

Houghton  
RegisTOWN  
CRIERMARCH  
2014**Houghton Regis Town Council**

Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

Telephone: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102

E-mail: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)Web: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

This issue of the Town Crier gives us an opportunity to look forward to the months ahead and also to look back at the wonderful events the Town Council held last year.

See page 4 for an overview of last year's events.

**EVENTS COMING UP****EASTER**

Saturday 19th April 2014 between 10am and 1pm

Come along to Bedford Square Shopping Centre in Houghton Regis for a **FREE** Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Collect your free entry form at Houghton Regis Library on the day!

Also between **9am – 12.30pm Arts and Craft Stalls** will be between the Library and the Community Centre. For more information on booking a stall, please contact **Pauline Ross on 07877 364228**.

**ARTS EVENT**

Saturday 19th April 2014 from 10am – 3pm

The Town Mayor is running a special arts event in the Bedford Square Community Centre. The event is being held to encourage local artists to exhibit their work, which can include artwork, photography and table top sculptures. Exhibitors will be charged an entry fee of £10 per item with all funds being directed to the Mayor's charities.

Artwork exhibited may also be sold, with 5% of the sale price also being directed to the Mayor's charities. This is a great opportunity for local talent to be recognised.

If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact the **Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708540** or email [sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk).

**May Fayre**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 12 noon – 3pm.

The Town Council will be hosting its second May Fayre event on the Village Green.

The day will include Maypole dancing from professional Maypole teacher Mike Ruff, Morris Dancing from Red Cuthbert Morris plus a variety of stalls for your enjoyment.

To take part in this event, please contact **Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708540**

**Carnival**

Saturday 12th July 2014

The theme for this year's carnival is **"Comic Book Heroes"**

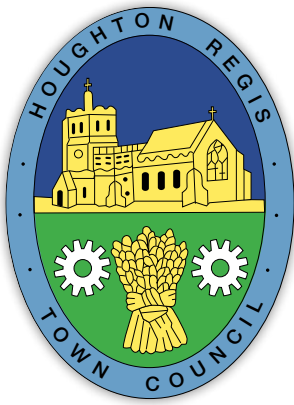
The event may be months away, but preparations are already in the process to make this another unforgettable event.

To book your stall, or place in the Procession, contact **Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708540**.

**TOWN GUIDE**

Along with this edition of the Town Crier is your complimentary Town Guide.

Any queries regarding the Town Guide please contact the Town Council on 01582 708540



## 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:

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

### Councillor contact details:

<b>Houghton Hall Ward:</b>	
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:

Cllr: Peter Carrington	01582 866314
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

## Houghton Hall Park Project

The development stage of Houghton Hall Park Heritage Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' Project is now underway. For more information about how to get involved in the project please visit: [www.houghtonhallpark.org](http://www.houghtonhallpark.org)

# The Mayor

Councillor Peter Williams has attended 49 events since October, which included visits to the sheltered homes, Christmas Carol Services and the Harvest Home 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

The biggest event that Councillor Williams has hosted was 'The Celebration of Christmas' which was held at The Grove Theatre. The event featured five Lower Schools from the town, plus Luton Mencap and raised £1750

for the Mayor's charities. Other successful events have included The Pride of Houghton Awards, The Christmas Carol Service and Light Switch on and a Charity Meal at the Old Red Lion.

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)

## 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)

Grants awarded recently to Key Partner Grants and Small Project totalling **£14,540**.

## Houghton Regis Town Council - Budget 2014/15

After much deliberation the Town Council has set its budget and precept for 2014/15 and is pleased to advise residents that the precept has been set at £772,000 which will enable the Band D charge to remain the same as in 2013/14.

The budget setting process has again been difficult this year due to the ongoing repercussions of the Welfare Reforms and the withdrawal of £90,035 Support Grant from Central Bedfordshire Council. Not only has the Town Council managed to continue the services it provides but it has done so with substantially reduced funding.

Included in this budget is provision for the following:

- Community services to support residents and the voluntary and community sector
- Cleaning and maintenance of the public toilets in the town centre
- Additional high visibility policing.
- An ongoing programme of free community events.
- Provision of an Easter and Summer playscheme.
- Contribution to funds for development of a new cemetery, an allotment site and for play area replacement.

The Council has once again maintained its commitment to provide grants to local organisations, and to the Pride of Houghton scheme.

For further details on the budget, please contact the Town Clerk on (01582) 708540 or by e-mail on [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)



## Town Council Calendar of Meetings

Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from March to the end of May 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 meetings can be found on the notice boards outside the offices and on the Town Council website. Copies can also be obtained from the office.

Date	Day	Committee	Time
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar.	Mon	Community Services Committee	
10 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Mon	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Mon	Environment & Leisure Committee	
24 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Mon	Town Council	
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Mon	Annual Towns Meeting	
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Wed	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.30pm
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Mon	Town Partnership	
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Mon	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.30pm
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Wed	Town Council	
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Mon	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.30pm

## Houghton Regis Bowls Club

### "Open Day" 4<sup>th</sup> May

From 11 am until around 4pm  
Only requirement needed is flat soled shoes.

Come along and have a go!  
All ages and abilities welcome.

Children under 12yrs to be accompanied by a parent/adult.

