

September 2026

Bishopstoke Celebrates a Summer of Community Events

Bishopstoke's popular Messy Play sessions returned for the 2026 summer holidays with a fresh range of themes. The first session at Glebe Meadow featured construction-themed activities, while children and adults watched the large vehicles at work on the new Wheels Park. At Blackberry Drive play area, families enjoyed prehistoric, swamp-themed fun as dinosaurs roamed and fossils were discovered. The rain stopped just in time for a magical garden session at Otter Close play area, before the programme concluded with pirate adventures at Sayers Road play area, where children dug for treasure, sailed pirate boats and made feathery parrot friends. Feedback was extremely positive, with one attendee saying: "We have been to all the sessions this summer and have had a great time at all of them. Thank you so much!"

Alongside the Messy Play programme, Wessex Rivers Trust hosted two River Dipping sessions in early August. Participants stepped into the River Itchen to discover the wildlife living beneath the surface and were surprised by the variety of species they found, including freshwater shrimp, mayfly nymphs, eels, leeches, bullheads and minnows. The sessions offered an engaging opportunity to learn about the river's biodiversity and the steps everyone can take to protect this precious habitat.

New Wheels Park Opens in Bishopstoke

Bishopstoke's new Wheels Park at Glebe Meadow is now open to the public. Built by Maverick Skateparks, the facility has been completed and approved by RoSPA for safe use. An official opening event, hosted by Maverick, will take place on Saturday 3 October from noon to 4.00pm, featuring music, rider demonstrations, competitions and prizes. People of all ages and users of all types of wheels are welcome to attend.

Bishopstoke Heritage Open Days

Bishopstoke will join the national Heritage Open Days scheme for the first time this September, inviting people to explore the village's history. The Parish Council, Bishopstoke History Society, St Mary's Church and Hamble Valley Guides are presenting two days of talks, displays and access to historic sites.

On Friday 18 September, Bishopstoke History Society will present *The Rise of the Railway*, followed by a short film about the Carriageworks' Second World War secrets.

On Saturday 19 September, St Mary's Church will open for tours, handbell performances and bell-ringing demonstrations, with access to the bell tower. At the BCA, visitors can explore a Victorian school exhibit, a local history display and a children's trail featuring the Titanic, royal visitors and former grand houses. A Parish Council spokesperson said: "We are delighted to join Heritage Open Days and invite people of all ages to discover Bishopstoke's fascinating history."

More information: www.bishopstokepc.org/heritage-open-days.

Improving Access to the New Parish Council Office

Bishopstoke Parish Council's new office at the Sewall Drive allotment site will be opening in the coming weeks. Plans to improve access for all include a separate pedestrian entrance, a fully surfaced path and a handrail along the sloping route. Residents are invited to suggest further accessibility improvements by emailing the Assets Officer at assets@bishopstokepc.org.

Parish Council Address

Please address any post to:
Bishopstoke Parish Council
Sewall Drive
Bishopstoke
Eastleigh
SO50 6JE

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10h November at the new time of 7.15pm and will take place in Bishopstoke Methodist Church. For information about Committee meeting dates, times and locations, and for further details or information about anything the Parish Council does, please visit our website.

*For further information, please contact the Admin and Events Officer, Emma Earl
by email: admin@bishopstokepc.org.
or visit the Parish website at: www.bishopstokepc.org*