THE MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2016 - ISSUE 55

Telephone: 01582 708540

E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

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



HOUGHTON ROCKS

10TH SEPTEMBER 2016 12NOON - 6PM

PARKSIDE RECREATION PARK HOUGHTON REGIS, LU5 5PX









CARBOOT SALE



KIDS RIDES



FOOD STALLS

MUSIC FOOD & DANCING







HOUGHTON REGIS CARNIVAL & SKATE PARK EVENT ON PAGES 6 & 8



STRATEGIC UPDATES PAGE 9

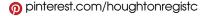


Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

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

Telephone: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102 Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk Website: www.houghtonregis.org.uk







@HoughtonRegisTC

Officers:

Clare Evans	
Town Clerk	01582 708542
Stuart Oliver	
Deputy Town Clerk	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsthorp	
Civic and Events Officer	01582 708523
Sonia Stennett	
Accounts & Cemetery Officer	01582 708541
Chantel England	
Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 708544
Robyn Godfrey	
Office Apprentice	01582 708540

Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward:	
Cllr. Laura Ellaway	

 Clir. Laura Ellaway
 01582 537 105

 Clir. Robin Hines
 01582 759 026

 Clir. Rob Shimmin
 01582 751 881

 Clir. Chris Slough
 01582 751 881

 Clir. Susan Thorne
 07847 702 499

 Clir. Ken Wattingham
 01582 705 830

 Parkside Ward:

 Cllr. Jimmy Carroll
 01582 868 006

 Cllr. Don Dixon-Wilkinson
 01582 529 554

 Cllr. Joanna Hillyard
 07748 440 901

 Cllr. Martin Kennedy
 01582 702 274

Tithe Farm Ward:

Cllr. David Abbott

O1582 894 060

Cllr. Tracey McMahon

O7948 532 662

Cllr. Richard Scott

O1582 708 540

Cllr. Tony Swain

O1582 522 952

Central Bedfordshire Councillors:
Antonia Ryan (Parkside)
Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)
John Kane (Houghton Hall)
Tony Swain (Tithe Farm)
0300 300 8547

The Town Mayor 2016-17

Since his inauguration in May, Town Mayor Councillor Chris Slough has been very busy attending events in around the local area and hosting events for his nominated charities. The fund raising events have so far included a Civic Reception and a Charity Coffee and Doughnut Morning.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Joanna Hillyard has also been busy with representing Houghton Regis at local events and assisting the Town Mayor with his fundraising initiatives.

Councillor Slough is usually accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs Susan Slough, and on some occasions he is also accompanied by his special Mascot for the year, 'Rex the Dog". One event that Councillor Slough attended recently with Rex, was the Tithe Farm Primary School Race for Life, which raised money for Cancer Research.



It was a blistering hot afternoon but this did not stop the fun. The younger children ran a lap around the school field. Years five and six, who are the oldest children in the school, ran 5 laps. Each lap is approximately 1km so the standard 5km was achieved. Lots of parents turned up to support the effort and many of

them ran alongside their children. This helped keep the children motivated. The Mayor attended and helped to present medals to all the children as they passed the finish line.

The staff supervised the children but still found time to run. Sponsor money is still being handed in and the total is in excess of £1700. The final total raised will be published on the school's website.

**photos taken by Tithe

photos taken by Tithe Farm Primary School.



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

Register for your Christmas Card

If you are aged 65 or over, you can register for the Mayor's Christmas Card.

Please contact Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708523 to ensure that you are on the list.

Town Clerk

Well I can't believe we are in September already! I hope you have had a good summer despite the somewhat variable weather.

Since the July edition of the Town Crier our town has continued to change, you can find updates on some of the major developments inside.

The Town Council has been pleased to host the "Royal Houghton" themed Carnival and the 2016 Skate Park Competition both in July. Both events were really well supported, we hope you managed to come along and join in the fun. On pages 6,7 and 8 you can find fantastic articles and photographs capturing these days.

All our events take a huge amount of organising by the Town Council and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped sponsor, organise, set up, run and clear up after the events. Without all your help these events would not be possible. There are far too many groups, organisations and individuals to name but please be assured how much we value all your help, assistance and enthusiasm.

