

Stoke Parish Council

www.STOKE-PC-WORCS.GOV.UK

Issue 2020.1

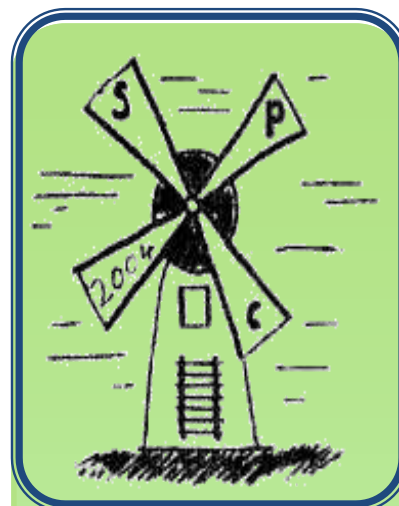
PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - SPRING

THE STOKE WORKS CHIMNEY

The Stoke Works salt works chimney commemorated by this stained glass window in Stoke Prior Church was 309 feet tall and stood for 121 years, from 1836 to 1957



Photograph courtesy of Cllr Jill Howe



Inside this issue:

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	2
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS	3
XMAS LIGHTS WINNERS	4
OUR PARISH IN FOCUS	5
OUR PARISH IN FOCUS (continued)	6
WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CARERS	7
WALK - FINSTALL AND- STOKE PRIOR	8
WALK (continued)	9
WALK (continued)	10
PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION	11
PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE AND CONTACTS	12

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Chairman's Report – January 2020

The issue of dog fouling within Stoke Heath and Stoke Prior is becoming intolerable.

Dog waste bins are provided throughout the Parish so there is no excuse for not cleaning up after your dog.

If you see any dog walkers who do not clean up after their dog please report it. You can either call Bromsgrove Council on 01527 881188 or if you are not comfortable with calling them directly please do contact your local Parish Council Office by telephone on 01527 757190 or by email to clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk or visit the Parish Office at 17B Ryefield Road (next to the Capelli Hair Studio), Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, B60 4NA

Date to Remember

Film Evening – Saturday 5th September 2020

Following the continued success of the 'Film Evening' the Parish Council will be organising another night this year. If you have a film request, please text me on 07970 782690 with your suggestion.

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

SMARTWATER

FREE FREE SmartWater

A FREE SmartWater Kit for every home, anywhere in Stoke Parish
SmartWater is an easy-to-apply unique forensic coding system for your valuables.

The Council will have a stand at this year's Easter Model Collectors Show at the Stoke Prior Sports and Social Club where residents of Stoke Parish can collect their free SmartWater.

Please remember that if you wish to collect your SmartWater you will need to bring **proof of your name and address**, such as a **Driving Licence** or a **Utility or Council Tax Bill** that has your name and address on it



EASTER MODEL & COLLECTORS SHOW
STOKE PRIOR SPORTS & COUNTRY CLUB
11th, 12th & 13th April 2020
Gates Open 10:00am Daily
Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior, off Hanbury Road, (B4091) Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4AL

Vintage & Classic Cars, Motorbikes, Miniature Steam Engines, Commercial Vehicles, Fair Organs, Children's Fairground Ride, Tractors, Stationary Engines, Displays, Trade Stalls, Bar & Refreshments.

CHILDREN'S BUNNY HUNT & EASTER BONNET PARADE
on Monday 13th April

INDOOR MODEL RAILWAYS & DISPLAYS

ADMISSION	DIRECTIONS	CONTACT
Adults - £5.00	M5 Jct. 5:	07803 764 360
OAP - £4.00	A38 to Bromsgrove:	07808 173 400
Child (5-15) - £2.00	or	
FREE CAR PARKING	M5 Jct 4, A 38 Bromsgrove By Pass.	Find us on Facebook

www.shakespearesrally.com
THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR AMEND EVENTS SCHEDULED

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. The major project this year has been the distribution of **FREE SmartWater** which is referred to in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter. This is a massive task so please look out for the special events over the coming months where you can collect yours or just call into the Parish Office to collect it. Other than this we have not been engaged in any other major projects this year but have continued to ensure that all the facilities that we have in the Parish are kept up to a high standard and properly maintained.

