



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

Connected Communities Newsletter April 2023

Hello,

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

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


- Connected Communities Team
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Staffordshire University Community Advisory Network (Staffs CAN)



The University works with a Community Advisory Network – **Staffs CAN**. This is made up of people who live, work or study in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who help to shape and enhance the work we do with communities.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone March's Staffs CAN. The new date is Wednesday 26th of April. [You can book your place via Eventbrite](#)

 26th of April

 The Catalyst Building, ST4 2DF

 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

 Food provided from 5:30 pm

 Free Parking



Staffordshire University's Nature Reserve

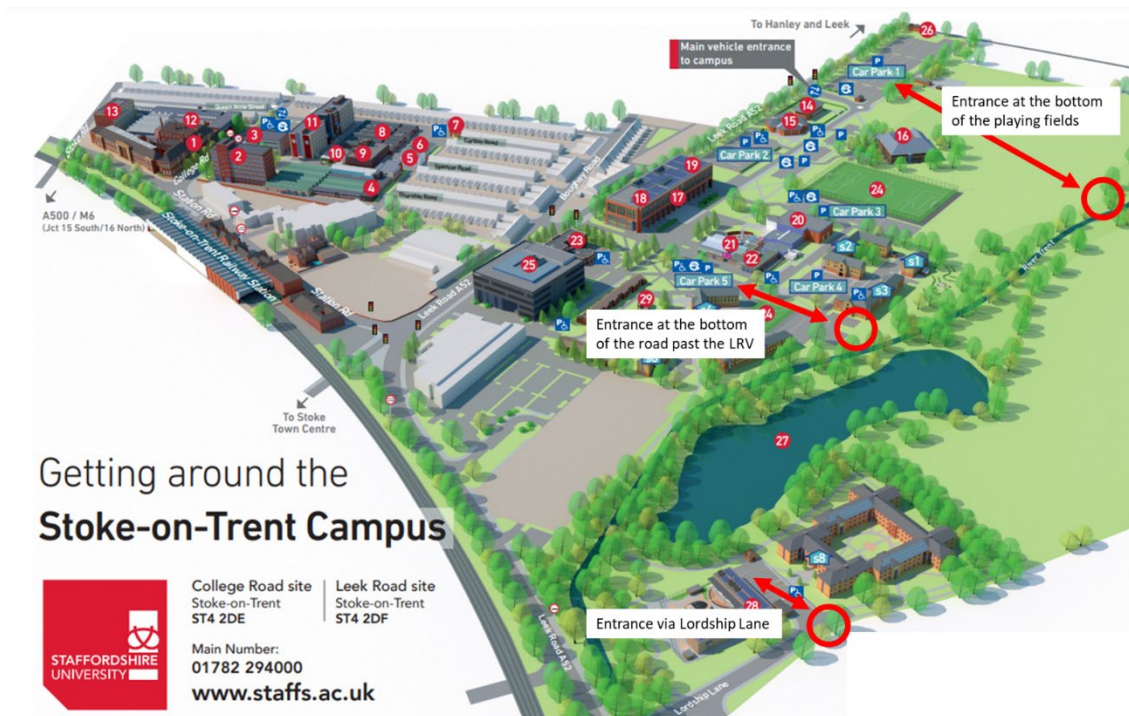


Scan to watch



We would like to invite you to come and enjoy our wonderful [Woodlands Nature Reserve](#), a 10-hectare natural space on the Stoke-on-Trent campus with a pond, river, wood and wildflower meadow. As we move into Spring, it is the perfect time to give us a visit!

The nature reserve can be accessed via the Staffordshire University Leek Road Campus (ST4 2DF) as well as from Lordship Lane (ST4 2TQ). [Visitor parking at Staffordshire University](#) is free on weekdays after 5 PM.



The site, including our award-winning new forest school classroom and garden, is part of our vision for the Institute of Education to become a groundbreaking centre for outdoor teaching, learning and research, not just for schools and colleges, but for our community too.

Our Woodlands Nature Reserve is an ideal way to introduce adults, children and families to the natural world and how humans interact with nature. Spending time outdoors helps children (and adults, too!) negotiate risks, develop motor skills and take part in more creative lifelong learning.

Over time, we will also be offering activities for the local community, placement opportunities for University students, and training courses for outdoor educators. If you are interested in finding out more about what we can offer at the Woodlands Forest School and Nature Reserve, please contact jane.robbs@staffs.ac.uk

Visit from Ostfalia University



During the month of March, we were joined by Linda Münch from Ostfalia University, In Germany!

Linda spent the month exploring Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, from her base in Penkhull. From here Linda was able to visit many different areas of the city (Eating oatcakes in several different places), as well as visiting some of our previous project partners and friends [Expert Citizens CIC](#), [Beth Johnson Foundation](#), and [Wavemaker](#).

We asked Linda to tell us a little bit about herself and her study area:

"My name is Linda Münch, and I am a research assistant at the Faculty of Social Work at [Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences](#) in Wolfenbüttel.

I am also doing my PhD. My research project is called "Cultural Participation in the museum – Exploring digital opportunities". This is a sub-project of the [Leibniz Science Campus Post digital Participation](#)(LSC PdP), in Braunschweig. Leibniz Science Campuses allows different research interests and expertise to work together in partnership across different areas, like universities, local stakeholders, and communities, to work together on research.

Our project aims to strengthen the participation opportunities for people with learning disabilities in museums, identify their needs in terms of accessibility in museums and develop a mobile App to support individuals during visits to museums.

