

# Stoke Parish Council

www.STOKE-PC-WORCS.GOV.UK

Issue 2019.2

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - SUMMER

### SUMMERTIME ON THE WORCESTER TO BIRMINGHAM CANAL

A hundred and fifty or so years ago the canal would have been a waterway 'highway' for barges to deliver salt from John Corbett's salt works all over the country. Now cruising for leisure has given it a new lease of life for happy boaters like this one passing the Queens Head



Photograph courtesy of Assistant Clerk

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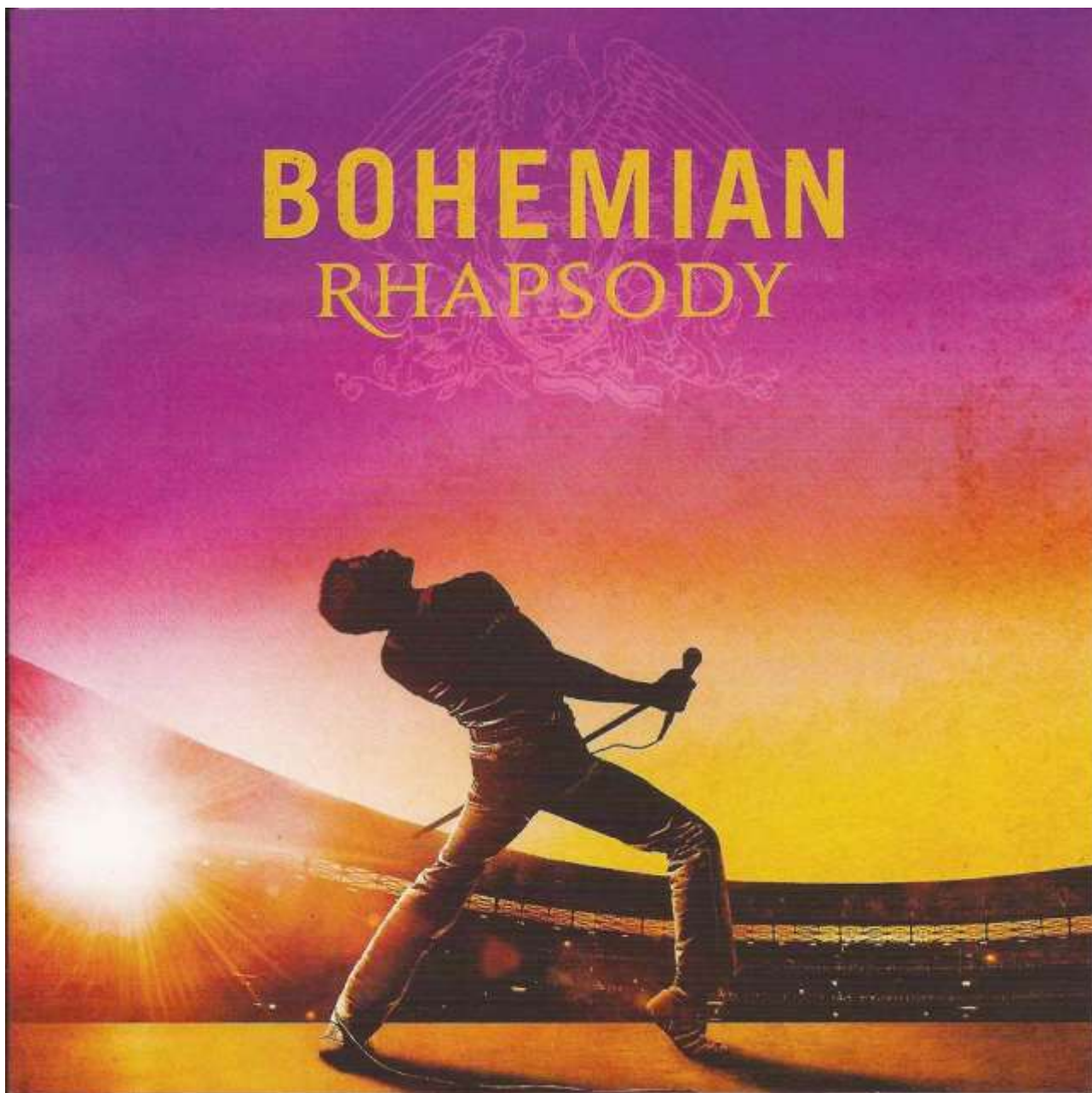
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## 2019 FILM NIGHT

We announced in the previous Newsletter that this years Film Night will be held on **Saturday 31st August**. Following some discussion it has been agreed that the film that is to be shown this year will be **Bohemian Rhapsody**, a dramatized story of how Farrokh Bulsara, now rather better known as Freddy Mercury, rose to become one of the worlds greatest and most flamboyant rock singers.



