



Latest  
News

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Visit our website for up to date news: [www.northfieldcentre.co.uk](http://www.northfieldcentre.co.uk)

**FREE — PLEASE TAKE A COPY**

Please pass on to someone else once you're finished and help spread the news and save a tree!

# 1 Chamber of Commerce Membership



We recently decided that it was the right moment for us to become a member of the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce. The decision was made as we see that a strong link with local businesses will benefit the Northfield Centre in numerous ways. Our membership will allow us to work closely with other Chambers' members this will assist us to become better known as a business in Stafford and afford us opportunities to access support and work collaboratively with other organisations endeavouring to achieve similar aims to us.

The Chamber also organise over 150 events each year of varying scale and size. This supports and informs business and helps strengthen supply chains.

The Chamber supports its members in many ways including access to network events and the ability to promote what we do in their Focus magazine which has a circulation of nearly 15,000. As a new member we will be featured in the next edition. We will be looking at having exciting articles to feature in future editions.



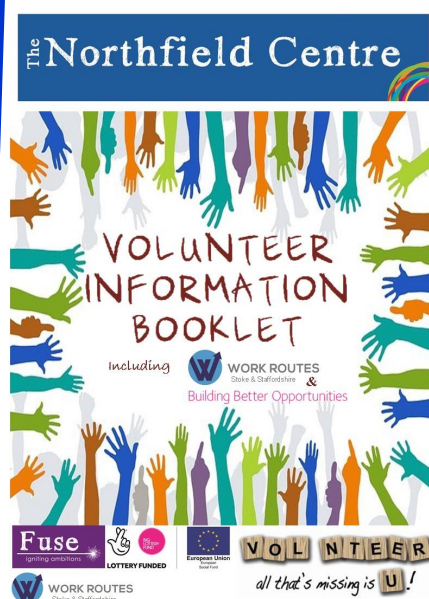


## 2

## Launch of the Building Better Opportunities Programme

In January we started work on the Building Better Opportunities programme this is funded via the BIG Lottery and European Social Fund. A wide range of partners across Staffordshire are working together to reach those furthest from the job market.

We have created a new booklet which features the opportunities which is available on-line on our website [www.northfieldcentre.co.uk](http://www.northfieldcentre.co.uk) or from our reception desk.



**Building Better Opportunities**

**Initial Participant Enquiry**

Date of Enquiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 16 years and over? Yes ☐ No ☐ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to provide evidence that you can live / work in UK? Yes ☐ No ☐ (See acceptable evidence over the page)

Tick / one or more below that you feel best describes your current situation.

Unemployed (cannot be in part time work or on 0 hours contract) ☐

Economically inactive (including those not working who are claiming benefits or not currently looking for work for some reason) ☐

Have complex needs/multiple barriers which are impacting on being able to enter paid employment ☐

Requires support to fully and independently engage in existing services ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are considering a volunteer position which roles are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Application taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Criteria met? Yes ☐ No ☐ Entered on to spreadsheet? Yes ☐ No ☐ Excluded by programme? Yes ☐ No ☐ Date entered: \_\_\_\_\_

FUSE (The Big Lottery Fund) Stoke & Staffordshire

We will be looking to work with partner organisations who would like to provide work experience or volunteer opportunities. If you are looking to recruit new staff this is an excellent way of getting to know the abilities of potential employees through a fully supported programme which assists our BBO participants to gain new skills in the labour market.



**Work Experience**

*If you are interested please get in touch*



Northfield Centre,  
Magnolia Avenue,  
Stafford, ST16 3DU

[Info@northfieldcentre.co.uk](mailto:Info@northfieldcentre.co.uk)

01785 248733

### 3 Work-Routes Programme Coming Soon

Work Routes helps unemployed people find and sustain employment. The free service enables jobseekers to improve their skills and employability and create a personal plan to find the right job for them.

Regular 1-2-1 personal guidance is available from a friendly adviser, as well as group training and exclusive local jobs vacancies.

If you are interested in the programme please speak to one of the staff in the centre.



**WORK ROUTES**  
Stoke & Staffordshire

working with  
**REED**  
IN PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with  
**Department for Work & Pensions**



**Work Routes** helps unemployed people find and sustain employment. Our free service enables jobseekers to improve their skills and employability and create a personal plan to find the right job for them.

