

# TOWN CRIER



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Web: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)  
Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis



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## Summer Vacation

**Saturday 11th July**

**Fairground Rides**

**Pipe Band**

**Punch and Judy**

**Arena Displays**

**Ice Cream Stall**

**Performances from**

*Deja Vu*



**Regis the Lion**

**and so much more!**

### Pride of Houghton Awards 2015 – 2016

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 28th August 2015.

### Local Government Elections 2015

Following the elections on 7th May 2015, Houghton Regis Town Council is pleased to enclose details of your ward councillors in this edition of the Town Crier.

A complimentary carnival programme is enclosed with this edition of the Town Crier. Additional copies can 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

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### Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708542
Stuart Oliver Deputy Town Clerk	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsforth Promotions & Communications Officer	01582 708523
Sonia Stennett Accounts & Cemetery Officer	01582 708541
Chantel England Administration Officer	01582 708540

### Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward:	
Cllr. Laura Ellaway	01582 537 105
Cllr. Robin Hines	01582 759 026
Cllr. Rob Shimmin	01528 933 538
Cllr. Chris Slough	01582 751 881
Cllr. Susan Thorne	07847 702 499
Cllr. Ken Wattingham	01582 705 830

Parkside Ward:	
Cllr. Jimmy Carroll	01582 868 006
Cllr. Don Dixon-Wilkinson	01582 529 554
Cllr. Joanna Hillyard	07542 201 115
Cllr. Martin Kennedy	01582 702 274

Tithe Farm Ward:	
Cllr. David Abbott	01582 894 060
Cllr. Tracey McMahon	07948 532 662
Cllr. Richard Scott	01582 708 540
Cllr. Tony Swain	01582 522 952

Central Bedfordshire Councillors:	
Antonia Ryan (Parkside)	0300 200 8000
Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8525
John Kane (Houghton Hall)	0300 200 8000
Tony Swain (Tithe Farm)	0300 200 8000

## The New Town Mayor



Following the Annual Meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Houghton Regis Town Council is pleased to announce that Councillor Robert Shimmin has been elected as the Town Mayor of Houghton Regis for 2015/16. The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Chris Slough.

During the next year, the new mayor Councillor Shimmin will be raising funds towards:

The Luton & Dunstable Hospital Childrens Ward  
Dunstable & District Disabled Sports (DADDs)  
All Saints Parish Church

"I would like to introduce myself as Councillor Robert Shimmin, and I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to serve as Town Mayor for 2015-16.

Over the next year, I will be raising funds for The Luton and Dunstable Hospital Children's Ward, Dunstable and District Disabled Sports (DADDs) and All Saints Parish Church from the various fundraising events that I will be hosting, and I am pleased to be able to support with these causes who work within our local community.

A quote that I read about 'Life is to... devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you both purpose and meaning. I feel that this very appropriate for the year ahead and I will be basing my Mayoral Year on this theme of 'Life'.

I am looking forward to the next year and it will be a privilege to represent Houghton Regis.

*Cllr. Robert Shimmin*  
Town Mayor

## Town Clerk



Welcome to the "Carnival Edition" of the Town Crier.

It certainly has been a very busy few months with the local election. The Town Council was delighted that there was such a keen interest in the election and we are looking forward to working with some returning councillors and with some newly elected councillors. Whilst the Councillors have many common aspirations around seeing improvements for local residents to raise their quality of life and integrating strategic developments with the existing town, they also have a diverse range of more specific aspirations including working with children and young people, supporting the elderly and more vulnerable, and addressing car parking, highways and housing issues.

The Councillors have a diverse range of skills and experience, and are keen to work closely with their community. You can read more about them in this edition where they introduce themselves to you on pages 6 and 7 of this edition.

Finally I would like to thank on behalf of the Town Council Cllr. Ellaway, the previous Mayor, for her unstinting service to the town during an exceptionally busy year, and to thank all the outgoing Councillors for all their hard work and dedication. The Town Council has achieved a lot in recent years and is set to achieve even more as we move forward.

*Clare Evans*  
Town Clerk



## DEAR RESIDENT

**Tithe Farm Road** will be closed on **Saturday 11th 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.

## The Mayoral Year 2014/2015



For the Council year 2014/15 the Town Mayor was Councillor Laura Ellaway and following her inauguration in May 2015, Councillor Ellaway has attended 85 public engagements! During the past few months, the Mayor has attended events such as Civic functions in other neighbouring towns, charity events, Annual General Meetings, certificate presentations and visits to sheltered homes. Councillor Ellaway has also hosted events on behalf of the Town Council, which included the Pride of Houghton Awards.

