



# TOWN CRIER

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

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

## CARNIVAL EDITION!



Comic Book Heroes!



The Carnival - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
The Village Green Houghton Regis

Fairground rides!



Robbie Williams Tribute Act



Pipe band!



Punch & Judy!

Procession leaves at 10:30am from Houghton Regis Academy, Parkside Drive,



MORE FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING UP! PLEASE SEE PAGES 6 & 7 FOR MORE INFORMATION



### Pride of Houghton Awards 2014 - 2015

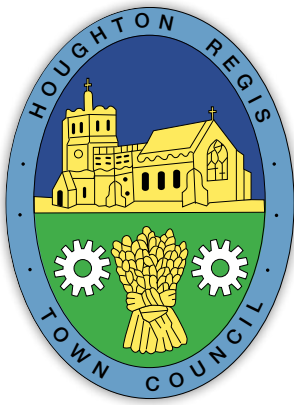
On the reverse of this edition of the Town Crier is the entry form for this year's Pride of Houghton Awards. The scheme recognises local people who have gone beyond the call of duty for others in the community.

Nominees must be residents of Houghton Regis and the nomination must be for work carried out in the town.

The closing date for entries is 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

A complimentary carnival programme is enclosed with this edition of the Town Crier, additional copies can also be obtained from the Council Offices. For the latest Carnival info, why not log on to the Town Council website on [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)





## Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

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

Telephone: 01582 708540

Fax: 01582 861102

Email: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)

Website: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

### Officers:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Clare Evans<br>Town Clerk                              | 01582 708542 |
| Stuart Oliver<br>Deputy Town Clerk                     | 01582 708543 |
| Sarah Gelsthorp<br>Promotions & Communications Officer | 01582 708523 |
| Sonia Stennett<br>Accounts & Administration Officer    | 01582 708541 |
| Jan Cooper<br>Community Organiser                      | 01582 708544 |
| Chantel England<br>Administration Officer              | 01582 708540 |

### Councillor contact details:

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Houghton Hall Ward:   |              |
| Cllr. Edward Costello | 01582 515854 |
| Cllr. David Jones     | 01582 655162 |
| Cllr. Robin Hines     | 01582 759026 |
| Cllr. Andrew Roberts  | 01582 868288 |
| Cllr. Tony Swain      | 01582 522952 |
| Cllr. Laura Ellaway   | 01582 537105 |

### Parkside Ward:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Vacancy                     |              |
| Cllr. Mrs Ruth Harris-Small | 01582 758483 |
| Cllr. Robert Shimmin        | 01582 532444 |
| Cllr. Alan Winter           | 01582 514654 |

### Tithe Farm Ward:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Cllr. Mrs Shirley Gilchrist | 01582 519087 |
| Cllr. Michael Hunting       | 01582 526630 |
| Cllr. Peter Williams        | 01582 865358 |
| Cllr. Marion Rolfe          | 01582 866215 |

### Central Bedfordshire Councillors:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Cllr. Dr Rita Egan (Parkside Ward)        | 0300 300 8518 |
| Cllr. Mrs Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall) | 0300 300 8525 |
| Cllr. David Jones (Houghton Hall)         | 0300 300 8535 |
| Cllr. Peter Williams (Tithe Farm)         | 0300 300 8567 |

## Announcement of the New Town Mayor



Following the Annual Meeting on Wednesday 14th May 2014, Houghton Regis Town Council is pleased to announce that Councillor Laura Ellaway has been elected as the Town Mayor of Houghton Regis for 2014/15. The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Robert Shimmin

"I'm extremely proud to have been elected as Mayor for 2014-15 and I am looking forward to the year ahead. If any of you see me in the town (with or without the chain of office) please stop and say hello, it will be lovely to meet you. I have great pleasure in appointing my Daughter Jessica as my Consort for the year and I am sure that you will see a lot of us in the coming months.

