

Stoke Parish Council

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Issue 2019.1

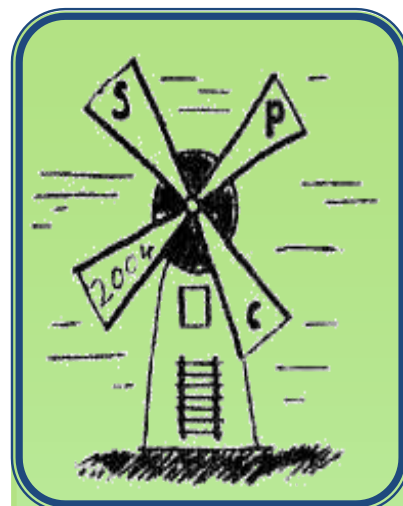
PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING

ONE OF OUR FOUR LEGGED PARISHIONERS!

We are very fortunate in that our Parish is a mixture of both urban and rural areas with much of it accessible to us all. One of the most common creatures that you will come across, whether you like them or not, is the grey squirrel, this one being caught on camera by Jill Howe, one of our Councillors who is also a keen photographer



Photograph courtesy of Cllr Jill Howe



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PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Chairman's Report – January 2019

Christmas does seem a long time ago now but I am very pleased to report that there was a good attendance at the Christmas Carol Service last year - thank you to Reverend Wyn Beynon, the organisers and all those who attended.

Leading up to Christmas, three of your Parish Councillors and I spent a very enjoyable evening driving around Stoke Heath and Stoke Prior looking for the best display of Christmas lights. It was a close decision yet again but we chose a winner for each area (see below and at Page 3)

I do hope that many of you were able to visit St Michael's and All Angels Church to view the decorated Christmas trees on display - well done everyone.

Following the M5 improvements, we are awaiting confirmation of when the temporary 30 miles per hour speed limit will be lifted on the Redditch Road.

The Council is considering offering of 'Smartwater' to residents of the Parish for security marking of valuable items - we will provide more information in due course via our website

The Council organised an awareness session regarding the use of a defibrillator that was held at the Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 19th February. The talk was very well received and attended by some thirty people so thank you to all of those of you who came.

Dates to remember

Film Evening - Saturday 31st August 2019

Following the continued success of the 'Film Evening', the Parish Council is organising another film night this year. **If you have a film that you would like to see, or would recommend, please text me on 07970 782 690 with your suggestion or phone the Parish Clerk on 01527 757190**

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 15th May 2019 - 7.30pm

Meeting to be held at Stoke Prior Village Hall. All are welcome, this is an opportunity for everyone to talk to the Council about its role and about issues that concern them.

I would also like to invite all parishioners to attend the monthly Council meetings which are held on the first Monday of every month (except August) to see for yourself what takes place.

If you have any concerns about your area that you would like to bring to the Councils attention please contact our Office on 01527 757190 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk

Christmas Lights Winner - Stoke Prior

This years winner for Stoke Prior was the house shown opposite, No. 38 Walls Road

The residents of this property received a £30 voucher from the Parish Council



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from the Parish Clerk

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

You may be aware that the Parish Council Elections are due to take place on Thursday 2 May 2019. This is your opportunity to get involved in the work of the Council in helping to improve the local environment. The role of Parish Councillor is a voluntary but very important one.

The rules governing whether you are eligible to stand for election are as follows:-

A person is qualified to be elected as a local councillor if they are a British citizen, qualified Commonwealth citizen, Irish or European Union citizen on the relevant day (that is, the day of nomination and day of the election) and you are 18 or over.

In addition, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:-

- 1) *On the relevant day and thereafter you continue to be on the parish electoral register, **or***
- 2) *During the whole of the twelve months before that day you have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish, **or***
- 3) *During the whole of the twelve months before that day your principal or only place of work has been in the parish, **or***
- 4) *During the whole of the twelve months before that day you have resided in the parish or within 4.8km (3 miles) of it.*

Except for qualification 1), these qualifications then continue for the full term of office, until the next ordinary elections.