Regular 1-2-1 personal guidance is available from a friendly Adviser, as well as group training, financial support and exclusive local job vacancies.



#### HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- 1 SIGN UP**  
One of our job advisors will ring and see how we can help
- 2 1-2-1 MEETING**  
Meet a job advisor to develop your personal training and support plan
- 3 TAILORED TRAINING**  
Training through our volunteer/work placement scheme to gain skills and confidence
- 4 EXCLUSIVE VACANCIES**  
We'll help you find jobs not advertised anywhere else
- 5 LASTING SUPPORT**  
On going help once you start work— support applying for more hours or promotion

#### Have you been looking for work?

Our friendly job advisor can help you find and start a role that's right for you

Sign up for Work Routes today!

[workroutes.co.uk](http://workroutes.co.uk)



Here to help



**VOLUNTEER**



# 4

## Report on the Spring Concert

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 we were very pleased to welcome back the Innovation Chamber Orchestra for their second concert. After the success of their first concert preformed in December the orchestra were also delighted to return to what their referred to as "such a welcoming environment with a very friendly atmosphere"

It was gratifying to see that so many people turned up to attend this second concert and it is especially satisfying to see that the Elmwood and Limewood residents were again happy to come along and support this second event.

### The Innovation Chamber Orchestra

ICO was originally founded in 2014 and is made up of talented local musician who regularly give their time voluntarily. The orchestra prides itself on performing rarely heard and or performed works.

Charmian Baskeyfield who chairs the committee that organise the orchestra said "On behalf of the orchestra I would like to thank the centre for their welcome and would especially like to thank the catering staff and Jane Godfrey, the Chef Manager, in particular for the wonderful variety of refreshments served during the interval"

### Excellent Feedback



Ian Bossons (Northfield Centre Manager) spoke to members of the audience after the performance to gauge their reaction to the performance. The general consensus was that they were happy to see music being performed in the centre many saying what a wonderful acoustic the double void in the café had provided to the music.

### Future Concerts

Again it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening

and all those who attended expressed how much they had enjoyed the concert and looking forward to attending the next one which will be held sometime late this year.



**Watch out for future posters  
or flyers in the centre for  
details of the next concert**



*Innovation  
Chamber  
Orchestra*

# 25th March 2017

“Spring in time” concert appositely named as the concert was performed on the evening the clocks went forward.





## 5 Summer Fair



The Northfield Village summer fair is due to take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June on the same day as National Armed Forces Day. All partners within the village will be running stalls to help raise funds for their service users, entertainment will be provided thanks to Stafford Photographic Society and stepping stones café will be providing a BBQ at reasonable prices during the day.

Last years summer fair helped raise much needed funds for the Northfield Centre, Limewood and Elmwood who all provide services for the residents within the village and the wider community.

## ABOUT ARMED FORCES DAY



### What?

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets. There are many ways for people, communities and organisations across the country to show their support and get involved, from attending an event or joining us online to throwing a party or local event.

### When?

Armed Forces Day takes place on the last Saturday each June. In 2017, it will take place on Saturday 24 June.

Armed Forces Day celebrations begin on Monday 19 June when the Armed Forces Day flag is raised on buildings and famous landmarks around the country.

Reserves Day on 21 June will also provide an opportunity for the country to recognise our Reserve Forces.

### Why?

Showing support for the Armed Forces provides a much valued morale boost for the troops and their families. You can find out more about what they are doing at home and around the world by visiting the official sites of the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

## The Armed Forces

The UK Armed Forces defend the UK and its interests. They are busy working around the world, promoting peace, delivering aid, tackling drug smugglers, providing security and fighting terrorism.

**ARMED FORCES DAY**  
SATURDAY 24 JUNE 2017

## 6 The Launch of “This Girl Can” project

Groove Academy and the Northfield Centre have been successful in securing funding to run a programme targeting Mum’s with young children who do less than 30minutes physical exercise per week.

The programme will be launched on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10am here at the Northfield Centre, giving you the chance to try a select number of physical fun activities which in turn will help build your confidence and increase your social circle.

If you know anyone who would be interested please contact Kate Beauchamp on 01785 413 230 or email

[kate.beauchamp@grooveacademy.co.uk](mailto:kate.beauchamp@grooveacademy.co.uk)



### THIS GIRL CAN

This Girl Can is a celebration of active women who are doing their thing no matter how well they do it, how they look or even how red their face gets. Funded by The National Lottery and developed by Sport England, we want to help women overcome the fear of judgement that is stopping too many women and girls from joining in.