One of my toughest challenges so far has been choosing the charities I want to support this year. After a lot of thought, consideration and advice; I have decided that the charities I am supporting are going to be: Kingfishers, The Army Cadets and the Houghton Regis Day Centre. It is important to me to raise funds that will stay in the town and benefit local people.

The theme for my Mayoral year will be "friendship". One aspect of life I feel passionate about and want to share with everyone as Mayor is the true meaning of friendship. Everyone has their own interpretation of friendship yet this year I want to work on helping us build stronger friends with each other. I look forward to meeting lots of new friends and I hope by the end of this year you will have made one or two new friends yourself.

Once again I wish to thank members of the Council for electing me to the office of Mayor and as first citizen of this wonderful town."

If your organisation is hosting an event and would like to invite the Mayor to attend, please contact Sarah Gelsthorp 01582 708523.

## Town Clerk

Welcome to the Carnival edition of the Town Crier. Make sure the date is in your diary, **12<sup>th</sup> July 2014**, it promises to be another fantastic free family event.

Well it's been a busy start to the year with our first Pancake Race in February – well done to the Recycled Teenagers, and the overall winners Houghton Regis Academy, our second May Fayre only last month – a big thank you to our beautiful May Queen, Zuzanna, and her attendants, Libby and Guste (*see page 8 for pictures from the day*). We are now full steam ahead for the Carnival.

I hope you find this publication interesting and informative. Inside you'll find information on the town council including upcoming free community events, local commonality groups and organisations, local businesses, town updates looking at the current major development proposals affecting Houghton Regis, and updates on crime & anti social behaviour and environmental issues.



The new Mayor of Houghton Regis Town Council Cllr Ellaway will be at many local events, so if you see her in and around the town do go and say hello.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events!

*Clare Evans*

Clare Evans  
Town Clerk

## Mayoral Year 2013/14



The Town Council would like to thank Councillor Peter Williams for all his hard work during his Mayoral Year (2013/14). During the past 12 months, Councillor Williams has represented the town in other local areas, hosted the 'Celebration of Christmas'

event at The Grove Theatre, officially opened the Carnival, Inaugural Classic Car Show and the May Fayre; as well as hosting a variety of charity fund raising events. Over the past year, Councillor Williams has undertaken almost 120 public engagements.

Additionally, Councillor Williams has distributed the following amounts of money to his chosen charities:

### Funds distributed:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Hospice at Home Volunteers   | £2025.00 |
| Houghton Regis Helpers   | £2025.00 |
| Keech Hospice Care   | £2025.00 |
| <i>SORTED (Dunstable and Houghton Regis Youth Counselling Service)</i> | £2025.00 |

The Town Council looks forward to continuing to work with Councillor Williams during the next council year.

## Councillor Resignation

It is regrettably advised that Pete Carrington has resigned from his position as Town Councillor. Pete contributed three years of service to the Town Council always attending meetings and events. His enthusiasm and generosity of spirit will be missed.

## Annual Report 2013/2014

The Annual report will be published on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 and will be available on the Town Council website. A summary of the report will be available in the September edition of the Town Crier.

## DEAR RESIDENT

Tithe Farm Road will be closed on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July from 9am to 12 noon to enhance the safety of the carnival procession.

For more details please call 01582 708540.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause but trust that you will appreciate the safety benefits that this will create for the procession.

## Reports of Committees

### Town Council

At the Town Council meeting at the end of March in addition to the standard agenda items of reports from the Police, committees, the mayor and outside organisations, a variety of policy documents were considered and approved for the forthcoming new Council year including the Committee Functions & Terms of Reference, the Calendar of Meetings, a report on Late Payments/ Bad Debts, a policy on Late Payments/ Bad Debts and the Council's Risk Assessments.

### Corporate Services

This Committee has only met once since the previous edition of the Town Crier, at this meeting an end of year budget review was completed and the detailed consideration was given to the policy on Late Payments / Bad Debts.

