

TOWN CRIER



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

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

Find us on 



Don't Forget our Easter Egg Hunt!

SATURDAY 26th MARCH

Between 10am—12pm

(More details on page 13)



My Mayoral Year!

Words from the Town Mayor!

Also in this
month's issue:

**Town Plan:
Our 2020 Vision**



The Budget



**Calendar of
Meetings**

+ More!



Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

Houghton Regis Town Council
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Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708542
Stuart Oliver Deputy Town Clerk	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsthorp 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 300 8518
Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8525
John Kane (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8537
Tony Swain (Tithe Farm)	0300 300 8567

Town Mayor's Foreword

As I write this foreword, there are only a few weeks left of my Mayoral year, but there are still many functions to attend and local events that will be taking place. It is a busy and exciting time in Houghton Regis and I have enjoyed serving the town as your Town Mayor.

There have been lots of highlights but I particularly enjoyed visiting the schools, and meeting with School Council's and local uniformed groups, for visits to the Town Council offices. It was interesting to find out the views of the young people and to answer their questions about Civic life and the Town Council. It is with this in mind that I also enjoyed seeing the entries to the Town Mayor's Christmas Card competition and judging the entries, with assistance from young people.

The Christmas Celebrations (from the Celebration at the Grove Theatre, to the Santa's Grotto in the Library) were most enjoyable this year and I am looking forward to watching these events grow.

I have also very much enjoyed working with my nominated charities (All Saints Church, Dunstable and District Disabled Sports and The Children's Ward of the Luton and Dunstable hospital) and the next Town Crier will reveal how much money has been raised for these causes.

Thank you for an amazing year and I would like to wish the next Town Mayor a successful and enjoyable year in office.

Councillor Robert Shimmin
Town Mayor

If you have an event that you would like the Town Mayor to attend, please contact Sarah Gelsthorp, Town Mayor's Secretary on **01582 708540** or email sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk

Town Clerk

Welcome to the **SPRING** edition of the Town Crier.

By the time you have received this, the days will have lengthened, bulbs will be starting to flourish, the sun will be stronger and warmer, and we will be in the run up to Easter.

We are now into the flow of the New Year and it's full steam ahead. January saw the approval of the Council's budget which is set to deliver the projects included in the Town Council Plan (see *middle pages for more information*), February welcomed the third year of the Houghton Regis Pancake Race, which was another Flipping success, and we are now looking forward to submitting our application for the Local Council Award Scheme which will show we are achieving excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

And as we move towards Easter we are once again hosting our **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday 26th March, where you can win a FREE Easter egg if you can find all the clues round Bedford Square. It starts at 10am, we look forward to seeing you there!

We have planned another fun packed year of FREE entertainment for you all, including some 'NEW' events, add the dates to your diaries. LIKE our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date!

Clare Evans
Town Clerk





Annual Towns Meeting for all Registered Electors of the Parish of Houghton Regis

On an annual basis Houghton Regis Town Council holds an Annual Towns Meeting.

This year it will take place on
11th April 2016 at 7.30pm
at the Council Offices Peel Street, Houghton Regis.

Each year the agenda follows this format but the Council are keen to hear from you as an elector within the parish.

*Is there anything
you would like to see
on the agenda?*

*Would you like to
come along and
ask a question?*

*Is there a
comment you would
like to make?*

*Perhaps there is something specific
within the Town Council Plan,
which you would like more detail on?*

Please do get in touch with any thoughts or suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

A5 M1 Link Road

Works across the scheme are progressing well, the next phase of works will be to focus on the construction of the new two bridges over the M1 and completing the tie in to the new roundabout on the A5120.



Renaissance and Renewal Project – Update

In preparation for the construction of the new visitor centre, the archaeological excavation took place in January to check that we weren't planning to build over anything of significance; unfortunately nothing of interest was found however it does now clear the way for construction which should commence this Spring!

Landscape work will also begin in the Park this Spring with care being taken not to disturb any bats or birds during their nesting periods. You will notice our new display boards in the park highlighting the different stages of the Project and reminding residents of our final goal.

Throughout the Spring we will be looking to grow our friends group and to offer volunteering opportunities to help with the landscape works, so please keep in touch for dates.



Houghton Hall Park

More information is always available at www.houghtonhallpark.org, our Facebook page 'Houghton Hall Park' or by contacting Houghton Hall Park Project Officer Emma Anderson emma.anderson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



How long has Jewels been in Bedford Square?

Jewels has been in Bedford Square for ten years now.

