

TOWN CRIER



Telephone: 01582 708540
E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

Web: www.houghtonregis.org.uk
Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

Find us on     



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Out Ceremony
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Your 'Town Criers' are still free, delivered straight to your door, You'll disappoint us for sure, if it stays on the floor! So open it up and explore, all the FREE events and more that you don't want to ignore!



Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

Houghton Regis Town Council
Peel Street, Houghton Regis
Bedfordshire LU5 5EY

Telephone: 01582 708540

Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk
Website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

 facebook.com/hrtowncouncil

 pinterest.com/houghtonregistc

 @HRCouncil1

 @HoughtonRegisTC

 Houghton Regis Town Council

Officers:

Clare Evans, Town Clerk	01582 708 542
Debbie Marsh, Head of Corporate Services	01582 708 544
Ian Haynes, Head of Environment & Community Services	01582 708 543
Louise Senior, Head of Democratic Services	01582 708 540

Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward	
Clr Emma Billington	01582 708 540
Clr Edward Costello	01582 708 540
Clr David Jones	01582 708 540
Clr Yvonne Farrell	01582 708 540
Clr Carole Rollins	01582 708 540

Parkside Ward	
Clr Jimmy Carroll	01582 708 540
Clr Pam Burgess	07886 132 780
Clr Netty Batchelor	01582 708 540
Clr Elaine Cooper	07376 583 892

Tithe Farm Ward	
Clr Tracey McMahon	07948 532 662
Clr William Henderson	01582 708 540
Clr Abby Slough	01582 708 540
Clr Chris Slough	01582 708 540
Clr Michelle Herber	01582 708 540

Houghton Regis East	
Clr Chloe Alderman	0300 300 8518
Clr Patrick Hamill	0300 300 8547
Clr Tracey McMahon	0300 300 8856

Houghton Regis West	
Clr Yvonne Farrell	0300 300 8537
Clr Susan Goodchild	0300 300 8525

Mayoral News!

I would like to introduce myself as Councillor Jimmy Carroll and I am proud to represent Houghton Regis as Town Mayor for 23-24.

I have lived in Houghton Regis since 1962, living first in Tithe Farm and then Parkside, where I still live. I have had many local interests over the years, and these have been Scout and Cub Scouts, the Houghton Regis Memorial, and the Houghton Regis Carnival.

The funds that I raise during my Mayoral Year will be kept local, and so far, I have donated money to Friends of Houghton Hall Park, which will go towards creating a children's area within the kitchen garden, where supervised children's activities can take place. Other causes that I am planning to donate funds to are Houghton Regis Heritage Society, and Houghton Regis Children's Centres, but other organisations will be revealed in due course.

As Town Mayor, I have also attended a variety of events within the town, which have included Summer Activities at Bidwell West, a Fun Day at Linmere, events at Houghton Hall Park, and Town Council events. I have enjoyed taking part in the Carnival, and at the time of writing this, am looking forward to attending Houghton Rocks. It is a pleasure too, to meet with Mayors from other towns.

The Town Council has many events planned over the next few months and I look forward to meeting with you at occasions such as the Fireworks Display, Remembrance Services, Christmas Carol Service and Santa's Grotto.

As you will be aware, the new builds throughout Houghton Regis are creating a large new town, which will evolve over time, just as the former Parish of Houghton Regis did in the past. There are new facilities such as the new allotments and the new park area, and there will be a

children's play area to come shortly. As you will read in this edition of the Town Crier, there will be new football pitches to accompany the Pavilion development at Tithe Farm. These will help to bring Houghton Regis together as one.

Many archaeological excavations have taken place, with some great finds, but recently up to 25 Mesolithic Pits were found on the Linmere Development! These pits are of national and international importance as they have been dated to between 6 to 8 thousand years old! Up to now, only two Mesolithic Pits have been found in the United Kingdom, one at Stonehouse and the other in the Fife area of Scotland. Houghton Regis has up to 25! The only other area to have a large number of these pits can be found in the South of France. The history books are having to be rewritten as the pits at Linmere have been dated by Oryx bones found in them, and the Oryx has been extinct for some 6 thousand years.

