Bishopstoke Parish Council
Listening to you

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BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Autumn Newsletter 2026



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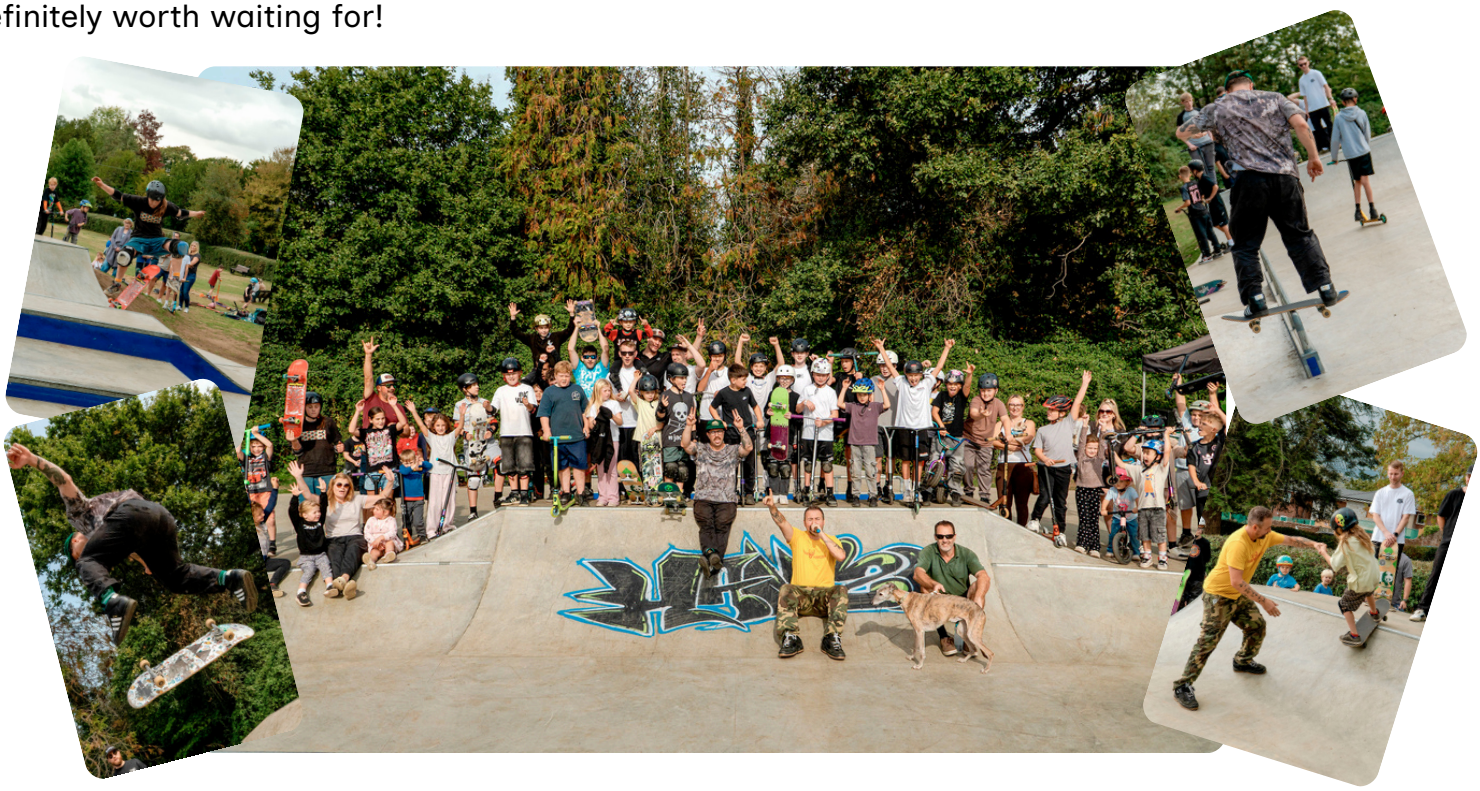
Welcome to the autumn edition of the Newsletter. It has been a busy summer here at the Parish Council. Read all about the new Wheels Park, the Community Events that have taken place over the summer months and, in the middle of a heatwave, we have been making plans for Christmas. Happy reading!

If you know someone who would like this Newsletter in a larger print, please contact admin@bishopstokepc.org

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

WHEELS PARK GRAND OPENING

It was great to see so many of you at the official opening event for the new Wheels Park at Glebe Meadow. It had been opened for use a couple of weeks before but the opening event was definitely worth waiting for!