As we have done the previous two years we will be distributing a flyer with more information regarding the film and its showing at the Stoke Heath Recreation Ground.

Please be aware that this film has been classified 12A, meaning that it is suitable for children aged 12 and over. However, children younger than 12 may see this film provided they are accompanied by an adult, who takes responsibility for allowing a child under 12 to view the film.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from the Parish Clerk

**Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman** - Peter Williams and John Ellis were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2019/20.

**Parish Councillors** - Following the recent parish council elections, twelve Councillors have been elected to represent the parish for the next four years. Among the twelve elected are two new Councillors, namely Alan Bayliss and Jean Jackson. They, together with Alyson and Chris Jewson will represent the residents of Stoke Heath. The Councillors representing Stoke Prior are Sue Abel, Diane Brown, John Ellis, Jill Howe, Liz Miller, Penny Power, Keith Shakespeare and Peter Williams. Contact details for all of the Councillors are set out on the back page of this newsletter.

**Tai Chi Classes at Stoke Heath** - The Parish Council is pleased to again be able to provide Tai Chi classes at the Stoke Heath Recreation Area. Classes are held every Saturday morning starting at 10.30am and are free to all residents, so please go along and enjoy!

**Maintenance of the Parish** - Once again I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of the Parish Council to Chris Cooke, the Parish Lengthsman, and Ian Gerrard who carries out the grounds maintenance across the Parish. Both Chris and Ian work extremely hard throughout the year in helping to keep the area safe and in good order.

**Councillor Jean Jackson** - Jean has kindly provided the following brief resume for this newsletter  
I live in Stoke Heath and took early retirement from a computer company in 2008, commuting from Kings Heath to Bromsgrove to look after my two grandchildren.  
Two years ago I decided to downsize and moved back to Bromsgrove, after over 40 years away, to be closer to my family.  
I am interested in the history of Bromsgrove and am a member of the Bromsgrove Society

**Dogs!** - One issue which seems to never go away is the problems caused by irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after the pets. We continue to do all that we can to deal with this problem and would ask that all dog owners to take responsibility for cleaning up after their dogs and using the waste bins across the Parish. There are a good number of dog bins and waste bins so please make use of them. Let's sort out this problem together for the health and safety of everyone, especially the children in the Parish.

**Parking** - Another issue that many parishioners complain to us about is the increasing amount of parking either partly or even fully on pavements around our parish. We would ask that drivers avoid doing this as it causes problems for those who need to use the pavements such as people with pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Parishioners are advised to Ring 101 to report obstructive or dangerous parking, or parking on single or double yellow lines

**And Finally** - as mentioned in our spring newsletter we are hoping that many of you will be (or have!) planted flowers to brighten up your front gardens. Councillors will be keeping an eye out for the most colourful front gardens in Stoke Prior and Stoke Heath this summer and will provide a prize for the best displays in each of our two Parish Wards

## AVONCROFT ARTS CENTRE

**The previous Newsletter featured a short article about the origins of the Avoncroft Art Society who have now kindly provided us more information about the various groups that they run**

The Arts Centre is positioned on the Redditch Road next to both Avoncroft Museum and also the Bromsgrove Pre-Prep School. Often overlooked this haven of creativity has been serving the artistic needs of the local and surrounding areas for over 70 years.

The organisation that looks after and manages the Arts Centre is Avoncroft Arts Society, run by volunteers and its members, for the benefit of the community as a whole. They are a non-profit making organisation that aims to keep their classes and room hire affordable.

Daytime and evening art classes are run continuously throughout the year by five professional Artist/Tutors with a wide range of qualifications and skills in various mediums and teaching methods. Overall they keep our 13 art classes and their members very busy. Our workshops, annual exhibition and quiz nights are always well attended. There is limited availability on some of our classes now, if you would like to be added to our waiting list for September please contact the centre preferably by e-mail. To join an art class you must be over 18.

### Ceramic classes

On Monday and Tuesday mornings our ceramics classes can be found busy in the pottery at the centre. The centre has it's own kiln which is looked after by Jane McMillan who also provides our History of Art Lectures



### Folk Dance Groups



If you would like to be more active and get your feet tapping why not join the Avoncroft Folk Dancers on Thursday evenings in the Main Hall at the Art Centre.