Tell us about 'Jewels'...

Jewels was started by a few people as a place for them to serve the community and use their various talents. Since then it has been a shop selling arts and crafts supplies, haberdashery items and running classes and workshops for both children and adults. Later it also became the base for a Friday stall that supports "Impact Zambia", a charity that helps an orphanage in Zambia. Jewels is now a ministry of Houghton Regis Community Church.

What type of arts and crafts classes does the shop run?

We currently run a class called "Art Explorers" for children on a Tuesday afternoon. There is a class for adults held monthly on card making. We also have a schedule of drop-in sessions where people can come to get help in various areas. These include crafts, knitting, and sewing. Houghton Regis Community Church also uses the shop as a base for some of its KidzZone activities, which are held outside in Bedford Square when weather permits.

What products do you sell? Which is the best selling item?

We sell a somewhat eclectic mix of arts and crafts and haberdashery items. These include pens, brushes, paper, paints, rubber stamps and stencils, and card-making supplies; Yarn, thread, patterns, needles, ribbon, and zips; Greeting cards (both commercially printed and hand-made). We also sell a range of items on consignment for local artists: Cards, baby clothes, and jewellery. And, of course, we do coffee, tea, and snacks. Our best-selling item recently has to be wool.

What is your favourite project or activity that the shop is involved with?

Since the recent renovation, it has been really exciting to see the shop full of people during various town activities. The first, the Dickensian market in early December was our inaugural event that saw us serving free drinks and snacks to the large crowd that enjoyed this wonderful new event. We are looking forward to seeing the more open shop space used in many new ways, including evening events, over the coming months.

What are your opening hours?

We are now open from 8:30 to 5 Monday through Saturday. Although we are a completely voluntary project, we currently have enough people to support this (just).

You have had a refurbishment done recently. Has this proved to be successful and in what way?

The refurbishment, which happened over the second half of November, has been a great success. After ten years, the shop had become somewhat tired looking and cluttered and really needed to be refreshed. Then, particularly with Tesco leaving the square, we started to lose money (the shop is not a profit-making business, but had been making just enough to cover its costs). The Community Church decided that, rather than closing, we would invest in an upgrade to make the shop both much cleaner looking and friendly, and also a much more usable and flexible space. We believe we have achieved this, and the feedback we have received so far certainly seems to support this—as does the increase in customers we have seen since re-opening!

Any aspirations for the future?

With the new space and capabilities that the refurbishment has provided, we are looking forward to seeing people in the space in the evenings, as well as during the day. Whilst we have no definite plans yet, we are looking at ideas including: An introduction to Christianity course, live music evenings, discussion groups, adult education and skills-building classes. Any ideas are most certainly welcome!

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

We see Jewels as more than just a shop. It is a service that our church provides to the town, a point of contact for us with our neighbours. We would love to see you: Come in for a cup of tea or coffee, a chat with our friendly staff, spend time visiting with friends, or bring in your laptop (we have free wi-fi) and get some work done in a quiet, warm environment.

**Free Business Adverts Sponsored by HRTC -
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www.browinandwhite.co.uk

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Sun *Closed*

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*High Quality, Low prices
All sizes up to XXXL*

*One Stop shop for affordable Clothing,
Shoes, Handbags & Accessories.
The ONLY shop of it's kind in
Houghton Regis!*

HRN1 - March Update

Work in developing the project strategy for HRN1 has been progressing over Christmas and the New Year. The next stage of the development process will include creating a vision for the entire site as well as producing a site wide master plan alongside area master plans that will look at the specific details of each area of HRN1. We will be seeking input from the local community into these plans over the course of 2016. More information on our proposals is available at www.hrn1.co.uk.

HRN2 - March Update

Following referral to the Secretary of State and completion of a S.106 legal agreement with Central Bedfordshire Council, Planning permission for the 'hybrid' planning application for land west of Bidwell (Houghton Regis Site 2) was granted on the 18th November 2015. The application was then subject to a Judicial Review period, which expired on the 30th December 2015, whereby no challenge to the decision was lodged.

The Bidwell West Consortium have now commissioned work on the first phase of advanced infrastructure works including new road junctions, footways and traffic calming measures and drainage ponds. In addition to this further ecological, archaeological and ground investigation works will be undertaken. These works will enable the first phase of development upon Bedford Road "Bidwell Mews" and the local centre to come forward, following detailed Reserved Matter applications expected later this year.



