by Spirita Home Improvement Agency and endorsed by South Staffordshire Council.

Is it easy to apply?

Yes - just get in touch with the Home Improvement Trust and they can talk you through exactly what you need to do.

Who do I contact?

That's easy too. Just give the Home Improvement Trust a call on **0800 587 1460** or email them at HIACannock@spirita.org.uk.

You can also write to them at: Spirita Ltd, Third Floor, Falcon Point, Park Plaza, Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock, WS12 2DE.

CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE FOR TENANTS

Tenants having problems with their landlords over the state of their rented property can get help from South Staffordshire Council.

The housing department has a specialised team dedicated to assisting people in rented accommodation.

Some tenants are reluctant to complain or don't know where to turn when they feel their home isn't up to scratch.


If there are hazards in your home, such as damp, excess cold, dangerous electrics, or things which could easily cause an accident, the Council can help.

The authority has legal powers to force landlords to sort out serious problems.

The service is completely confidential, so there are no worries about being victimised or intimidated.

If you are concerned about the state of your home and want help and advice, call **01902 696220** or email us at env.protection@sstaffs.gov.uk.






Countywide Handyperson Service in Staffordshire for older and disabled people



Freephone: 0800 587 1460



Home Improvement Agency
Making Homes Warm, Safe & Secure

www.orbitcare.org.uk
www.spirita.org.uk

Aims of the service

We're here to help support older people and disabled people to maintain their independence in their own home by carrying out minor repairs and small adaptations around the home.



GOT A BLOCKED DRAIN? CALL SEVERN TRENT

New rules about sewage pipe responsibilities have just come in to force.

From 1st October, Severn Trent Water is taking ownership of pipes outside householders' properties and those shared between properties.

Owners will still be responsible for their own individual drainage, up to the point where Severn Trent takes over.

The changes mean that South Staffordshire Council will no longer be involved in sorting out sewage issues. The Council used to investigate problems, and in lots of cases actually repaired and/or unblocked pipes, then sent the bill to the property owner.

But from now on, anyone having drainage / sewage problems should call Severn Trent Water on

0800 783 4444





FREE

- Call
- Smoke Alarm
- Fitting
- Advice

from your local Fire Service

FREE

Home Fire Risk Check

Including free smoke alarms when required

Please call free 0800 0241 999

Calls charged at local rate from mobiles

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Clearing - Protecting - Restoring

MORE
for more, for your home.

FireAngel

• www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk • Minicom: 0800 0241 998

• Call: 0800 0241 999 • Text: 07528 983101

* Calls charged at local rate from mobiles

Terms & conditions
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service will provide your free Home Fire Risk Check at a time convenient to you.
Your free Home Fire Risk Check includes the testing or replacement of your existing smoke alarm(s). Your replacement alarm(s) will be installed free of charge with a battery that will last for up to 10 years.
Your Home Fire Risk Check is confidential and guaranteed free of charge by the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive.
To take advantage of this offer please call free on 0800 0241 999. This voucher is transferable to family and friends.
Voucher value £0.00.





**South
Staffordshire
Council**

South Staffordshire Review



A Royal invitation you can't refuse!

Labour leader Cllr Jeff Ashley's 20th year as a South Staffordshire councillor was marked with an invitation to Buckingham Palace.

The head of the Council's opposition group was delighted to receive the invitation from HM The Queen to a Royal garden party this summer.

The long serving member for Huntington & Hatherton was joined at the function by his friend, Valerie Davis, and by one of the longest serving members of staff at the Council, Vera Bird.

While Cllr Ashley was first elected to the Council in 1991, Vera started working for the Council in 1977 and is currently at Codsall Leisure Centre.

Cllr Ashley said: "I found the event interesting and fascinating, the ladies who accompanied me thoroughly enjoyed the day."

Christmas Opening Hours

The Council Offices will close on
Friday 23rd December at 4pm
and will re-open on Tuesday
3rd January 2012 at 8.45am

Leisure Centres Christmas closures

We'll still be open for parts of the Christmas break so you can work off those party pounds! However, there may be some restrictions at the centres so keep an eye out for our closure dates online at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure or call the centres direct for full opening hours:

- Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre 01922 417790**
- Codsall Leisure Centre 01902 844032**
- Penkridge Leisure Centre 01785 714152**
- Wombourne Leisure Centre 01902 898202**



Telephone: **(01902) 696000**
Website: **www.sstaffs.gov.uk**

For personal visits to the Council's Customer Contact Centre the opening times are:

Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5.00pm

If you would like a copy of this document in another language or format (e.g. Braille, audio cassette),

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل میں ہیں، یا اس میں جاننے میں ترمیم دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں۔
یہ ڈاکیومنٹ صرف انگریزی میں ہے۔ اگر آپ اس میں تبدیلی دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں۔
اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل میں ہیں، یا اس میں جاننے میں ترمیم دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں۔
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please contact:

**South Staffordshire Council,
Council Offices,
Codsall,
South Staffordshire.
WV8 1PX**

Tel: (01902) 696000

E-mail: thereview@sstaffs.gov.uk

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