# 7 Spring Clean Report



## Heroes Wanted.

It's time to clean up our village!

The Northfield Village  
Friday 3rd March 2017  
10:30am - 12:00pm

All Equipment Provided



For further information contact:  
Michelle Williams  
Tel: 01785 248733  
Email: michelle.williams@northfieldcentre.co.uk

The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign with one simple ambition. To bring together people from across the country to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and coastline.

In 2015, one enthusiastic individual - Melissa Murdoch - had an idea to get people from all walks of life together in cleaning up the rubbish that surrounds us. Together, with Adrian Evans, Keep Britain Tidy, Country Life Magazine and a range of supporting partners the Clean for The Queen campaign inspired 250,000 people to get involved in local clean ups through March 2016. But we couldn't leave it there...

Through March 2017, we want to inspire 500,000 people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up the rubbish that lies around us.

We're calling on individuals, community groups, charities, sports clubs, business, local authorities and many more to sign up and take part.

You'll join an ever growing band of people who have had enough of other people's litter, are willing to donate their time to help clear it up and want to see an end to littering.

On Friday 3rd March the Northfield Village partner organisations took part in the Great British Clean up, due to extremely inclement weather there were only 5 people brave enough to take part, Debbie Hancox the activity worker for Limewood with one of her residents, Michelle Williams (featured in the photograph below being assisted by a Limewood Resident ) and Richard Upton Community Development Co-ordinator for Stafford Borough Council.

The initiative ran across the Stafford Borough district as part of the national Spring Clean campaign (details above) and was lead in Stafford by the borough council. Although it was raining heavily the group still managed to pick up 5 bags of litter which were later collected by Street Scene, to whom we are very grateful.

*Thank you to all those who took part!*



## Ian Bossons - Centre Manager

We've had a busy first quarter of the year. The Building Better Opportunities project has been launched and is now running with 4 participants this is an excellent start and I'm really pleased with the progress to date. We are about to start yet another project called "Work Routes" this will start in the early summer.

The centre has been very busy with lots of companies hiring the rooms for meetings and events. On the 8th of February we had a jobs fair organised by the County Council where a number of local companies set up stands to promote jobs within their businesses. On the 6th March Active Lives launched the first of their Parent and Toddler sessions these are running until the 10th of April on a Monday from 9.30 to 11.30. I was very happy to attend the opening of new training Kitchen which is Staffordshire Aspire's latest venture within the centre. It was a great day with excellent cakes which had been home made in the kitchen by the Aspire group members.

We have been working hard with the partner organisations who share the site to put together collaborative activities an example of this was the Spring Clean event held on the 3rd of March - you can read more about this on page 8. We made a decision to become a member of the Chamber of Commerce and hope this will establish us further into the business infrastructure of Stafford there is more on the benefits of our membership on page 1.

We are looking forward to the summer where we will have a range of activities going on in the centre one of which is the summer fair to be held on the 24th of June more on this on page 5. Everyone is looking forward to the launch of This Girl Can being delivered through the Groove Academy this will take place on the 6th of May more details on page 7.

I am very sorry to announce that after 2 years of service with the centre Michelle Williams our Community Development worker is moving on to a new job working with SSCVA South Staffordshire Community Voluntary Action. On behalf of the centre I would like to wish her well in her new role.





# **Michelle Williams - BBO Community**

## **Engagement and Volunteer Co-ordinator**

Well where do I start?? It has been an exciting couple of years and to have been here from the beginning was a privilege. I have met some amazing people from within the village and the wider community have made some friends and have worked with some great professionals.

It is sad that I will be leaving but I wish Ian and the team all the best moving forward with developing the Northfield Centre and hope you get a new Community Worker just as enthusiastic as myself.

Not everyone sees what I do behind the scenes but what I have done is help towards raising funds for the centre, introduced a clothes bank, inducted and supported number of volunteers to work within the centre, wrote a number of funding bids, worked with partners to promote the work we do not only here at the centre but within the village and organised a number of events.

At the start of January we were successful in receiving funding to deliver the Building Better Opportunities Programme in Stafford as part of a wider consortium, this funding secured my post until December 2019 so for the past 3 months I have been working on that and will be handing this work over to the new community worker when they are in post.