There is a lot to look forward to in the upcoming months, including 2 *NEW* Events... 'Houghton Rocks' and a Fireworks Night.

Houghton Rocks, 10th September on Parkside Recreation Ground, is the first music event we have hosted, so we hope you will all join us in making this an event to remember... We have a host of music bands lined up to entertain you along with a car show and car boot sale... there will also be food stalls and rides to keep the children entertained.

This is defiantly one event you should **mark in your Diary!**

The Fireworks Night is to be held on 6th November at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground. With a professional display and supporting stalls, food outlets and fairground rides for younger children this is sure to be another event not to be missed!

See our website or facebook page for all the details.

And as Christmas approaches there is the School Choir "Celebration of Christmas" show in November at The Grove Theatre, the Mayors Carol Service, Christmas Lights Switch on, Christmas Craft Fayre and Santa's Grotto to look forward to.

Clare Evans
Town Clerk

The Houghton Hall Park Renaissance and Renewal Project - Update



Progress has continued in earnest on the Houghton Hall Park development.

The construction of the Kitchen Garden wall has begun. Red bricks now mark the area between this and the formal garden, where works will start towards the later part of the year.

The accessible paths around the park are taking shape creating more access for pram and mobility scooter users, whilst ensuring the magnificent park views are still visible.

On August 4, the Groundwork's Green Skills course began, providing an opportunity for young people 20+ years, unemployed, claiming benefits and interested in landscaping, to gain skills and be part of this historical regeneration project.

The Friends of Houghton Hall Park are always looking for volunteers to take part in tasks and planting, so if you are interested in joining, please contact alexe.rose@greensandtrust.org.

More information on the project can be found on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/houghtonhallpark/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/BedsCountryside website: https://www.houghtonhallpark.org/home Or emailing us: hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk





SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Business interview with

You are new to the area. What made you choose Houghton Regis, Bedford Square to open your business?

Houghton Regis doesn't have any funeral directors. However from our head office in Arlesey, we have carried out numerous funerals in Houghton Regis. Demand for our service was high, in such opening a funeral home in Houghton Regis was an obvious business choice for us.

How has business been since you have located here?

The florist shop is really doing well, business is good. Funerals are now underway as well.

What are your opening hours?

Florist: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm & Saturday's 9am to 1pm. Funeral business is a 24hour service, 7 days a week.

How can people get in contact with you?

Florist no: 01582 249843 Email: info@

houghtonregisflowers.co.uk

Website: www.houghtonregisflowers.co.uk

Funeral Directors: 01582 249268(24hr service)

Email: peter@benedictfuneral.co.uk Website: www.benedictfuneral.co.uk

Have you any special plans for the business this Christmas?

Both Lesley & Rachael, our two florists, will be busy with great bouquets and with romance/love flowers.

Is there any special message you would like to give residents of Houghton Regis?

Benedict Funeral Directors has two main aims: (1) To offer cheaper funerals than other funeral companies. We will always work to offer the lowest prices we believe possible. In Arlesey we have sometimes quoted over £1000 cheaper than one of our competitors. No one should take the first price given by a funeral company. Phone around for prices, we are very confident our prices will be the best.

(2) Our standards are very high, we don't cut corners. Our prices may be low, but our standards are high.





Free Business Adverts Sponsored by HRTC - In Support of Local Businesses





Houghton Rocks



Houghton Rocks Music Festival takes place on Saturday 10th September and this is an event not to be missed.

This free music event takes part in the grounds of the Parkside Drive Recreation Ground and includes over six hours of live music (beginning from 10.30am), a classic and vintage motor show, stalls and information stands, beer tents, music, fairground rides for younger children and food retailers.

This will be the first time that this event has taken place and there is an exciting line up of local bands and musicians scheduled to perform on the dome stage, which is being specially brought in for the occasion. The line up and timetable of music will be revealed as an exclusive on the Town Council website and social media pages over the next few weeks!

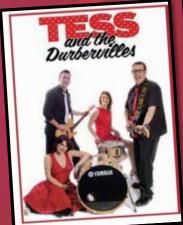
The event includes a car boot sale, which starts at 12 noon and although it is possible to turn up on the day, discounts are offered for pre-booking. Forms are available from the Town Council Offices or from the Facebook page or website www.houghtonregis.org.uk.