Councillor Ellaway hosted many fundraising events for her nominated charities which were Houghton Regis Day Centre, Kingfishers and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Detachment ACF (Army Cadets, Dunstable Platoon). The events have included a Halloween 'Ghost and Ghouls Hunt', A Bingo Afternoon, Coffee Morning, and 'The Celebration of Christmas' which took place at The Grove Theatre.

The Town Council would like to thank Councillor Laura Ellaway for all her hard work during her Mayoral Year.

Do you have an event that you would like to invite the Town Mayor to attend? If so, please contact Sarah Gelsthorp, Town Mayor's Secretary on 01582 708540 or email [sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk)

## Announcement of the New Councillors

Following the elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Houghton Regis Town Council is pleased to welcome new councillors Chris Slough, Susan Thorne, Don Dixon-Wilkinson, Joanna Hillyard, Martin Kennedy, David Abbott, Tracey McMahon and Richard Scott.

The Town Council is also pleased to welcome back councillors Laura Ellaway, Robin Hines, Rob Shimmin, Ken Wattingham, Jimmy Carroll and Tony Swain for another term and is looking forward to working with them all over the coming years.

## Houghton Regis Central

**A multi million pound investment in our town centre has been agreed by Central Bedfordshire Council this year and it is set to bring homes, jobs and services to the town.**

Houghton Regis Central is the name of a proposed development for the site of the former Co-operative Store and land adjacent to it.

The scheme will combine 170 brand new apartments, specially designed to help people to continue living independently for as long as possible. The apartments will be available either to rent or to buy on a range of repayment options. Additionally shops and community space will be included to support the residents of the scheme and other people of the town.

Director of Social Care, Health and Housing at the Council, Julie Ogley, explained the thinking behind the development.

"We know that thanks to advances in medicine and healthier lifestyles, the population of older people across Central Bedfordshire is set to grow. That's fantastic news for everyone and at the Council we want to make sure that we are able to offer older people an improved range of service and housing options.

So, whilst some people may be able to live completely independently throughout their lives, many will need a bit of help and support, such as living in homes that can be easily adapted to meet their changing needs and with easy access to care services.

That's why we are investing in developments such as Priory View in Dunstable, an eighty three unit development that is due to open later this year and now, Houghton Regis Central."

The budget for the scheme was approved in the spring but there is a lot of work still to do in developing proposals – with and for the community.

"We really want to involve local people in shaping the scheme so that everyone feels they have a stake in Houghton Regis Central and to make sure it offers real benefits for the town" said Julie.

"We'll be working with the Town Council and others to keep local residents up to speed with the plans and how they can get involved" she added.



# Strategic Updates

## A5 - M1 Link and Woodside Link

As we all know these works have now started and are set to continue until 2017.

Highways England (which replaced the Highways Agency earlier this month) has produced a useful 3D aerial animation showing the route of the A5-M1 Link. You can view this on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFWml3nulHQ&feature=youtu.be>

In March Highways England held Start of Works Exhibitions. If you missed it, the information boards are now available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england>



## Woodside Link

Updates on the Woodside Link can be found on the Central Bedfordshire website [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/woodsidelink](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/woodsidelink)

The contract to construct the Woodside Link road has been awarded to Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK.

In April work was successfully completed to protect and relocate water voles on Houghton Brook as part of advance works.

## HRN1

In respect of the Judicial Review challenge for HRN1, Luton Borough Council had been granted leave to appeal the Judgement issued on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. There was a days hearing on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The verbal decision was in favour of Central Bedfordshire Council although it is understood that it may still be possible for this decision to be challenged. Updates will be provided on the Town Council's website and facebook page once the outcome is known, anticipated to be June 2015.

## HRN2

The planning application has now been submitted and consulted on. Work between the developers and Central Bedfordshire Council is ongoing to address some of the comments made during the consultation and various other planning issues. It is anticipated that the application will be determined by Central Bedfordshire Council in autumn 2015, dependant on further public consultation.

The Town Council made the following response to the application and it is hoped that Central Bedfordshire Council will take these comments into consideration:

Houghton Regis Town Council Object on the following grounds.

1. The site is in the Green Belt and as the Development Strategy has stalled and not been tested for soundness, it should not be relied upon as the basis for decision making on major development in the Green Belt.