Nominations Packs

These will be available from Neil Gulliver, the Stoke Parish Clerk, you can either email Neil at clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk or call 01527 757190. Alternatively you can obtain a Nomination Pack directly from Bromsgrove District Council.

Christmas Lights Winner - Stoke Heath

This years winner for Stoke Heath was the house shown opposite at No.7 Fair oak Drive

The residents of this property received a £30 voucher from the Parish Council



COUNCIL SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN 2018

2018 was quite a busy one with various activities going on within the Parish, the following is a brief round-up of various events etc that involved, concerned or were actively supported by the Parish Council during the year

- February** Defibrillator installed outside the Parish Office
- April** Spring Newsletter issued
- May** Annual Parish Meeting held at Village Hall
Liz Eden left and Penny Power joined the Council
Stan Petrovic appointed Assistant Council Clerk
- June** Barratt Houses commenced building of houses on the old Polymer Latex site
- August** Summer Newsletter issued
- September** Outdoor Film Night held, showing 'The Greatest Showman'
- October** Defibrillator installed at Avoncroft Art Centre
- December** Autumn/Winter Newsletter issued
Christmas Tree Festival held in St Michael's Church
Carols in the Park event held
Christmas Lights competition held



A Message from St Michael's Tower Friends

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has agreed our application for a grant towards restoration of the church tower. In order to receive the bulk of this money we need to secure ALL of the funds required to complete the restoration work.

We are now writing to Charities, Trusts, Foundations and Businesses as we must raise £50,000 in 2019 to secure £400,000 from the Heritage Lottery who have already provided £50,100.

If you know of any organisation that could help us, or can afford to make a donation, large or small then please contact Gary Stokes, 5 Bredon Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 7HD

Gift Aided donations can be increased by 25% by HMRC so if you are able to make a donation all we need to claim this extra money is your agreement, your name and your Post Code

AVONCROFT ARTS SOCIETY

“The Dirty Hands Brigade”



A theatre group, music group, discussion group and a film society held meetings at the Avoncroft College. These groups were all amalgamated by George Gregg and his wife on the 21st May 1946

And so Avoncroft Arts Society was born.

On May 24th 1954 The Times newspaper ran a story “A village entertains itself”. This indicated that the Society held an entertainment day which included plays, short operas, choral singing, folk dancing, lectures and exhibitions. The craft section included pottery, carvings, ironwork, weaving, English printing, bookbinding and illustration.

Fast forward to 2019 and how times have changed. The Society is now based in the Arts Centre off Redditch Road. A large hall was built in 1963 and a second classroom in 2014. There are no longer classes in ironwork, bookbinding etc but art, ceramics, sugarcraft and textiles. Yoga, Keep Fit, Kick Boxing and Tai Chi classes are all held in the Hall. The Hall is also used by groups like Probus, the Photographic Society and Avoncroft Dance Group and is hired out for private parties. The Society works in close partnership with Stoke Prior Parish Council who also hold their meetings there.



In the words of the Chairman “The principle objective of The Arts Society is education, to practise hobbies and leisure pursuits of the Arts”.

The Society are proud to be called “The Dirty Hands Brigade” as it reinforces its ethos

Many friendships are made there through shared interests and hobbies. People all come together, and work together, to ensure the continuing success of the Society.

Thank you to the Avoncroft Arts Society for providing us with this article

EASTER MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

Easter Model and Collectors Show

20th, 21st & 22nd April 2019

Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior, B60 4AL

This year's Model Railway Exhibition at the Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club will include a local railway layout from Stoke Prior as well as others from a little further away, from Bromsgrove and Redditch, as well as the organisers 1950's-60's 'OO' Trix Twin Layout from West Wales.

Other displays will come from Birmingham and one all the way from Stevenage in Hertfordshire.