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 Gerard, who carries out the grounds maintenance across the Parish. Both Chris and Ian work extremely hard throughout the year in helping to keep the Parish safe and in good order.

As the Chairman has already highlighted the issue of dealing with dog mess continues to be a major problem and it has got to be sorted out. The Parish Council will be looking to work with the District Council to find ways to combat this problem. It is not only on our playing fields and streets but also other areas such as Avoncroft Cricket Club who seem to have a growing problem on their ground. **Please remember this is not just an antisocial littering problem but is also a serious health risk to YOUR CHILDREN!**

Just one pile of dog mess can contain a million roundworm eggs. In humans this can lead to stomach upsets, throat infections, asthma and in some cases blindness. Over 100 cases of partial blindness in children are seen every year due to *toxocara canis* eggs in dog faeces

Where was the Stoke Works 'Big Chimney'?

You will have seen the picture on the cover of this Newsletter of the stained glass window in the church that depicts the chimney that was once a famous landmark in our Parish.

Many people have in the past asked where the chimney was located so we have included the picture below, showing it was close to Westonhall Road near where the main entrance to the Henbrook Gardens estate that now occupies the site that was then the Salt Works and later Polymer Latex is situated.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WINNERS FOR 2019

The winners of the 'best Christmas lights competition for Stoke Heath and the other 'Stokes' are as follows, the residents of each house concerned will receive a £30 Gift Voucher

Stoke Heath - 10 Dark Lane



The 'other Stokes' - 46a Foley Gardens



OUR PARISH IN FOCUS

Most people like to take photos, whether it is of family and friends, pets and gardens or of our surrounding area. You may have a large DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera or a point and shoot, or you may even still be using a film camera. And most of us have mobile phones these days that can take very good quality pictures, with the plus side that we nearly always have them with us should a photo opportunity occur.

Whatever type of camera you have we are certainly very lucky in our Parish with its range of differing areas, often within walking distance, that offer many opportunities for a good photograph, such as the following for example.

In Stoke Prior there are the wharf and canal, which is a great place to see the barges in all their bright colours making their way through the beautiful countryside



The canal is also ideal for landscape shots and lovely walks along the tow path. We have a wonderful family of swans currently living on the canal and they can be seen most days along with other ducks, geese and possibly the odd heron.

Then we also have St Michael's, our beautiful Church. Inside is a great place to capture the colour from the stained glass windows and the majestic arches and columns



Outside there is an abundance of wild flowers in Spring, including Snowdrops, Bluebells, Primroses, Anemones and Crocus to name but a few. And if you are patient there is also lots of wildlife to photograph in the Churchyard.

We also have the River Salwarpe, which runs through a large part of our Parish, with its surrounding habitats which are abundant with wildlife such as Egrets, Roe Deer and Muntjack, woodpeckers and Buzzards etc not to mention the large fish to be seen swimming in it.

OUR PARISH IN FOCUS (continued)

At Stoke Heath we have the Avoncroft Museum, with its very photogenic windmill and many other lovely buildings which are great to use as backdrops. Also from the top of the hill there are wonderful views of the surrounding countryside.



There is also the park and many pretty gardens in the Stoke Heath area that offer opportunities to photograph bird life if you have feeders in your garden.

Not far away we have Dodderhill Common which is perfect for Autumn shots with fungi and beautiful colours all year round. Very photogenic with Hanbury Church in the background.



So get out with your cameras, buy cheap ones for your children and grandchildren, they will love it, and you won't need to go far to get some fabulous pictures. One last thing, remember to print them out or get them printed at Boots or by one of the online businesses that specialise in this and put them in an album, so many pictures get left on computers these days and forgotten!

An earlier version of this article was written by Cllr Jill Howe for the Community Link. Jill has now rewritten it and provided all of the photographs, for which she holds the Copyright

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CARERS

Do you look after a family member or friend who needs help or support due to illness, age, disability or addiction? Then you are a carer and we are here to support you.

