

# Stoke Parish Council

www.STOKE-PC-WORCS.GOV.UK

Issue 2017.1

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

### Chairman's Message

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, taking into account the inclement weather – thank you to 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 but we chose a winner for each area (names and photos appear inside the newsletter)

Do you like the daffodils appearing throughout the Parish? Each year we are planting more bulbs so that the displays should get better and better – I do think they look fantastic and mark the beginning of Spring.

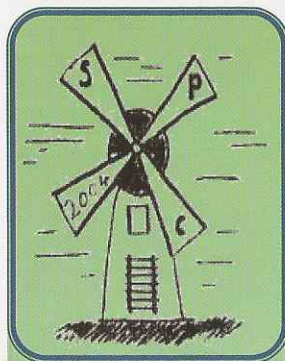
### Date to remember - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The Parish Council, after much discussion have decided that we would try a new venture, to replace the annual fete. Planning is in progress for a 'Film Evening' in Stoke Heath Recreation Ground on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This exciting event will be advertised on the Parish Council website [www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk](http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk), area notice boards, the newsletter and local newspaper. The evening will be a free event and we do hope that you will give your support to this new venture

I would like to invite all parishioners to attend the monthly Council meetings which are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month (except August) to see for themselves what takes place.

If you would like to bring to the Councils attention any concerns you have about your area please do contact the Stoke Parish Council Office on 01527 757 190 or email [clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk)

**Peter Williams**  
Chairman



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## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION 2016 WINNERS

We had an amazing amount of lights to judge from across the parish making it a hard decision, for the 2016 Christmas lights competition. We would like to thank everyone who made an effort and give special thanks to **Oasthouse close** whom we thought were the best lit up road of 2016

### STOKE HEATH WINNER IS 27 OASTHOUSE CLOSE



### STOKE PRIOR WINNER IS 38 WALLS ROAD



Photo's Cllr Chris Jewson

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from the Parish Clerk

As I write this newsletter, we are fast approaching the end of another financial year in which the Parish Council has again been working hard to help provide the necessary services and help for the local community. Whilst we have not been engaged in any major projects this year, we have continued to ensure that all the facilities are kept up to a high standard and properly maintained. I would like to draw your attention to the following:-

- **Parish Lengthsman** – Many of you may not be aware of the sterling work which is done across the parish by our Lengthsman, Chris Cooke. Chris quietly gets on with a great deal of work including ensuring that ditches and gullies are kept clear, road signs are kept clean and functional, ensuring that all minor roads are kept clear and safe for road users as well as being the Council's eyes and ears for any problems across the parish. The Parish Council are extremely grateful for his hard work.
- **Grounds Maintenance** – The Parish Council is particularly proud of how well maintained our recreation areas are and that is due entirely to the hard work of Ian Gerard from IDG Garden Services. Like Chris, Ian is always on the look-out for any problems across the parish which require attention and will go to the trouble of dealing with issues such as fallen trees, overgrown and dangerous hedgerows without hesitation. The Parish Council's work would be a great deal more difficult without the support of Chris and Ian.
- **Bob Hollick** – Bob has helped the Parish Council for a number of years by emptying and maintaining the waste and dog waste bins at the recreation areas and other sites across the parish. Bob is retiring at the end of March 2017 and the Parish Council thank him for his hard work on their behalf.
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – this meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 May 2017 at the Stoke Prior Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm. This meeting will be preceded by the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting which starts at 7pm. Please come along to these meetings to see what the Parish Council and other organisations are doing and it is also an opportunity to raise questions of the parish councillors.

Remember 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 so please come to our meetings or just contact the Parish Clerk when issues arise. We cannot try to solve problems or issues if we don't know about them.

## PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

In the past, the Parish Council has always held surgeries on the first Saturday of each month at the Parish Council office which provided an opportunity for anyone to talk to John Ellis, the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and local District Councillors. Recently we have found that this has become less popular largely in part to other commitments.

It is now proposed not to hold any further surgeries but if any local resident has a particular issue or problem that they wish to discuss with the Parish Clerk, a Parish Councillor or your local District Councillor, please contact the Parish Office on 01527 757190 to make an appointment. Alternatively you could always mail the Parish Clerk at [clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk).



