



Bishopstoke Parish Council

Newsletter

Autumn 2023

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Bishopstoke Champion

Bishopstoke Parish Council was 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. Kieran is pictured here with Pam Glasspool (left) who introduced Kieran at the Parish Assembly on Tuesday 9th May and Louise Hillier-Wheal (right) presenting the award on behalf of Bishopstoke Parish Council.



One of the nominators 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.”

Another said “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.”

You can now nominate your 2023-24 Champion – forms are available on the Council website

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

You can find us on www.bishopstokepc.org . We're also on Facebook.
The Parish Office is now closed but appointments can be arranged if needed.

PARISH CLERK: David Wheal 07368 487464 clerk@bishopstokepc.org

ASSISTANT CLERK & RFO: Sophie Thorogood 07444 798083 finance@bishopstokepc.org

CEMETERIES ENQUIRIES: Alex Luck 07368 695648 cemeteries@bishopstokepc.org

Allotments allotments@bishopstokepc.org

Carnival carnival@bishopstokepc.org

Assets assets@bishopstokepc.org

A new home for the War Memorial



The War Memorial, pictured above next to the Memorial Hall, has been taken into storage to keep it safe whilst the Hall is demolished and a new hall is designed and built.

The Parish Council is working with St Mary's Church, the Winchester Diocese, and Eastleigh Borough Council to reinstall the Memorial at a new location across the road on Old St Mary's Churchyard.

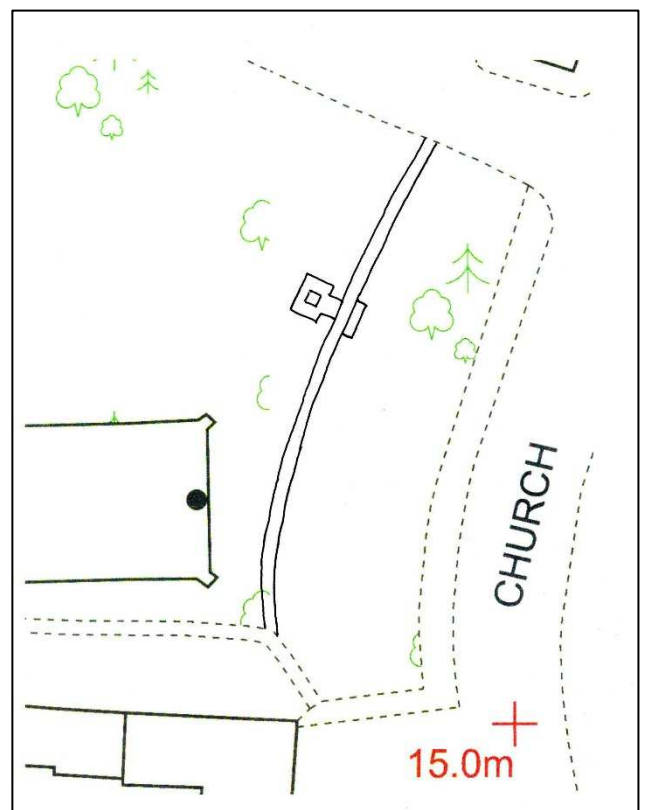


The Churchyard is a quiet, contemplative location which will provide a lovely backdrop to the Armistice service. There is more space for attendees to safely mark the occasion too.

There is an old gravel pathway running across the Churchyard, which you can see going just in front of the bench in the picture below. We would like to reinstate that pathway which joins up with the other path at the entrance by The Coach House.



We are planning to reuse the block paving from the original memorial site to create a path from in front of the plaque wall to, and around, the plinth on which the War Memorial will sit.



The wall with the plaques mounted on it would be located where the bench in the image above currently is. The bench would join the others in between the trees backing onto Oakbank Road.