We would like to thank Maverick for all of their amazing help and advice at all stages of this process. We would also like to thank all of the local community who came to the consultations and helped with the design of the Wheels Park. All of your support for this project was greatly appreciated.

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PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING

Exciting plans are taking shape for the new community building at Glebe Meadow. We are meeting regularly with architects TKLS to develop a building that Bishopstoke can be proud of - one shaped by the needs of local people and the funding available. The design is progressing well, and several essential surveys have already been completed. Planning and preparation will continue over the coming months as we take the next steps towards bringing this important community project to life.

Keep up with the latest progress by visiting our website or following us on Facebook and Instagram.

NEW PLAY AREA PROPOSALS FOR GLEBE MEADOW

Exciting plans are taking shape for a brand-new play area as part of the Glebe Meadow project. We have received a range of creative proposals designed to provide a fun, welcoming space for local children and families. If you would like to view these proposals, please visit our website: www.bishopstokepc.org/glebe-meadow-play-area

CHRISTMAS IN BISHOPSTOKE

Christmas preparations are already under way at the Parish Council, and we are busy planning this year's festive decorations across the village. Look out for a Christmas tree at Shears Mill, seasonal decorations in the play areas and, if the rumours are true, a sprinkling of magical elf doors appearing in Glebe Meadow as Christmas draws nearer!

We would like to thank Wainwrights Chemist, Mike's Fish and Chips, Ruhi's Premier and Green Smile for generously sponsoring this year's decorations. Once they are in place, we would love to hear what you think—and welcome your ideas for adding even more Christmas sparkle in future years.

PARISH GRANTS

So far in this financial year, the Parish Council has awarded a Grant to:

- **Disability Challengers** - to help fund a day of inclusive play and fun for disabled children from Bishopstoke at Challengers Winchester Playscheme
- **The Empowerment Engine** - to help fund "Not Just Me" an 8 week peer-support and social-advocacy programme for adults who receive a neurodivergent diagnosis later in life.
- **Asian Welfare and Cultural Association** - to help fund the annual Eastleigh Mela.

SAVE THE DATE

BISHOPSTOKE CARNIVAL

Saturday 26th June 2027

SUMMER EVENTS 2026

It has been a busy summer in Bishopstoke! Alongside construction of the new Wheels Park, there has been a packed programme of community events.

Our popular Summer Messy Play sessions made a welcome return, with a different theme for each play area. Children enjoyed construction fun at Glebe Meadow, prehistoric swampy slime at Blackberry Drive, garden magic at Otter Close, and a final adventure featuring pirate ships and treasure at Sayers Road.







On a sunny Thursday in August, Wessex Rivers Trust ran two river-dipping sessions, where people of all ages discovered the remarkable variety of species living in the river, including freshwater shrimp, mayfly nymphs, eels, leeches, bullheads and minnows. The sessions offered an engaging opportunity to learn about a chalk stream's biodiversity and the steps we can all take to protect this precious habitat.







SUMMER EVENTS 2026

The summer concluded with Bishopstoke's first Heritage Open Days events, and it was wonderful to see so many people taking part. Tours of St Mary's Bell Tower were a highlight of the open day at St Mary's Church, while many visitors enjoyed trying handbell ringing after a fabulous performance by the Stoneham Belles.

At Bishopstoke Community Centre, the History of Bishopstoke and Victorian Schools interactive exhibits were also well attended, with visitors delighted to spot themselves and their friends in old school photographs.

We would like to thank Bishopstoke History Society, Hamble Valley Guides, the Revd Richard Wise at St Mary's Church, and all the amazing volunteers who helped make the events so special.















In Bishopstoke, volunteers have been working hard over the past two years, planting trees, growing food in forest gardens and helping to regenerate mown grass verges so they are alive with the buzz of insects, flashes of bright butterflies and more bird song.

We are looking for more volunteers to get involved in creating the green tapestry, either by enhancing your own gardens for wildlife or working together on public open spaces to grow local organic food.

This autumn volunteers are reviving the ancient art of scything grass, a mindful process used to cut hay in years gone by, the cut grass is collected and stored in habitat mounds which replicate traditional haystacks. This process is gentler than mowing and avoids compacting the ground while retaining habitat for our friendly pollinators (such as those below snapped on camera by one of our volunteers, Jon Marks). Meanwhile, other volunteers have been out bat spotting in their neighbourhoods, reaching out for reptiles and learning how to create wildlife friendly forest gardens.