Free car parking will be available at Hawthorn Park School, Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, The Kingsland Campus and ST Vincent's School and Church Complex.













Houghton Regis Town Carnival 2016

Houghton Regis Carnival was a royally spectacular occasion when the popular annual event took place on Saturday 9th July. Subjects in their thousands turned out to enjoy the regal affair.

A variety of majestic stalls and activities were held throughout the day, which included Lee Jackson as 'The King' Elvis Presley, two Birds of Prey shows, Hobby Horse Jousting, Punch and Judy shows, and a Circus Skills workshop. The Central Bedfordshire Canine Trust organised the 'Pet Dog of the Year Show' which for the first time, included a puppy category. There were some food stalls 'fit for a King' comprising of a hog roast, Chinese and Indian cuisine and fresh pizza. The Village Green Pavilion was also turned into a royal team room by Houghton Regis W.I.

The grand parade made its way from Houghton Regis Academy, to the Village Green, presided by the towns very own Carnival Court. Queen Ruby, King Regis (the Lion) Princess Faith, Prince Kristian, Lady in Waiting Favour and Knight (Sir Ben of Houghton Regis) travelled in their very own custom made carriage. Their royal costumes were been put together by Joanna Hillyard and Carol Butler from Houghton Regis Craft and Coffee, whilst the carriage was customised by Joanna Hillyard and James Carroll.

Sarah Gelsthorp, Civic and Events Officer added "The Carnival theme of 'Royal Houghton' was created from suggestions made by local schools, and it was particularly appropriate in this year of celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday. There were some fantastic costumes made by the community groups that took part in the parade and some amazing stalls on the Green, which added to the royal splendour of the day"

Winners of the competitions were:

Mayor's Choice - Thornhill Primary School Runners up - Thornhill Majorettes Best Walker - Full House Theatre Most Original Entry - 4th Houghton Regis Scout Group Runners up - Dunstable Sea Cadets Best Dressed Team - Donna's Dance School Best Performance - 1st/3rd Houghton Regis Scouts Best Stall - Houghton Regis Helpers Best Group Stall - Headway (Luton) Best Commercial Entry - Queen of Spices

Houghton Regis Town Council would also like to thank all of the businesses that have sponsored the Carnival this year – Houghton Regis Development Consortium, Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, Zebra Properties, TW Carpets, Wilson Car Sales and Grovebury Cars, and Signposts for their help and support with the Carnival marshalling.





Young people from the local area took part in the Skate Park Competition, at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground, Houghton Regis. The event was free to attend and was open to skateboard, scooter and bike riders from a wide age range, who came along to show off their talents.

The event was the idea of local resident Harry Backhouse. Harry has been riding over at the Skate Park for the past four years and he has made many friends along the way. It was Harry's dream to get everybody from around the area to come together and enjoy riding together, and he said that a Skate Park Competition seemed the ideal way for make this happen.



Bicycle Display Team 3Sixty demonstrated an array of tricks and stunts on ramps and specially made frames and steps (only to be tried by professionals) and there was a range of activities on offer including a climbing wall, activities from Houghton Regis Craft and Coffee, and information stands from Sustrans / Travel Choices, and Groundwork. OSCAR the road safety car was also on hand to show a road safety video to the young people and with the Firebike Safety initiative.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Chris Slough held a fundraising stall in aid of his nominated charities and presented the trophies and medals to the winners of the event competitions. Town Mascot 'Regis the Lion' also made a special appearance at the competition, much to the delight of some of the younger guests, and could be seen trying out some of the activities at the Recreation Ground.



Sarah Gelsthorp, Civic and Events Officer added "The Skate Park
Competition was a very successful event, which was well supported
by young people. The judges faced some very tough decisions
when deciding the winners and there was a fantastic display of talent demonstrated
across the different age categories. Well done to everyone who took part".

New Staff Members

Houghton Regis Town Council are pleased to announce and welcome two new additional members of staff, plus 2 trainees / apprentices and a replacement team member. The growing staff team will help to deliver the Town Council Plan, Houghton Regis: Our 2020 Vision to provide valuable services to our growing community.

