

**November 2023**

## **Parish Council Allotments Officer vacancy**

At their recent meeting, Bishopstoke Parish Council agreed that an additional member of staff is needed to help improve the level of service the Council provides to local residents, and to help the Council cope with recent and expected additional responsibilities.

The Council will be advertising the position of Allotments Officer early in the new year. The new recruit will be expected to manage both the Council's current allotment sites, as well as Sewall Drive and Bow Lake Gardens, when they finally transfer across to the Parish Council.

In addition, the appointed person will be responsible for providing support for Carnival and any other events the Council runs through the year.

If you are interested, keep an eye out on local noticeboards, the Council website, Facebook and other places where local jobs are advertised.

## **Armistice Day service well attended**

This year's Armistice Day service took place at Old St Mary's churchyard which was a beautiful setting for this solemn occasion. Around fifty people gathered to mark the occasion and to lay wreaths at the base of the plaques honouring the fallen. The planned relocation of the actual War Memorial was not able to take place before the service but is expected in the Spring, with next year's Armistice Day being held at the new location.

## **Annual audit passed again**

Bishopstoke Parish Council has once again passed the annual external audit all Parish Councils have to go through. The financial systems of the Council and its general accounting practices are scrutinised through the year and this culminates in an examination of the accounts by an audit company – this year it was BDO. There were no problems raised by the auditors and Bishopstoke has once again been given a clean bill of financial help.

## **Increase in Travel Token Allowance**

The Parish Council provides a travel token service allowing any resident without access to a car who has difficulty using local buses to receive a number of tokens each year which can be used to pay for journeys with Bishopstoke & Fair Oak Good Neighbours, and with participating local taxi companies. The Council is pleased to announce that they are increasing the amount of tokens for the coming year to 132, from 120. Anyone wishing to apply should contact the Clerk or visit the website as detailed below.

## **And Finally . . .**

Anyone thinking about having an allotment in Bishopstoke may not have to wait as long as they think. The current waiting time for an allotment at Underwood Road is under 6 months which means new applicants could well be on their allotment before the summer. If you are interested in finding out more take a look at our website [www.bishopstokepc.org/allotment-information](http://www.bishopstokepc.org/allotment-information).

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm and will take place in Bishopstoke Methodist Church. For further details or information about anything the Parish Council does please visit the Parish website.**

*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)*