These archaeological finds have only come to light due to new developments and are helping to write a new history for Houghton Regis. We as a town need to promote and keep the Mesolithic Pits as a part of our heritage. Houghton Regis used to be a parish of many Hamlets, and I personally see the town as 'a town of villages'. Each one has its own unique and different communities that are evolving, but I would like to promote 'one Houghton Regis - the town of many villages'.

Do you have an event that you would like to invite the Town Mayor to attend?

If so, please contact Sarah Gelsthorp, Civic and Events Manager on 01582 708 523 or email mayor@houghtonregis.org.uk



www.houghtonregis.org.uk

Tithe Farm – Sports & Youth Project

Work has been progressing well on the new sports and community pavilion on Tithe Farm recreation ground. The development is on track to complete by end of October. There may be a slight delay in UKPN connecting power to the site, but we are working hard to keep this possible delay to a minimum.

If it hasn't started already at

the time of circulation of this newsletter, work is imminent on the All Weather pitch. This is a 3-4 month build project.

All being well, both pavilion and pitch will be up and running in early 2024.

The Bedfordshire Football Association can't wait to get started managing the facility and

bringing new grass roots football opportunities to existing and new local clubs and teams.

And the Council's newly expanded youth team can't wait to start delivering activities and sessions for young people. Planning is underway to develop a full and varied programme... Watch this space for more details.



May 2023



June 2023



July 2023



Aug 2023

ALL RETIRED RESIDENTS WELCOME

Time for Tea & a Treat

Enjoy a change of scenery, FREE tea & a treat along with conversation and laughter.

1st Tuesday of every month
11am - 12.30pm

3rd October 2023
 7th November 2023
 "December Special" (to be confirmed)
 2nd January 2024

Houghton Regis Town Council Offices
Peel Street

Make new friends!

For more information please contact:
 Tara Earnshaw - Houghton Regis Town Council
 01582 708 540

*If transport is a struggle we may be able to assist, please contact the above number for details

Brand New Youth Activities in Houghton Regis!

****Meet the Youth Work Team****
****Take part in activities****
****Help us to plan future activities ****

From September 2023
Every Tuesday 5pm - 7pm at Parkside Rec.
Every Thursday 5pm - 7pm at Tithe Farm Rec.

What's on offer?
 Basketball, Table Tennis, snacks & treats, Skate Jam Competition, five-a-side Football, Rounders, trips and so much more...

All activities are for young people aged 12-18. They are Free (Fully subsidised by Houghton Regis Town Council).

Houghton Regis Town Council

Events Update!

Since the Spring / Summer Town Crier, the Town Council has hosted some fabulous free or low-cost activities for the local community!

The events have included the Easter Egg Hunt, Coronation Celebrations, Houghton Regis Carnival, The Skate Park Event, Open Air Film Screenings, four family fun days, four coach trips, and Houghton Rocks.

We were also pleased to host special events to mark the official opening of the Terra Croft Allotments at Bidwell West and a Topping Out Ceremony for the new Tithe Farm Pavillion, which forms part of the Tithe Farm Sports Project. Both facilities have been in the making for a long time, and it is fantastic to see them both taking shape.

The Later Living Social Group have delivered a 'cuppa and a treat' at Jewels in Bedford Square every month to retired residents, a VIP lunch at the King's Coronation celebrations, hosted a stall at the Health and Wellbeing event, and two coach trips. Towards the end of the year, the group are looking forward to a trip to the pantomime in December, a Christmas meal, a joint Christmas celebratory activity with the Recycled Teenagers, and a meal out in February.

Moving forwards, the Town Council still has plenty of events to look forward to, such as the Fireworks Display (5th November), Crafty November event (date TBC), Christmas Carol Service (2nd December) and Santa's Grotto (9th December).

We are excited to put on these special events for the community and look forward to seeing you there. Please check out the Town Council's website and social media pages to learn more.