2. The application proposals fail to adequately respond to the guidance and provisions of the Framework Plan for the Houghton Regis North Strategic Allocation.
3. The application departs significantly from the Framework Plan Proposals that access to the site would be via a road running from adjacent to Miller's Way to Thorn Road. As a result of these departures and the granting of Planning Permission for two further developments in the vicinity, there will be numerous access points within a short section of Bedford Road. Further, the proposed increase in highway capacity shown in the Framework Plan will not be provided, so all north-south movements will have to be accommodated on Bedford Road on its current alignment.
4. The Development Strategy specifies a standard of 0.37ha of allotments per 1,000 of population in new developments, within a 10 minute walking time of each dwelling. 1,850 dwellings would suggest a population in the order of 4,255 persons, which equates to 1.574ha of allotments. HRN2 allocates 0.75ha. Further, the proposed location of the sites does not comply with the CBC 10 minute walking time requirement.
5. It is not clear in the application if the provision of formal recreation space meets, as a minimum, the standard set out at Appendix 6 of the Development Strategy. Furthermore, the space allocation is of an irregular shape, which tends to restrict the range of sports for which pitches can be provided.
6. There is no provision for a cemetery. The submission Development Strategy set a standard for cemetery provision of 2.03 burial plots per 1,000 of population, presumably per annum. Although this was changed post submission (November 2014) it has not been consulted on and therefore has little weight. As no cemetery provision has been made in HRN1 and none is proposed in HRN2, then the overall shortfall could be in the order of 35 burial plots per annum for the urban extension alone. This level of provision should be made, as a minimum, as part of the new development on HRN2.
7. In relation to the issue of cemetery provision, HRTC reserves the right to comment further on cemetery provision as and when reports from its cemetery consultant are received.

## Additional Comments

- The changing facilities, community centre, school and open space are separated by a road and water course. As these facilities are mutually supportive to each other, it is felt that it would make better sense not to have these barriers between them. Consideration should be given to an alternative road layout that would overcome this.
- Community facilities need to be up and running as soon as possible after people begin to move in. Alternative options can be considered, such as use of school space, retail units, house, etc., should the community building not be available early.
- HRTC reiterates its desire that all open spaces, outside of Access and Public Rights of Way, and community facilities be transferred to it on the basis that it is a democratically elected statutory body. Delivery of management and maintenance would be considered on a site by site basis being determined by the nature and purpose of each site and options would include, particularly for countryside recreation sites, partnership delivery with the voluntary and community sector.





# SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

## Business interview with Houghton Regis Band

*Dejà Vu*

### Tell us about Déjà Vu... How long has the band been performing together?

We formed in May 1994, so we have officially come of age (21 this year). Over the years many great girls have been in the band all adding their own qualities to improve the act.

### Musically, which is your favourite era?

That's a difficult one as it changes from time to time, we generally find the 60's goes down very well in most places, however some of the modern up tempo chart songs can really get a party going!

### Which is your favourite tribute artist to perform on stage?

Abba is the most popular, I think the girls like Shania Twain the best, though Dolly - done very much tongue in cheek can be fun.

### What is your favourite song of all time?

Mine would be "Sitting on the dock of the bay", by Otis Redding. We don't have it in our set, as if you play a number every week it would spoil that pleasant surprise you get when you hear it on the radio.

### What is your least favourite song of all time?

I think there is good and bad in all era's, but the Birdie song would be up there as being pretty bad and thankfully has not been in any of our sets.

### What would be your top five 'Desert Island Discs'?

It changes regularly today it is:  
I Wanna Hold Your Hand – The Beatles  
Sitting on the Dock of the Bay – Otis Redding

Thinking Out Loud – Ed Sheeran  
Living on a Prayer – Bon Jovi  
Romanza – A classical guitar piece

### If you could put five records into Room 101, what would they be?

The Birdie Song – Too Cheesy  
More More More – Andrea True  
Connection – Dreadful singing  
I Want Love – Elton John  
*(It really drags and is not a patch on his early stuff)*  
Superman – Black Lace *(enough said really)*

Trad Jazz Music – Any will do they all sound like an extended Jam to me

### Which have been the most memorable events that you have performed at?

A Jubilee concert held in the open air at Chalfont St. Giles to 5,000 people  
Summer Balls – Everyone dressed in their finest out for a good time  
Countless Weddings and parties where you see the Joy and fun of families getting together to celebrate.

### Sum up Déjà vu in just three words...

Something for everyone!



