

Stoke Parish Council

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Issue 2017.2

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

Chairman's Message

I was very pleased to be re-elected in May to serve as Chairman of Stoke Parish Council. I have enjoyed the last 3 years and will continue to work for the interest of the Parish.

This year Stoke Parish Council would like to invite you to an **'OUTDOOR FILM NIGHT'** on Saturday 15th July 2017. The venue is Stoke Heath Recreation Ground (Hanbury Turn Junction). The film starts at 8.30pm but you are most welcome to set up your gazebos, camping chairs etc in time for the start. The main thing is to make sure you bring a camping chair and loads of warm clothing. It is surprising how cold you can get when sat still – so blankets and sleeping bags make for a much more comfortable experience. In addition to this, you may like to bring a picnic, a bottle of wine, some nibbles and a hot flask can make all the difference and don't forget a torch for on the way home!

Featured Film – *La La Land* 12A

Struggling actress Mia (Emma Stone) and aspiring jazz pianist Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) begin a whirlwind romance as they both pursue their dreams in Los Angeles. However, their blossoming relationship is challenged when their careers pull them in different directions.

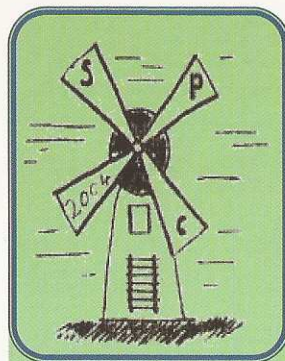
FREE ADMISSION - Parking available at: Bromsgrove School and Avoncroft Arts Centre

For more information visit: <https://www.skylightcinema.co.uk> or contact Neil Gulliver (Clerk) on 01527 757 190

Back to business! The Parish Council are struggling to gain information from our District and County Councillors despite numerous attempts. We have not seen a District or County Councillor at our monthly meetings for several months. We do understand that life can get hectic but we would appreciate even an email with a brief update on what is happening at District and Council level so that the information can be shared at the Parish Council Meetings.

Defibrillators have been ordered and are to be installed, one in the Ryefield Road area outside the Parish Office and the other at Avoncroft Museum.

An update will be available at the next Parish Council Meeting on 3rd July from Barrett Homes on the Polymer Latex development.



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The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm at Avoncroft 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 757 190 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk

Thank you

Cllr Peter Williams
Chairman Stoke Parish Council

June 2017



DIARY OF A COUNTRY CHURCH

Dear Friends,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Magdala and I am the church spire you see as you drive along the Hanbury Road. I watch over the church yard of St Michael and All Angels, Stoke Prior. My churchyard changes with the seasons, I watch people come and go. Many just coming to see these old stones, some just to walk their dogs. I help you celebrate your weddings and baptisms with my bells but stand in solemnity when you come to say good-bye to your loved ones.

By now you probably all know I'm having a few problems with my ancient stones which require some urgent attention. However to my delight a group of people came together to see what they could do to help me in my hour of need. The Friends of Stoke Prior Tower have been working hard on my behalf to raise the funds required for my repairs. In just eighteen months they have managed to raise over £42,000!!

I know isn't that amazing and I know a few of you have helped along the way, either by attending the wonderful events in my honour or kindly donating to my cause.

Well, so much has happened in the last few months, where do I start. This year has seen a table top sale in February which was very successful. With fifteen tables and lots of visitors it was a fun afternoon. In fact, following feedback, there will be another table top sale on the 19th August.

This was followed by a Valentine's dance. The food was superb, setting the scene for a delightful evening of dancing and singing to the live music.

March saw yet another successful event by way of a Barn Dance. A very popular event with a lovely caller and lots of dancing, for everyone to take part in.

In April there was a history talk by the Reverend. Wyn. The Boat and Railway held events to raise money for national and local charities and included me in their nominations. A successful line dance at the Stoke Prior Social Club completed April's activities.

May saw the Alcester Male Voice Choir performing at Worcester Cathedral. Oh What a Night to quote the famous pop song. This event sent ripples of enjoyment that seemed to last for days. It raised an amazing £5000.