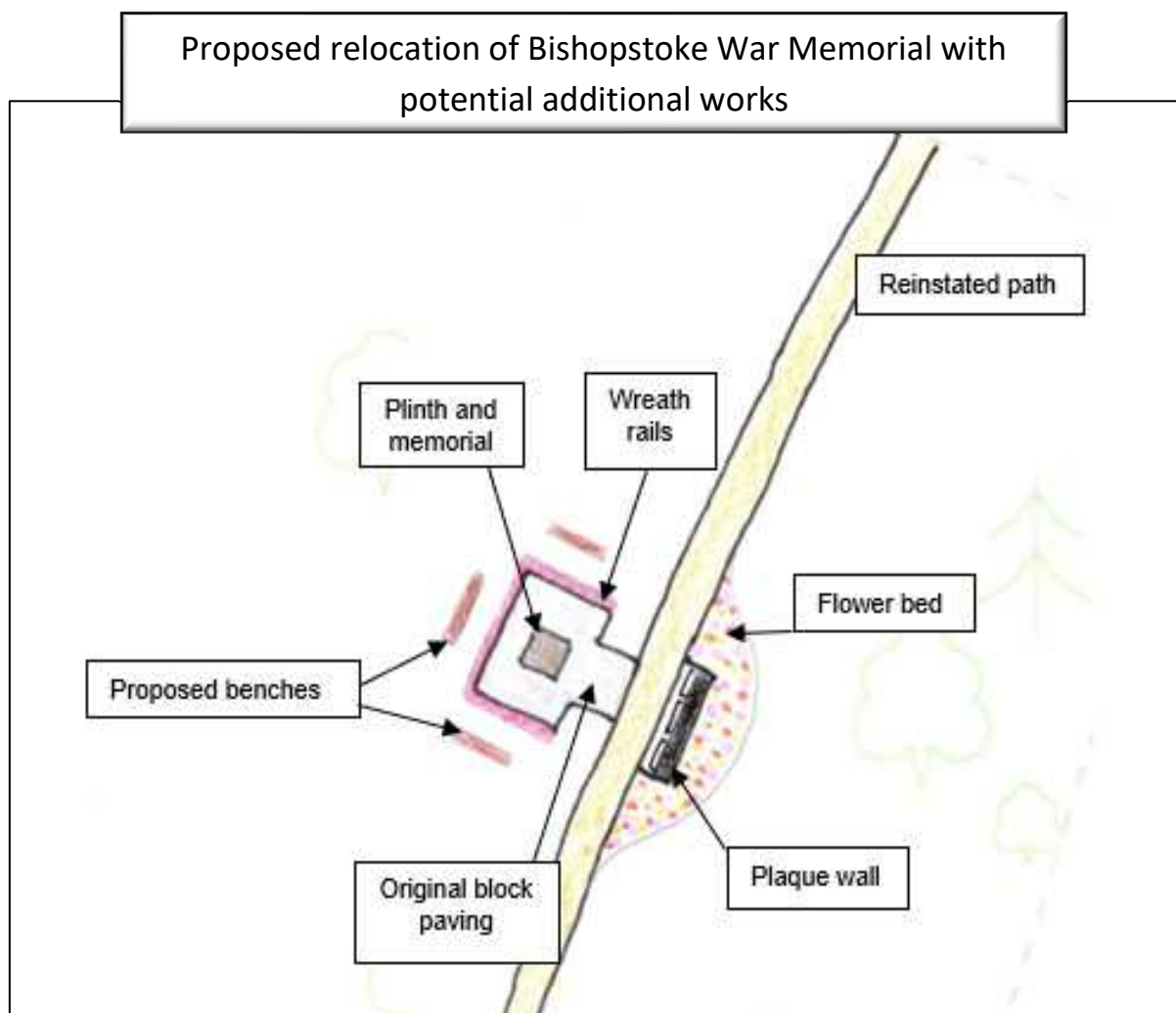
The current plaque wall has rails to store poppy wreaths but these would not be included in the new location as the wreaths can scratch the plaques and obscure the names of the fallen.

We are also hoping to include an area of planting around the sides and back of the plaque wall. We would love to hear people's ideas about what could be planted there to provide not only symbolism but also beauty throughout the year.

The rural setting, in an open Churchyard, with the Itchen Navigation a short distance away, make this an ideal spot to place the War Memorial honouring Bishopstoke's fallen.

There would be new wreath rails on two or three sides of the area around the memorial, with a similar number of benches a short distance away. This would offer increased comfort to those attending the Armistice Day service, but would also provide opportunities throughout the year for anyone to enjoy the peaceful and contemplative nature of the site.

If you have any ideas please do get in touch by emailing clerk@bishopstokepc.org.



Bishopstoke Carnival 2023

Sunday 17th September 2023 from 10am through until 5pm

River Float Competition

Carnival 2023 kicks off on Sunday 17th September with our usual River Float competition. Bring your floats down to the layby next to Bishy Beach any time between 10am and 10:45am. You can then hand your float over to one of our team who will get the float anchored in the river for all to see.



Judging will take place at 11am so make sure you are lined up alongside the railings to see all the floats by then. There is no theme this year but for those needing a little extra inspiration, previous themes have included Eco; Space and Favourite Books.



Rules for Entering

- Base of the float must be no more than 1m by 1m
- Your float must float (by itself!)
- Decorate your float however you like
- Attach rope or string of at least 1m to the corner so we can tie it fast

Floats will be judged on their creativity and build quality, with any ties decided by whichever float has more "WOW" factor.

Please remember to take your floats home with you after the competition is finished

Bishopstoke Carnival 2023

Sunday 17th September 2023 from 10am through until 5pm

Duck Races

This year the duck races have moved to Sunday at Bishy Beach. Now, as soon as the River Floats are done you will be able to buy your tickets for the duck races.