**To make a booking or to find out more please contact 01582 534540 or 07841 336 380**

### Free business adverts sponsored by HRTC in support of Local businesses



**Bromford.**

Drop in support takes place weekly throughout Central Bedfordshire.

## Need help and advice? Come to our Drop ins....

Parkside Neighbourhood Centre, LU6 1DW – Mondays 9am to 10am

Tithe Farm Neighbourhood Centre, LU5 5JB – Tuesdays 9am to 10am

Offering a range of support and advice on topics such as:

- New changes in benefits and how they may affect you.
- How does the Bedroom Tax affect you?
- Help you with any tenancy related problems.
- Help to report repairs to your landlord.
- Are you looking for employment/volunteering opportunities?
- Accessing medical services.
- Budgeting skills.
- Help with any debts you may have.
- Social activities in the local area.
- Help you to prioritise your post.

Call for more information - 01582 476840 / 01525 862802

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**Bromford.**

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## Profiles Of Councillors



**Cllr. Joanna Hillyard** Having lived in Houghton Regis for 6 years Cllr. Hillyard has become an active member of the community as the Chair of Craft & Coffee and as a member of Houghton Regis Helpers. She has experience working with older and vulnerable adults and is keen to see services and facilities enhanced for the sector of the population. Joanne stood as a local councillor to have greater input into issues affecting local people and the town as a whole. Of particular interest is seeking to ensure the long term viability of the Bedford Square community centre and to make sure it is accessible to all.

**Cllr. Ken Wattingham** Cllr. Wattingham was born and bred in Houghton Regis, and remained in the town after his marriage bringing up his family here. Having been employed as a driver and supervisor of a truck stop, Ken is currently the full time carer for his wife. He was co-opted onto the Town Council during 2014/15 and is delighted to have been elected to serve a full term of office. He currently volunteers with the SOS bus providing first aid assistance at events and functions. His particular interests as a councillor are in enhancing and developing facilities and services for young people in for the older and vulnerable sector of the community.



**Cllr. David Abbott** Cllr. Abbott is now semi-retired and has had a range of employment in his working life, including engineering, design, the Civil Service and for the last 15 years until recently, property management. Outside of work for most of his adult life David has always been involved in local community groups and organisations including school governing bodies and lately five years being the chairman of Dunstable Sea Cadets. His extensive employment history means that David is able to offer a wealth of experience and ideas to the work of the Town Council and is keen to give something back to his community. He is particularly interested in the impact of the new housing projects, and looks forward to helping to shape this expansion to ensure that Houghton Regis is fit for the future for all its residents.

**Cllr. Martin Kennedy** Cllr. Kennedy was born in Dunstable and moved to Houghton Regis in 1982 when he got married. After having served as a fire-fighter for 21 years he now works for the British Transport Police on the railways in London and has been doing so for the last 9 years. Martin has been actively involved in local politics and is looking to support his community through this role as a local councillor. Through the Town Council Martin is looking to help secure improvements to peoples quality of life, through improved employment opportunities and the growth agenda. Of particular concern is the problem of nuisance motorbikes and he would like to help to address this town wide problem.



**Cllr. Sue Thorne** Cllr. Thorne has lived locally since 1977. She has brought up her family and is now proud to be a great grandma. Having volunteered extensively in the local community for a whole range of organisations including Beavers and Cubs, the Salvation Army, local food banks, Hospice at Home Volunteers and Cordova, Sue brings to Houghton Regis Town Council a wealth of knowledge and experience in youth development and social care and support. Sue is a long standing member of the Liberal Democrat Party and, although is new to being a councillor, she is keen to learn and work with the Council team to support residents of Houghton Regis. Her particular interest is in working and supporting older people to help them make the most of opportunities available.

**Cllr. Richard Scott** Although a fairly new resident of Houghton Regis (2 years) Cllr. Scott is a local person having previously lived in Dunstable. Currently employed in IT support Richard is working towards an Open University degree in Teaching. Upon moving to Houghton Regis Richard found local people to be warm and friendly and felt that he wanted to be more involved in his local community to see it grow and flourish. Of particular interest to Richard is addressing local parking issues and improving the run down garage block sites.



**Cllr. Don Dixon Wilkinson** Having lived in Houghton Regis for over 30 years Cllr. Dixon Wilkinson knows the town and its people well. He is an active member of the local community along with other members of his family. Although now retired Don previously work in mechanical engineering. Don is keen to see Houghton Regis move forward and is looking forward to working as part of a team to affect and deliver positive change. Of particular interest are services for young people and involving the community in local facilities, service delivery and arising projects and opportunities.