We know that being a carer can be an incredibly rewarding experience but we also know it isn't always the easiest role and requires a great deal of time, energy and devotion.

Worcestershire Association of Carers (WAC) is a countywide organisation that was established over 20 years ago to offer an independent source of information, advice and guidance for the 63,000 unpaid adult carers in Worcestershire. WAC provides representation for carers at a local and national level and support carers to have a voice in decisions that affect them.

Our friendly and experienced team is here to help you. We offer practical and emotional support services to help you in your caring role. Because we work with a wide network of organisations and charities, if we can't help with a specific problem we know someone who can !

We offer:

Our helpline: **0300 012 4272** . Open 9am -7pm Mon-Fri and 9am – 12pm Saturdays for information, advice and support.

Carer pathway advisors to support you in your caring role

Practical training and information sessions on various aspects of caring

Legal and financial sessions

Information guides and factsheets

Wellbeing sessions

Dedicated website full of information and advice at www.carerswocs.org.uk

Carers magazine

Carer support groups

Carers Emergency Card

Opportunities for respite and to meet other carers

If you would like to register with us you can call us on **0300 012 4272** or visit us online at www.carersworcs.org.uk and click the 'self referral' button at the top of the page.



PARISH WALK - FINSTALL AND STOKE PRIOR

Although the walk starts at Bromsgrove Station it quickly runs into the lovely countryside of Finstall and Stoke Prior parishes. The Queens Head Pub is a good alternative place to start if you wish to avoid the station. Boots are advisable except in driest weather.

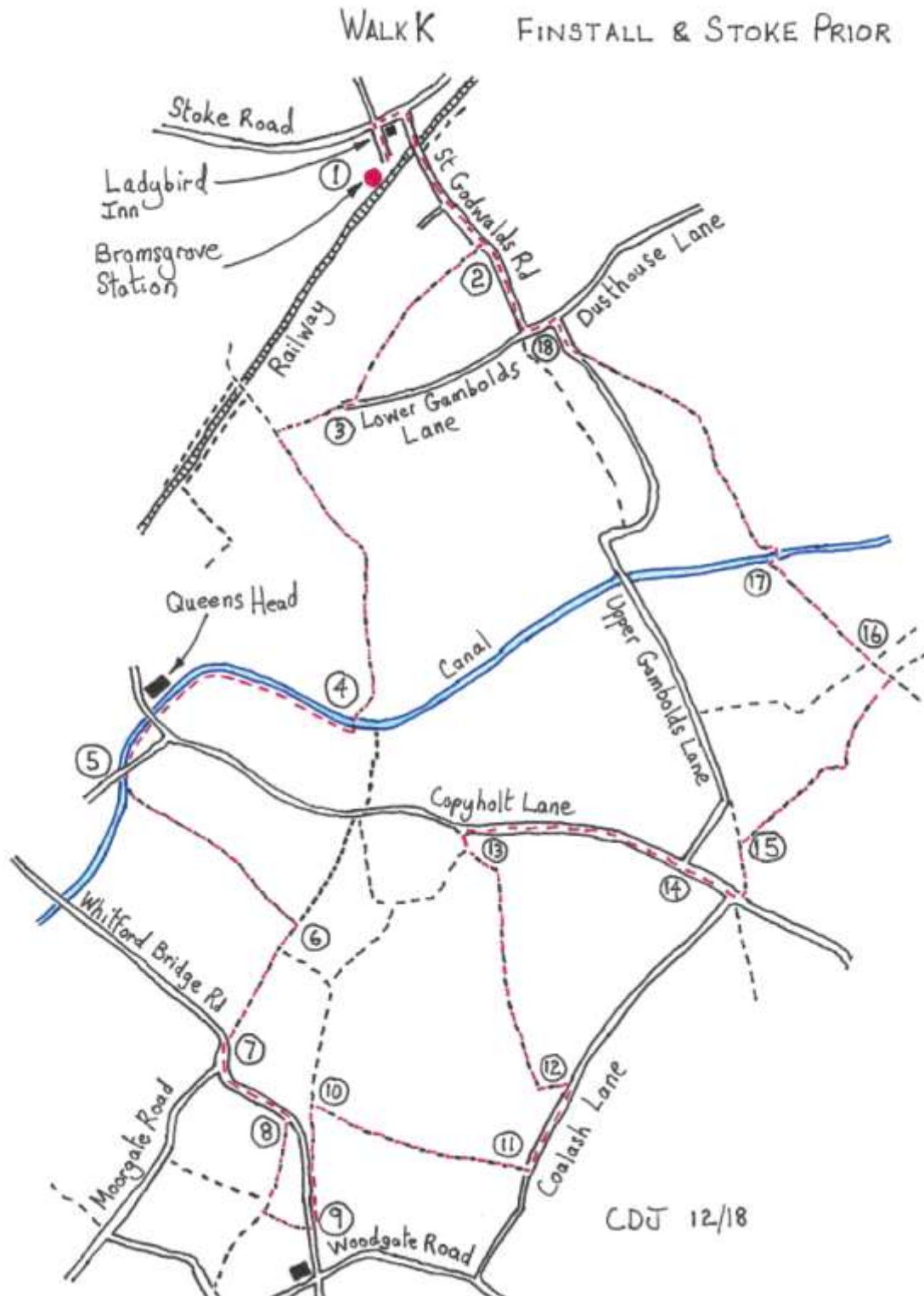
Parking is available at the start of the walk in the station car park (pay and display). The Queens Head pub may allow walkers to park but please check.