Joining the Office team we have:

Robyn Godfrey as Office Apprentice who joined us in June. Robyn provides administrative support and assistance to the Council, including reception and telephone duties.

Debbie Marsh as Corporate Service Manager who joined us in July and is here to ensure compliance with local government procedures, policies and legislation whilst, at the same time, seeking to achieve value for money in all of the Council's areas of responsibility.

Tara Earnshaw as Community Development Officer who will be joining us shortly and will be helping to deliver, promote and support community and youth work in Houghton Regis.

And joining the Grounds Team we have:

Christopher Elston as Grounds Trainee who joined us in June who will be assisting with various jobs around our recreation grounds, open spaces and buildings throughout the town.

Andrew Godly as Groundsman who joined us in June who will be keeping up the standards and service provision of the Council's cemetery, parks, recreation areas and open spaces.

So whether you are out and about in the Town and see our new grounds team or popping in to the office, say 'hi' to our new team members.

Strategic Updates

Houghton Regis Central Update

Designs for the new Independent Living Scheme on the old Co-op site in Houghton Regis are being finalised – with the application now submitted for consultation.

The planned scheme, providing homes for older residents as well as community space and retail opportunities, has been designed with feedback from the local community.

You are able to view the plans from at www. centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/houghton-regiscentral and there is a statutory consultation on the application. This is another chance for you to share their thoughts, ideas, concerns or positive comments.

A decision is expected in the autumn - but keep checking our website for news.



WOODSIDE LINK

Works are progressing well and completion is expected in early autumn. A public event is being planned to celebrate the end of construction – look out for details soon at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/woodsidelink.



Recipes needed for community orchard

Do you make the best apple pie or plum crumble in Central Bedfordshire? If you're proud of what you can do with apples, pears, plums or soft fruit, send your recipes to the Woodside Link team. They may go on public display permanently in the Woodside Link's community orchard. Due to be planted near to Houghton Regis's new link road later in 2016, the orchard will feature four timber picnic tables displaying local recipes. In future years residents will be able to pick fruit from trees and bushes, take a photo of the ingredients and method on their phones, then go home to make a tasty dish. Residents wishing to share some culinary magic can email their family favourites to woodsidelink@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.



Bidwell West Consortium

Following the granting of planning permission at the end of 2015, further technical assessments in relation to ground water, archaeology and ecology have been undertaken. These assessments form the basis of the first discharge of strategic planning conditions, which have been submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. Details relating to ground water and drainage have since been approved with decisions on archaeology and biodiversity conditions expected to follow.









SECOND OP SALCOATS IS SOARING SUCCESS

The second Operation Salcoats took place April in Houghton Regis, and proved to be a roaring success Operation Salcoats sees volunteers from Community Watch schemes – including Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch and Street Watch – work alongside some of the force's Special Constables, Cadets, Beds Fire & Rescue Service and the force's Crime Reduction Team, to provide a visible presence in an area, enforce speed limits, conduct home burglary surveys and talk to local residents about crime prevention.

Sgt Ben Dimmock, from the force's Crime Reduction Team, said: "The second Operation Salcoats was another very successful day, and we know that the local community valued our presence. People submitted intelligence to us, which goes to show that engaging with our communities in this way can be extremely valuable.

"The day provided a really important opportunity for us to better understand the issues that matter to people in Houghton Regis, so that we can look to see what further appropriate action we can take.

"We can't tackle crime alone, and working together with our partner agencies and communities is vital in helping us protect people, fight crime and keep Bedfordshire safe."





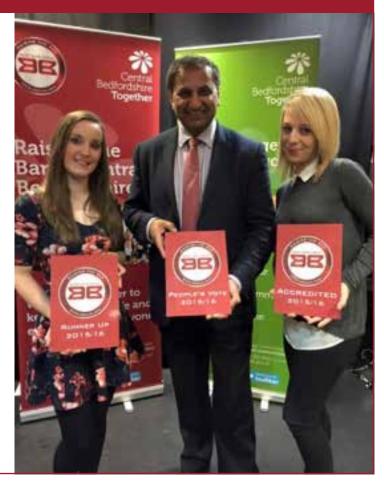
BEST BAR NONE – PEOPLE'S VOTE

Best Bar None 2016 has launched again in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and now including Leighton Buzzard.