**Cllr. Tracey McMahon** Cllr. McMahon and her family are long standing residents of Houghton Regis. Her family moved here in the 1960s and Tracey stayed and raised her family here. Tracey is active in the local community being involved in the Wildlife Trust at Houghton Regis Quarry, Craft and Coffee, the Houghton Regis Heritage Society and was previously the Chair of the Houghton Regis Leisure Centre Action Group (HRLCAG). She has worked in administration and retail. Through her involvement in the HRLCAG Tracey felt that to be able to 'effect change you have to be change' and as such stood for election to help the community to be heard, to bring the community together and to work with the Council team to secure improvements for residents. Of particular interest to Tracey is support and encouragement of young people, issues of fly tipping and dog waste, to help those disaffected and to seek to put the Pride back into Houghton.

**Cllr. Rob Shimmin**

Cllr. Shimmin has been a town councillor for the last 4 years and Deputy Mayor during 2014/15 and a resident of Houghton Regis for the last 15 years. He currently works in the fashion distribution industry. To achieve improvements for the local community and bring about positive change is particularly important for Rob. At a strategic level Rob is keen to try and ensure the major developments taking place in Houghton Regis are fully integrated into the existing town and at a more specific level Rob aspires to address town and residential parking issues.



**Cllr. Jimmy Carroll** As a long standing resident of Houghton Regis Cllr. Carroll has been actively involved in the community of Houghton Regis for many years including being a local Scout leader, a governor of Hillborough Primary School, a founder member of the Houghton Regis Carnival and a member of the Memorial Hall Committee. He has worked as a paramedic for 21 years. As a keen historian of Houghton Regis Jimmy's particular interest is in securing positive growth for the town through the developments of HRN1 an HRN2. He is keen to try and ensure high levels of community involvement in the planning process and long term community cohesion to secure a positive future for all residents. Of specific interest is improving community services to residents and in improving youth opportunities.

**Cllr. Robin Hines**

Cllr Hines is proud of the fact that he was born and bred in Houghton Regis, in fact his family has a long history in the town. His work background was in civil engineering and the Royal Navy and although he has been retired for some time now Robin feels like he works harder now than when employed. Having live in Houghton Regis when the estates of Tithe Farm and Parkside were created Robin is keen to ensure that the proposed expansion is smoother for all residents. Having been a councillor on and off since 1997, Robin has seen a diverse range of issues come forward. He is looking to ensure that the strategic developments are completed with allot less stress than before and that good standards of development are achieved. He is specifically keen to see both visual improvements to the High Street and the town centre providing a vibrant facility for local residents.



**Cllr. Tony Swain** Cllr. Swain has lived in Houghton Regis for the last 13 years. Prior to his recent retirement Tony competed 18 years in education in the prison service and acted as branch secretary to the Union. Hobbies include walking, fishing and visiting National Trust properties. Tony has been a town councillor since 2007 and was the Mayor in 2008/9. Tony has also been elected as a Central Bedfordshire councillor for Houghton Regis. Of particular importance to Tony is to seek to improve the quality of life for local residents and notably to help to shape the strategic development around Houghton Regis so that the town remains cohesive and integrated. A long standing specific aspiration is to see an allotment site created for local residents.

**Cllr. Laura Ellaway**

Cllr. Ellaway has lived in Houghton Regis for 16 years and brought her daughter in the town. Laura was co-opted to the Council in 2013 and was the Mayor in 2014/15. Working for a local housing provider Laura understands and appreciates the sometimes complex and difficult circumstances families can find themselves in. Laura is keen to promote and encourage community cohesion and is looking forward to working with the Council team to see community development and enhancement.



**Cllr. Christopher Slough** Cllr. Slough has been a resident of Houghton Regis for over 30 years and brought up his family in the town. His career as a teacher prevented him from becoming involved in local politics before, so as he has now retired he is pleased to be able to pursue this interest. Christopher enjoys working with people and is keen to represent local people's views to council and other statutory agencies. His experience within schools in leisure and recreational developments and projects will help to support and promote these services within the Town Council. Of particular importance to Christopher is being able to give something back to his local community and to see it develop and flourish.