The walk is around 6¾ miles and should take around 2½-3 hours.

- 1. Bromsgrove Station** - Turn right by the Ladybird Inn and Lodge into Finstall Road and right again into St Godwalds Road by the Fish and Chip shop. Cross the railway at the start of the Lickey Incline that is at 1 in 37 the steepest on a mainline in Britain.
- 2. Bromsgrove Sports Club** - Turn right just before the Club entrance along the enclosed track. Continue straight through the gate and housing estate. Note the railway related theme to the road names. Go through another gate onto a path running at the side of playing fields. Cross a footbridge just behind the all-weather pitch and follow path to reach lane.
- 3. Lower Gambolds Lane** - Turn right past Maidsmere Cottage, go through gate, keep straight on to kissing gate. Turn left onto path coming up from Aston Fields and the railway. Go uphill alongside hedge to kissing gate and diagonally left uphill to gate by field junction. Cross farm track and second gate with hedge on left hand and covered reservoir to right. Go through gate in corner of field and go slightly right to another gate to reach canal and footbridge across the lock.
- 4. Worcester and Birmingham Canal** - Lock 33. Turn right along the tow path and go past the Tardebigge flight bottom lock and the Queens Head canal side pub.
- 5. Thompsons Bridge** - Bridge 47. Turn left through the gap in hedge immediately under the bridge. Bear right along track and through kissing gate. Turn left and aim for the gate at the far left hand corner of the field. Continue straight on keeping the hedge line to your left and go over the ditch crossing with double kissing gate.
- 6. Footpath Junction** - Turn right and keep alongside hedge. Go through left hand of two field gates just before farm buildings. Keep alongside farmhouse fence to gate in corner of field by electricity pole (F/P sign).
- 7. Whitford Bridge Road** - Turn left and keep left at Moorgate Road junction.
- 8. Orchard Cottage** - Turn right at F/P sign; go through gate into garden and cross brick and wooden bridges to exit garden. Cross field slightly left to reach stile by bungalow. Go through Willows garden and continue through driveway gate and turn left across footbridge. Follow the enclosed path to Steppingly Cottage.
- 9. Woodgate** - Turn left into Whitford Bridge Road for a second time, then over a stile on right (F/P sign). Keep virtually parallel with road over stile to footbridge in hedge.