Nancy Butterfly, a ladies Morris Dance group, meet on Monday evenings in the pottery. <http://www.nancybutterfly.co.uk>

**For more information on our Society, Membership, Availability of Classes and Groups:  
Visit our website: <http://www.avoncroftarts.org.uk>  
Answerphone: 01527 833 829 or Email: [avoncroftarts@btconnect.com](mailto:avoncroftarts@btconnect.com)**

## AVONCROFT ARTS CENTRE (continued)

### Self Help Groups

Embroidery, Sugarcraft, Art textiles and Leisure Painters are all self - taught with members sharing their skills and experience in a friendly amenable setting.

New members are always welcome on these groups who always provide a great display of their work for our exhibitions



### 'A Chance to Sit Outside' Garden Project



This year, with the help of a grant from BDC, Small Grants Scheme, the Brandsford Trust and members fundraising we were able to construct a small sensory garden.

Sited in our Walled Garden the garden enables members to sit outside during tea/coffee breaks or to paint whilst safeguarding the nursery children who also have access to the Garden

### Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

For the younger members of the community we have on site a pre-school nursery. The nursery rents a well equipped classroom and has shared access to our walled garden for outdoor activities.

The photograph shows the children welcoming 'Lilly the Lamb', a visitor from Westcroft Farm.

For more information visit [www.avoncroftpreschoolnursery.co.uk](http://www.avoncroftpreschoolnursery.co.uk)



### Other Activities at the Art Centre

Ladies over 50 can attend one of two keep fit sessions on Monday and Thursday mornings run by HOW college. Or for a gentler activity why not join Jane Bishop and her Yoga group on Monday evenings.

Nichole Harris runs a number of daytime and evening French Language classes from beginners to more advanced.

There is also a well established Verve Kick Boxing group on Wednesday evening and Saturday morning for all age groups.

We also host two Probus groups monthly whilst Bromsgrove Photographic Society meet on Tuesday evenings in the Main Hall and Bromsgrove and District Amateur Radio Club can be found in the Radio Shack

## WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DOES!

We are aware that not everyone in our Parish are clear as to why we have a Parish Council and what the Parish Council actually does. Our Clerk, Neil Gulliver, who has spent many years working in Local Government has therefore provided us with the following summary of the council system and the role that Stoke Parish Council performs in our community.

### **What is a Parish?**

The Parish is an area within a defined boundary, both in civil (administrative) and ecclesiastical (religious) terms

### **What is a Parish Council?**

The Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government. It has little direct power but a reasonable amount of influence. Its main aim is to exert influence on the decisions of the District and County Councils and is consulted on local planning applications, highway/road safety issues, long term planning and wider community involvement strategies. A Parish Council is a local authority whose Councillors are voted on by the electorate in the Parish area and who serve for four years. Stoke Parish has twelve Councillors who are elected to serve and administer on behalf of the residents of the whole Parish. The Parish Councillors determine and set policy to cater for social, cultural, welfare and environmental needs of the Parish. Parish Council Powers are mostly discretionary, i.e. they can be used to as great or as little extent as their community wishes.

All Councillors adhere to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and complete a register of interests.

Planning decisions are taken by Bromsgrove District Council. They provide details of all planning applications relating to Stoke Parish to the Stoke Parish Council for review. They take into account the Parish Council's views and comments on the applications.

### **What other Councils are responsible for Stoke Parish?**

The next tier above Parish Councils is the District Council (Bromsgrove District Council) which covers a much wider area and above them is the County Council (Worcestershire County Council).

### **What can Parish Councils do?**

Parliament has given various powers to Parish Councils. These powers relate to planning, the provision of recreational facilities, community centres and public buildings, crime prevention, community transport, public toilets, tourism, allotments, footpaths, street lighting, certain aspects of highway maintenance, litter, open spaces and traffic calming etc. Parish Council powers have recently been increased and they can also act to represent residents of the Parish on issues such as the Local Plan, problems with highways and bins and with local businesses.

### **Where do Parish Councils get their money?**

The Parish Council sets a budget every year known as the precept. The money is collected for the Council by Bromsgrove District Council through the Council Tax bills. This is paid by the electors in the Parish. The Parish Council may also receive grants and income in other ways. They use this to help improve life for their local community in many ways.

## WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DOES! (continued)

### **What does Stoke Parish Council do?**

As previously mentioned elections to the Parish Council are held every four years.

Stoke Parish Council employs a part-time Clerk and Assistant Clerk to implement their decisions. The Parish Clerk and the Assistant Clerk carry out their duties from the Parish Office and from home. The Parish Council also provides a conduit for complaints regarding overgrown trees, silted up drains, sewerage problems, street lighting, grass verges and street cleansing. They also lobby the District and County Councils for improvements to highways, footpaths and road safety etc.

It is responsible for managing three large open spaces and play areas, street lighting in Stoke Prior, village bus shelters, supporting village organisations, public seating and notice boards etc.

Representation is made to the higher (District, County) local councils where appropriate regarding planning and other matters. It is also able to provide grants to groups within the community.

### **How often does the Parish Council meet?**

The Council meets eleven times a year at the Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre on the first Monday of each month except for August, with Agendas being published in advance on the various Council Noticeboards within the Parish. Parish Council Meetings are open to all members of the public and all meetings commence at 7.30pm. Members of the public who have an issue that they wish to air to the Parish Councillors can speak at the meetings, at the appropriate time.

In addition to the regular Council Meetings the Parish Council are obliged by law to also hold an Annual Parish Assembly that is again open to all members of the public. The Stoke Parish Annual Parish Assembly is normally held in May at the Stoke Prior Village Hall.

### **How do I contact the Council?**

By phone – 01527 757190

By email – [clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk)

### **How do I find out what has been agreed at Parish Council Meetings?**

The Agendas and Minutes of all Parish Council meetings are published on the Parish Council web site. It should be noted that Minutes cannot be published until having been approved (as a true record of the particular meeting) at the following Parish Council meeting.

Over the last year or so we have been making efforts to overhaul and improve the Parish website that now contains, amongst many other things, a specific section called 'Your Council' which has the Agendas and Minutes from Council Meetings dating back to May 2015 and also a Table of all Planning Applications relating to the Stoke Parish, this usually being updated twice a month.

The address of the Parish Website is [www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk](http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk)

We hope that you have found this article helpful, if you have any questions then please contact either the Clerk or Assistant Clerk via phone or e-mail as detailed above

## STOKE PRIOR VILLAGE HALL



**Address and Post Code - Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire B60 4DN**

As many of you will know the village Hall is not owned by the Parish Council but is run by its own Management Committee. Although the Hall has some regular bookings (Girl Guides and a Dance Group for example) it is also available for other functions such as family parties etc.

Over the last year or so Norman Avery who takes the bookings for the Village Hall has overseen many refurbishments that have resulted in it is now having become a far more attractive venue.



**Main Hall**



**Ladies Toilet**

**Bookings - Please phone Norman Avery on [01527 878685](tel:01527878685)**



The Kitchen has a Cooker, Kettles, a Microwave Cooker and a Hot Water Boiler, plus lots of Crockery!



Apart from the above internal amenities the Hall also has a large tarmac car park and a grassy shaded area where children could play (under adult supervision as the main road just beyond the Hall gateway is often extremely busy)



## PARISH WALK - DODDERHILL COMMON & HANBURY HALL

**Quite a strenuous walk particularly up to Hanbury Church. Fine views followed by mature parkland. Boots advisable in wet weather. The route incorporates the waymarked permissive path around Harris Brushworks. The walk distance is 6¾ miles and takes around 3½ hours.**

Parking (roadside) is available near the start of the walk at the Harris Business Park. The Navigation may allow walkers to park but please check. Parking is also available at Pipers Hill/Dodderhill Common, Hanbury Church (donation) and Hanbury Hall. There are five Geocaches on this walk.

**1. Stoke Wharf, Navigation Inn.** Continue along Hanbury Road and over canal bridge (there are refreshments here at the café on the Metal Ores Ind. Estate, open weekdays and Saturday morning). Enter Picnic Site on left and leave following waymarked permissive circular walk around the perimeter of Harris Brushworks. Follow the waymarker signs in a clockwise direction until it joins public footpath on the far side of the Brushworks. Turn right then down steps and alongside building to factory road. Turn left by factory door J up steps. Follow public path alongside fence and then into enclosed path alongside Appletrees. Turn right into Hanbury Road.