I came to Staffordshire University and the Connected Communities team thanks to a grant from the LSC PdP. Due to my research interest, I found a publication by Nic Gratton – [dealing with a participatory approach of access to arts and culture from people with learning disabilities](#) – and joined up with the Connected Communities team at Staffordshire University in March.

I was interested to learn more about the different projects that Nic and her team had been working on in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, either dealing with participatory action research or cultural or digital participation.

In particular, hearing about how the participatory collaboration worked and the perspectives of the people involved, like academic researchers and community researchers. Among other things, I took part in Connected Communities Evaluation training, stakeholder mapping session, focus groups and World Café".

Action on Poverty and Hardship Masters

Action on Poverty



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

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

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

“We have taken much of what the sector said they wanted from a post-graduate course and have designed this into the MA Leadership in Action on Poverty course. We have included theoretical and knowledge gaps, along with ensuring that students get equipped with relevant skills to work in leadership roles in the sector. We have some exciting modules of study covering national

and global social policies, political and social narratives, and the Sustainability Agenda, coupled with modules studying practical leadership skills designed to enable you to hit the ground running in senior positions in the field. Practical skills include partnership working, mentoring others, conducting evaluations, developing theories of change, and bid writing.”

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

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

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

We also look forward to welcoming you to our national Action on Poverty conference in September and for more details on the conference contact Sarah.Page@staffs.ac.uk (date to be confirmed). If you want to get a sense of last year's [Action on Poverty Conference](#) take a look at the video clip below.



Connected Communities projects at Staffordshire University

Work with SCVYS



Staffordshire University have teamed up with Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) to run the Young Community Researchers innovation partnership project.

Young people from Staffordshire have consistently told SCVYS that mental health and climate change are their top concerns. The project will focus on Eco-Anxiety. Together we'll speak to young people across each district/borough of Staffordshire to discuss the things that they think about climate change and mental health.

The project is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as part of the Community Research Networks Competition.

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

Community Spotlight: New Era



New Era is the Commissioned Service offering help to all those affected by domestic abuse in Stoke-on-Trent or Staffordshire run in partnership with Victim Support and Probation.

They provide free and confidential support for victims, perpetrators and their families. We provide a 'whole family approach' with services that are tailor-made to meet the needs of the individual.

New Era has various teams to ensure support is offered to everyone who needs it, including people from the most hidden communities across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

In November 2022, staff from Victim Support and New Era's Head of Service, Chantelle Thompson, were invited to Buckingham Palace to meet The Queen Consort at a 'Violence against Women and Girls Event' that was organised to launch the '16 Days of Activism' campaign.

New Era's Victim Support recently won The Children and Young People Now Awards 2022. The award showcases the innovative and impactful work of practitioners, teams and organisations.



Services and Resources

[New Era has a range of different services and courses](#) that are available, including a team of Domestic Abuse Practitioners who support people experiencing Domestic abuse. Additionally, they provide a range of group work courses for people to understand the effects of domestic abuse and recognise the impact on children.

Additional services

- Children & Young People's Practitioners who provide one-to-one support and group work to help anyone aged 4-18 feel safer and less fearful.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) work with those at high risk of further harm.
- Specialist IDVA's including BAMER, LGBTQ, Older People, Male Victims, Disabilities and Court-based support.
- Group work courses
- Peer Support
- Overcoming the effects of Domestic Abuse e-learning packages

Free Training and Training for your workplace

New Era provides free interactive Domestic Abuse Awareness Training to any professional or organisation in their area to help them recognise and respond to signs of domestic abuse. [The online training is available through their Eventbrite page](#) or e-mail new-era.training@victimsupport.org.uk for more information.

New Era also works in partnership with Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce to deliver 'Domestic Abuse in the Workplace' Training where we encourage businesses to train domestic abuse champions within their team who can then 'spot the signs' of domestic abuse and support their colleagues around this.

Facebook- Newerastaffs

Twitter- @NewEraHelp

Instagram- @Newerastaff

If you are experiencing Domestic Abuse you can contact New Era's 24-hour hotline: 0300 303 3778 or e-mail: New-era@victimsupport.org.uk

Training and Development for you and your organisation?

FREE SHORT COURSES WITH STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

APRIL START DATES

- 06 April – Entrepreneurial Marketing Masterclass
- 13 April – Design Thinking for Digital Innovation
- 18 April – Business Building Through Digital Simulations



Interested?

Email employers@staffs.ac.uk today or scan the QR code with your smart phone to learn more!

MAY START DATES

- 04 May – Introduction to Ethical Hacking
- 04 May – How to Pitch a Business Idea
- 16 May – Introduction to Project Management
- 16 May – Introduction to Python Programming
- 18 May – Data Analytics
- 25 May – Boosting Business Profits Through Client Acquisition



*The Staffordshire Higher Skills and Engagement Pathways programme (SHSEP), and the Staffordshire E-Skills & Entrepreneurship Gateway (SEGway) are part funded by the European Social Fund.

Through the Staffordshire Higher Skills and Engagement Pathways (SHSEP) and Staffordshire E-Skills & Entrepreneurship Gateway (SEGway) programmes, the University offers a variety of continuous professional development courses to help transform the leadership, management, entrepreneurial, digital, and technical skills for your business and your employees.

What to expect:

- A wide variety of courses.
- Flexible delivery.
- Taught by our academic experts

The courses are delivered as micro credentials, which offer you the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge and skills to advance your career and gain recognition of credit for further under/postgraduate

study.

More information about this opportunity can be found on the [Staffordshire University website](#) or email: employers@staffs.ac.uk

Events



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



Vacancies



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

