

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

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Issue 2016.1

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Christmas may seem a long time ago now but this is my first opportunity to congratulate Mr & Mrs Halfpenny and Mr & Mrs Symonds for their wonderful outdoor Christmas decorations. The Council and I would like to thank them for their efforts and hope that they enjoyed their prizes. See pictures overleaf.

The Christmas Carols in the Park was very successful, even though we had to move to the hall in the Avoncroft Arts Centre due to the inclement weather at the last minute. It was a joyous occasion. Thank you to Revd Gary Crellin for conducting the carol service and entertaining us all, to Pete and Janet O'Connor for the accompanying music, to everyone who helped with the refreshments and to Avoncroft Arts Centre for allowing us use of the hall.

Unfortunately, Ryefield Road Recreation Area has been closed during the past few weeks due to the heavy rainfall. I am hoping this will be resolved by the time you read my Report and the Area will be open for everyone to enjoy.

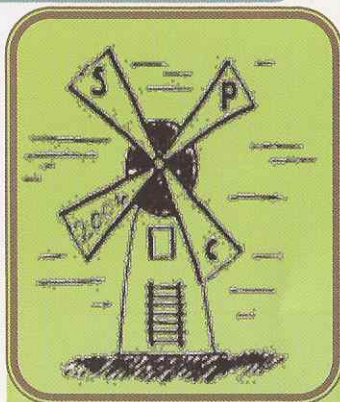
A date for your diary! Sunday 1st May 2016 – 10.00am – 4.00pm - Stoke Parish Council Fete. This will be held at Stoke Heath Recreation Ground. The event is held for the enjoyment and participation of the Parish and we do hope that you can pop along and join us.

There are still vacancies on the Parish Council – If you would like to know more about the role then please contact the Parish Clerk (details below)

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm at Avoncroft Arts Centre and I would like to extend a warm invitation to any members of the public who would like to attend and participate in public question time. If you would like further information then please contact the Parish Clerk, Neil Gulliver on 01527 757190 or 07927 311041 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk

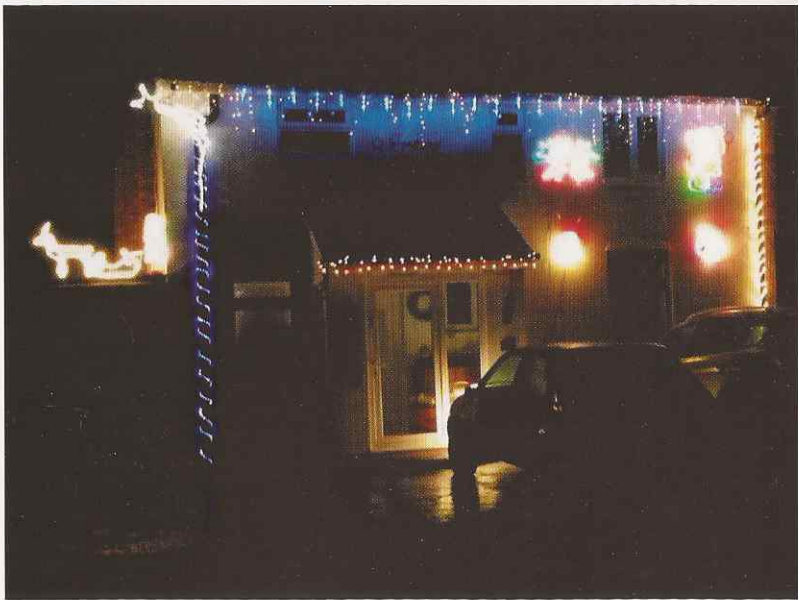
Cllr Peter Williams

Chairman Stoke Parish Council



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St Michael and All Angels Church Tower Appeal

As you may already know, our beautiful Church of St Michael and All Angels is in need of some TLC. The tower is showing significant wear from centuries of rain, wind and sunshine! Without our intervention, there will be a time when we will have to take the decision to close the Church due to safety reasons. We need to raise £150,000 for the repairs to ensure our children and generations to come continue to enjoy this lovely sacred building and its garden.

St Michaels dates back to the 12C and has lots of history including a close connection to the Salt King John Corbett whose grave can be found in the Churchyard. It is a very beautiful building with a lot of special stained glass windows and a peal of 8 bells. Part of the Church yard is a nature reserve being a home for an abundance of wildlife. In the spring the wild flowers are a joy to be seen!

It is the focal point of our Parish and one we must preserve for future generations that will follow us. So with this in mind a Friends Group has been set up especially to raise funds for the Tower Appeal. Friends have put many things in action already and money is coming in. It is heart-warming to see the generosity that is happening.

The Friends will be applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund; collection boxes have been placed around the village; flyers have gone out and posters are up and about with information.

Gift Aid envelopes are available from the Church. These can be posted to Mr G. Stokes, 15 Bredon Rd, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7HD, or put through the letter box of the Rectory on Fish House Lane. If preferred, they can be handed in to any of the Churches of the United Parishes; left in the Church by the donation box or put on the collection plate during a service. Cheques should be made payable to **Stoke Prior Church Tower Restoration Appeal**.