HRTC Newly expanded staff team

Following on from a successful recruitment process, the council are pleased to welcome a number of new members of staff to our team:

- Ian Haynes, Head of Environmental & Community Services
- Amanda Samuels, Administration Officer
- Hayley Bourke, Cemetery & Allotments Officer
- Andrew Gaudion, Finance Officer

The council is looking forward to having a full complement of staff, especially as the new Town Council plan comes forward.

Town Mayor's Christmas Card

Each Christmas the Town Mayor sends a Christmas card to residents over the age of 65 years old. The card includes a small gift voucher.

If you would like to be included on this list please contact us:
Tel: 01582 708 540
Email: mayor@houghtonregis.org.uk

Committee Dates



Please find opposite the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from the 2nd October 2023 to the 26th February 2024.

All council meetings are at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated and are open to the public.

Due to ongoing Covid concerns, members of the public who wish to attend the meetings are encouraged to do so remotely. Members of the public may also attend in person and, if doing so, are requested to socially distance as much as possible.

The links for the virtual meetings can be found on our website under each meeting agenda: www.houghtonregis.org.uk

The agendas for forthcoming meetings can also be found on the notice board outside The Town Council offices.

Date	Day	Committee	Time
2023			
2nd October	Monday	Town Council	7pm
9th October	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
16th October	Monday	Planning	7pm
17th October	Tuesday	Town Partnership	7pm
23rd October	Monday	Community Services (Grants)	7pm
6th November	Monday	Planning	7pm
13th November	Monday	Community Services	7pm
27th November	Monday	Planning	7pm
4th December	Monday	Corporate Services	7pm
11th December	Monday	Town Council	7pm
18th December	Monday	Planning	7pm
2024			
8th January	Monday	Planning	7pm
15th January	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
22nd January	Monday	Town Council	7pm
23rd January	Tuesday	Town Partnership	7pm
29th January	Monday	Planning	7pm
5th February	Monday	Environment & Leisure	7pm
19th February	Monday	Planning	7pm
26th February	Monday	Community Services	7pm

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL FIREWORKS
SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER
 Windsor Drive, Houghton Regis

FIREWORKS DISPLAY STARTS AT 7pm

Local road closures will be in place

FREE Entrance to the display will be via Windsor Drive.

For more details contact **01582 708540**
 or email: sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk www.houghtonregis.org.uk

Lest We Forget
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th 2023

Remembrance Day Service

EVERYBODY WELCOME

All Saints' Parish Church 9.45am
 The Memorial Stone (Village Green) 10.50am
 followed by refreshments at the Memorial Hall

On Saturday 11th November (Armistice Day) members will gather at the Memorial Stone for the Act of Remembrance to commence at 10.58am.

COME MEET SANTA

FREE ENTRY
surprise gift for every child

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER
Houghton Regis Library
10am - 2pm
 (LAST ADMISSION TO THE QUEUE 1.45PM)

We also have for you:
CRAFT MARKET IN THE BEDFORD SQUARE INDOOR ATRIUM!
10AM - 2PM.

ORGANISED BY
 HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Follow us

You can use the following platforms to follow, and keep in touch with Houghton Regis Town Council.

www.houghtonregis.org.uk [@HRCouncil1](https://twitter.com/HRCouncil1) [Houghton Regis Town Council](https://www.facebook.com/HoughtonRegisTownCouncil)

Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan

Since the last update, back in March 2023, Houghton Regis Town Council's draft Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of further public consultation. This consultation started on the 23rd January 2023 and finished on the 20th March 2023.

Following receipt of the comments coming from this consultation, Houghton Regis Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, along with the Town Council's Planning Consultant, have met to discuss and agree any amendments or revisions to the draft Plan.

These revisions were made and a copy of the plan, suitable for submission to the local planning authority (Central Bedfordshire Council) was supported by the Town Council at the Full Council meeting held on the 17th May 2023.

Central Bedfordshire Council now take on the responsibility of progressing the plan to referendum stage.

Houghton Regis Town Council would like to thank all those who have worked on delivering the plan, including ex-councillors. The Town Council also recognises that the comments received, from residents, members of the public and third parties, have also helped to form the policies as contained within the plan. Finally, the Town Council extends its thanks to all of those who have been part of the Town Council's Steering Group, especially those who have stayed the distance, their commitment has been invaluable.

