

May 2023

Kieran Gillingham is Bishopstoke's first Champion

Bishopstoke Parish Council is delighted to announce its first ever Bishopstoke Champion Award to **Kieran Gillingham**. Kieran works for the Environment Agency and has gained a wealth of knowledge about the River Itchen – the river that is such a major feature of Bishopstoke. One of the nominees recently said “Kieran willingly goes over and above his duties, by volunteering as a bailiff on the Itchen Navigation and he has set up The Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust to help protect this wonderful river.”



Kieran is pictured here with Pam Glasspool (left) who introduced Kieran at the Bishopstoke Parish Assembly on Tuesday 9th May and explained why he was nominated as a Bishopstoke Champion. Louise Hillier-Wheal (right) presented the award on behalf of Bishopstoke Parish Council.

Many people from the community have witnessed the amount of voluntary work that Kieran puts into caring for our local waterways and the surrounding countryside and its wildlife. Here are some words from a few of them:

“Kieran is a marvellous human being. It was my pleasure to work with him on the Itchen dog step conservation project with Hampshire open water swimmers. He gave up so much of his free time to advise us and to dig chalk! He is so knowledgeable about the river, and it has helped to inspire a culture of caring for the river.” *Rachel*

“He works really hard to connect different groups, who are interested in the river, so that as a community we can seek to protect this precious environmental resource. His people skills, diplomacy, and his passion for wildlife and the environment benefit us all, and in particular the community of Bishopstoke.” *Ellie*

“Kieran is an incredible champion of Bishopstoke because of the work he does for the Itchen river. He gives of his own free time to organise a group of volunteers to keep an eye on the river and make sure it’s as good as it can be for all of us.” *Sam*

Coronation Big Lunch

As part of the Coronation celebrations in honour of His Majesty, King Charles III, Bishopstoke Carnival organised a Big Lunch and Sports Day on Sunday May 7th. We were joined by almost 100 residents including members of 7th Eastleigh 2nd Fair Oak Beavers group, local families, PCSOs and Bishopstoke Parish Councillors.

Everyone was encouraged to bring their own picnic, and activities included egg and spoon racing, sack racing, croquet, welly wanging, three-legged racing and hook-a-duck! Throughout the afternoon around 100 residents took advantage of the free entertainment and the sunshine. Bishopstoke Parish Council Vice Chair Louise Hillier-Wheal said “It’s really gratifying to see so many people enjoying this fantastic free afternoon”. We look to holding similar events again.

Bishopstoke Parish Council Grants – Victim Support

The first grant of the new financial year went to Victim Support. £150 was given to purchase security items that are provided free of charge to victims and their families such as personal alarms and small security items for the home. The Council regularly gives grants to Victim Support and was pleased to be able to help again this year.

Parish Assembly

The annual Bishopstoke Parish Assembly took place on Tuesday May 9th. The meeting started with a brief speech from the Acting Chair in the absence of Council Chair Ray Dean, followed by a presentation of the audited accounts.

There then followed an illustrated presentation by Catharine Gale from Hampshire Swifts. Catharine focussed on the plight of swifts in the UK and what we can all do to help them. Swifts are the fastest bird in level flight, travelling at around 69 miles per hour. But their nesting sites are fast disappearing and Hampshire Swifts are encouraging people to install swift birdboxes on their homes. For more information you can find Hampshire Swifts at www.hampshireswifts.co.uk, or on Twitter at @HampshireSwifts.

The Assembly was then topped off with the presentation of the first ever Bishopstoke Champion award to Kieran Gillingham (See above).

A new team in charge

Congratulations to our new Chair – Louise Hillier-Wheal (pictured above), and Vice Chair – Geoff Harris, on their elections at the annual meeting of Bishopstoke Parish Council which also took place on Tuesday 9th May. After their elections the Council went on to approve the audited

accounts for the year, appoint members to the various Committees and Working Groups and conduct the various other business of the Parish Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th July at 7.30pm and will take place in Bishopstoke Methodist Church. For further details or information about anything the Parish Council does please visit the Parish website.

*For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk: David Wheal
by email: clerk@bishopstokepc.org
or visit the Parish website at: www.bishopstokepc.org*