## Council & Committee Reports

The **Town Council** has held 4 meetings. In January the main business item was the setting of the budget for 2015/16, however in addition to this Members also considered the CBC proposal to comprehensively redevelop the former Co-op site, Red House Court and Red House. Consideration was also given to the provision of facilities and services within HRN1 and HRN2. Early March the Council met twice for additional meetings to considering 2 specific issues. The first was the continuation of the contract for Community Work, after much consideration it was with regret that the Council felt it necessary to end the arrangement for this area of work. The second additional meeting was to approve additional investigations into the HRN2 land to investigate its suitability for the development of a new cemetery. This was agreed and is being progressed.

The meeting at the end of March was the last full Council meeting of that administration. Members considered various governing policy documents including Committee Functions & Terms Of Reference, Late Payments & Bad Debts Policy, Safeguarding, Training Statement Of Intent, and the Calendar Of Meetings for 2015/16. Of particular note was the final review of the Town Council Vision.

The **Corporate Services Committee** undertook reviews of Council policy and considered the interim internal audit.

### Planning & Licensing Committee

19 Planning applications have been considered in the last 3 months. Of these, 12 were considered acceptable and 7 were objected to on various planning grounds.

### Environment & Leisure Committee

In the only meeting in the last 3 months, the issue surrounding the new cycle path on the north-east edge of the #Village Green was discussed. A letter of complaint and seeking explanations has subsequently been sent to Central Bedfordshire Council.

## Summer Holiday Club

The Council has annually provided a Summer Holiday Club for younger children and has even extended this to provide an Easter Holiday Club. All the children's who have attended have said how much they have enjoyed themselves. The Town Council are working hard to ensure that a Summer Holiday Club is again provided this year, however details are to be confirmed so make sure you keep an eye on our website and facebook page to find out more details nearer the time.

## Annual Report 2014/2015

The Annual Report, containing detailed updates on the work of the Council will be published on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 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.

## HRTC Vision

The Council from 2011 -2015 worked towards achieving stated aspirations within the Town Council Vision. Now at the conclusion of this Vision the following aspirations, projects and initiatives have been achieved:

### 2014/15

- Establishment of a social media page for HRTC
- Website and social media usage figures presented to Community Services Committee;
- HRTC Communication Strategy developed and approved;
- Active engagement in strategic growth area development proposals;
- Land transfer to HRTC of the former railway line
- Allotment land indicated within HRN2 planning application site & community garden to be development as part of the Houghton Hall Park Project
- Enhancements to Bedford Square Community Centre initiated;

### 2013/14

- Promotion of consultations through Council publications
- New website launched and updated on a weekly basis
- Residents newsletter enhanced and expanded
- Annual programme of events established including Pancake Race, Easter Egg Hunt, May Fayre Carnival, Classic Car Show, and Santa's Grotto
- Town centre car parking study completed including disabled parking
- 2 free business adverts offered per edition of the residents newsletter
- Continued mayoral support
- Promotion of public participation at council meetings
- Support of disabled people in the Council workplace through the promotion of the Disability Symbol
- New noticeboards installed on recreation grounds
- Contents of noticeboards updated fortnightly or as required
- HRTC established as partner in the ongoing provision of the leisure centre
- HRTC established as partner in The Quarry
- Provision of Welcome Pack to new residents
- Continuation of HRTC responding to relevant consultations
- Continuation of Houghton Regis Network Group



## Spotlight on the Community...

### Tell us about the Community Hub at Sandringham Drive...

The Community and Enterprise Hub at Sandringham Drive opened in 2011 by Aldwyck Housing Group. It was built with the intention to bring business and the community closer together and that is exactly what we have done. The Hub accommodates for everyone's needs from start up business owners to after school clubs. There are seven start up offices to rent, a training room, cafeteria with accessible kitchen and a main hall.



### Which clubs and events take place at the centre?

Throughout the week you can find youth clubs, after school revision classes, community café, church groups, cooking classes and training courses being held at The Hub. We even run summer projects for the surrounding families in the community.

### Which is the most unusual event that has taken place at the centre?

In 2014, we collaborated with Full House Theatre to produce a play about being homeless and the problems that could occur from it. The play was performed by and for young people outside school hours which was unique for a Housing Association to do. It was well attended and received by the audience.

### Who is the team behind the Community Hub?

Aldwyck's very own Community Involvement Team.

- Rhys Evans – Community Involvement Co-ordinator
- Hafi Rahman – Youth and ASB Intervention Officer
- Amy Eckersley – Business and Community Apprentice
- Millie Stone – Housing Assistant

### What is your vision for the Hub?

Our vision for The Hub is to expand and support the local community. Even though we have been open since 2011, we are still noticing that people are unaware of our existence. The plan for 2015 is to branch out and make sure everyone in the local community is aware of the services we provide. The Hub is used for businesses and the community so that we can aim to meet everyone's needs and not just focus on one target group. We are constantly working together as a team to think of new ways to appeal to new customers and beat local competition.