For the village concept to work and move forward we need all partner organisations to work closely together to ensure we are meeting the needs of those who live in Elmwood, Limewood, Salt bank and our surrounding neighbours.

I want to thank you all for the support you have given me during my time here and wish you all the very best for the future.





**Stepping  
Stones Café**

**LOCALLY SOURCED  
FRESH FOOD**

The Northfield Centre is proud to host the Stepping Stones Café and bar which is now under the new management of Wrekin Housing Trust. Stepping Stones serves a range of delicious locally sourced food throughout the day and provides a wonderful setting to enjoy one of our delicious Barista style coffees with our renowned homemade cakes (with even a wider selection now available).



We have a special large breakfast offer including a free tea, coffee or orange juice.

With the summer fast approaching we are putting on a new exciting menu incorporating a variety of healthy salads, wraps and lighter lunches ideal for the warmer weather. You can even enjoy a cool glass of our crisp Sauvignon Blanc on our terrace. During the warm weather we open up the café with our large bi-folding doors leading out onto the terrace where you can enjoy your food overlooking the Northfield garden. All our patrons are welcome to use our free Wi-Fi or public access computers at the Northfield Centre.

The café provides its excellent coffees, cakes and sandwiches to take away too. So if you are in a rush and haven't time to stay and enjoy the ambience then don't feel you need to miss out!

The Café is also available to hire for events, parties or functions with renowned bespoke buffets and we can offer a licensed bar too.

The Stepping Stones Café support us to help raise funds which are ploughed back into the centre.

Jane Godfrey Chef Manager





First floor office space to let - situated in a fully serviced building with lift access and ample parking spaces. With excellent transport links. The Northfield Centre also has a café and fully licenced bar



The office is 22m<sup>2</sup> with a private staff entrance for out of hours access. Visitors can also use our reception area to access the building. This office also enjoys fabulous panoramic views of the Northfield Centre gardens and boulevard.

## Office Space To Let

We have an office within the centre to let. If you are interested in finding out more about this please contact Ian Bossons.

01785 248733  
ian.bossons@northfieldcentre.co.uk



Annual Rental	Annual Service Charge	Monthly Rental	Monthly Service Charge
£4000	£2225	£333.33	£185.41

## Computer Centre

Northfield Centre, Stafford, ST16 3BZ

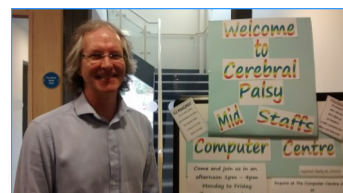
The computer centre has seen some changes over the last few months. Linda Bond is now the Lead Support Worker. Linda has worked at the computer centre for many years. We now have a new member of staff, Gayner Skinner, and a volunteer, John Bray. They all work together to provide IT tuition and support to learners in a friendly and relaxed environment.



Gayner

The computer centre is open to adults with physical disabilities and/or mild learning difficulties. Every learner is catered for as an individual and the activities and pace of learning are planned to suit the specific goals of each individual.

There are some spaces available if you would like to learn basic computer skills or build on your existing skills.



John

**Telephone Linda for further details on 07756913569 Mon - Fri afternoons 1.00pm - 4.00pm or call in for a chat any weekday afternoon.**

***We also need more volunteers!** If you have computer skills that you could share with others and have a couple of hours a week to spare we would love to hear from you. Please phone Linda to have a chat about how you think you could help.*



Aspire have now opened their new kitchen to help service users hone their independent living skills. Aspire has leased a second room in the centre and converted it into a fully-fitted kitchen with some adapted technology. This followed requests from their clients, social workers, parents and carers.



County councillors Ian Hollinshead and Philip Jones helped to fund the kitchen units and Councillor Hollinshead officially opened the new facility, with the help of Aspire's clients pictured

Julie Sleight who owns Aspire, said "We cook with a focus on healthy eating and will be freezing fresh vegetables from our own allotment this summer. We clean, wash and iron - it's really a home from home! Our clients helped to choose everything, from the paint we used on the walls to the layout of the kitchen fittings. They looked in showrooms and worked to a budget. It's taken many months but has been a brilliant learning experience for them all. The kitchen will also provide local residents with dementia a new opportunity to cook as a practical activity.





