

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

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Issue 2015.1

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This is the first newsletter produced by our new Clerk, Neil Gulliver, and I am indebted to the help received from our former Assistant Clerk and Editor Mike Booth for the help and advice he has given to Neil during the process of compiling this newsletter.

As this will be the last newsletter before I relinquish the post as Chairman, I thought I would reflect on the achievements

Of the Parish Council during my chairmanship.

I am very proud to have obtained a grant of £30,000 in order to set up "The John Corbett Trail", which is well and truly established and attracts many visitors to our Parish.

We have organised 2 petitions to successfully save our local bus service and have built a new children's play area on Stoke Heath Recreation Ground. We have also secured the lease on the adjacent field for the use of the Youth Club.

Each year we organise a Parish Fete and this year it will take place on Saturday 2nd May and for the first time entrance will be free!!!!

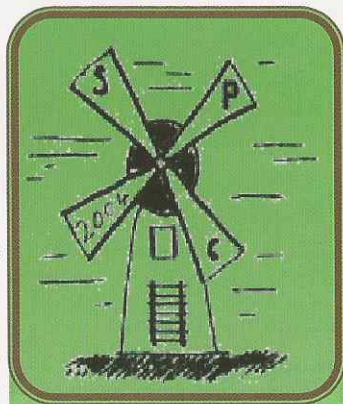
Throughout my chairmanship, I have been supported by a marvellous, hard working team of parish councillors who have given their time to make this such a successful council.

I hope to continue as a Parish Councillor and give my full support to whoever is elected as our new Chairman.

We are entering a new era in local politics and our new name will be "Avoncroft" ward. I am a strong believer in democracy and urge everyone to use their vote at the forthcoming elections. (Whatever your political persuasion.)

Lastly may I send my sincere best wishes to District Councillor John Tidmarsh's family during these difficult times.

JOHN ELLIS,
Chairman, Stoke Parish Council



Inside this issue:

Chairman's message	1
Councillor George Verney	2
Leigh Satchwell Head of Stoke Prior First School	3
Stoke Parish Fete 2015	4
Stoke Parish Fete 2014 - photos	5
Parish Council News	6
Councillors Surgeries	6
Neil Gulliver Parish Clerk	7
Forthcoming Council Meetings	7
Contacts	8

GEORGE VERNEY



This issue is dedicated to the memory of Councillor George Verney who lost his brave fight with cancer on the 2nd February 2015.

George was a leading light on the Parish Council and was instrumental in setting up the Youth Club and Stoke Heath Neighbourhood Watch. He was also very active each year with the Parish Fete.

He will be sadly missed by us all.

LEIGH SATCHWELL NEW HEAD OF STOKE PRIOR FIRST SCHOOL

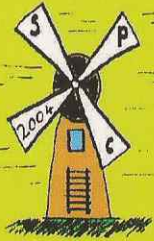
I started the new school year at Stoke Prior First School with great excitement, eagerness and a few nerves as I took over from the long serving Mrs Evans as Headteacher. Those nerves soon vanished as I received a very warm welcome from all the pupils, parents and staff at the school. The school year to date has gone extremely well.

I was appointed as the new Headteacher in April last year and from that moment on I was looking forward to the handover from Mrs Evans. I was fortunate enough to see how the school worked prior to September by spending a number of days in school before the summer holidays. It was clear to see what a great school it was and this fact made me even more eager to begin my work. The teachers are all very dedicated and work hard to ensure the children have an exciting and stimulating curriculum, in which they are able to achieve high standards. As the school move forward I will continue to look for ways to improve and build on its already high standards and reputation.

I grew up in Bromsgrove, attending Meadows First School, Parkside Middle School and North Bromsgrove High School before heading off to the University of Warwick. Returning to work in Bromsgrove District has been a great experience so far as although those schools have changed the names and traditions remain the same. It gives me great pleasure to have returned to work in the community I grew up in.

Once qualified as a teacher I worked for two years at Ombersley Endowed First School before heading to New Zealand with my wife to teach for a while. We lived in Auckland and I taught in a school overlooking the ocean which was an experience I will never forget. Upon my return I worked at The Royal Grammar School in Worcester and most recently Comberton Primary School in Kidderminster where I was Deputy Headteacher for 5 years.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS



STOKE ## PARISH ## FETE

Stage Door
Dance Academy

Hot & Cold
Refreshments

Marching Band

Tombola, Stalls
Bric-a-Brac

Classic Cars

Children's Funfair

Children's Fun
Hunt

Ferretworld
Roadshow

Ferret racing with a
Difference

Birch Hill
Dog Rescue

Fun Dog Show
Contact 07747 530 622

SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2015

Vintage Road Run 9.30 till 10.15am

10.00 AM FREE ADMISSION 5.00PM

Stoke Heath Recreation Ground, Corner of A38 / Hanbury Road,
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. B60 4LU

For more information please contact

Keith Shakespeare - 01527 575 003 - 07808 173 400

THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR AMEND EVENTS SCHEDULED

SCENES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH FETES



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Office is now fully up and running at **17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior** (next to the Capelli Hair Studio). The office is open each week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between the hours of 10am and 12.30pm and you are very welcome to drop in with any problems or just to say hello. If you cannot call in between those hours and you have a particular issue to discuss please call Neil Gulliver on **01527 757190** to arrange a suitable time. The main purpose of the office is to help make the Parish Council more accessible to the local public.