**2. Saxon Park Industrial Estate (F/P sign).** After 100 yards turn left into woods by edge of industrial estate. Continue along enclosed path. Go through kissing gate at end of metal fence. Go round the field, keeping alongside the wood and then bearing right alongside a hedge to leave field through a kissing gate onto a farm track. Turn left along the track and follow the hedge line through a kissing gate. Turn left through gate near end of hedge. Cross field diagonally towards house with detached garage and barn, passing through a side gate and kissing gate on to a lawn. Leave lawn by gate with footpath sign (not down driveway).

**3. Westonhall Road.** Cross road and go over stile by gate with footpath sign. Cross stile in railed fence. Go diagonally left across field to double stile with ditch crossing. Follow hedge up field to leave by footpath sign.

**4. Astwood Lane.** Go left along lane for 70 yards. Turn right through kissing gate alongside field gate (F/P sign). Keep hedge on left through two fields. At the end of the hedge line cross a third field to a gate in the opposite hedge. Go half right downhill to second gate by footbridge in small coppice.

**5. Footpath Junction below farm.** Cross the bridge and turn left along enclosed path. Near the end of field turn left over a footbridge and kissing gate. Keep right to double gated ditch crossing in far corner. Go straight on up to kissing gate into Pipers Hill/Dodderhill Common woods. Turn right onto main path, which leads into a drive towards a kissing gate. Continue straight on up the hill to enter the churchyard through a kissing gate.

**6. Hanbury Church.** In marvellous setting with rectory below in the vale. The church has been used for weddings in the 'Archers'. Various memorials to the Vernon family. Go left around the perimeter of the churchyard to Millennium Viewing Point. Continue round the church in a clockwise direction to the main gate into Church Drive to road junction. Turn right for a few yards and left through kissing gate with National Trust sign. Follow path towards parallel line of trees. Go through gate and walk between left hand line of trees. Bear right with trees at a W/M post to join tarmac drive.

**7. Hanbury Hall.** [If visiting Hanbury Hall and Tea Room (National Trust) cross the drive and continue straight on to the main gateway. The reception is by the car park to the left. The Hall is a Wren style brick house completed in 1701, the seat of the Vernon family. Allow 1½ hours for house and grounds. Note the main entrance and car park are accessed from School Road].

About halfway along tarmac drive turn right at W/M post and bear half left across park. Soon after leaving drive, Brick Kiln Pool becomes visible in the dip on the right. Go straight on through kissing gate and keep right of small fenced clump of trees around a pond. Keep well left of Victorian monument to a favourite horse, aiming for two gates in the middle of the far fence

## PARISH WALK (Continued)

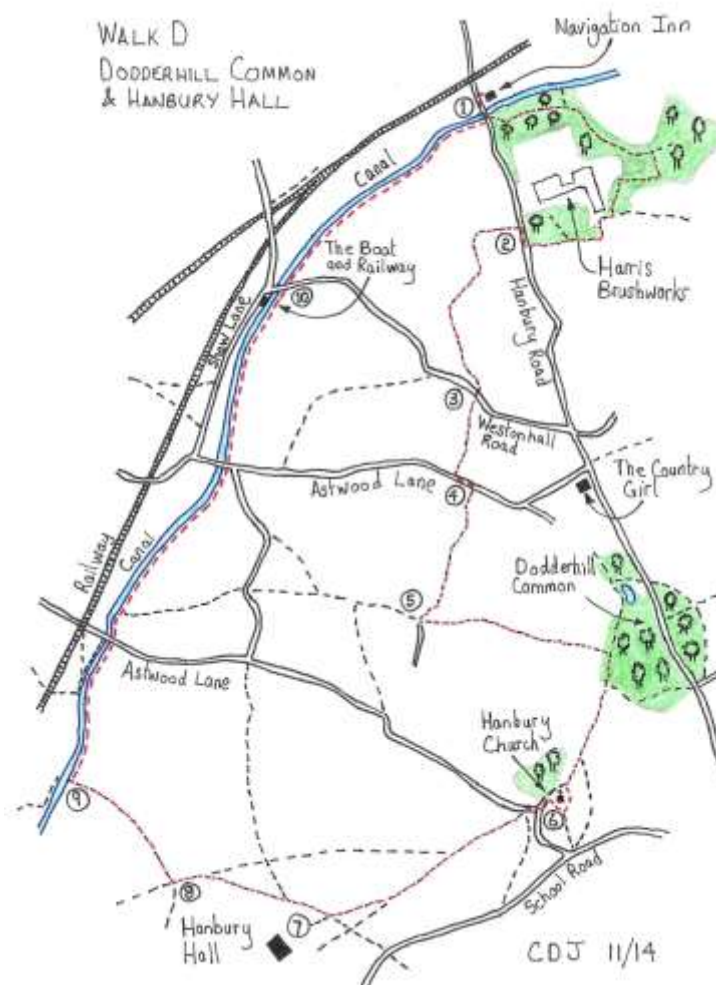
**8. Hanbury Park.** Turn right crossing stile and over a second stile. Cross the field, aiming for stile in fence with single tree alongside. Cross stile and aim for metal footbridge barrier in far corner. Cross bridge and next field to stile at bottom of canal bank.