## Groove at the Northfield Centre

*Established for over 10yrs now, Groove Academy have happily settled into the Northfield Centre. Eighteen months on, and they have been able to develop their class timetable.*

*They cater for Grandparents to Grandchildren with an extensive timetable. The Children's classes have seen 'Mini Groovers' and 'Dancing Divas' excel and build in character. Children's dance party's are the most recent venture to explode. The adult classes can help you build strength, improve you core, burn calories or learn a new dance skill. With classes during the day and in the evenings, there are lots of opportunities for you to build regular activity into your day.*

*Up coming activities include dance workshops and short courses.*

*The timetables, and events, course and workshop details can all be found on [www.grooveacademy.co.uk](http://www.grooveacademy.co.uk) or by calling 01785 413230*

Try Something NEW in Dance & Fitness

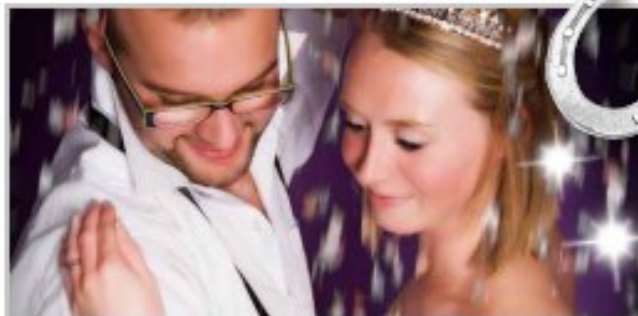
**Kate Beauchamp**  
♦ email  
[enquiries@grooveacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@grooveacademy.co.uk)  
♦ Tel:01785 413 230





### • **Wedding Dances**

There is probably only one moment on your wedding day that the 2 of you are truly alone.... your 1st dance. Now this could be an awkward 3 minute sway or with our help, an amazing moment to share and impress the wedding party with. Start your married life how you mean to go on....together, having fun. Ask at reception for further details or email: [info@grooveacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@grooveacademy.co.uk)



### • **Private Lessons**

Do you have a burning desire to learn to dance but don't want to be part of a class. Do you want to fast track through those beginners steps or wish to perfect a dance style with specific lessons. Consider having a Private lesson where you are the centre of attention to reach your particular goals. Ask at reception for further details or email: [info@grooveacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@grooveacademy.co.uk)

### • **Children's Dance Party's**

With many dance themes to choose from, we would love to help entertain your children as they celebrate their next birthday. From Super Heroes to Disney Divas, please call to discuss this further or email:

[info@grooveacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@grooveacademy.co.uk)



## BRING A BUDDY

# Voucher

## & RECEIVE A FREE BOTTLE OF WINE

Terms & conditions apply. Book on-line or call 01785 413 230





## Zen Meditation and Mindfulness for wellbeing

8 week course Friday's 10-11am.

Sky Blue Yoga Studio, Northfield Centre, Stafford, ST16 3DA.

Next course starts Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> £65 for 8 consecutive weeks

This course is aimed at promoting your overall health and wellbeing. By utilising simple but effective techniques from the Zen tradition. This includes various meditation techniques including body scan and counting/following the breath, mindful movement and mindful living. We can equip you to effectively manage everyday life, deal with stress and pain, improve your concentration and generally boost your overall health and wellbeing.

Over the 8 week course we will look at and explore a variety of topics including: -Stress and time pressures, Anxiety, Physical pain, taking care of yourself, Elevated function, Changing your life.

The course is taught by Lee Davey, a Staffordshire based, qualified Qigong teacher and Student Zen Mindfulness and Meditation teacher. Lee says " Both practices have helped me through very stressful times in my life and it is this that I wish to share with other people. I came to Qigong through my love of martial arts, this in turn quietened my busy brain and naturally led on to a love of meditation".

Sky Blue Yoga also offer Vinyasa Yoga for all levels of fitness and specialist classes including Functional fitness for over 50's, Chair Yoga, Mummy Baby Yoga and Yin.

