

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

December 2025 article for inclusion within Kempsey Times

Parish Councillors joined residents at St Denys Church Severn Stoke for the Sunday Remembrance Service on 9th November. Your parish clerk attended the similar service at St Marys Kempsey. At both events everyone joined to gently begin the shift of focus from living veterans to instead sharing stories and reflections and to commemorate those who continue to serve in modern conflicts. Thank you to our lengthsman and residents who helped to get the Severn Stoke war memorial spick and span in readiness.

We have recently had a spot of wet and windy weather, and everyone has hopefully stayed dry. Thank you to all residents for keeping the parish council informed of each and every individual situation – how close the waters got, which roads were beginning to flood, locations that needed additional signage, and where trees and branches had come down. We really appreciate the information and try to act upon it as fast we can. We have a Flood Action Plan that we work through to alert the higher authorities when needed and we cannot do this without the support of residents – so thank you. If you would like a copy of our plan or would like your name and phone number added to it in readiness for a flood emergency within the parish, please contact the parish council on 07950 256363.

The parish clerk has had a few communications about fireworks over the past month. For many pet owners, fireworks are a source of significant stress and fear for their animals, leading to calls for stricter regulations. For others, fireworks are enjoyable family time, a beloved tradition and a matter of freedom of choice. The parish council cannot enforce the law regarding fireworks – which can be found on the .gov website. The Government has recently responded to a petition calling for the ban on sales of fireworks with a statement that they intend to minimise the negative impact of fireworks and to support their considerate use. Social media is often used to vent frustration, but this can often only escalate the conflict and dig everyone's heels in. It is more effective to use social media and routes such as this news article to raise positive awareness and to encourage residents to advise their neighbours when they are planning a fireworks event. While no firework is completely silent, there is now a wide range of low-noise options that focus on the visual element of sparks and colour.

At the time of writing (20th Nov) Malvern Hills District Council has not yet published specific 2025 Christmas bin collection dates. The district council will post the updated schedule on its website, in the local press, or via its e-newsletter. If you need help or information with your waste and recycling collections that you cannot find on the district council website then please call the district council on 01684 862490 between 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday or email depotadmin@malvern hills.gov.uk

Please consider joining our parish council in the New Year. We have seats ready and available for immediate co-option. We are a lovely little council that is continuing to slowly make a difference – even more so as Devolution progresses. The job is as involved or light touch as anyone wishes to make it – the workload falls on the team not the individual. A warm welcome awaits. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our residents.

NEXT MEETING of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council: dates to be decided – most likely 28th January 2026, 7.30pm – Croome National Trust Visitor Centre SOQ room. Parish Council Clerk, Lisa Stevens, T: 07950256363, E: parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk
Your councillors are Richard Hill, Laurence Freeman, Ian Daly, Laura McEwan-Hill, Pat Preston & Raymond Williams. We have 5 vacancies for immediate co-option.