Following on from the success of last year's two day indoor exhibition, we are extending the show this Easter to a Three day event.

On Monday Only there will be an Easter Bunny Hunt for the children and an Easter Bonnet Parade that will be open to all Ages.

There will also be other exhibits and displays around the site.



Motley Sub-Shed

A 7mm/ft 0 Gauge layout, collection of locomotives was once described as a 'motley' one, so it seemed the natural to call a layout upon which to display them, 'Motley'!



Junior Winner of the 2018 Easter Bonnet Parade



Trix Twin Display Layout

1950's-60's 'OO' gauge with Bakelite based track, operates with both AC and DC Locomotives using the similar controllers. Complete with working 1950's Coaling stage

THE STOKE COUNCIL PARISH WEBSITE

When I joined the Parish Council as their Assistant Clerk role two of the key activities that I was recruited to perform were to put together these Newsletters and to update and revise the Parish Website. So far I have produced three Newsletters, the following is a summary of where I am so far regarding the Website.

The simplest way to initially access the website is to type 'stoke prior parish website' into Google and the link [Home - Stoke Parish Council Website - Stoke Parish Council](#) should come up

The Website has eight sections - **Home, About the Stokes, Gallery, Newsletters, Your Community, Your Council, Events** and **Contact Us**. What I am trying to do, as my other duties permit, is what is commonly called 'Evolution not Revolution', that is changing things methodically rather than everything all at once.

So far my progress to date is as follows, please note that some of these sections may still require parts of them to be revised or are under continuous revision, such as the homepage for example

Home - The Homepage now carries links, some of them clickable icons, to either very topical content held elsewhere on the website or for content that is updated regularly, like Planning Applications for example.

About the Stokes - All of the Parish Walks have been updated by our Footpath Warden Chris Jewson and are all now in a common format. All of the walks can be downloaded or printed off from the website

Gallery - I am intending to clear out all of the out of date pictures (although some may be left available in an Archive) and replace them with more topical and up to date images around the Parish. Once I have made some progress with this I hope to be able to ask any of you who take photos to e-mail in to me any that you feel could be of interest to others. Subject to Council agreement I would also hope that the very best pictures can be used for the cover of future Newsletters

Newsletters - All Newsletters from 2015 to the latest can be read or downloaded from the website

Your Community - I am working on provision of a Parish Map showing all of the amenities that we have within the Parish together with details relating to each of these. One area that I am very keen to address are the facilities for children such as play areas, nurseries and schools

Your Council - This section has been almost completely revised and updated and now gives up to date contact details for the Parish and Bromsgrove District Councillors and our MP. Also Agendas and Minutes for all Parish council Meetings since the current Council was formed in May 2015 are available for access. A significant addition to this section is a table of Planning Applications that is updated twice a month, with advice on how to access the public on-line data held by Bromsgrove District Council for all Planning Applications and also how to submit an objection to any Planning Application that you have issues with.

Events - I have started adding details of Events that I am aware of into this section which I see as having significant scope to become very useful, and hope that local organisations and groups will provide me with details of what they can offer and when and where their meetings etc are scheduled to take place.

My future priorities are to expand the 'Your Community' and 'Events' sections as much as possible as these are probably generally the most useful 'day to day' parts of the website, along with the 'topical' issues that I put on the Homepage - if you have any comments, suggestions etc please let me know via e-mail address spcac@btinternet.com

PARISH WALK - STOKE FLIGHT AND WOODGATE

This canal side walk is mainly open countryside. The towpath runs alongside the Stoke Flight and then the bottom locks of the Tardebigge Flight. In total the canal climbs over 420 feet. The walk distance is 3¾ miles and takes around 2 Hours. Boots are desirable in wet weather.

Parking (roadside) is available near the start of the walk at the Harris Business Park. The Navigation and the Queens Head may allow walkers to park but please check. There are three Geocaches on this walk.