### How can groups or organisations hire the building?

Anyone that needs any more information or would like to make a booking can contact us at [community@aldwyck.co.uk](mailto:community@aldwyck.co.uk) or call Amy Eckersley on 01582869275.

### Please can you sum up the Community Hub in three words?

1) Modern 2) Business 3) Together



## CALLING ALL ANGLERS!



**From June 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 the Wildlife Trust is launching an official angling club at Houghton Regis Chalk Pit nature reserve to improve its condition for wildlife and people.**

This is to tackle some of the problems at the lake which have been harming wildlife and the environment – such as discarded fishing tackle, poaching, much litter and fires, spoiling this tranquil spot for responsible anglers and other visitors to the nature reserve.

As the lake is only small and does not offer tremendous fishing opportunities at the moment (due to poaching problems), angling fees will only charge a small amount initially. The angling club will be looking into improving the stocking situation in due course.

### How much will syndicate membership be?

- Adult annual membership £20.00 (17 years old and upwards)
- Junior annual membership £10.00 (13-16 years old). Free angling membership for under 16s if they volunteer with the Wildlife Trust. Under 16s must be supervised by an adult member.
- Children under 13 FREE, but must be supervised by an adult member.
- Day Tickets only £2.00 (dawn till dusk)
- FREE for Bailiffs

### We are still appealing for bailiffs!

**Interested in becoming a bailiff? Want to learn how to buy an angling permit?**

Please contact the Wildlife Trust's Toddington office on 01525 874317 [toddington@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:toddington@wildlifebcn.org)

Registered Office: The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, CB23 6DH.  
Registered in England 2534145. Registered charity No. 1000412

# HOUGHTON REGIS BOWLS CLUB

**Houghton Regis Bowling Green will be open to the public from 9.00am to 1.00pm on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting) for anyone who would like to play a game of Bowls or learn how to play.**

**Members of the Bowling Club will be there to assist.**

**Cost: £2 per hour  
Flat soled shoes or trainers  
MUST be worn.**

**To book a slot, please call  
the Town Council Offices.**

**Payment must be made at time of  
booking.**



## **Houghton Hall Park – Renaissance and Renewal Project Update**

After submitting a bid last year, it was finally announced in early 2015 that Central Bedfordshire Council working with Houghton Regis Town Council were successfully awarded £2.196m to deliver their prestigious Houghton Hall Park Project. Since then the project has been steadily moving forward, gaining momentum for a busy 2015!

Working with the Parks for People Programme – a joint initiative between the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Big Lottery Fund, Central Bedfordshire Council have been working to appoint contractors to the project.

The project has successfully appointed Chris Burnett of Chris Burnett Associates as Project Landscape Architect. Chris worked with CBC and HRTC at the preliminary stages to develop the project concept and was instrumental in our achieving the funding with his visionary designs and concepts for the formal and kitchen gardens and his general overall vision of the Park.

### *About Chris*

*Chris Burnett has a degree in botany and geology from Sheffield University and a degree in Landscape Design from Manchester University. He is a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute.*

*He started his practice in 1985 and has since developed considerable experience in historic landscape conservation often leading teams which specialize in the conservation and restoration of historic estates.*

*Chris has coordinated many studies which have resulted in several successful HLF bids. These include Tarn Haws and Silloth Green in Cumbria, New Walk in Leicester, and more topically with Richard III in the news, Bosworth Battlefield in Leicestershire. He also worked with Astley Park in Lancashire, Eastwood Park in Chesterfield and more locally The Swiss Gardens, located in the beautiful Shuttleworth Estate here in Bedfordshire.*

*He is also an experienced contract administrator and project manager and has successfully navigated many projects through the design phases to implementation on the ground. He has been a past monitor for the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

Later this summer we hope to commence works to begin building our beautiful new Visitor Centre. Keep up to date with all the latest developments on our newly launched Houghton Hall Park Website [www.houghtonhallpark.org](http://www.houghtonhallpark.org)

The newly launched website will be used as a tool to update the community on the Project, relaying information about proposed timelines for developments throughout The Park. Why not sign up for our project update letter via the new website and get an update straight to your inbox?