### Community Services

This Committee had a busy meeting in March:

A grant of £500 was awarded to Full House Theatre for a Community Arts Hub. This promises to be a really exciting project for Houghton Regis.

Reports were received from the Community Organiser on her work within the town supporting a range of community groups and projects and a report from 4YP on the youth services currently being provided. The annual review on the Operation Hana contract for 2013/14 was completed. This police operation provides targeted patrols in hotspot locations, improves community liaison and intelligence gathering. Of particular note was that foot patrols had been increased over the year. It was felt that the Operation had significantly helped the police with targeted problems. The contract for 2014/15 was agreed.

The contract for the cleaning of the Bedford Square toilets expires soon and the Committee considered the cleaning specification which would be quoted against. This sets out the cleaning standards expected by the Town Council for the town centre toilets and was based on the specification currently followed.

### Planning & Licensing Committee

Eight applications have been considered recently. Of these, five were deemed as meeting planning regulations, while two were considered as unacceptable developments.

## Central Bedfordshire Council – Development Strategy Consultation

Central Bedfordshire Council will be consulting on their Development Strategy from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014. This is an important document for Houghton Regis as it will help to shape development in Central Bedfordshire including Houghton Regis.

Full details of the consultation can be found on their website, [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk), or at the Houghton Regis library.

# Town Updates...

## The Co-op Site

Although the town centre continues to suffer visually from the hoardings around the Co-Op site, a considerable amount of work has been going on behind the signs by Central Bedfordshire Council and the Co-Op. A mediation process took place at the end of February 2014 and since then both legal teams have been working towards reaching an agreement.

## Strategic Highways Projects

### A5-M1 Link Road - Starting March 2015

The A5-M1 Link Road has received conditional approval by the Secretary of State subject to a developer contribution of £45 Million being made available. Assuming that this is forthcoming, the scheme is planned to start in 2015 with completion in 2017. Statutory Apparatus Diversionary Works are to commence in summer 2014.

## Woodside Link

The Examination Hearing has been completed. The Inspectors Report is due this Summer and a decision by the Secretary of State will follow. Assuming approval is given it is expected that Statutory Apparatus Diversionary Works will commence in 2014 with an expectation that the scheme will commence in 2015 with completion in 2017, similar to the timings of the A5-M1 Link Road.

## HRN1

In September 2013 planning permission was granted for 5,000 new homes to the North of Houghton Regis. HRN1 will contribute £45 Million to the A5-M1 Link Road; provide over 5,000 jobs; help deliver the Woodside Connection; provide 3 new primary schools and a new secondary school; a supermarket and local retail; community and leisure facilities; office and warehouses; and 78 hectares of green infrastructure.

During 2012 the developers consulted on the initial planning application for HRN1. Now that outline planning permission has been granted they will be looking for input from the local community again. They are keen to hear your thoughts on the details of the scheme including the design and layout of the different areas. New consultation events will be run over the next 12 months. Please look out for invitations in the post, adverts in the local press and information on the website [www.hrn1.co.uk](http://www.hrn1.co.uk) In the meantime if you have any questions you can contact the developers on [contact@hrn1.co.uk](mailto:contact@hrn1.co.uk) or by calling 0800 232 1794.

## HRN 2

The consortium is currently preparing their planning application, which is due to be submitted in early Summer. Pre-application consultation on draft proposals for the site (including a draft master plan) were held on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th March 2014.

## Local Scheduled Highways Works

Central Bedfordshire Council as Highways Authority has scheduled the following works within its Prioritised Works Programme 2014/15:

|   |                    |                             |         |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Windsor Drive                           | Unclassified Roads | Patching & Surface Dressing | £45,509 |
| Bromley Gardens<br>Off-street foot ways | Foot way           | Retread                     | £40,424 |

## Crime & Anti Social Behaviour in Houghton Regis - January and February 2014

|              | Houghton Regis              | Dunstable                   | Leighton Buzzard            | Luton                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Crime</b> | Actual: 240<br>Ratio: 1:71  | Actual: 484<br>Ratio: 1:172 | Actual: 317<br>Ratio: 1:126 | Actual: 2974<br>Ratio: 1:68 |
| <b>ASB</b>   | Actual: 168<br>Ratio: 1:101 | Actual: 190<br>Ratio: 1:184 | Actual: 116<br>Ratio: 1:344 | Actual: 932<br>Ratio: 1:218 |

Total recorded crime over the last two months has been 4.4% lower than the preceding two months (November and December), and is 11% lower than the same period twelve months ago.

