

## **BIG MILL FIRE**

It was incredibly sad to see Big Mill in flames. A Grade II listed building and one of Leek's most iconic landmarks, it has stood as part of the town's story — and that of the wider Staffordshire Moorlands — for generations.

Historic buildings like this are more than bricks and mortar — they are pieces of our national heritage. Once they're gone, they can never truly be replaced.

Too often, we see places like this left to deteriorate. Our historic buildings deserve better — they deserve protection, care, and a future.

A huge thank you to the firefighters from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, Staffordshire Moorlands Police and other emergency services who worked to tackle this devastating incident.

## **SUPPORT FOR HEATING OIL HOUSEHOLDS**

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has received information in relation to the Government's announcement of £27m in targeted support for low-income households across the Moorlands.

The funding is a top up to the Crisis and Resilience Fund for local authorities identified as areas that have higher rates of heating oil, including the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The Council is awaiting further information and confirmation of how much funding it will receive. As your local councillor, I know many residents have raised concerns about this issue. I will share more information as soon as it becomes available.

## **ENDON EASTER EGG COLLECTION AT THE PLOUGH**

Well done to the team at The Plough on their successful Easter egg collection for Gingerbread Family Support. We were delighted to drop off some donations to Toby Carvery for such a fantastic local cause, helping to bring smiles and make Easter that little bit more special for local families. It's amazing to see our community come together to support one another.

## **MORE ACTION ON DOG FOULING**

Great to see new pavement stencils at fouling hotspots across Brown Edge and Endon. Our Staffordshire Moorlands District Council environmental crime team are keeping an eye on these locations.

Thank you to everyone who has reported hotspot areas to me and thank you to the vast majority of residents who always put dog fouling in the bin and do their bit to keep our community clean and tidy.

It is an offence not to pick up after your dog or not to put dogs on leads when requested to do so by council enforcement officers. Failure to do so could mean you receive a £100 fixed penalty notice or face prosecution where the maximum penalty is a £1,000 fine.

You can report incidents of dog fouling here: <https://myforms.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/DOGFOULING/launch>

## **ENDON CANAL BENCHES**

We're delighted to have installed two new benches along the Caldon Canal, creating extra sitting spots for the Endon Community Orchard. Made from upcycled wood, these benches are a fantastic example of sustainability in action—huge thanks to our amazing local Canal & River Trust volunteers team for their hard work!

The Endon stretch of the canal is loved by residents and visitors alike who enjoy walking here, and it's great to see people regularly using the benches as places to rest and enjoy a picnic. Over the last few years, we've added four new benches—including these latest additions—to help make the orchard and surrounding area more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

### **WOMEN OF THE MOORLANDS ART EXHIBITION**

Well done to everyone who was nominated and selected from over 50 women to be featured in an exhibition showcasing amazing women volunteers across the Staffordshire Moorlands, organised by OUTSIDE. This includes Revd Debbie Lovatt, Denise Wheat and Margaret Lovatt from Brown Edge and Endon.

This special exhibition was created with artist Ruby Nixon as part of International Women's Day 2026. Following more than 50 heartfelt nominations, 11 women were selected to take part. Their portraits—and the stories behind them—shine a light on the many ways women make a difference in our communities, from everyday acts of care to leadership, creativity, and advocacy. It's a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate their strength, resilience, and contribution, and to reflect on the impact of women across the Moorlands.

### **ENDON MAKERS MARKET**

It was lovely to support the Endon Makers Market at Endon Methodist Church! It's fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate and support such talented local makers and producers. A brilliant turnout as well—days like this really show the strength of supporting local!

### **COMMUNITY OAK TREES PROJECT**

A HUGE thank you to Sweet Meadows Plant Centre at Draycott Nurseries for their incredibly generous donation of 35 locally grown 6ft oak trees.

I've planted a number of them along the Endon Community Orchard and around Brown Edge King's Coronation Field, which is open to the public on Tongue Lane. More oak trees will also be planted in other locations across Brown Edge and Endon for Brown Edge Parish Council and Endon with Stanley Parish Council.

### **SPRING SNOWDROPS PROJECT**

For years, we've enjoyed the beautiful snowdrops in our village churchyard — so this year, I decided to help them spread even further at Endon St Luke's Church.

Once the flowers had finished, I began carefully lifting, dividing, and replanting the snowdrops to create a larger display for everyone — and our pollinators — to enjoy.

It's a lovely little community project, building on the legacy of the original snowdrops planted by Endon Brownies.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who care for churches across the Staffordshire Moorlands, helping to preserve such an important part of our national heritage.

Do come and take a look next spring!

### **ENDON COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING**

Thank you to Endon High School, Staffordshire Moorlands Police, Endon with Stanley Parish Council and Endon Village Hall for a productive community safety meeting.

We had valuable discussions on tackling anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, road and bike safety issues, and strengthening youth provision in our community.

Please keep reporting ALL incidents directly to the police so action can be taken. Working together is key to keeping Endon safe.

## **BRINGING SPRING COLOUR TO OUR CHURCHYARD**

Our Endon St Luke's churchyard is looking more beautiful than ever, thanks to a burst of colourful spring flowers just in time for Endon Well Dressing!