Our intrepid team of water helpers will be laying out a new course for the ducks. They will start at the bridge to Itchen Grange and travel along in front of Bishy Beach . . .



. . . until they reach the finish line where they will be safely gathered in, ready to race again.



Glebe Meadow

As usual, Glebe Meadow will be full of stalls, rides, food, drink, bouncy castles and other exciting things to do and see.

Whether you pop along for half an hour or spend the whole day, we hope you and your family have a fantastic time.



We would like to say thank you to the small, committed group of people who have worked so hard this year to make Carnival happen. There is always room for more volunteers so please, whether you can help out on the day, or whether you can come to the meetings through the year to help plan everything, you will be welcomed with open arms!

Sunday 17th September

10am – River Floats arrive at Bishy Beach

11am – River Float judging

11:15am – Duck Races begin at the Beach

Noon – Glebe Meadow opens

5pm – Stalls close and we tidy up

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 Councillor 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.

Parish Assembly

The annual Bishopstoke Parish Assembly took place on Tuesday May 9th. The meeting started with a brief speech from Acting Chair Louise Hillier-Wheal (shortly before she was elected Chair for the year) followed by a report on the audited accounts.

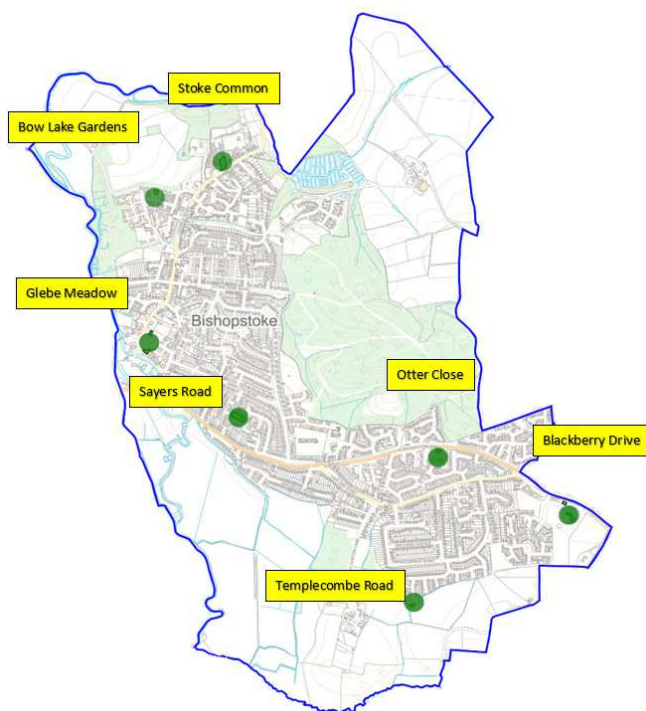
There then followed an illustrated presentation by Catharine Gale from Hampshire Swifts. Catharine focussed on the plight of swifts in the UK and what we can all do to help them. Swifts are the fastest bird in level flight, travelling at around 69 miles per hour. But their nesting sites are fast disappearing 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.



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Play Area Village Trail



This year we are again running the play area village trail. Hidden in each play area is a small plaque with an animal embossed on it. If you can find each animal and write down which play area it is in, you can win a prize. Visit the Parish website for an entry form and get them to us before September 16th as the winning entries are being drawn on Carnival Sunday.

Stoke Common play area

Situated at the top of Church Road this play area features a zip wire, a basket swing, a large climbing frame, toddler swings and a tricky timber trail. There is also a basketball hoop at the far end.

Glebe Meadow play area

Aimed at younger children and located in the bottom corner of Glebe Meadow, this area has a wheelchair accessible roundabout, a large climbing frame and a multiplay unit.

Sayers Road play area

One of our larger play areas with elements suitable for most ages – it has a basket swing, helicopter whirler, long timber trail, climbing frame and a DDA area which includes a wheelchair accessible roundabout and a variety of musical equipment.

Otter Close play area

This play area can be seen as you drive along the main road. It has a mini zipwire, a new timber trail, swings and a trampoline. There is also a big open space area which has a basketball hoop and football goal area.

Templecombe Road play area

Tucked away at the far end of Templecombe Road is a small play area suitable for younger children. It has toddler swings, a low slide and a climbing frame.

Blackberry Drive play area

Opposite the New Clock Inn lies Blackberry Drive and there are several things to do here. There is a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) suitable for basketball and 5-a-side football, there is a small bike track with ramps and jumps, and there is a newly revamped play area with a large climbing frame and various other new equipment. There is also a lot of open space here to play, or walk your dog.

Judges Gully play area

Not yet owned by the Parish Council, this small play area off Bow Lake Gardens has various swings and climbing frames for all.