1. Stoke Wharf, Navigation Inn – Walk south along the Hanbury Road to the canal bridge. (There are refreshments here at the café on the Metal Ores Ind. Estate, open weekdays and Saturday morning). Turn left along towpath (upstream) opposite Black Prince Boat Yard and Picnic Site (by Lock 23). The towpath is not a public right-of-way but walkers are permitted to use it. Pass the canal side cottages at Whitford Bridge. At Stoke Top Lock (No 28) you can cross over and take the sign-posted path on the opposite side through to Avoncroft Museum.

2. Stoke Pound Lane – The Queens Head is on the opposite bank. Just a little further on is Tardebigge Bottom Lock which is the first in a series of 30 locks. It is the largest concentration of narrow locks in the country and they raise the canal some 69 metres.

3. Tardebigge Bottom Flight – At Lock 33 there is a footbridge crossing the entrance to the lock. Note how the bridge is designed so that it is only supported from one buttress. This was to allow the tow rope from the barge horse to slide underneath the planks at the other buttress. Just beyond far end of lock go right down the embankment to the wooden barrier in the hedge. Cross field to footbridge across stream. Go straight up the field to stile and footpath sign by side of farm building.

4. Copyholt Lane – Cross road and cross stile at the Footpath sign. Take the path which keeps straight on alongside the garden fence. Go through the kissing gate and go half left, go through gate in fence. Turn right alongside wire fence and old tree line. Go through the gate at bottom of field, about 20 yards to right of the farm gate. Head straight on and slightly to the left, aiming for the footpath sign by the hedge.

5. Path Junction - At the footpath sign go through the gate and cross a footbridge. Turn right across field to the junction of three hedges. Cross the footbridge and gate. Keep to right hand edge until you see a kissing gate just to the left of the garden of Orchard Farm. Cross next field and then cross a gated foot bridge. Path continues parallel to Whitford Bridge Road to join road by second stile with footpath sign.

6. Whitford Bridge Road, Moors Farm – Cross the road by the footpath sign and go through opening on right alongside gate. Keep to the right of Steppingly cottage along enclosed garden path. Keep between pond and hedge. Cross stile and small field to foot bridge. Turn left along the drive, passing a thatched cottage. Turn right into Woodgate Road by Woodgate Manor Farm (F/P sign).

7. Moorgate Road – Go straight ahead through gate with a footpath sign, aim for electricity pole directly ahead and then for a foot bridge and gate in the opposite hedge. Cross the next field, aiming for the gate by a corner of woodland, just in front of a large industrial building.

8. Harris Brushworks Woodland – Go through gate and turn sharp left, keeping just in the wood. Go down steps and alongside a building onto factory road. Opposite factory door J, turn left up steps. Path turns right alongside field. It then continues straight on between hedge and barbed wire fence and then alongside Appletrees house.