**9. Astwood Bottom Lock (Lock 17).** Note how the footbridge over the lock was 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. Turn right along towpath. The towpath is not a public right of way but walkers are permitted to use it. Note fine half-timbered building on the left as you approach the road bridge. Continue past lockkeeper's house to Astwood Top Lock (22) - Good views back towards Dodderhill Common. (For Bowling Green and Boat and Railway pubs and the bus, turn left into Astwood Lane and into Shaw Lane. Re-join walk at 10). The former village school on the left just before Stoke Works was built by John Corbett, the Salt King.

**10. Stoke Works.** Leave towpath and go to entrance of the warehouse. This former industrial village was massively developed by John Corbett. A plaque by the Business Park and two information displays outline the story. Some claim it was the largest salt works in Europe. Re-join towpath.

**11. Stoke Wharf.** Cross over bridge to return to the Navigation.

### MAP OF WALK



## 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 6th July 2019  
 No Meeting in August  
 Monday 7th September 2019  
 Monday 5th October 2019  
 Monday 4th November 2019  
 Monday 2nd December 2019

### 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 **10:00am and 1:00pm** 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 also contact the Clerk or the Assistant Clerk on **01527 757190** or email [clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk). If you want to meet the Clerk outside of the above hours, an appointment can be arranged to suit you.

As with the arrangements above for meeting with the Clerk, if any local resident has a particular issue or problem that they wish to discuss with the Chairman, Vice Chairman or their local District Councillor please contact the Parish Office on the number above (answerphone available outside of office hours) to make an appointment

### AND FINALLY . . .

As we constantly remind you, the Parish Council is there to support everyone who lives in the parish but we need your help to know what is going on out there and what you would like to see provided in the parish so please come to our monthly meetings or just call into the office and talk myself or Stan Petrovic, the Assistant Clerk when issues arise. We will always try to resolve problems and issues but if we cannot we will make sure that they are passed to someone who can!

### Foxwalks Farm July 2018 - What will July 2019 bring ?



## COUNCILLORS AND OTHER CONTACTS

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<b>Peter Williams (Chairman)</b>	07970 782690	Planning, Communications. CPRE and Worcestershire CALC representative
<b>John Ellis (Vice-Chairman)</b>	01527 570287	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Heath Recreation Area
<b>Diane Brown</b>	01527 821692	Planning, Finance & Resources, Picnic Site, Worcs CALC representative
<b>Jillian Howe</b>	01527 570274	Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee
<b>Susan Abel</b>	07808 053556	Planning, Communications
<b>Keith Shakespeare</b>	01646 278815	Finance & Resources
<b>Chris Jewson</b>	01527 578821	Parish Footpaths Warden
<b>Liz Miller</b>	01527 831942	Planning
<b>Penny Power</b>	07552 604610	Communications
<b>Alyson Jewson</b>	01527 578821	
<b>Alan Bayliss</b>	07999 835599	
<b>Jean Jackson</b>	01527 328971	

<b>Parish Clerk</b>	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4NA Tel 01527 757190 E-mail: <a href="mailto:clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk">clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Clerk</b>	Stan Petrovic - contact details as above
<b>Parish Council Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk">http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk</a>
<b>Comments and Articles</b>	<a href="mailto:clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk">clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk</a>
<b>District Councillors</b>	Malcolm Glass (Avoncroft) at <a href="mailto:m.glass@bromsgrove.gov.uk">m.glass@bromsgrove.gov.uk</a> Harrison Rone-Clarke (Rock Hill) at <a href="mailto:h.rone-clarke@bromsgrove.gov.uk">h.rone-clarke@bromsgrove.gov.uk</a>
<b>County Councillor</b>	Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore Tel 07905 612710 E-mail <a href="mailto:cbloore@worcestershire.gov.uk">cbloore@worcestershire.gov.uk</a>