All the latest information, available across all your devices.

www.houghtonregis.org.uk
www.facebook.com/houghtonregisc
www.twitter.com/HRCouncil1

Friends of Houghton Brook

Houghton Brook rises at the heart of Houghton Regis behind the sports pavilion on the green and flows along the edge of Houghton Hall Park, under Park Road North and Windsor Drive, through Parkside and eventually into open fields before crossing the boundary to Luton under the M1.

In places it is a delightful stream with clear water running over golden gravel, but in other places it is polluted with foul water and litter from cans and bottles to supermarket trolleys. But it used to be worse! I well remember years ago asking the council to remove a burnt-out vehicle from the brook. I also asked for the nettles encroaching on the foot/cycle path to be cut back and dead trees overhanging the brook to be removed. A lot of other improvements have been made over the years since then. There's a lot more that could be done along the whole length of the stream to increase our enjoyment of it and improve the welfare of the creatures that depend on it.



This is where you come in. Many of you have read Sally's Woodside Link Nature Watch on Houghton Regis News Desk and said you share my concern to improve and protect the stream through the extended period of road and house building and raise the profile of this natural asset to our town. Now CBC and other organisations are keen to involve local people in doing this by forming a Friends of Houghton Brook group. This could be linked to the existing Friends of Houghton Hall Park group which does practical conservation work around the Park and is run by Alexe Rose of the Greensand Trust.

If you have some spare time and would like to get involved, please contact:

Alexe Rose on alexe.rose@greensandtrust.org 01525 234260

Or me Sally Gray, on 01582 861129, or sallyjgray67@gmail.com

Houghton Regis Town Council - Budget 2016/17

After much deliberation and hard work over the last few months the Town Council has set its budget and precept for 2016/17 and is able to advise residents that the precept has been set at £811,050 which will enable the Band D charge to remain the same for the third year running.

Included in this edition of the Town Crier is a summary of the Town Council Plan. The budget which has been set makes provision for the delivery of the projects identified in this plan, including:

Corporate Services Committee:

- CCLA Management fees for the Property investment fund;
- Interest and dividends has been increased to reflect investments;
- Appointment of a community development officer and 2 apprentice positions.

Environment & Leisure Committee

- Ongoing provision has been made to manage and maintain public open

spaces, sports facilities, play areas, the cemetery and All Saints churchyard.

Community Services Committee:

- Increased number and frequency of community events;
- Local retailer support (Shop Local Campaign etc);
- Establishment of a town centre market of up to 4 stalls;
- Development of a town centre feature;
- Enhancement of community facilities including Bedford Square centre;
- Development of an allotment site;
- Improved community safety and reduced fear of crime.

Planning & Licensing Committee

- Professional support to guide the Council in relation to the planning developments;
- Development of a Neighbourhood Plan

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



Houghton Regis: Our 2020 Vision

Houghton Regis is looking onwards and upwards...with large scale changes planned Houghton Regis Town Council is committed to ensuring it is in the best position possible to support and enhance our new and emerging community. Through local knowledge, understanding and community consultation the Council has developed its Plan for the next 4 years: Houghton Regis: Our 2020 Vision.

The Plan has identified things to improve on, the things we see every day that we would like to change, and new services and facilities that would improve where we live, play and work.

The town council want to see Houghton Regis succeed, thrive and achieve its potential.

This won't happen overnight and we will need the help and support of strategic partners, local organisations and the community but we will work hard to achieve it.

This document represents our aspirations over the coming years, the future is challenging but by working together we will achieve amazing things.

We hope you'll be able to share our Vision and help make it a reality.

The Plan has 5 overarching Objectives, under which sit a number of more specific outcomes.

Our 5 objectives are:

- 1. A stronger local economy which promotes local businesses.**
- 2. Face the challenges & maximise the opportunities of growth.**
- 3. A safer town with a reduced fear of crime.**
- 4. A more active, engaged & inclusive community.**
- 5. A strong, efficient & proactive Town Council.**



Objective 1



The Town Council recognises that local people want a **stronger local economy which promotes local businesses.**

You told us that you want to:

- have more influence over development that happens in the town and specially the town centre
- see a thriving town centre with an improved road layout and better parking
- have improved use of the Bedford Square Community Centre
- protect and enhance the historic gems located in the town centre

So from 2016 to 2020 the Town Council will:

- promote the town's shops, encourage more people to visit the town centre and seek to develop a market
- work to secure improvements in the road layout and parking provision
- improve the ways in which local people can use the Bedford Square Community Centre
- make grant funding available to protect the town's historic gems including All Saints Church and Houghton Hall Park
- work with partners to commission a new feature for the town centre such as a town clock or a band stand