Look out for future volunteer events including immersive nature photography, local foraging and self guided tree trails - as well as greenery popping up in the landscape.

If you would like to join in and help to nurture your neighbourhood, please get in touch...no obligation just fun, food, new friends and enriching experiences await...

General enquiries: TreeandBee@eastleigh.gov.uk
Email: admin@bishopstokepc.org



Lesser marsh Grasshopper (Corthippus albomarginatus)



Hover fly (Sphaerophoria scripta)



Marbled white butterfly (Melangargia galanthea)



Ashy Mining Bee (Andrena Cineraria)

PARISH COUNCILLOR PROFILES

Councillor Sarah Duggan



What made you want to become a Parish Councillor?
I care deeply about Bishopstoke and want to help protect it's character while supporting thoughtful, sustainable development for the future. The village has a strong community spirit and a unique identity and I wanted to play an active role in shaping how it evolves.

What is the best thing about being a Parish Councillor?
The most rewarding part is being able to contribute to positive change in the local area. That includes not only supporting residents but also helping improve services, spaces and the wider environment.

What would you say to anyone who is thinking about becoming a Parish Councillor?
I'd strongly encourage anyone who cares about their community to consider it. You don't need a political background, just a genuine interest in helping to protect the area and making a difference.

Tell us something that people might not know about you?
In my 20's I spent 6 months travelling solo across Europe by motorcycle, an experience that built real independence, resilience and a lifelong love of adventure. I still have that passion for travel, although now it is more about exploring new places abroad with my dogs, and spending time hiking and being outdoors.

Councillor Andy Moore



What made you want to become a Parish Councillor?
Bishopstoke is unique in many ways. It has wonderful woodlands, walks and a fantastic river.The village is steeped in history and there is always a warm welcome from residents.

What is the best thing about being a Parish Councillor?
The most rewarding part of being a Parish Councillor is helping to protect Bishopstoke and shape its future. I enjoy working alongside like-minded fellow councillors, all of whom willingly volunteer their time and experience to serve our community.

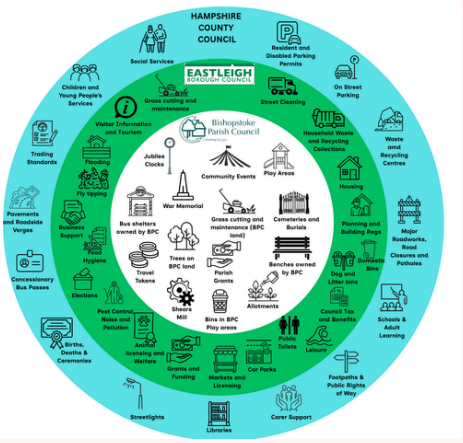
What would you say to anyone who is thinking about becoming a Parish Councillor?
If you have a bit of spare time and like meeting new people, please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. It's interesting and enjoyable and you can make a difference. You don't have to be politically motivated.

Tell us something that people might not know about you?
I enjoy visiting old buildings, church yards and like to learn about local, national and international. A particular interest is World War 2 and General George Patton in particular.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Play Areas

If you spot broken play equipment or another potential issue while visiting any of the play areas in Bishopstoke, please report it through our website. Find the relevant play area under Play and Space, then select Report a Problem. Alternatively, email assets@bishopstokepc.org to report an issue or ask a question about the village play areas.



Who Does What Wheel

On the Home page of our website you can find the Who Does What Wheel (sometimes referred to as a Wheel of Services). It shows which of the local authorities are responsible for what services. As you can see, there is some crossover with services. If you are unsure of which council to contact, we are happy to help. Please email admin@bishopstokepc.org

Travel Tokens

If you, or anyone you know, doesn't have access to a car and struggles to access public transport, you can apply for our Travel Token scheme.
Please visit our website for more information and to download an application form.
www.bishopstokepc.org/travel-tokens

Parish Grants

Could your local charity or community organisation benefit from extra funding? You may be eligible for a grant from Bishopstoke Parish Council. Our grants support projects that improve the lives of people in Bishopstoke and align with the Parish Council's Mission Statement and aims. To find out more about eligibility and how to apply, visit www.bishopstokepc.org/grants.

Are you interested in having an allotment?

If you would like to be put on the waiting list for one of our allotment plots or would like some more information please email
allotments@bishopstokepc.org
or visit our website **www.bishopstokepc.org**