## Houghton Regis Best Bar None

There are already many great places to go for a night out in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Now pubs, bars and other licensed premises in the two towns are being encouraged to raise the bar further and prove that they are Best Bar None.

Following the success of last year's pilot in Dunstable, this year the scheme has been extended to Houghton Regis. Best Bar None aims to make towns and cities great places to go for a night out by making pubs and clubs even more welcoming places for visitors.

By improving safety for customers and staff through reducing binge drinking and alcohol-related crime and disorder, and encouraging licensees to work with enforcement agencies, the scheme aims to boost improve the night-time economy for everyone.

Last year's overall winner was Club Cookies, from Grove Park, and its owner Edd Clayson is encouraging people to get involved in this year's scheme. Edd said: "We were ecstatic to be named overall winner in last year's Best Bar None awards as it recognised the team and the hard work they put in to making Club Cookies what it is. They are the ones who work to the high standards we set."

Best Bar None is win-win for everyone: customers get a better night out, towns and cities become more vibrant places as people want to go there and that has economic benefits for pubs and clubs there. That is a sentiment echoed by Neill Waring, Chief Inspector of Crime Reduction and Community Safety at Bedfordshire Police, who was part of the judging panel for last year's awards.

Chief Insp. Waring said: "Best Bar None is all about getting licensed premises to work with councils, police and the fire authority to put Dunstable and Houghton Regis on the map as great places for a safe night out. "As well as improving safety for customers and staff there is also the positive knock-on that if more people want to go out in Dunstable and Houghton Regis, it can only have economic benefits for the pubs and clubs there."

To qualify for Best Bar None accreditation, businesses have to meet a number of criteria set down by the Community Safety Partnership. For more information about Best Bar None and to apply for this year's scheme, visit [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/bestbarnone](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/bestbarnone)







## Police Launch Crackdown on Off-road Bikes

Bedfordshire Police has launched a crackdown on the illegal and dangerous practice of riding off-road bikes in public places. Officers have responded to public concerns and taken action against the growing use of such vehicles. In order to combat the anti-social behaviour in these areas, the force has commissioned two off-road police bikes to help target those committing the offences.

April saw a team of 24 police staff take to the streets, along with two road policing officers on the specially-enlisted bikes. The initiative, called Operation Meteor, resulted in two arrests, two people were arrested, two stolen bikes were recovered and two Section 59 Notices (warnings) were issued.

PC Richard Tott, leading the operation, said: "There were a lot of people out on the common and in the parks. They were very pleased to see the off-road bikes and the local community team.

"There were very few incidents relating to bikes so we can assume that the culprits saw the increased police presence and decided to stay at home."

It is against the law to ride motor-vehicles such as mopeds, motorcycles and scooters on public highways – including parks and pavements – unless they meet certain legal requirements. It is also a legal requirement for all riders and pillion passengers to wear a protective helmet, regardless of the type of vehicle they are riding.

Chief Inspector Gavin Hughes-Rowlands, overseeing the operations, said: "We want to reassure the public, that we are taking action on their concerns to tackle these offenders and keep our communities safe. People may not see us acting immediately, but we have to be intelligence-led in our response to this kind of crimes and have been working hard behind the scenes to deal with this dangerous and anti-social behaviour.

The Chief Inspector also urged residents to remain vigilant and report any information they have around off-road biking in their communities.

Anyone with information is urged to call the Bedfordshire Police non-emergency number 101, or text 07786 200 011. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



# Classic

## & Vintage Motor Show

FOOD • ENTERTAINMENT • STALLS • FREE ADMISSION

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2015

12:00AM-4:00PM

Houghton Regis Village Green

A stunning display of Classic, Vintage Cars, Motor Cycles & Military Vehicles combined with fun activities to make this

The Perfect FREE family day!

For More information:

Please contact  
[sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk)  
 or phone 01582 708540

Entering your vehicle is FREE

You just need to complete an exhibitor form

Voluntary Donations will be collected on the day in aid of the Mayor's Appeal fund

Please be aware that only ticket holders will be permitted on the Green on the day

### Town Council Calendar of Meetings

Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from June to the end of September 2015. 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
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday	Corporate Services	
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Monday	<b>Town Council</b>	
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday	Town Partnership	
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
10 <sup>th</sup> August	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Tuesday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday	Community Services	
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Monday	Corporate Services	
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Wednesday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday	<b>Town Council</b>	

2015

PRIDE OF HOUGHTON AWARDS

2016

# NOMINATION FORM 2015 – 2016

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 28th August 2015.**

*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 or Email details to [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)

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)