The Parish Council continues to be committed to providing the best services and support to the local community and you can come along to their monthly meetings to see what they do. The meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month in the Hall Annexe at Avoncroft starting at 7.30pm. The Parish Council continues to have a number of potential new projects to further improve facilities in the parish which they will be funding themselves. They have set a realistic budget for the coming financial year with the aim of continuing to provide good services.

The Parish Council has already agreed to provide a new handrail for the Church to help improve pedestrian access and it is hoped that this work will be carried out shortly. Approval has also been given to the provision of a new notice board on Shaw Lane which will help keep you informed of what the Council is doing etc. Approval has now been given to establish a Memorial Garden at Stoke Heath Recreation Ground to commemorate those who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts over the years. Work on this will start shortly. The Parish Council is now looking to provide an outdoor gym facility at the recreation ground and we will keep you informed on how this project develops over the coming months.

This is a particularly important few months with the Parish Council elections due to take place on the 7 May 2015. Maybe you might feel that you would be able to contribute to the work of the Parish Council and would be interested in standing for election. If so then please contact the Clerk who will explain the role. The election process starts on the 16 March 2015 and nominations need to be submitted to Bromsgrove District Council no later than 4pm on the 9 April 2015. The Clerk has nomina-

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

As Avoncroft Arts Society have chosen not to renew the Parish Council's lease on The Gweneth Foster Room, we are no longer able to hold councillor's surgeries at that venue.

We will however, continue to hold them on the first Saturday of every month at 10.00 am at the SHAC in Stoke Prior.

NEIL GULLIVER - PARISH CLERK

As some of you may be aware, I have taken over as Parish Clerk from the long serving Patrick Callaway. I took up my duties in November last year having been in local government all my working life.

Before taking early retirement in 2012, I had worked in local government since 1973. I joined Warwickshire County Council in January of that year and spent most of my time working in Member and Committee Services reaching the position of Principal Committee Administrator for the last 10 years of that time. In 2002 I moved to Warwickshire Police Authority as their Committee Manager before becoming Assistant Chief Executive and then Deputy Chief Executive by the time I retired in March 2012. I am a Member of the Chartered Institute of Managers.

In March 2012 I moved to the New Forest but remained very keen to use my experience and was very fortunate to be appointed as Clerk to Sway Parish Council where I remained for two and half years before family ties brought me back to this area. I thoroughly enjoyed the work particularly because it got me closer to the community so I was extremely pleased when the opportunity came along to do the same work with this Parish Council. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I am looking forward to working here for some considerable time.

I am particularly keen to improve the profile of the Parish Council because I do not think that they get the credit they deserve in providing services for the community that they deserve nor, to be fair, does the local community fully understand the Parish Council's role in helping them. Once the local elections are out of the way, I will be helping the new Council to link up with the community so that we can all work together for the benefit of the parish.

I will always try to make myself available to anyone who needs help or advice so please do not hesitate to contact me.

My main interests outside my work with the Council are cricket, reading and food.

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates over the next few months:

Wednesday 13 May 2015 (Annual General Meeting)

Monday 1 June 2015

Monday 6 July 2015

Monday 7 September 2015

All meetings will take place at Avoncroft Arts Centre at 7.30pm

John Ellis (Chairman)	07504127668	Planning, Communications, Fete Working Group, Forward Planning Working Group, Stoke Heath recreation area
Jonathan Miller (Vice-Chairman)	01527 831942	Planning, Communications, Ryefields Road recreation area, CPRE representative
Diane Brown	01527 821692	Planning, Fete Working Group, Picnic Site, Forward Planning Working Group
Jillian Howe	01527 570274	Fete Working Group
Susan Abel	07808053556	Planning, Communications (Chairman), Fete Working Group
Sarah Banham	07967700145	Planning, Communications
Keith Shakespeare	01527 575003	Finance, Fete Working Group
Paul Eden	01527 759573	Stoke Works recreation area
Peter Williams	07970782690	Planning (Chairman), Communications
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

Parish Clerk	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove Tel/Fax 01527 757190 E-mail: clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
Parish Website	http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
Comments and Articles	clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
District Councillors	John Tidmarsh (Conservative) 01527 831959 Del Booth (Conservative) 01527 833064
County Councillors	Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore (Labour and Co-operative) Tel 07905 612710 E-mail christopherbloore@hotmail.co.uk