If you would like to read a copy of the Town Council's submitted plan, please follow the link on the Town Council's website: [Houghton Regis Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version](https://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/Neighbourhood-Plan-Submission-Version)



HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN RANGER

'Making Houghton Regis an attractive and vibrant place to live and work'

The Houghton Regis Ranger is a initiative from Houghton Regis Town Council which provides a 'See it & Sort it' service, to those small scale problems and issues in the town which are an eyesore.

Please let us know about these types of problems:

- Street cleaning / maintenance within a public space
- Litter / fly tipping (small scale and non-hazardous)
- Overhanging bushes / shrubs
- Weeds / leaf clearance
- Graffiti / vandalism
- Other similar or related activities. Please specify

Scan the QR code with your phone to report your issue or copy the link into your web browser

Reporting a problem is easy. Just provide the following details through the link:

- Tell us what is the issue i.e. graffiti, fly tipping, overhanging bushes / shrubs
- Tell us where the issue is. If you are in the location of the issue the "App" will register the location or if you are reporting the issue from home you will be asked to provide the address of the nearest residential property or other significant landmark such as local shop, park etc.
- You then upload a photograph of the issue.
- And if you choose we can even update on you on progress if you provide us with your email address.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
Once you have contacted us the issue will be reviewed and investigated to see if we can help.

Thank you for helping us to look after Houghton Regis!

If you spot problems such as potholes, OTHER Highways problems or faulty street lights please report these direct to Central Bedfordshire Council by following this link: <https://bit.ly/2UdsaxG>

COPY THIS LINK INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER
<https://bit.ly/Townranger>
OR SCAN THE QR CODE →




Town Ranger Update

From the start of the Town Ranger project, our Town Ranger initiative has completed a number of jobs, and these are only the ones that have been recorded. They have completed many other jobs outside of this list. Remember, you can report via the Town Ranger app any small-scale problems and issues. Once you have contacted us, the case will be reviewed and investigated to see if we can help.



HOUGHTON REGIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?



We are a Charity Registered Local Heritage Society
Established in 2012
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMING YEAR. JOIN US TO DISCOVER THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF LOCAL PEOPLE, BUILDINGS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

We hold local meetings, have guest speakers, History Walks, quiz evenings and much more.

For more information visit www.hrhs.org.uk or Email hrhsarchive@virginmedia.com



HOUGHTON REGIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO HELP THE SOCIETY MAINTAIN ITS INTERNET ARCHIVE

The Society has an Archive containing over 1,500 images, we use a content management system called Pastview, you can see it in action at www.hrhsarchive.org.uk
We are looking for people with some computer knowledge to help input new images / documents etc into our system and help maintain it.



Houghton Regis Heritage Society was formed in 2012 with aims to advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the town of Houghton Regis, in particular but not exclusively through the collection, preservation and making available to the public of material and artefacts of historic significance by the establishment and maintenance of an archive and collection for the preservation of such material and artefacts and by the production of literature, films and recordings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL A MESSAGE TO hrhsarchive@virginmedia.com

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

open to the public
Grade I Listed Building



Are you interested in...

- Local history
- Heritage in Houghton
- Church architectural features
- Taking a view from the Church Tower
- Church Bells

Guided tours including the Tower are held by arrangement and you can also just drop in!

Saturday morning coffee and cake.

➔ www.allsaintshr.co.uk
All Saints - Houghton Regis Parish Church



Pop-up Cafe
Village Green Pavilion
4.30pm - 6.30pm

Youth Cafe

October 2023

2nd October Pumpkin Soup
9th October Caribbean Snacks
16th October Chicken Fajitas
30th October Soul Cakes

November 2023

6th November Bangers Mash
13th November Stew and dumplings
20th November Sheppard's Pie
27th November Apple Crumble and Custard

December 2023

4th December Christmas Sweet Treats
11th December Christmas Roast Dinner
18th December Christmas Party

Are you between the ages of 12-18? Then come along and join in!