Licensed premises in your area have been invited to take part in the scheme and those who want to take part are currently being assessed. Premises who are accredited will be automatically entered into the People's Vote, which gives you a chance to vote for your favourite venue.

Thank you to all of you who voted for your favourite licensed premises in 2015. The winner was Go Houghton in Houghton Regis.

We will be launching People's Vote again in September 2016; please look out for social media coverage on Facebook pages for Central Bedfordshire Council, Dunstable Town Council, Houghton Regis Town Council and Leighton Linslade Town Council. Also you can follow Best Bar None at #bbnuk.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMMUNITY



What kind of services do Beanstalk Charity offer?

Beanstalk is a children's literacy charity that recruit and train reading helpers who provide dedicated 1:1 literacy support to local children. Each volunteer goes into a local primary school for two sessions per week, working with the same three children for a whole year. This consistency and support not only improves their literacy skills but also their self-esteem and confidence.

How long have the Beanstalk Charity been going?

Beanstalk operates in many areas across the country and was started 43 years ago by a lady called Susan Belgrave. The charity is growing year on year and has been working in the local area for over a year.

Who does your charity work with?

Beanstalk works with local primary schools to reach those children who urgently need support with their reading. The charity has also formed a strong partnership with Save the Children as part of their Born to Read campaign, among others.

Is there a charge for your services?

Schools make a contribution for the support provided by the Beanstalk trained reading helpers in the school. This contribution is matched by the charity through the work of their fantastic fundraising team based in London.



If someone would like to volunteer with you, what do they need to do?

You can apply online to become a trained reading helper at www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk alternatively you can call 01604 720969 to speak to a member of the team covering Houghton Regis. After applying you are invited to an interview and training. This provides each volunteer with the skills and knowledge they need to make a real impact on the children they support.

Are there any exciting events coming up or you are planning for Christmas?

Beanstalk hold regular events for their volunteers and near Christmas provide end of term celebrations to thank them for the amazing work that they do for children in the area.

We Need your Help!!



The Royal British Legion are looking for ANY volunteers to assist them with their annual collecting at the Morrison's store in Houghton Regis, you don't have to have served to be a collector for the Appeal.

If you could spare a few hours between Sunday 6th November and Saturday 12th November 2016. We plan on starting at 0900hrs and finishing around 1730hrs daily, last year we raised £8.835.44p for the Poppy Appeal and this was just from collecting in the store.

This year we really want to put Houghton Regis on the map and break the £10k mark. If you would like to assist in any way or would like further information, please contact me, the Houghton Regis Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) Michael Price on 07588 700883 or email me at beds@rblr.co.uk





Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from October to the end of December 2016. 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
3 rd October	Monday	Town Council	
10 th October	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
17 th October	Monday	Town Partnership	
24 th October	Monday	Community Services (Grants)	
31st October	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
7 th November	Monday	Community Services	
14 th November	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
21st November	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
28 th November	Tuesday	Corporate Services	
5 th December	Monday	Town Council	
12 th December	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm









Operation meteor is Bedfordshire Poince's response to the reports of nuisance motorcycles, and the associated anti-social behaviour,

which is particular an issue in Houghton Regis, Dunstable, and Luton.
This operation is designed to disrupt and dismantle offenders,
using other areas of criminality
that we are aware that they are involved in.

Officers involved in Op Meteor work alongside partner agencies, and as a force we are committed to taking positive robust action, arresting offenders and seizing bikes that we believe to be stolen.

A dedicated email address has been set up for members of the public to email information and photos to, email

opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

The Police force has commissioned two off-road police bikes to help target those committing the offences.

committing the offences.

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

Please continue to call 101 with information –
not just to tell us what has happened but also who is doing it, what they look like,
and what they are wearing.
This will help us to target the offenders.

A reminder to those who want to keep up this nuisance behaviour, it won't be tolerated and they will be caught!

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 101

Crimestoppers 0800 555 11