Burglary other, violence against a person and other theft offences are the areas seeing an increase since the same period twelve months ago.

Domestic Burglary, Robbery and Vehicle crime are all seeing decreases from the same period twelve months ago.

Drug and other notifiable offences are showing no change from the same period twelve months ago.

There have still been a large number of incidents involving off road motorbikes and cars in and around the whole of Houghton Regis with the large open areas and industrial estates being the main targets.

## Operation Hana

Under Operation Hana, the Town Council funded high visibility policing initiative the following has been completed:

| Month          | Hours Worked | Foot beat (hours) | Persons Stopped | Incidents Attended |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| January        | 125          | 18.17             | 2               | 38                 |
| February       | 105          | 31.38             | 2               | 27                 |
| <b>Totals:</b> | <b>230</b>   | <b>50</b>         | <b>4</b>        | <b>65</b>          |

In addition there have also been 11 Section 59 notices issued to riders of off road bikes in Houghton Regis during last Operation Meteor.

## Council Website

Don't forget to log onto our website for current news, updates and events [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)



# DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT THE 'MORNING AFTER' THE MATCH

Bedfordshire and Luton Casualty Reduction Partnership are launching their summer 'Morning After' drink-drive campaign targeting drivers and riders to think about the amount of alcohol still in their system the morning after all World Cup matches.

The campaign reminds drinkers that they could still be over the limit the following day after a long drinking session during summer afternoons and evenings spent with family and friends.

Very often, drinkers do the right thing on the day or evening they are out drinking by deciding who is driving and staying sober or arranging alternative transport if everyone is going to celebrate. But with the longer summer evenings and the prospect for barbecues, garden parties, weddings and family gatherings it's all too easy to forget how many generous glasses of wine or beer have been consumed.

One unit of alcohol\* takes the body an hour to break down; so, for example, a person drinking three large (250ml) glasses of wine (15% alcohol) in an evening who stops drinking at midnight should not drive for 13 hours – that's 1pm the following day.

## Is excessive noise disturbing you and your family?



***The following advice is from Central Bedfordshire Council (C.B.C.):***

### **Reporting Noise Pollution**

The person(s) responsible for the noise may not be aware of the effects that the noise is having. Where possible discuss the problem with them, as this will often sort the matter out and also help maintain good neighbour relations.

If this does not resolve the problem, or if you feel unable to contact the person responsible, you can ask C.B.C. to investigate the complaint on your behalf by calling 0300 300 8302.

C.B.C. will investigate your complaint and endeavour to find a solution, without legal action if possible. If C.B.C. are unable to help you, they will always advise you who can.

C.B.C. has a range of powers to deal with unwanted noise, the most common sources being barking dogs, stereos / televisions, general household noise (banging doors, footsteps, shouting), parties and functions, misfiring alarms, construction and demolition including DIY, industrial and agricultural noise and pubs, clubs and village halls.