Houghton-Regis-Youth-Services

Join us on Facebook

All sessions are true at the time of print but any amendments will be posted on our Facebook page.

Committee Updates

Town Council

May 2023 welcomed some new councillors after the May election and saw the re-election of some familiar faces with the election of Cllr Carroll as Town Mayor, and Cllr Cooper as Deputy Town Mayor. It was agreed to continue investigations for the suitability of the land at Grendall Lane for cemetery use, and the final version of Houghton Regis Town Councils Neighbourhood Plan was agreed to be progressed to the next stage.

Town Partnership

Many issues continue to be considered at this joint meeting, ranging from environmental health matters and car parking, to the provision of existing and new services, including the availability of primary care and school places.

Corporate Services Committee

Continued provision for central services such as accountancy and investment fees, councillor services and support, IT and communication costs, insurance, advertising and property maintenance costs along with officer salaries and training, reviewed ongoing contracts and considered revisions of various town council policies.

Community Services Committee

Regular updates about the youth work and Pop-up Youth Cafés in Houghton Regis have been received, local community groups under the HRTC Grant Scheme have been supported, a programme of Summer Activities was delivered, and have continued to improve community safety and reduced fear of crime.

Environment & Leisure Committee

Ongoing provision has been made to manage and maintain public open spaces, sports facilities, play areas and the cemetery. The committee has successfully supported the provision of Allotments and have received regular updates on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project.

Planning Committee

In excess of fifty planning applications were considered, many were supported, some were objected to and others commented on. Feedback was provided on various Traffic Orders throughout the town and updates were received on strategic developments within the town.

News from the New Cemetery Sub Committee

The New Cemetery Sub Committee have requested the resumption of groundwater monitoring for the next 12 months to collect a complete set of data to allow consideration of the site's viability. The 12-month monitoring period started in mid-July and will be completed in 2024. It is a statutory requirement that measures are taken to protect groundwater from potential pollution sources.

Burial practices give rise to potential sources of pollution and are covered by these regulations. The groundwater monitoring will inform the production of a groundwater risk assessment with a detailed pollutant flux modelling to determine the impact burial contaminants can have on underlying sensitive groundwater and surface water receptors.



Warm Spaces

Last winter, a network of warm spaces was offered across Houghton Regis. With the ongoing cost of living crisis, it is felt that these spaces will again open their doors.

If you fancy a cuppa, soup, or Mug

Shot, you are welcome to come to the Council Chamber. Our doors are open every Friday from 10 am to 3 pm from 1st October to the end of March 2024. So if you fancy a cuppa on us and a bit of a warm-up, do come along.

The Town Mayor's

Christmas Carol Service

Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 5pm

All Saints' Parish Church
Houghton Regis

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

More info: www.houghtonregis.org.uk




Santa

& HIS SLEIGH ARE COMING TO TOWN!
He will be riding his sleigh through the streets of Houghton Regis once again!

Dates and times to be revealed nearer the time.

Please see www.houghtonregis.org.uk and social media for more details.

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!



info@houghtonregis.org.uk
01582 708540

  

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Pride of Houghton Awards 2024

I would like to nominate:

For: (please tick appropriate box)

Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Person (under 18)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carer (The extra mile award)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Facilitator/Local Hero	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Business/organisation in Houghton Regis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Home Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime achievement/special award	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Name:

Your contact number:

Your address:

Do you know any individual or groups of people, young or old, who deserve recognition for their efforts, skills, perseverance or commitment? This is their chance to get the recognition that they deserve.

Use the form below to forward your nominations to the Town Council Office, Peel Street, Houghton Regis by **5pm on 31st January 2024.**

*Nominees must be residents of Houghton Regis and nominated for their work within the town. Nominations can also be received from people outside the town and for immediate family, (nominations **cannot** be made for Town Council Staff, Town or Central Bedfordshire Councillors) Previous winners can be considered again.*

Name of your nominee:

Nominee address:

Why do they deserve an award? (use extra sheets of paper if required and affix to this form)