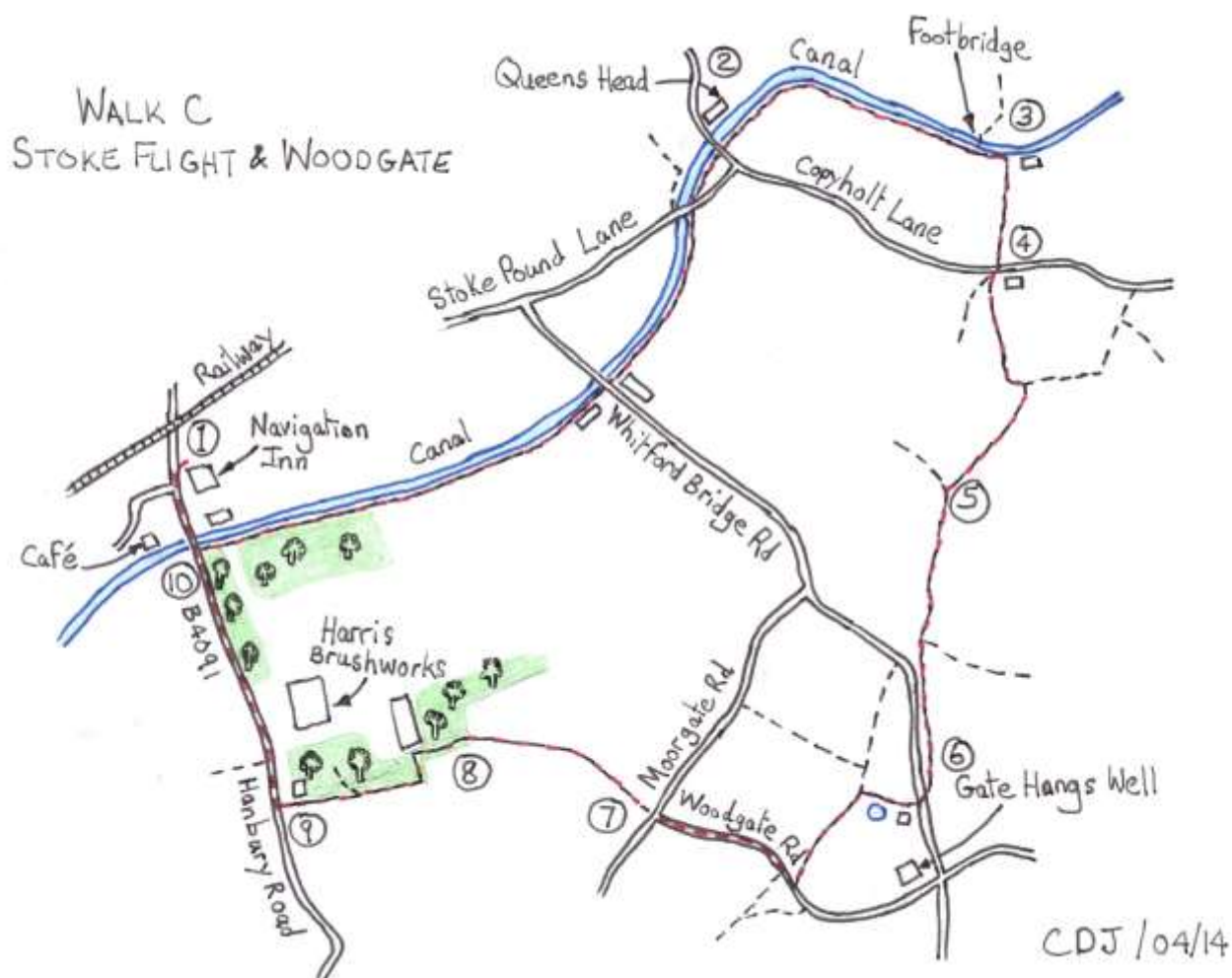
PARISH WALK (Continued)

9. Hanbury Road – Turn right along road by footpath sign. Continue past Harris Brushworks (now owned by Orkla). The firm moved to its current location in 1947. Many of the local woodlands were planted originally to provide the brush handles.

10. Stoke Wharf – Cross the canal again to reach the Navigation Inn.

MAP OF WALK

Please note- The Gate Hangs Well pub shown on the map below closed down some four years ago and is due to be demolished



It is currently intended that a further walk will be included in the next Newsletter. You can find this and other walks in the Parish on our website (www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk) where you can download and/or print them off. GPS Route files can also be downloaded.

MEN IN SHEDS OPEN DAY

For any of you who have not heard of the Men in Sheds they are an organisation that originated from an Australian project started in the 1990's called Men's Sheds, as a way to tackle loneliness and social isolation in older men when they retired from work. The first Men in Sheds project in the UK was started by Age UK Cheshire in the autumn of 2008.

