BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL
NEWS RELEASE

November 2026

Bishopstoke Marks Remembrance and Armistice Day with Services of Respect and Community

Bishopstoke came together to remember the fallen at the annual Remembrance Service, held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 8th November. Revd Richard Wise led the service, which included a two-minute silence at 11.00am. Cllr Anne Winstanley laid a wreath on behalf of Bishopstoke Parish Council, alongside wreaths from other local groups and societies.

The Armistice Service followed on Wednesday 11th November at the War Memorial on Old St Mary's. Revd Richard Wise, Mr David Brown and Mr Peter Castle from Bishopstoke Methodist Church offered readings and prayers. After a respectful two-minute silence, wreaths were laid by the Royal British Legion, Bishopstoke Parish Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and other local groups and societies.

Following the service, Rachel and Cruz of The Anglers Inn kindly welcomed everyone for tea, coffee and some fabulous cakes. The Parish Council would like to thank them for their generous hospitality.

Parish Council Declines Transfer of Bow Lake Gardens Site

At its Full Council meeting on November 17th Bishopstoke Parish Council discussed the possible transfer of the Bow Lake Gardens site from Eastleigh Borough Council. The site had been intended for allotments and a community orchard, and the Parish Council had previously decided to accept the transfer. However, in recent months the council has assessed the cost of setting up an allotment site at Bow Lake Gardens, the ongoing cost of maintaining the site, and the current waiting list for allotments generally in Bishopstoke and come to the conclusion that a fourth allotment site in Bishopstoke cannot be justified. A detailed explanation of this decision can be found on our website at www.bishopstokepc.org.

At the recent meeting Councillors decided that the focus of Parish Council funds and officer time should be centred on delivering the new community building on Glebe Meadow, and that continuing with the transfer of Bow Lake Gardens would be a drain on both. Accordingly, they agreed to withdraw from the transfer process. The land will remain with Eastleigh Borough Council.

It is hoped that the proposed community garden on one part of the Bow Lake site, which has previously had the support of Eastleigh Borough Council, will still go ahead.

The Council will now move forward on current projects, especially the new Community Building at Glebe Meadow, and on future projects that will benefit the wider population of Bishopstoke.

Spooky Success at Halloween Crafts Session

Bishopstoke Parish Council was delighted to welcome so many people to its Halloween Crafts session at Bishopstoke Community Centre during the October half term. Families chose from a range of spooky activities, including painting a ghastly ghost, weaving a scary spider web, creating a wicked wreath and making a monstrous mask. Participants showed plenty of creative flair, with some even combining crafts to make truly spectacular creations.

Bishopstoke Gets Ready for Christmas with Craft Fayre, Christmas Tree and Snowmen

Bishopstoke Parish Council was delighted to host its second Christmas Craft and Gift Fayre at Bishopstoke Community Centre on a chilly Saturday in November. Visitors enjoyed a wider range of stalls than last year, along with Christmas crafts and the chance to write a letter to Santa and post it in the special post box. The letters will be sent to Santa this week, in plenty of time for Christmas. The Council thanks everyone who came to support local small businesses and charities while making a start on their Christmas shopping in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Christmas decorations will soon be going up in Bishopstoke. For the first time, the Parish Council will put up a Christmas tree at Shears Mill to help put everyone in the Christmas spirit. Amazing snowmen have also been created for the play areas from wood cut down in the local area this year, and the Parish Council thanks Hampshire Heartwood Tree Surgeons for donating and cutting the discs used. There are also rumours of elf doors about to appear in Glebe Meadow. For all the latest elf door news, please visit the Parish Council website or follow it on Facebook and Instagram.

This year's Christmas decorations are made possible by the kind sponsorship of local businesses. The Parish Council would like to thank Green Smile, Mike's Fish and Chips, Ruhi's Premier and Wainwrights Chemist.

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 12th January 2027 at 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