# Salt King 200

12:00 – 17:00, 25 June 2017

Celebrating the 200th anniversary



This project is concerned with celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Corbett, sometimes known as the Salt King, who did so much for Droitwich and the surrounding area (see over).

It is felt that recognition of his contribution to Droitwich Spa and the surrounding area is long overdue and this project proposes holding a family picnic 2017 at which more can be learned about this remarkable man.

The event will increase awareness of his work and legacy whilst providing an afternoon of fun for local people".

## Making it happen

A group of local people, chaired by Barbara Middlemass has started planning the event.

**A picnic!**  
**On Sunday, 25 June 2017**  
**12:00 – 17:00**

The picnic will be held in the grounds of Chateau Impney, the former home of John Corbett. The picnic will be open to all.

## A simple (free) event:

- All are invited to bring their own food & drink;
- Local history and community groups are invited to shed light on the life and legacy of John Corbett;
- There will be opportunities for local organisations to highlight aspects of John Corbett's life and legacy
- No commercial activities will be allowed at the event, however, Chateau Impney have offered to put on a pig roast and offer some refreshments;
- includes a Corbett walk in the morning, and the church bells will be ringing.
- Some simple entertainment (stocks, wet sponge, etc.) will be provided for children.

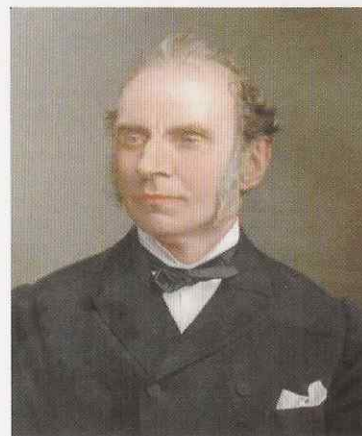


## Further information

For more information, please contact the project chair person, Barbara Middlemass on 01905 451722 or email: [bardomid@btinternet.com](mailto:bardomid@btinternet.com) (see also Facebook group: [Droitwich Spa Salt King 200](#)).

# John Corbett

- The "SALT King" -



John Corbett was born in Gas Street, The Delph, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire; in June 1817 (he died on 22 April 1901).

John became a wealthy industrialist and has strong associations with Droitwich, having been elected at the 1874 general election as Member of Parliament for Droitwich, and was re-elected at three subsequent general elections.

John Corbett helped to make the area famous for its salt and brine Baths.

John spent much of his wealth in philanthropic work in and around Droitwich.

He opened Lido Park for the well-being of the town's population, built hotels, built Hospitals, built Salter's Hall (now the Library), and paid for the re-building of Droitwich railway station.

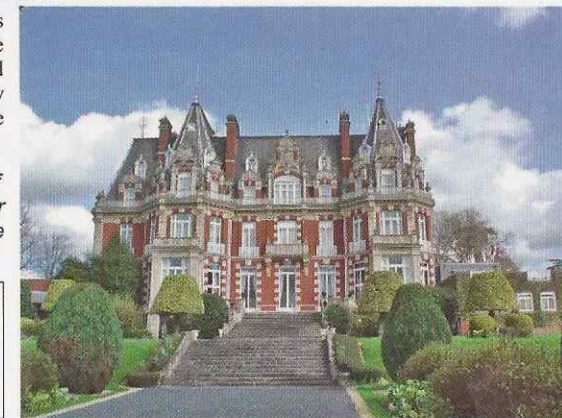
He turned Droitwich from a dirty industrial town into a Spa Town where people could appreciate the health giving aspects of the brine baths.

He also funded the Corbett Hospital in Amblecote, Stourbridge and made numerous other gifts far and wide including the rebuilding of the church at Stoke Prior.

During his lifetime, John Corbett allowed the townfolk of Droitwich and visitors to the Brine Baths, every Wednesday, to picnic in his parkland.

It is felt that recognition of his contribution to Droitwich and the surrounding area is long overdue and this project proposes to hold a family picnic 2017 at which more can be learned about this remarkable man.

*We are indebted to the owners of the Chateau Impney Hotel for allowing this activity to take place in their grounds.*



## - JOIN US -

Ring Barbara Middlemass on  
**01905 451722** or email  
[bardomid@btinternet.com](mailto:bardomid@btinternet.com)  
if you wish to participate.