In June there was a repeat of the history talk. You really should go, it's so interesting and I've learnt so much about myself.

Forthcoming events include a Luxury (seated) BBQ and Pimms afternoon on July 23rd; a coach trip to Weston Super Mare on the 2nd August, (tickets can be purchased from Stoke Prior Post Office). As already mentioned there is a Table Top sale on 19th August in Stoke Prior Village Hall; a further history talk is planned with the date to be confirmed in September and on the 1st October there will be a musical afternoon held here at St Michael and All Angels.

I understand from the Friends of the Tower my application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been submitted, so we are just awaiting their adjudication. Whilst this application could help us, we cannot sit on our laurels. We have to continue with our fundraising. So watch noticeboards and listen for notices over the coming months for further activities.

Your help and support is so appreciated. Through our events we are reaching out beyond our parish and making new friends all the time. What a benefit this is proving to be. To hear of so many people enjoying fellowship and pleasure means the world to me. When you joined me on this journey I never expected to have so many events to support me in my hour of need. I never expected to make so many new friends and hear my church's name called far and wide. It warms the stones and limestone of this great tower to see how far we reaching and receiving in return.

Thank you, thank you and thank you. Keep up the good work and I look forward to meeting new friends and old over the coming months.

My private health care fund is a long way from what is needed to start my journey back to full recovery. If you can help for the first time or again please, can you send your donation to Gary Stokes, 15 Bredon Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7HD. There are gift aid envelopes inside my church.

Did I say thank you?

God Bless you all,

Magdala

Outdoor Film Night

**** Featured Film ****

La La Land

12A

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDMf9m7FXd4>

Saturday 15th July 2017

Film Starting Time: 8.30pm

Film length 2hr 8 min

Venue: Stoke Heath Recreation Ground

(Hanbury Turn Junction)

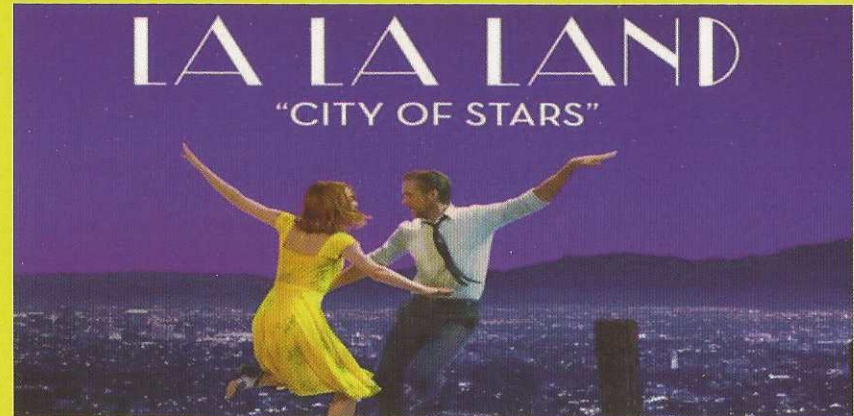
Parking available at:

Bromsgrove School and Avoncroft Arts Centre

Stoke Parish Council would like to invite you to a Film Night featuring

La La Land

Struggling actress Mia (Emma Stone) and aspiring jazz pianist Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) begin a whirlwind romance as they both pursue their dreams in Los Angeles. However, their blossoming relationship is challenged when their careers pull them in different directions.



The main thing is to make sure you bring a camping chair and loads of warm clothing. It is surprising how cold you can get when sat still - so blankets and sleeping bags make for a much more comfortable experience. In addition to this, you may like to bring a picnic, a bottle of wine, some nibbles and a hot flask can make all the difference.

FREE ADMISSION

For more information visit:

<https://www.skylightcinema.co.uk> or

contact Neil Gulliver (Clerk) on 01527 757 190

Parish Council News from the Parish Clerk

What has been happening since the last newsletter?

Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman – Peter Williams and John Ellis were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2017/18.