Objective 2

The Town Council knows that it needs to **face the challenges and maximise the opportunities of growth** that are already planned. The Town Council understands that local people want their elected representatives to:

- develop a Neighbourhood Plan which, following a process of community consultation, involvement and support at a referendum, will enable local people to shape the future use of land
- influence the significant growth that is affecting the town
- improve the existing cemetery and identify new cemetery provision
- provide clear community information about growth
- raise the town's profile

So from 2016 to 2020 the Town Council will:

- work proactively to shape and direct local growth
- enhance the existing cemetery provision and consider options for a new site
- provide information about the growth that is planned, take part in consultations and encourage community involvement so that local voices are heard
- publish a Houghton Regis Town Guide, a Welcome Pack for new residents and a plan showing the areas where development is happening





Objective 3



The Town Council understands that local people have a range of concerns about community safety issues affecting their quality of life. We are determined that Houghton Regis will become a **safer town with a reduced fear of crime**. You told us that you want us to find ways to:

- stop nuisance motorbikes
- improve CCTV coverage and lighting
- make local environmental improvements
- secure visible law enforcement
- tackle parking problems, litter, dog waste and graffiti (known as “enviro-crime”)
- stop speeding in Windsor Drive and Park Road North

So from 2016 to 2020 we will:

- work with partners to prepare and implement a town wide Community Safety Strategy which responds to your concerns
- find new ways to tackle “enviro-crime” for example by developing a local ranger type service
- assess the speeding issues in Windsor Drive and Park Road North and, depending on the results, work with partners to introduce speed reduction measures



Objective 4

The Town Council knows that local people want Houghton Regis to be a place where people can continue to enjoy active and fulfilled lifestyles and participate in community life. We will support a **more active, engaged and inclusive community**. You told us to find ways of:

- improving the range of social, recreational and leisure opportunities that are available locally
- bringing the community together through town-wide events
- improving the accessibility of Houghton Regis
- supporting residents associations, community groups and opportunities for young people
- improving facilities at key local venues such as the skate park and the Memorial Hall

So from 2016 to 2020 we will:

- review the town’s social, recreational and leisure assets and facilities to identify what improvements can be made and the available funding
- encourage sports development through training and support for new clubs
- enhance the programme of town-wide events
- consider opportunities at Tith Farm and Windsor Drive Recreation Grounds
- work with service providers of local community transport
- develop ways to bridge the gap between those in need and statutory and/or voluntary organisations who offer solutions such as a village agent scheme
- consider a series of initiatives which will improve opportunities for local community groups and young people
- install lighting and seating at the skate park
- work with the Memorial Hall on building improvements





Objective 5

The Town Council knows that, as an organisation, it will need to change and adapt so that it can respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth and achieve local priorities.

To do this we will build a **strong, efficient and proactive Town Council.**

So from 2016 to 2020 the Town Council will:

- review the Council's corporate, democratic and managerial structures
- introduce energy efficiency measures
- strengthen relationships with key partner organisations
- achieve the Local Council Award Scheme (a quality standard for Town and Parish Councils)
- explore the options for future town council premises to ensure continued fitness for purpose and also making of-fice improvements
- look at ways in which the Council's civic and ceremonial role / profile can be updated
- develop an apprenticeship scheme
- improve links with local charities
- publicise the Town Plan and the Council's progress in achieving the actions
- keep the Town Plan under review - to make sure it remains accurate and effective in guiding the Council's direction.



What's next?

The aspirations of the Plan will be developed and delivered through the Council's Committees and Sub Committees. These are all public meetings and you are welcome to come along and participate.

* * * * *

If you have any questions about the Town Plan & / or if you would like to get involved in some of the activities; please speak with your local councillor whose details can be found on our website,

<http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/councillors>

or within your copy of the Town Crier.

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/HRCouncil1

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/houghtonregistc/

Be Special with Bedfordshire Police

Bedfordshire Police works 24 hours a day to protect people, fight crime and keep Bedfordshire safe. Amongst its ranks is a dedicated group of volunteer police officers who make up Bedfordshire's Special Constabulary.

Bedfordshire's Specials work alongside full time police officers and Police Community Support Officers on the front line, and are given full training and support to patrol Bedfordshire's rural and urban communities.

They work out of rural police stations and help with the busy night-time shifts in our bustling towns. Some also move on to specialist teams, from the Football Unit to Roads Policing.