We've also been busy sweeping the paths to make the whole space clean, tidy, and welcoming for everyone. A huge thank you to our 2025 & 2026 Endon Well Dressing Queens, Lily and Alice, along with local children from Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School and Endon Scouts, who all helped bring this to life.

We're also so grateful to our generous church members and support from my Councillor's Community Initiative Fund, alongside Proctors Nursery for supplying the flowers.

It's amazing what a community can do when everyone comes together—thank you to everyone who supported this lovely project!

## **ENDON VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT**

What a fantastic QUIZ NIGHT fundraiser at Endon Village Hall!

Huge shoutout to everyone who came along and to the brilliant team effort that made the evening run so smoothly. The turnout was amazing and the atmosphere was even better!

A special thank you to J W Walters Butchers & Bakers for supplying the delicious local pies — they went down a treat! Thanks again to everyone who supported the event and helped make it such a great success. We couldn't do it without you!

## **JOHN HALL WELLNESS GARDEN SPRING FAIR**

What a fantastic afternoon at the Spring Craft Fair in the beautiful John Hall Wellness Garden in Leek!

Set in a truly stunning space and supported by Rethink Mental Illness, the event was full of talented local artisans, unique handmade treasures, and uplifting springtime energy.

This hidden gem means so much to so many — offering a peaceful escape and supporting wellbeing right in the heart of the Staffordshire Moorlands.

A huge well done to everyone involved in this special place!

## **POSTAL DELAYS**

I'm aware of ongoing postal delays affecting parts of ST6 and ST9, including Brown Edge and Endon. I've written to our local MP Karen Bradley to raise these concerns with Royal Mail and push for answers on what's causing the disruption — and what can be done to fix it. If you've been affected, please let me know — which areas are seeing the worst delays?

## **SEA OF DAFFODILS ALONG THE CANAL**

A few years ago, our dedicated team of volunteers came together to plant native wild daffodils at Endon Community Orchard, beside the beautiful Caldon Canal. Today, that effort has blossomed into a stunning sea of golden blooms!

These early spring flowers are not just beautiful — they're also a valuable source of food for pollinators emerging after winter. This project is a true celebration of community spirit — with invaluable support from

local volunteers, pupils from Endon High School, and funding from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the Canal & River Trust.

Why not take a walk along the canal and see the daffodils for yourself while they're in full bloom? A wonderful example of nature restoration in action!

## **GARDEN WASTE CHARGES**

Please be aware that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is introducing charges for garden waste collections from the end of June, at a cost of £46 per year. People will be able to sign-up for the optional garden waste service from the end of April.

\*Don't shoot the messenger as I was one of the most outspoken councillors against this move as I personally view this as a tax on local gardeners!\*

New food waste collections will also be introduced at the same time as a weekly service. New caddies for the food waste collections will be issued from May onwards.

No-one needs to change how they present their waste and recycling at the moment. Please look out for more information in the coming months and SMDC will be writing to every household.

As soon as I have information about the subsidised compost bins scheme, I will also share this with local residents. Please contact our team at [joe.porter@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](mailto:joe.porter@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk) and [keith.flunder@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](mailto:keith.flunder@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk) if you need any further information.

## **HOLDING SEVERN TRENT TO ACCOUNT FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

I recently visited Tittesworth Reservoir and Severn Trent sites in Brown Edge and Endon alongside Karen Bradley MP to see improvements to local water infrastructure first-hand. This visit was arranged by me as one of your local councillors to hold Severn Trent to account and strengthen community links.

A big thank you to Severn Trent staff for taking the time to provide a behind-the-scenes tour and talk through the work being done.

Following this work, here's an update on the action plan to improve water supply reliability:

Short-term (delivered)

- Generators have been used to maintain supply
- System upgrades completed to allow quicker pump restarts
- Backup power switching improvements put in place

Medium-term (delivered)

- Measures introduced to bring water in from other areas if needed
- Temporary storage options explored to provide additional resilience

Long-term (ongoing)

- Rebuilding the reservoir (the one which supplies Brown Edge and Endon) to provide a permanent, more reliable solution

Thank you for your patience. It's encouraging to see real progress following the recent water issues affecting Brown Edge and Endon over the last few years. I know everyone's utility bills are going through the roof and how frustrating it can be when the water supply isn't reliable. I'll continue working closely with Severn Trent to make sure improvements are delivered and our community gets the reliable service it deserves.

## **ENDON BROWNIES**

We were delighted to support Endon Guides, Brownies & Rainbows with a £75 grant from our Councillors' Community Initiative Fund.

The funding helped make their recent circus-themed sleepover at Endon Scout Hut even more special — a fantastic event full of fun, creativity, and smiles all around! It's always great to see local groups creating memorable experiences for young people in our community!

### **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Lots happening on the community speed watch front with our Community Speed Watch volunteers:

- A53 Leek Road, Endon - 1 driver speeding out of 1,997 over an hour
- A53 Leek Road, Endon - 2 drivers speeding out of 1,035 over an hour
- Clay Lake, Endon - 26 drivers speeding out of 1,205 over an hour