

## **Bishopstoke News: Carnival scheduled for September 2023**

After the cancellation of this year's Bishopstoke Carnival following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Council has scheduled next year's Carnival for Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>.

The 2023 Carnival will take place in Glebe Meadow, Church Road. In addition, the Council will be holding a Sports Day on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Blackberry Drive.

The 2022 Carnival was cancelled at short notice as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Many children across Bishopstoke had been working hard on their river floats in school and pre-school so the Carnival team went to visit Stoke Park Junior School and Robin's Nest pre-school. The children explained how they had come up with the ideas for their floats and how they had been made.

Parish Clerk David Wheal said recently "If anyone else made a float for Carnival this year please send a photograph to the Carnival team at the Parish Office. We will still be holding the competition and prizes will be awarded to the best floats. More details about both 2023 events will soon become available on the Parish Council website [www.bishopstokepc.org](http://www.bishopstokepc.org)."

### ***Bishopstoke Champion Award***

The Parish Council is launching a Bishopstoke Champion Award. The Council is looking for a person, or a group of people, deserving the title of Bishopstoke Champion. That could be a person who has championed a worthy cause, someone who has worked hard to make life easy for an individual who finds the going tough, or maybe a group who have done their best to make Bishopstoke a better place to live and work. Keep an eye on the Parish Council website and noticeboards for more information and a nomination form.

### ***A local Nature reserve?***

Bishopstoke Parish Council has agreed to support the Bishopstoke, Fair Oak & Horton Heath Local Area Committee proposal for the land recently acquired by the Borough Council in the south of Bishopstoke to be used to create a nature reserve. The Council agreed that having such a peaceful, beautiful and environmentally friendly place on our doorstep would be a wonderful thing for Bishopstoke and its residents.

### ***Play area village trail success***

The play area village trail was launched this year and was enjoyed by many families. Each play area had a small plaque installed with a creature on it and booklets were handed out at Stoke Park Junior School as well as being available to download. Children filled up their booklets with a pencil rubbing of each plaque and every completed booklet was eligible to enter the prize draw for a family ticket to Intech – the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. The plaques will all go into hibernation for winter but will reappear in the spring for another trail to follow.

### ***Other Bishopstoke news***

*Allotments...* The council has rationalised and rewritten its allotment tenancy agreements, replacing the five different versions currently being used by a single agreement document. And after several years of rent freezes the Council has been forced to raise the fees from £8 per rod to £9 per rod.

*Parish Council audit...* Once again Bishopstoke Parish Council has had its finances approved by the external auditor – PKF Littlejohn. No issues were raised during the audit and the Council received a clean bill of health.

*Next meeting (open to Bishopstoke residents)...* The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. For details of where the meeting will take place and any other information please visit the Parish website.

### **For further information**

*For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk: David Wheal*

*by email: [clerk@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:clerk@bishopstokepc.org)*

*or visit the Parish website at: [www.bishopstokepc.org](http://www.bishopstokepc.org)*