The Specials come from all walks of life - they are stay-at-home parents, students, manual workers and senior professionals. They all bring unique skills and experiences to the force and play a vital role in helping to keep our communities safe.

"The minimum commitment for a Special each month is 16 hours, but ours are so dedicated that on average they each contribute around 28 hours a month, working a variety of shifts to fit in with their other life roles," says Wayne Humberstone, Special Constabulary Chief Officer.

Wayne adds: "We have ambitious plans to double the size of our Special Constabulary by 2017, and we are looking for special and unique people to join our team. Joining the Specials opens up a world of opportunity for personal and professional development."

The force holds monthly information evenings about the Special Constabulary, details of which can be found at: www.bedfordshire.police.uk



Houghton residents get involved in plans for old Co-op site

More than 200 local people came along to a Community Planning Weekend last year about the plans to redevelop the former Co-op site and Redhouse Court Residential home in Houghton Regis.

The site is set to be redeveloped by Central Bedfordshire Council to provide a new Independent Living scheme, providing specially designed homes for older residents with care and support available on site. The complex will also offer community space and retail opportunities.

Residents viewed a background exhibition and town model and took part in workshops, walkabouts and hands-on planning groups to discuss current issues and future opportunities.

Things we discovered:

- Wide support for the plans, especially for facilities open to the wider community
- Support for converting the Red House for community uses like a café or heritage centre
- Concern about the traffic dominated centre, parking and pedestrian safety
- A desire to create a more vibrant centre with a better range of facilities and shops, including investment in Bedford Square
- A desire to perhaps set up a Town Team for the future

Now that we've got feedback from people in the area and have drawn up concept plans, we want to keep people up to date with the proposals before a planning application is submitted.

To sign up to be kept up to date by email, let us know at independentliving@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Otherwise, find out more detail on our website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/independentliving



Spotlight on the Community...

What made you decide to set up the café?

Right Track were talking to local people with a learning disability who were fed up with having the opportunity to work in cafes that were linked to college courses and then having to stop when the course ended. They wanted to set up their own project and felt this area of Houghton Regis needed somewhere for people to meet.

Who runs the café?

Right Track supported 6 local people with learning disabilities to set up the cafe. 4 of these people are now involved in running the project with a supporter - Karen Mangold.

Where is the café held?

The Cafe is held at Sandringham Hub. The team also run other events at different venues and have linked with Houghton Regis Baptist Church to serve lunches or refreshments at some of their events.

What days and times are the café available?

The cafe is at Sandringham Hub on the first Tuesday of every month from 1pm - 3pm.

What is the most popular item sold in the way of drinks and food?

(I.e. Tea/coffee, chocolate cake etc.)

Tea and coffee are always popular but people also enjoy our cakes, toasted teacakes and beans on

toast! We have different specials on offer too.

How do you think the café is received in the community?

Our regular customers really enjoy it and say it is good value for money and the staff are friendly and helpful. It would be good to get more people in. One of the reasons we decided to do the 'out-reach' cafes and events, was to link with more people and help the cafe team develop new skills.

What are your plans for the future of the café?

We have Health Courage funding through the Health Lottery to support the cafe until September 2017. We are aiming to recruit more volunteers to support the team beyond then and link with more organisations to run sessions in different places.

For the immediate future we have a Valentine's Craft Cafe on Tuesday 2nd February at Sandringham Hub. People will be able to eat Valentine's goodies and make a decoration. On the 18th March we are holding an Information Fair for the Over 50's at Houghton Regis Baptist Church and we are hoping to give people the chance to have an organised walk around Houghton Park later in the year - followed by a pop up cafe in the Pavilion.



Woodside Link Update

Work is progressing well on site despite the prolonged spell of incredibly wet weather.

The demolition of a number of farm buildings at Chalton Cross Farm is complete.

Over the next few weeks 'road boxes' (large trenches marking out the route) will be cut along the northern end of the Woodside Link prior to several stages of surfacing in March. Drainage will also be completed. The area around and under Parkside Bridge will be filled in with earth ready for the diversion of Houghton Brook. Fill material will be placed on the new road approach to Porz Avenue roundabout, as the initial stage of works at the southern tie-in of the scheme.

Off-peak lane closures on the Porz Avenue roundabout and Sandringham Drive will be in place over the next six months as work at the southern end of the scheme progresses (off-peak is 9.15am to 4pm Monday to Thursday, 9.15am to 3.30pm Friday). Two-way traffic flows will be maintained at all times. Traffic lights will be used very occasionally; they will be installed either overnight or at weekends. Dates of temporary road closures for surfacing will be announced nearer the time.