If you are interested in booking this course or have questions contact Claire at Sky Blue Yoga on 07815 429477 or email

[Claire@skyblueyoga.co.uk](mailto:Claire@skyblueyoga.co.uk)

If you are interested in Qigong courses contact Lee Davey directly on

[staffordhealthqigong@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:staffordhealthqigong@yahoo.co.uk)



Sky Blue Studio





Now available at Sky Blue Yoga

Reiki healing	£30.00
Angelic Reiki healing	£30.00
Holistic Massage	£30.00
Back and legs	£25.00
Back, shoulders & arms	£25.00
Indian Head (neck & shoulders)	£30.00
Aromatherapy	£30.00
Hot stone therapy	£30.00
Reflexology	£30.00

### Courses

Learn to practice Reiki for yourself, complete with work book  
and continuing guidance

Reiki level 1	£80.00
Coaching & energy sessions	£20.00

Contact Amy for your free consultation on

07833 664 130

Discounts and concessions available



*Where your photography comes to life!*

Stafford Photographic Society was formed in 1895 and It is one of the oldest photographic societies in the Midlands.

We have been meeting at the Northfield Centre for just over a year now and all our members and guests have been very complimentary about the facilities and the cooperative staff

We have a wide range of guest speakers over the year covering a broad range of subjects including travel, wildlife, landscapes, sports photography and photographic techniques. We also have our own internal competitions where members present their best images for scrutiny by external judges.

Once a month we meet at the Fire Station in Stone for our 'Question & Answer' session where members set the agenda to discuss images they have taken or ask questions about their photographic equipment

The Society continues to have success in local and national competitions and was awarded joint first in a national print competition run by Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) in October 2015. The PAGB has over a thousand clubs throughout the UK and is internationally recognized as a major organization in the world of photography. The best we had done previously was coming second in 2003

The Society is always looking for new members of all abilities who wish to pursue their interest in photography, everyone is welcome whether you are using a phone camera or an expensive SLR camera, why not come along and see for yourself and take advantage of the wonderful facilities. We meet every Tuesday night from the 1st of September to the end of May at the Northfield Centre from 7.30 to 10.00 pm.



Presented by B-Hive Events. Design by Remix Factory Media.

SUPPORTED ADULTS

# DISCO

£4 ENTRY 8PM - LATE  
£2 for carers & support workers

## NORTHFIELD CENTRE STAFFORD -

PRESENTED BY THE B-HIVE  
SPONSORED BY HAYWARD BEFRIENDING

FREE PARKING  
FULL DISABLED ACCESS  
INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS WELCOME

Magnolia Avenue  
off Co-Operative Street  
Stafford, ST16 3DU

### HOW TO FIND US:

Pass Tenpin Stafford bowling alley (ST16 2SD), follow A34 to island. Take 2nd exit staying on A34. Co-Operative Street is 5th turn-off on the right.

CALL 07929 248 834 FOR DETAILS

or e-mail [THEBHIVE@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:THEBHIVE@OUTLOOK.COM)





# PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup> CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

## PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup> CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

We have lots of activities. For example a lot of us play crown green bowls. We were offered some free coaching and we enjoyed it so much that we even have a team in a local league! Some of the bowlers so enjoyed playing that they meet over the closed season, play cards and get ready for the new season!

We meet at the Amasal Sports Club, St. Alban's Road, Stafford.



Give Steve Turner a ring on 01785 229437 for details.

### *Who can we contact?*

Our Chair is Cynthia Darley,  
01785 254246

Our Secretary is Hilda Sharp  
01785 817866

One of many  
Committee members is  
Steve Turner  
01785 229437

Chase Group Geoff Chandler  
01543 425819

### *Parkinson's UK Stafford and Chase Branch*

#### *Who are we?*

We are the  
Stafford and Chase Branch  
of the National Charity  
Parkinson's UK

#### *What do we do?*

We do a lot to support people with the condition and also their families, their carers and medical staff. We meet regularly once a month and we have speakers from all walks of life, not just about Parkinson's itself.

We go on trips which, like all our events, are free to members and we raise funds for these events as well as for research into the condition.

### *Where and when do we meet?*

Stafford Branch meet at 7.30pm on the  
first Monday of the month at:  
Northfield Centre  
Co-operative Street  
Stafford  
ST16 3BZ

Chase Group meet at 7.30pm on the  
last Monday of the month at:  
The Aquarius Centre  
Victoria Shopping Park  
Hednesford  
WS12 1BT

If you need help with directions, just  
give us a call.