In order to minimise the chances of causing disturbance to neighbours the following measures can be taken:

- Keep the volume of music, radio and television as low as possible, especially late at night. Alternatively, headphones can be used, although be careful not to deafen yourself by having the volume up too high
- If you intend on having a party, warn your neighbours in advance, and keep the noise to a minimum, particularly if late at night
- Apologise in advance to neighbours for disturbance caused by DIY, and try to carry out the noisier jobs during sociable hours
- If your dog barks when left alone try to give it some company by leaving it with a friend, taking it to work (if applicable), leaving a radio on (but not loud enough to disturb your neighbours)
- If you have an old or faulty intruder alarm, replace it with one that is in good working order and complies with British Standard BS 4737. All alarm owners should notify the council and the Police of key holder details so as to avoid costs that may be incurred should we need to silence a misfiring alarm whilst you are away from home
- Site noisy household equipment such as washing machines away from party walls
- When buying a new household appliance, opt for a quiet version
- Hiring practice rooms for band rehearsals, or fitting practice pads when practicing drums
- Improving the sound insulation in your home

# What's on in Houghton Regis & the Local Area




## Go Dunstable! Active Lifestyles Festival

Saturday June 14th  
11am - 5pm  
Grove House Gardens  
Dunstable

- Urban Smoothies
- Rollapaluzza Roller Racing
- Team Extreme Try Outs Track
- Savage Skills



**BRING YOUR BIKE  
AND YOURSELF!**

- Dr Bike
- Activity Rangers
- The Health Tent and much more!



**STREET DANCE**

[www.cbtravelchoices.co.uk](http://www.cbtravelchoices.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/travelchoices](http://www.facebook.com/travelchoices)



\*Organisers reserve the right to cancel the event in the case of adverse weather

\*Consent forms will need to be completed prior to participating in some attractions







## THE WAY

In association with  
Houghton Regis Town Council

### Bringing *Summer Fun* to Houghton Regis Pavilion

# AUGUST

AGE GROUP 5 - 12 YEARS  
9.30am - 3.30pm  
£5 or £10 per day

## LIMITED PLACES

Jan Cooper 01582 708540



## A free family play event

**What is playday** – a national event when thousands of children, young people and communities in England celebrate playing out together.

**When** – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**Where** - Houghton village green. The event is organised by the Community Active Rangers for Children's Links a national children's charity with the Town council.

**What will you be able to do**- something to suit all ages from sand and water play to assault courses and water slides trampolines, drama, dance as well as sports, play activities and arts and crafts.

**Times** - 11am – 3pm The village Green Houghton Regis.



The event is funded through Awards For All Lottery Fund

**For further details contact**  
Clare Bryan play Development officer Children's Links on T 07554 450 473  
Angela Evans and Austen Trudgill Community Active Rangers on m 07554 450481




Houghton Regis Town Council

## CLASSIC & VINTAGE MOTOR SHOW

A stunning display of  
Classic & Vintage Cars, Motor Cycle &  
Military Vehicles combined with lots of fun  
activities will be on display again this year

on

### Houghton Regis Village Green

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

For more information please contact 01582 708 540  
or Email: [sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk)



HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL Peel Street, Houghton Regis,  
Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

# Houghton Hall Park Renaissance Renewal Project Update

We have had a very successful start to the year, with a variety of consultation events around Houghton Regis. These have been used to update the community on the very latest developments with our Heritage Lottery bid and ask the people of Houghton Regis what exactly they need and hope for within the Park.

Its not to late to get involved in the project, we have a range of events planned throughout the summer.

## Houghton Hall Park week

1<sup>st</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> June

Consultation on the Houghton Hall Park renaissance and renewal project.  
Different activities and exhibits in different locations around the town.

A great chance for the public to have their say regarding the project, times and locations will be advertised locally.



## Guided Bat and Bird walk

Weds 4<sup>th</sup> June

A “Guided Dawn Chorus Walk” led by Dr Paul Tinsley-Marshall of Applied Ecology Ltd and a “Guided Bat Activity Walk” around the Houghton Hall Park lead by Dr Duncan Painter of Applied Ecology Ltd.

The bird walk starts at 7am and Bat walk starts at 9.15pm – both meeting at Houghton Hall Car Park

## Houghton Regis Town Carnival

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

The Carnival theme is comic book heroes, the event includes a variety of stalls, arena displays, punch and Judy, fire breathing and a huge carnival procession – the project stand will be at the event where we can happily discuss plans and future aspirations for the park

## Friends of Houghton Hall Park outdoor work party

Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Painting benches, path clearance, meet at The Green at 10am.