Further news updates and full details of the scheme are available at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/woodsidelink

Questions can be emailed to woodsidelink@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 5289.



The sheet piling for the retaining wall on Sandringham Drive was completed in December.

FREE
Saturday 26th
March 2016
Easter Egg Hunt
10am - noon

Come along to Bedford Square Shopping Centre in Houghton Regis & join in the fun.
It will have you running around the whole Square hunting for the clues to enable you to collect your prize.
To collect your free entry form for the Easter Egg Hunt, please visit Houghton Regis Library on the day!

Organised by Houghton Regis Town Council

Mayor's BINGO
16th April 2016
The Day Centre, Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis
2.30pm

6 cards per strip
£1 A Strip

Tea/Coffee PLUS A Raffle

Spring Prizes!

4 Games PLUS a Flyer

Cards MUST be purchased in advance of the event
contact Sarah Gelsthorp
01582 708540
for further information

All proceeds going to the Mayor's chosen charities



Houghton Regis Town Council
May Fayre
Saturday 7th May
12 noon - 4pm
The Village Green



"Rise up, Mr Rickard, and joy to you betide, For summer is a-come in today; And bright is your bride, that lays down by your side In the merry morning of May"

Up Above The Streets and Houses



By Sarah Gelsthorp

Up Above The Streets and Houses, contains 140 pages filled with some 'never published before' photographs and history of Houghton Regis from local people and archives.

Available to purchase, priced at £8.99 plus p&p.

So far the sale of the book has raised £800 for Houghton Regis Heritage Society

For more details, and to purchase your copy, please visit www.upabovestreetandhouses.co.uk, or email upabovestreetandhouses.co.uk

Pride of Houghton Awards 2016


The Pride of Houghton Awards celebrate the achievements of truly remarkable people who make our Town a better place.

Nominated by you the public, the winners are from all walks of life, of all ages.

Their achievements are inspiring, these are not just ordinary people, they are truly extraordinary.

Do you know any individual or groups of people, young or old, who deserve recognition for their efforts, skills, perseverance or commitment?

This is their chance to get the recognition that they deserve.



NOMINATE THEM NOW FOR A PRIDE OF HOUGHTON AWARD!

Complete the nomination form available on the back of this Town Crier and return it to the Town Council Office by 29th August 2016.

Full terms and conditions are available on the nomination form or on our website www.houghtonregis.org.uk



Town Council Calendar of Meetings

Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from January to the end of May 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
7 th March	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
10 th March	Thursday	Community Services	
14 th March	Monday	Corporate Services	
21 st March	Monday	Town Council	
29 th March	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
4 th April	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
11 th March	Monday	Annual Towns Meeting	
25 th April	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm
18 th May	Wednesday	Town Council AGM	
23 rd May	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning & Licensing Committee	6.15pm

Dates for your diary

MARCH

Saturday 26th
Easter Egg Hunt



APRIL

Sunday 10th
Civic Service

APRIL

Saturday 16th
Mayor's Bingo
Afternoon



APRIL

Thursday 21st
Queen's
90th Birthday
Celebrations

MAY

Sunday 1st
Mayor's
Afternoon Tea

MAY

Saturday 7th
May Fayre

JUNE

Mayor's
Reception
Date TBC

JULY

Saturday 9th
Carnival



JULY

Tuesday 26th
Skate Park
Competition

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 10th
Music Festival



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 24th
Bedford Square's
50th Birthday

OCTOBER

Saturday 15th
Pride of
Houghton
Awards



NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th
Fireworks Display

NOVEMBER

Friday 11th
Armistice Day



NOVEMBER

Saturday 13th
Remembrance
Sunday

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 22nd
Celebration of
Christmas



DECEMBER

Saturday 3rd
Mayor's Carol
Service, Christmas
Light Switch On and
Christmas Market



DECEMBER

Saturday 10th
Santa's Grotto

Pride of Houghton Awards 2016

Do you know any individual or groups of people, young or old, who deserve recognition for their efforts, skills, perseverance or commitment? This is their chance to get the recognition that they deserve. Use the form below to forward your nominations to the Town Council Office, Peel Street, Houghton Regis by **29th August 2016**.

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

I would like to nominate:

For: (please tick appropriate box)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> | Young Person (under 18) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Facilitator/Local Hero | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Group | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Business/organisation in Houghton Regis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lifetime achievement/special award | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Your Name:

Your contact number:

Your address:

Name of your nominee:

Nominee address:

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