Light refreshments will be available.  
For more information please call  
Mary Comb on 01582 518645 (Ladies President)

# What's going on in your town...

## Co-op Site

A report was recently considered at CBC's Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 which set out the background and current position with the Co-op. The meeting decided to:

1. To delegate to the Director of Improvement and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate Resources, the authority to agree the best terms available through mediation for the authority.
2. In the event that mediation is unsuccessful, delegate to the Director of Improvement and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate Resources, the authority to begin litigation.

## Woodside Link

The scheme is currently progressing well through the Development Consent Order application. The examination process is underway and is set to close on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014. It is expected that the Examiner will deliver the report September/October 2014. The plan then is to start work on the link in late 2014, with completion in 2016/17, when it will join up with the new junction IIA that is part of the A5-M1 scheme.

## HRN 1

The Secretary of State has confirmed that he will not be calling in this application. Accordingly planning permission has effectively been granted and we await further progress.

**THE WAY**  
In association with  
Houghton Regis Town Council  
**Bringing Easter Fun to  
Houghton Regis Pavilion**  
**8th - 10th APRIL**  
AGE GROUP 5 - 12 YEARS  
9.30am - 3.30pm  
**£5 per day**  
**LIMITED PLACES**  
Jan Cooper 01582 708540

Houghton Regis Heritage Society  
**60s & 70s NIGHT**  
\*Fancy Dress optional\*  
**SATURDAY 12TH APRIL**  
**7.30PM-11.30PM**  
**THE MEMORIAL HALL**  
**(opposite The Village Green)**  
The DJ & Live music will provide the beat,  
For a good time, just bring your dancing feet!  
\*FOOD & BAR AVAILABLE\*  
**Tickets £7.50**  
Tickets Available from Pam 07906891207 or  
virgoanspirit@ntlworld.com

## Central Bedfordshire Consultations

For full details look online at  
[www.centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk)

Discretionary Housing Payment - this draft policy outlines how CBC will prioritise the money available for Discretionary Housing Payment. The consultation runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

## Crime & ASB in Houghton Regis (population 17,000)

Recorded crimes in November and December 2013 – 251  
(Ratio – 1:67.7)

Recorded ASB in November and December 2013 – 128  
Ratio – 1:132.8

### Operation Hana

This HRTC funded high visibility policing operation completed the following over November and December...

Month	Hours Worked	Foot Beat (hours)	Persons Stopped	Incidents Attended
November	135	35.67	32	31
December	105	17.92	7	19
Totals:	240	53.59	39	50

There were also 4 Section 59's issued to riders of off road bikes in Houghton Regis.

# Spotlight on...



## What services does your business offer?

AC Photography offer all aspects of fashion, portfolio, portraiture & commercial photography and image services including image manipulation, graphic design and the creation of commercial wall

art for a company reception and wall spaces. We also offer video production, some ground based aerial photography and more. In addition our Digital Camera tuition is growing for trade customers and the public showing people how to get the best from their digital cameras.

## Why is photography your passion?

I have been taking photographs for many years and I never tire of looking for the next image, every image is a moment in time. I have taken literally 100s of thousands of photographs ranging from the seemingly mundane, to some of the most

beautiful places in the world. My favourites tend to be of detail looked over by others, scenes where you had to be there at that time, and occasionally scenes created by me that no longer exist - except in my image!

## What's the most interesting thing you have photographed?

This one is a toughie! I have photographed all manner of interesting things.

I guess more recently, I did my first ever 'unit stills photographer' assignment for a feature film being made in the summer of last year. My role

was to record the process of the movie in production - so behind the scenes with make-up, props, electric & production departments, actors rehearsing and including the downtime at lunch, breaks and scene setting. It was a fascinating insight to the industry, very long 12hr+ days for over a month, and certainly one of the most interesting assignments I have had in recent months.



# Review of the Years Events

The Town Council has organised many community events this year and we would like to take this opportunity to look back at the successes.

Starting with:

**April** which saw, the Town Council hold its annual 'Easter Egg Hunt' in Bedford Square, in which over 700 children took part in just two hours. Each child went home with an Easter Egg for all their hard work in finding the clues around the shopping centre.



**May** The Town Council held its first May Day event with Maypole Dancing, traditional fairground rides for younger children, Afternoon Tea in the Pavilion from Houghton Regis Helpers and various activities for children all presided over by Houghton Regis' very own May Queen!

**July** was the Town Council Annual Carnival "Time Travel" Theme, which was a fun and successful event. The weather was very hot and the event drew approximately 3000-4000 people over the course of the whole day. The event was packed with stalls, arena displays and colourful costumes from the procession. If you would like to take part in the 2014 event please contact Sarah at [sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk)

**September** the Town Council held its Second Classic Car Show on the Village Green. Over 60 vehicles attended the event (regardless of the not so nice weather) which ranged from Pre-War motors to Military Ambulances and motorcycles.



**October** was the eleventh annual Pride of Houghton Award Ceremony, in which the winners are presented with a framed certificate and a gold badge as well as a cheque for £100 from the Town Mayor.



**November** was host to our Christmas Concert entitled "A Celebration of Christmas", which was held at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable. Five schools from the area took part, plus we had singing and signing from Luton Mencap. It was a fantastic way to kick start the Christmas season.

**December Christmas!** Once again Santa came to town with his elves bringing lots of presents with him for the children.



The council would like to thank everyone who took part in the past events and look forward to seeing you all at our future events.

If you would like to know more about the Town Council events then please take a look at our website [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk) or contact 01582 708540.