PARISH WALK (continued)

MAP OF WALK



Details of the walk continue on the next page

PARISH WALK (continued)

10. Orchard Farm - Go through kissing gate in field corner and turn right across concrete slab ditch crossing. Keep alongside hedge and through two gates. Continue in straight line across next field to footbridge and gate almost at end of opposite hedge. Continue straight along the hedge line on your right to reach roadside kissing gate and ditch crossing.

11. Coalash Lane (F/P sign) - Turn left along lane.

12. Springfields (F/P sign) - Turn left onto enclosed path to stile. Bear left across field to stile in opposite fence close to copse. Still bear slightly left to stile in opposite corner then follow field edge straight on. Turn left across stile in top corner and then half right to tractor track down to metal gate. (F/P sign)

13. Copyholt Lane - Turn right past Oakdene and Yew Tree Farm.

14. Upper Gambolds Junction - Keep straight on past black and white house. Just past Coalash Lane junction turn left through gate (F/P sign) along track through copse. Cross footbridge and go down small bank to footbridge virtually opposite behind some trees.

Note: sometimes the route over the footbridge can be completely overgrown at both ends but the ditch can be easily forded just to the left of the bridge.

15. Footbridge - Turn right alongside a ditch for a few yards then straight to stile in opposite hedge. Keep straight on to another stile in opposite hedge. Continue uphill across next field until gate by cattle trough in hedge is visible. Turn left alongside hedge to barns.

16 Patchett's Farm - Go straight on through double metal gates at side of barn and towards electricity pole until gate at bottom end of field becomes visible. Go down wooded bank to the footbridge and left through gate. Head to kissing gate in top left corner of field. Go through gate up to towpath.

17. Worcester and Birmingham Canal - Cross Bridge 52 and turn left after gate. Turn right after next gate along field edge. Go through gate and down field keeping hedge on right to gate in corner. Fine views of Bromsgrove. Continue straight on past electricity pole to kissing gate. Keep straight on down farm track to reach Upper Gambolds Lane (F/P sign).

18 Finch End House - Turn left into Dusthouse Lane, then right into St Godwalds Road past Primrose Hospice.

19. Bromsgrove Sports Club - Continue as before back to the start point

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will meet at 7.30pm at Avoncroft Arts Centre on the following dates over the next four months of 2020:

Wednesday 13th May 2020*
Monday 1st June 2020
Monday 6th July 2020
No Meeting in August
Monday 7th September 2020

* The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at Stoke Prior Village Hall, followed by the May Council Meeting
on
Wednesday 13th May 2020

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE AND CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Office based at 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior will usually be open to the public on Monday to Thursday mornings as follows 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

Mondays normally between **10:00am and 1:00pm**
Tuesdays normally between **9:00am and 12:00 noon**
Wednesdays normally between **10:00am and 1:00pm**
Thursdays normally between **9:00am and 12:00 noon**

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.

LATEST NEWS

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 call into the office and talk to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk (Monday to Thursday)

COUNCILLORS AND OTHER CONTACTS

12

Peter Williams (Chairman)	07970 782690	Planning (Chairman), Communications. CPRE and Worcestershire CALC representative
John Ellis (Vice-Chairman)	01527 570289	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Heath Recreation Area
Diane Brown	01527 821692	Planning, Finance & Resources, Worcestershire CALC representative, Picnic Site
Jillian Howe	01527 570274	Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee
Susan Abel	07808 053556	Planning, Communications (Chairman)
Chris Jewson	01527 578821	Parish Footpaths Warden
Liz Miller	01527 831942	Planning
Liz Eden	07803 764360	Communications
Alyson Jewson	01527 578821	
Alan Bayliss	07999 835599	
Jean Jackson	01527 328971	
Rory Shannon	07527 724088	

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	Contact details as above
Parish Council Website	http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
Website Comments and Articles	spcasstclerk@hotmail.com
District Councillors	Malcolm Glass (Avoncroft) at m.glass@bromsgrove.gov.uk Harrison Rone-Clarke (Rock Hill) at h.rone-clarke@bromsgrove.gov.uk
County Councillor	Bromsgrove South Division Kyle Daisley Tel 07722 241335 E-mail kdaisley@worcestershire.gov.uk