12:00 – 17:00, 25 June 2017

## THE JOHN CORBETT WAY

Probably more than anyone else The Salt King changed the character and landscape of both Stoke and Droitwich. The Way starts at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath, (close to one of his matrimonial homes at Stoke Grange), past Stoke Prior Church where is buried, through Stoke Works, where his fortune was made, on to Wychbold with its Almshouses, then alongside his magnificent Chateau Impney and finally into Droitwich finishing at the Heritage Centre in the town centre.

The walk is a seven and half mile linear walk and takes approximately 6 hours to complete at a steady pace. The walk includes 8 gates and stiles on the main route or 16 gates and stiles in total if you use the alternative route. A leaflet on the walk is available from local libraries, the Droitwich Heritage Centre of the Parish Clerk. Alternatively the walk can be broken down into three sections as follows:-

Section 1 – Avoncroft Arts Centre to Stoke Works – Easy, no stiles. Reasonable footwear. About 2 miles.

Section 2 – Stoke Works to Wychbold Crown or Upton Warren- Corbett Almshouses – Relatively easy. Stiles. May need boots, especially on alternative walk around the Nature Reserve after very wet weather.

Section 3 – Wychbold Crown to Droitwich – The path to Rashwood Farm has ladder stiles which can be avoided by keeping to the A38 past the Robin Hood and taking a bridleway on the left. Shoes. About 3 miles.

For more information, please visit Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre, Victoria Square, Droitwich WR9 8DS or email: [heritage@droitwichspa.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@droitwichspa.gov.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

As you will know from previous issues of this newsletter, the Parish Council has been very keen to establish a new website which is easy for you to use, provides a wide range of local information alongside keeping you informed about what the Parish Council is up to. That new website is now up and running and I hope you will agree that it is looking fresh and interesting despite the lack of content as I write this. However a great deal of work is going on behind the scenes to get both parish council matters loaded together with information about other local organisations and events to provide you with a really informative website.

Any organisations who want to advertise what they do or upcoming events please let me know and I will see if the website is able to help with promotion.

As the website grows over the coming months, if you have ideas about the type of information you would like to see on the website please let me know. Remember this website is there to keep you informed about the parish and is not just about the Parish Council.

Neil Gulliver  
Parish Clerk

## FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Monday 3 April 2017

Wednesday 3 May 2017 (Annual General Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Meeting – This meeting starts at 7pm and takes place at Stoke Prior Village Hall)

Monday 5 June 2017

Monday 3 July 2017

All meetings except May 2017 will take place at Avoncroft Arts Centre at 7.30pm



# CONTACTS

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<b>Peter Williams</b> (Chairman)	07970782690	Planning (Chairman), Communications, Fete Working Group,
<b>John Ellis</b> (Vice-Chairman)	01527 570287	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Stoke Heath recreation area, Worcs CALC representative
<b>Diane Brown</b>	01527 821692	Planning, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Picnic Site, Worcs CALC representative
<b>Jillian Howe</b>	01527 570274	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group
<b>Susan Abel</b>	07808053556	Planning, Communications (Chairman), Fete Working Group
<b>Dean Smith</b>	07956609500	Planning, Communications, Fete Working Group, CPRE representative
<b>Keith Shakespeare</b>	07801922860	Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group (Lead), Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee
<b>Paul Eden</b>	01527 759573	Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Stoke Works recreation area
<b>Alyson Jewson</b>	01527 578821	Fete Working Group
<b>Chris Jewson</b>	01527 578821	Parish Footpaths Officer, Fete Working Group
<b>Liz Eden</b>	01517 759573	Fete Working Group,
<b>Liz Miller</b>		Fete Working Group

<b>Parish Clerk</b>	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4NA Tel 01527 757190 E-mail: clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
<b>Parish Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk">http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk</a>
<b>Comments and Articles</b>	clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
<b>District Councillors</b>	Malcolm Glass (Conservative) 07791 187901 Mike Thompson (Labour) 07861 739942
<b>County Councillors</b>	Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore (Labour and Co-operative) Tel 07905 612710 E-mail christopherbloore@hotmail.co.uk