Contact [tim.spencer@greensandstrust.org](mailto:tim.spencer@greensandstrust.org) for details

## Bug Lab

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Join the Greensands Trust to look at creepy crawlies in the park.

Contact [tim.spencer@greensandstrust.org](mailto:tim.spencer@greensandstrust.org)

Alternatively why not join our vibrant Houghton Hall Park friends group and go along to a meeting? Contact [alexe.rose@greensandstrust.org](mailto:alexe.rose@greensandstrust.org) for details



Our bid to carry out a range of restoration and improvement works in Houghton Hall Park is due to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People programme on 28<sup>th</sup> August and we should find out the results in December 2014. Our bid will take on board the results of all the consultation we have done throughout the development stage of the project plus the recommendations of our experienced consultants. Please refer to our website [www.houghtonhallpark.org](http://www.houghtonhallpark.org) for news on the project. You can also sign up for email updates and newsletters.

We look forward to seeing you at our various Houghton Hall Park project events, we will be attending with our project boards to discuss any comments or feedback you have – see you soon!





**Highlights**  
 from our  
**May Fayre**  
**2014**





# Friends of Houghton Hall Park

Have you ever thought about spending some time to learn more about your local environment or would like to meet new people. Join the Friends of Houghton Hall Park and support your local parkland.

There are different ways you can be involved!

- Take part in volunteer team days with the Greensand Trust Ranger (*Usually 4th Sunday of each month*)
- Attend guided walks and events in the Park
- Promote and raise awareness of Houghton Hall Park and the Renaissance and Renewal Project
- Encourage the local community to visit and use the Park
- Represent the wider community views at friends group meetings; raise and discuss issues and find solutions as a group
- Participate in a variety of voluntary tasks, led by the partnership, to promote and enhance the Park
- Join our electronic mailing list and find out about events and activities

Friends of Houghton Hall Park are supported by the Greensand Trust as part of the Central Bedfordshire Council Initiative P3 (People, Projects and Partnerships).

If you would like to be part of this friendly group please email [Alexe.Rose@greensandtrust.org](mailto:Alexe.Rose@greensandtrust.org)



**Houghton Regis Helpers**  
**07587 004514**

*I get more out of volunteering than I give*      *I didn't think there was anyone who would help*      *You are my angels*

Just some of the comments from our volunteers and the residents we help as your good neighbour scheme Houghton Regis Helpers. We are here to help residents in Houghton Regis who have no family or friends nearby to help when you are struggling with the kind of things a good neighbour would help out with.

Give us a call on **07587 004514** to find out more if you are interested in volunteering or need help.

**PLEASE NOTE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IN THE TOWN GUIDE YOU RECEIVED WITH YOUR LAST TOWN CRIER IS INCORRECT.**

Or visit our webpage:  
**[www.houghtonregishelpers.co.uk](http://www.houghtonregishelpers.co.uk)**  
Or email us on:  
**[houghtonregishelpers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:houghtonregishelpers@hotmail.co.uk)**  
Or visit our Facebook Group page:  
**Houghton Regis Helpers**

All our volunteers have enhanced DBS checks; are covered by Public Liability Insurance; wear ID badges.



## Houghton Regis Chalk Pit

Youth ranger sessions are now being held one afternoon every school holiday at Houghton Regis Chalk Pit. These are events for young people aged 13-19 to teach them practical skills such as wood craft, help them learn about nature, while at the same time assisting youngsters to boost their CVs, college and university applications.

So far sessions on the nature reserve have included habitat management, pond-dipping surveys, wildlife walks and learning to light that all-essential piece of equipment on nature reserves: the tea kettle.