The idea of Men in Sheds is to have a place where men (and women) can gather together to do practical things like work on DIY projects such as furniture reclamation or just sit and have a tea or coffee and a natter. The Bromsgrove Men in Sheds are based here in Stoke Prior at the Metals and Ores Industrial Estate and meet there on Mondays to Thursdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm. They are supported by Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest and recently held two Open Days to help encourage new members and supporters. The picture below was taken at the event on 7th February by Jo Hughes from Age UK BRWF who is a very friendly and approachable young lady and a great first point of contact if you would like to learn more about Men in Sheds, Jo's phone and e-mail details are Tel: 01527 868855 and Email: Jo.Hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk.



You can also contact the Men in Sheds directly by phoning either Ed Carswell on 07478 250217 or Jim Collis on 07942 866146, or follow them on Facebook @ Bromsgrove Men in Sheds. You can also watch the 'Men In Sheds – A Closer Look' video at [//youtu.be/p_SBhOZQgeg](https://youtu.be/p_SBhOZQgeg)

I went to the February Open Day and thoroughly enjoyed it, finding them to be a group of very friendly and pleasant people. My thanks go to Jo Hughes for all the information she supplied me with that forms the basis of this article, and also the excellent cup of coffee!

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will meet at 7.30pm at Avoncroft Arts Centre on the following dates over the next few months in 2019:

Monday 1 April 2019
 Monday 3 June 2019
 Monday 1 July 2019
 Monday 2 September 2019 (no meeting in August)

The Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 2 May 2019 and, as a result the Council's Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting will both be held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at Stoke Prior Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE AND CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Office based at 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior is now usually open to the public on Monday to Thursday mornings between **9:00am and 12:30pm** when Neil Gulliver, the Parish Clerk, or Stan Petrovic the Assistant Clerk, will be happy to try and help local residents with any issues which concern them.

You can contact the Clerk outside office hours on 07927 311041, leave a message at the office on 01527 757190 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk. If you want to meet the Clerk or Assistant Clerk outside of the above hours, an appointment can be arranged to suit you.

As with the arrangements for meeting with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, if any local resident has a particular issue or problem that they wish to discuss with the Chairman or another Parish Councillor, or with your local District Councillor, again please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment.

Help Brighten Up Our Parish



As many of you will know, the Parish Council gives a small prize to the households that they consider had the best Christmas Lights displays in Stoke Prior and in Stoke Heath

The council are now considering holding a similar 'competition' in the Summer for what they consider to be the 'Most Colourful Front Garden' in each of the above. As with the Christmas Lights there is no requirement to register, the Councillors will select the winners during July with the two winning householders receiving their prize in August

Happy Gardening!

COUNCILLORS AND OTHER CONTACTS

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Peter Williams (Chairman)	07970 782690	Planning (Chair), Communications. CPRE and Worcestershire CALC representative
John Ellis (Vice-Chairman)	01527 570287	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Heath recreation area
Diane Brown	01527 821692	Planning, Finance & Resources, Picnic Site, Worcs CALC representative
Jillian Howe	01527 570274	Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee, Liaison with St Michael's and All Angels Church
Susan Abel	07808 053556	Planning, Communications (Chair)
Dean Smith	07956 609500	Planning, Communications
Keith Shakespeare	07808 173400	Finance & Resources
Alyson Jewson	01527 578821	Liaison with Avoncroft Arts Centre
Chris Jewson	01527 578821	Parish Faths Warden
Liz Miller	01527 831942	Planning, Liaison with St Michael's and All Angels Church (bellringing)
Penny Power	07552 604610	
Vacancy		

Parish Clerk	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4NA Tel 01527 757190 E-mail: clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
Assistant Clerk	Stan Petrovic - contact details as above
Parish Website	http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk E-mail: spcac@btinternet.com
Comments and Articles	clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
District Councillors	Malcolm Glass (Conservative) 07791 187901 Mike Thompson (Labour) 07861 739942
County Councillors	Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore (Labour and Co-operative) Tel 07905 612710 E-mail: christopherbloore@hotmail.co.uk