

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 96

30 November 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Happy first birthday**

Lottery winners, local good causes, business supporters and members of the advisory panel attended a celebration event last week marking the first birthday of the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. In its first year, the Community Lottery has raised £25,000 for local good causes and the biggest lottery win so far has been £2,000. Help the Community Lottery raise money for local good causes by visiting www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephoning **01902 213777** to buy a ticket.

- **Removal of unauthorised adverts**

This week, the Council's Planning Enforcement team removed over 200 unauthorised items of fly-posting and the team will continue to reduce this unsightly clutter by targeting repeat offenders who benefit financially from the display of such signage and who effectively penalise the responsible businesses within our district. Click [here](#) to see more and click [here](#) for further information on adverts, signs and fly-posting on our website.

- **Christmas Eve Closing**

On Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December 2018, the Council offices will be closed from 12.30pm and the Leisure Centres from 1pm. The Council offices will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

- **Volunteers help plant spring bulbs**

Thank you to Andrew, Jack, Laura, Shauna, Sally and Chris from the High Flyers Day Centre in Wombourne, Co-op Funeralcare, Wombourne Funeral Services and members of the public who helped us plant over 4000 spring flowering bulbs at Sytch Lane Cemetery in Wombourne last week and Strawberry Lane Cemetery in Great Wyrley on Monday. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see more. The annual bulb planting event at the Council Offices will now take place on Thursday 6 December 2018 from 1pm. There are 1000+ spring bulbs to plant so please come along and help. This year, we will be focusing on the area by the wedding entrance/exit. If you'd like to help, please contact Andy Aston (a.aston@sstaffs.gov.uk).

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- **Keep your online data safe and secure**

Today is national computer security day, held every year on this date as a way of reminding all computer users that computer security is an important personal and workplace responsibility. While communication has become easier and more efficient than ever before, these advances have brought with them new concerns about privacy and security. To mark the day, why not focus on ensuring your computer, devices, and data are secure and make sure you have strong passwords that are updated regularly.

- **Home alone at Christmas**

The annual Christmas lunch for retired residents of the district takes place on Friday 21 December 2018 from midday to 2.30pm in the Academy Restaurant at the Council Offices in Codsall. The lunch is free for pensioners over the age of 60 who don't have friends or family visiting them on Christmas Day. Numbers are limited to 50 people so early application is recommended. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Christmas lights switch on across the district**

- TONIGHT - Friday 30 November 2018 - Wombourne Christmas lights switch on, outside the front of the Civic Centre (from 5.40pm). Click [here](#) for more information.

www.wombourneparishcouncil.org.uk

- Saturday 1 December 2018 - Perton Christmas Fair from 1pm to 5pm in Anders Square, the church, the Civic Centre and the library. Lots of craft stalls to buy Christmas presents, food stalls, Father Christmas plus Animal Man, Punch and Judy and story time in the library.

- Friday 7 December 2018 - Codsall Christmas Fair from 2pm to 9.30pm - live music, carols around the tree, Santa's Grotto, hot food, entertainment, fairground rides, stalls and much more. www.codsallchristmasfair.co.uk

- **Switch and save**

The next Good Life Energy bill surgery will take place on Thursday 6 December 2018 from 7.30pm at Wheaton Aston Village Hall. You don't have to be a South Staffordshire resident to benefit and Good Life Energy can also help businesses as well. Call Freephone **03333 058671**

Email info@cebltd.com

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- **Community safety update - dealing with anti-social behaviour**

Police Officers and PCSOs from shift 2 of the South Staffs Neighbourhood Policing team led by Sgt Dorrington carried out an anti-social behaviour operation this week in response to issues raised by residents in South Staffordshire. The team visited Cheslyn Hay and spoke to a large group of youths and this resulted in a number of the group being found in possession of cannabis. Due to the age of the group, they were taken home and spoken to in front of parents.

The team also visited Penkridge, Codsall and Bilbrook, Wheaton Aston, Featherstone, Essington, Perton and Pattingham. Souths Staffordshire Police will continue to carry out these types of operations in response to issues raised by residents. If you wish to report issues in your area contact your local PCSO or call **101**. You can also call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

- **Community safety - how to improve your home security**

Improving your home security reduces the chances of you becoming the victim of a burglar. To help you make the right choices, click [here](#) to read a guide for home security produced by Secured by Design, a UK Police initiative.

- **New link worker for CASS**

Welcome to Lisa Brickles who is the new Caring Communities Link Worker for South Staffordshire at the Carers Association (CASS). Lisa supports unpaid carers (family, friends and neighbours) in their communities and promotes the Good Life project, which aims to improve life for residents in South Staffordshire by enabling people to be better connected and informed. The aim is to reduce isolation and improve health and wellbeing. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Trustees required**

South Staffs Work Clubs (SSWC) is a registered charity that operates seven work clubs across the district. The charity is looking for new Trustees to join their Board of Trustees - click [here](#) for more information about how to apply.

- **5 Rating**

The following organisation has achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - the Balti Palace in Penkridge.

Everyone is encouraged to submit news items, please email: comms@sstaffs.gov.uk