Defibrillators – The Parish Council has agreed to purchase 2 defibrillators to be located in the parish. One defibrillator will be sited outside the Parish Office in Ryefields Road. The second one will hopefully be sited at the Avoncroft Arts Society. This is subject to the final agreement of the Avoncroft Arts Society. Both machines will be easy to use with clear instructions. The Parish Council believes that they are vital equipment for any local community.

Ryefields Road Recreation Area – The Parish Council is aware that this is a large area of land in the heart of the Stoke Prior part of the parish which is not being used to its full potential. As residents will be aware, the Parish Council did spend a significant amount of money improving the children's play equipment two years ago. However they are aware that there is nothing for older children and are looking at what they can do to improve this situation.

The Parish Council has considered a number of options such as a skateboard park, agility equipment or even a multi use games area. Before we take any project forward, we would like to know the thoughts of local residents about what improvements they would like to see at this site. At the end of the day, this is your site so please let us know what you think. You can contact the Parish Council on 01527 757190 or email the Clerk at clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk.

The Parish Council is also looking to improve the site by providing picnic benches and proper waste bins to try and make the site more user friendly.

Stoke Heath Recreation Area – The Parish Council has recently had the Recreation Area inspected by RoSPA and a number of issues relating the children's play area have been identified. Work will start shortly to get all the equipment in this area up to the required safety standard.

CCTV – The Parish Council is considering the possibility of introducing CCTV cameras to cover the Stoke Heath Recreation Area with a view to making it a safer area for users. This possible project is very much at the preliminary stage and the Parish Council will seek advice from the police and other experts before taking the project forward. The Parish Council is very conscious of the need to safeguard local residents but does not want to be seen as acting as 'big brother'. If you have any views on this idea, please let the Parish Clerk know.

As I keep reminding 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 talk to the Parish Clerk when issues arise. We cannot try to solve problems and issues or provide the right services without your help.

Neil Gulliver

Parish Clerk, Stoke Parish Council

01527 757 190 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk

TIA CHI CLASSES AT STOKE HEATH

The Parish Council is again supporting the Tai Chi classes at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The classes will begin on Saturday 22nd July 2017 starting at 10.30am.

These classes are free to all residents so go along and enjoy!



Parish Council Office and Surgeries

The Parish Council Office opening times are changing. The Office will now be open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays each week between the hours of **10am and 1pm**. If you need to contact Neil Gulliver, the Parish Clerk outside of these hours, please telephone **07927 311041** or **leave a message at the office on 01527 757190**. Equally if you want to meet the Clerk outside of these hours, an appointment can be arranged to suit you.

As you will know, the monthly surgeries are no longer held with John Ellis, the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and local District Councillors. As with the above arrangements for meeting with the Clerk, if any local resident has a particular issue or problem that they wish to discuss with a Parish Councillor or your local District Councillor, again please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment. Alternatively you could always mail the Parish Clerk at clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

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

Monday 3 July 2017

Monday 4 September 2017

Monday 2 October 2017

Monday 6 October 2017

Monday 4 December 2017

All meetings will take place at Avoncroft Arts Centre starting at 7.30pm. The December 2017 meeting will start at 7.00pm.

Contacts

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Peter Williams (Chairman)	07970782690	Planning (Chairman), Communications,
John Ellis (Vice-Chairman)	01527 570287	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Heath recreation area, Worcs CALC representative
Diane Brown	01527 821692	Planning, Finance & Resources, Picnic Site, Worcs CALC representative
Jillian Howe	01527 570274	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources,
Susan Abel	07808053556	Planning, Communications (Chairman),
Dean Smith	07956609500	Planning, Communications, CPRE representative
Keith Shakespeare	07808173400	Finance & Resources,
Paul Eden	07801922860	Finance & Resources, Stoke Works recreation area
Alyson Jewson	01527 578821	
Chris Jewson	01527 578821	Parish Footpaths Officer,
Liz Eden	07803764360	
Liz Miller	01527 831942	

Parish Clerk	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Rye-fields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4NA Tel 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	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