Sessions are free. To learn more or to book onto these sessions please contact Ruth Sneath on:

**01525 874317** or email  
**[Ruth.Sneath@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:Ruth.Sneath@wildlifebcn.org)**







## County Wide Car Parts Theft - Warning

Detectives undertaking a county wide investigation in to the theft of car parts are warning motorists to take extra care when they park their vehicles.

Operation King, a dedicated initiative to crackdown on those who steal vehicle parts from high performance vehicles, such as Astra, Corsa and Insignia VXR's, in the county has been running for a number of months. Dedicated officers have been working to arrest those people who trade in stolen parts with eight commercial and residential addresses being searched and five men being arrested so far.

Simple measures that can be taken to reduce vehicle crime include:

- If you have a garage, clear it out and park your vehicle in it.
- Property marking is a very good deterrent as it is difficult to sell on. It also allows the police to return recovered stolen goods.
- Mark your property with your house/flat number and postcode. You can use a UV pen, SmartWater or microdot tagging systems. Consider etching your windows and alloy wheels.
- Remember to register your property on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- If you have a steering wheel lock or locking wheel clamps, then use them.
- If you need to transport tools and equipment as part of your job, empty your vehicle every evening. It is also worth having a sign in your vehicle that states no tools are left in it overnight.
- Make sure the area where you park your car is well-lit. If the parking area is on private property, you can use a domestic CCTV system.

## Annoyed By Nuisance Vehicles? Tell Us Who's Driving

Bedfordshire Police is encouraging members of the public to identify nuisance motorcyclists in an attempt to crackdown on the number of people who think that it is acceptable to ride motorbikes, mopeds, scooters or mini-motos in a dangerous way across public land.

Inspector Jim Hitch of the Central Policing Team at Bedfordshire Police is urging members of the public to come forward with information which would help officers locate offenders even after they have left the scene.

Inspector Hitch said: "Nuisance vehicles are a blight on residents' lives across Bedfordshire.

"One of the issues we have is not being able to chase after every single nuisance motorcyclist

but by providing information such as names, addresses or where the vehicle may have been previously, we can build up a picture of the offenders and take appropriate action.

"Riders need to realise that this sort of behaviour is unacceptable. Officers have the power to seize vehicles and have them destroyed when necessary and anyone caught riding on pavements or roads illegally could also be dealt with for motoring offences such as riding without a licence and having no MOT or insurance. My message to parents considering buying a motorbike or similar vehicle for their children to use off road is simple; unless you have permission for your children to use it on private land - **don't do it**".

Anyone with information concerning nuisance vehicles can contact Bedfordshire Police on the 101 number or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

## Street Watch Needs YOU!!!

Bedfordshire Police is appealing for more members of the community to join Street Watch schemes that are running in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis areas.

Street Watch is about local residents helping to build stronger and safer neighbourhoods by patrolling their own streets, identifying and resolving low levels of nuisance and anti-social behaviour, increasing the feeling of safety and to increase a sense of community cohesion within their local area.

It is emphasised that Street Watch members are not doing the job of police officers or PCSOs and have no more power than ordinary citizens. Instead the purpose of Street Watch is to prevent crime by increasing visibility, maintaining effective communication and reporting to police and increasing feelings of safety and community spirit.

Each scheme relies on Street Watch finding coordinators and volunteers prepared to give two hours each month and keep the national web site up to date with what they are doing and where. They also have to be vetted at the same level as police volunteers.

Sergeant Linda Wilson of the Local Policing Team in Dunstable and Houghton Regis, said

"Street Watch is a classic example of the community and police working together in partnership to reduce crime and increase feelings of safety.

"Fear of crime and feelings of intimidation can sometimes place significant demands on the local police and cause people to have unrealistic expectations of what the police can achieve unless communities are willing to stand up and do their bit working alongside us."

Anyone who is interested in joining up to the Street Watch scheme can contact Bedfordshire Police on the non emergency 101 number or visit [www.street-watch.org.uk](http://www.street-watch.org.uk) for details. Alternatively you can contact your local co-ordinator Mr. P Carrington on 015282 866314.



## Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

At the beginning of April the management of the leisure centre was contracted to Stevenage Leisure Ltd for a further seven years. Their contracts for running Flitwick, Sandy and Biggleswade were renewed at the same time. They are currently in the process of interviewing for a Manager and are recruiting life guards. So its full steam ahead.

Well done to Stevenage Leisure. Footfall at the centre increased from 18,609 persons from October to December 2013 to 27,756 from January to March 2014. That's around 50% again!

In relation to the swimming pool a contract has now been awarded for the refurbishment of the changing rooms and repairs to the roof. At the time of going to print the work was expected to begin on 27th May, however there is rather more work necessary to repair the roof over the changing rooms than first thought. The swimming pool will be reopened prior to the school summer holidays in July, however it may be necessary to having temporary changing facilities in operation at that time.

There is a National Customer Survey taking place at the centre for 9 days during July. It is organised jointly between Sheffield Hallam University and Sport England. If you can pop into the centre during this period and make your views known it will, no doubt, benefit us all.

## Town Crier

**Are you part of a local community / voluntary group? Would it help you to advertise your group or events you are running for FREE.**

Send your information to us via [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)

Edition deadlines are:  
September 2014 - 25<sup>th</sup> July  
Christmas 2014 - 26<sup>th</sup> September  
March 2015 - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
June 2015 - 24<sup>th</sup> April

## Grants for local Organisations and Charities

The Town Council continue to support local community, voluntary groups and charities through a range of grant schemes. Grants are available for small and large projects. For information and an application form on 01582 708540, information can also be found on the Town Council's website - [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

## Houghton Regis Business Network

Are you a local retailer or business? Would you like to meet with others? Why not come along to the Houghton Regis Business Network Group.

Contact Jan Cooper to register your interest:  
[theway@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:theway@houghtonregis.org.uk)

Membership of this group offers the opportunity for two businesses per edition of this newsletter to advertise for FREE.



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from June to the end of September 2014. All council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Offices on Peel Street at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. The agendas for forthcoming meeting can be found on the notice board outside the offices and on the Town Council website. Copies can also be obtained from the office.

| Date                       | Day       | Committee  | Time   |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|--------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June       | Monday    | Community Services                                       |        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June       | Monday    | Accounts Sub Committee<br>Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.30pm |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June      | Monday    | Corporate Services                                       |        |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June      | Monday    | Town Council   |        |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June      | Monday    | Accounts Sub Committee<br>Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.30pm |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> July      | Monday    | Town Partnership   |        |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> July      | Monday    | Accounts Sub Committee<br>Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.30pm |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> August    | Monday    | Accounts Sub Committee<br>Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.30pm |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> September  | Monday    | Accounts Sub Committee<br>Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.30pm |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> September  | Monday    | Environment & Leisure                                    |        |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September | Monday    | Community Services                                       |        |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> September | Monday    | Corporate Services                                       |        |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September | Wednesday | Accounts Sub Committee<br>Planning & Licensing Committee | 6.30pm |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> September | Monday    | Town Council   |        |

# AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2014 – 2015

Nominate the person / people in whom you are really proud.

This is their chance to get the recognition they deserve. Use the form below to forward your nominations

by 5pm on Friday 29th August 2014.

*Nominees must be residents of Houghton Regis, be nominated for work within the town, not be a member of Town Council staff, or a Town or Central Bedfordshire Councillor. Additionally it is with regret that nominations cannot be made for immediate family. You can forward more than one nomination if you wish.*

**THE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED £100 TOGETHER WITH A FRAMED CERTIFICATE AND AN EMBOSSED BADGE.**

Return this form to : Houghton Regis Town Council, Peel Street,  
Houghton Regis, LU5 5EY

Your name:

Your contact number:

Your address:

Name of your  
nominee:

Address of  
nominee:

## **Why do they deserve an award? - please tell us below.**

Please give as much information as possible so that we can properly assess each nomination  
(use extra sheets of paper if required and affix to this form)