You can make a donation through JustGiving: crowdfunding.justgiving.com/g-stokes

Friends are planning lots of fun fund raising events including a barn dance, Summer Ball, a concert by the Alcester Male Voice Choir at Worcester Cathedral. **The first fun evening (7.30 start) is on Friday 22nd April when Friends will be hosting a Line Dance at Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club. Please come along and join in the fun.**

On behalf of the Friends of St Michael and All Angels please support our fundraising so that this beautiful building and its gardens can remain at the heart of our community. We will keep you updated as to how the appeal is going and with information of forthcoming events. For more information go to www.facebook.com/StokePriorChurchTowerFund

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS



STOKE PARISH FETE

NEW
Crafts Show
in main Hall
Avoncroft Arts Centre

Stage Door Dance Academy

Marching Band

Classic Cars

Children's Funfair

Ferretworld Roadshow

Tombola, Stalls
Bric-a-Brac

Children's Fun Hunt

Hot & Cold Refreshments

Birch Hill Dog Rescue
Fun Dog Show
07747 530622

SUNDAY 1st MAY 2016

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 01527 575 003 - Neil 01527 757 190

NEW

Live Music Bar

EVENING DANCE

7.30PM TILL 11PM

main hall at the Avoncroft Arts Centre

£4 Tickets including Bangers & Mash

NEW

THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR AMEND EVENTS SCHEDULED

SCENES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH FETES



Parish Council News

As we approach the end of the financial year 2015/16, it seems appropriate to look back at what the Parish Council has achieved in that time. It includes:-

- Refurbishment of the play equipment at Ryefields Road Recreation Area. This was a significant investment by the Parish Council which will hopefully be enjoyed by local children once the weather improves.
- Provision of an outdoor gym at Stoke Heath Recreation Area which we know is getting good use.
- Memorial Garden at Stoke Heath Recreation Area to commemorate those who lost their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts.
- Provision of a new handrail for St Michael's Church to help visitors with access.
- New Parish Notice Board in Shaw Lane.
- Increasing the number of flower boxes across the parish.
- Subsidising the annual Parish Fete

As I am sure you will appreciate it is not possible for the Parish Council to make this level of financial commitment every year although they will continue to do all they can to provide the best services to the parish. In 2016/17 it is proposed to provide a new safety surface for the children's play area at Shaw Lane Recreation Area and to refurbish the picnic area at Stoke Wharf.

The Parish Council have also agreed to make a donation towards the St Michael's Church Tower Appeal and to help the Church meet the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

I think special thanks are due to Chris Cooke, the Parish Lengthsman and Ian Gerrard who look after the recreation areas and the flower boxes.

Neil Gulliver

Parish Clerk.

Councillors' Surgeries

May I remind you that Councillor's surgeries continue to take place on the first Saturday of every month at 9.30 am at the Parish Council office at 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Heath. These meetings will be attended by John Ellis, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council together with local District Councillors. These meetings are your opportunity to let us know the issues which affect you.

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council is working very hard to bring you a brand new website which will be available very shortly, hopefully by the end of March. The website address will remain the same, namely www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk.

The aim of the new site is to make it much more interesting and informative while still providing all the important information you need to know about your Parish Council and the parish in general..

Please take a look at the site and let us know what you think.

Dog Fouling

Not a pleasant topic but it is becoming a serious problem across the parish. The Parish Council would ask all dog owners to ensure that they clean up after their dogs and make use of the numerous litter bins and dog waste bins in the area. This is a problem across the whole Bromsgrove area and as a result the District Council are now empowering their officers to issue on the spot fines to anyone seen leaving dog mess on the streets etc and they will be carrying out random visits across the parish.

Avoncroft Arts Society

Avoncroft Arts Society is celebrating its 70th birthday this year. There is to be an Art Exhibition on Saturday 9th July which will showcase the work done by both tutors and members. Please go along and join in with the celebrations. There is ample parking and admission is free. Crafts, refreshments and art work will on sale during the day

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

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

Monday 4 April 2016

Wednesday 11 May 2016 (Annual General Meeting)

Monday 6 June 2016

Monday 4 July 2016

Monday 5 September 2016

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

Peter Williams (Chairman)	07970782690	Planning (Chairman), Communications, Fete Working Group
John Ellis (Vice-Chairman)	01527 570287	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Heath recreation area, CALC representative
Sue Abel	01527 821692	Planning, Communications (Chairman), Fete Working Group
Diane Brown	01527 570274	Planning, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, CALC representative, Picnic Site
Paul Eden	07808053556	Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Shaw Lane recreation area
Jill Howe	07967700145	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group
Jon Miller	01527 575003	Fete Working Group
Keith Shakespeare	01527 759573	Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee
Dean Smith	07970782690	Planning, Communications, CPRE representative
Alyson Jewson	01527 578821	Fete Working Group
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

Parish Clerk	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove Tel 01527 757190 or 07927311041 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	Mike Thompson (Labour) 07861739942 Malcolm Glass (Conservative) 07791187901
County Councillors	Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore (Labour and Co-operative) Tel 07905 612710