# German Classes

Thursdays in Stowe Room  
10am-12pm

Please contact Alison Kirsch  
email - [alison.kirsch@ntlworld.com](mailto:alison.kirsch@ntlworld.com)



“With 25 years’ experience as a German teacher, I have optimised my own strategy for teaching effectively and accurately. You might be learning German for business, to relocate, to pass a GCSE or A level or for pleasure. I can ensure you will be able to communicate in meaningful and accurate German within hours.

The most important element of learning a language is to be able to speak it with confidence and accuracy.

I have been here at the Northfield Centre since September 2015. I have been operating in school term time on Thursdays”

Alison Kirsch offers a unique German language training service to individuals and businesses in Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands.

# Stafford's Northfield Centre showcases Rotary Club's Urban Explorer project

Young people often define themselves and their activities by the areas in which they 'hang out'. By the age of 12 or 13yrs many young people are beginning to have a greater freedom in where they go and what they do. A recent project called 'Urban Explorers' based in the North end of Stafford set out to engage some of these young people in creative activities that would get them looking more closely at their environment.

Stafford Knot Rotary Club, who meet at the Northfield Centre in Magnolia

Avenue, worked with Dawn Jutton from local community arts company Mediadivas to deliver

creative sessions at the nearby Gainsborough

[art]works. The aim was to encourage young people to record their area through photography, drawing, and local history research. The

Urban Explorer project, funded in part by

Staffordshire County Council's Local Community Fund, started with photo-walks along the Isabel Trail and adjacent areas of historical and contemporary significance such as Stafford Common, Stafford Cemetery and Doxey Marshes in addition to areas suggested by the young people. While the project did not

originally set out to be photographic, the young people were inspired by their images which they later used in the studio to create large drawn architectural portraits.



Xander and Raijit work on a large architectural portrait in the studio.

Project lead

Dawn Jutton from Mediadivas said,

It quickly became clear that although the young people, all from Sir Graham Balfour School, were enthused and engaged with the project we needed to ensure the sessions did not feel too much like school-work. The group's



Xander explains his involvement whilst Raijit shows Councillor Maureen Compton his Urban Explorer images on the laptop.

Photograph by Abigail Jones one of the Urban Explorers, aged 14yrs.



enthusiasm for video games and puzzle-related narratives sparked interesting and unexpected conversations. We decided to build on their skills using recent and historical photographs as prompts to imagine characters and stories for a new computer game that could explore Stafford through the eras and so 'Bob', a time traveller from the 1940s was born!



Harrison (L), Rajjit and Ben (background) discuss their images of the urban walks with PCSOs from the local policing team.

The young people were keen to share their photographs and find out more about how Stafford would have looked to Bob the time traveller and the Northfield Centre provided the ideal community venue. Residents, members of the community and families were invited to view the work and talk to the young people about their project. The evening, also supported by local County Councillor Maureen Compton and members of the Stafford Knot Rotary club, was a great success and the young people showed immense pride in their achievements.



Image on right: LtoR Jay, Ben and Harrison aiming for different viewpoints of the same building.

For more info please contact:

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# Limewood appoints a new Dementia Outreach Manager



I am pleased to say that I am the new Dementia Outreach Manager at Choices Housing, and based at Limewood in Stafford.

I am working to set up a information and advice Hub, that will be a point of contact where any one affected by dementia, can be supported to access services.

By creating dementia friendly communities within Stafford and the surrounding area, I am linked to Dementia friends I will be delivering information sessions about dementia, to businesses , other professionals, housing associations, residents and local groups. This will enable others to form part of a dementia friendly community.



# The Northfield Centre



Thursday 13th April  
10 am–12 pm

Easter Crafts



Thursday 20th April  
10 am–12 pm

Spring time Crafts



**Stepping  
Stones Café**

Children's meal deal offer £3.60 will be  
available on these dates



£3.00 per child



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## Ian Hollinshead

As the County Councillor for the Stafford North division, I am really pleased to see how the Northfield Centre is developing as a real asset for the Village, our local community and beyond.

From before the Centre opened its doors in April 2015, I began getting to know the people involved in running it and finding out how I could help. I used my Local Community Fund to support the opening event and activities. Since then, I have been able to offer further support to extend the range of activities for families. When I am out and about locally, I am always keen to promote the Centre and help make positive connections with other facilities, groups and activities in the area. Just lately, I have been holding a surgery at the centre - you can find me here on the first Saturday of the month between 11 am and 12 noon



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