THE MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 2017 - ISSUE 57

Telephone: 01582 708540

E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

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

Find us on f



There's lots happening...

Don't forget our

ASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday 15th April - Retween san - noon

My Mayoral Year

Words from the Town Mayor

Information about

Budget

OTHER EXCITING EVENTS COMING UP SOON...

> four and the Carnival





Houghton Regis Town Council Contact Details

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

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pinterest.com/houghtonregistc

¥ @HRCouncil1

@HoughtonRegisTC

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Deputy Town Clerk	01582 708543
Debbie Marsh	
Corporate Services Manager	01582 708540
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Community Development Officer	01582 708540
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Cllr. Robin Hines	01582 759 026
Cllr Tim Welch	01582 861 090
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· ·	

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 Clir. Don Dixon-Wilkinson
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 Clir. Martin Kennedy
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 01582 894 060

 Cllr. David Abbott
 01582 894 060

 Cllr. Tracey McMahon
 07948 532 662

 Cllr. Richard Scott
 01582 708 540

 Cllr. Tony Swain
 01582 522 952

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Antonia Ryan (Parkside)
Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)
John Kane (Houghton Hall)
Tony Swain (Tithe Farm)
0300 300 8518
0300 300 8525
0300 300 8537
0300 300 8567

Town Clerk

Welcome to the spring edition of the Town Crier.

The Council hope you find this edition an interesting and informative read. If you have any suggestions or comments on the Crier please let us know as we are always keen to ensure our services meet your needs and aspirations.

Inside this edition you will find a review of the community events held in 2016, details of the agreed budget for the Council in 2017/18, councillor contact details, dates of Council meetings and various articles and information from local community groups and businesses and updates from strategic partners on emerging developments.

Look out for details of the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday
15th April and the Easter holiday club.

Keep an eye on our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with local information, community events and the work of the Council.

Clare Evans
Town Clerk

The Town Mayor's Foreword

As I write, my year as Mayor continues to be very busy.

It has been a privilege to serve Houghton Regis and I am grateful for the opportunity.

For me, the participation of children and young people in the Celebration of Christmas represented the highlight of the festive season.

Coming together to celebrate and give pleasure to others, is what we do well in Houghton.

Visiting local schools and Scout groups has left me in no doubt about our future.

Young people can achieve so much with our continued support and encouragement.

Councillor Chris Slough 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



H.R.T.C. - Budget 2017/18

After much deliberation and hard work over the last few months the Town Council has set its budget and precept for 2017/18 and is able to advise residents that the precept has been set at £822,451 which will enable the Band D charge to remain the same for the fourth year running.

The budget which has been set makes provision for the delivery of the projects identified within the Houghton Regis: Our 2020 Vision, including:

Corporate Services Committee:

> Continued provision for central services such as accountancy and investment fees, councillor services and support, IT and communication costs, insurance, advertising and property maintenance costs along with officer salaries and training.

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;
- > Capital provision for many projects including the establishment of the new area within Houghton Regis Cemetery, for a contribution to the Houghton Hall Park visitors centre and for sport and recreation projects.

Community Services Committee:

- > Provision for Easter and Summer Holiday clubs, for the Youth Pop Up Cafes and Social Inclusion Projects, for town centre toilet cleaning, for Christmas lights, a Community Transport project, Council communications and a community grant scheme;
- > Continued provision of community events;
- > Local retailer support (Shop Local Campaign and town centre events);
- > Improved community safety and reduced fear of crime.

Planning 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



Tithe Farm Primary School Tithe Farm Road, Houghton Regis, Beds LU5 5JB

Tithe Farm is a thriving community primary school. The school caters for children from 2-11 years. We have a well-resourced nursery unit which is able to take children from 2 years old through to when they start with us full time in reception.

The school has modern facilities including a purpose built ICT suite and library. The school itself has extensive grounds including 2 well equipped playgrounds and a large playing field.

We offer a wide range of curriculum enrichment activities from musical instrument tuition, day visits to support children's learning, in school workshops, residential visits, swimming lessons and after school clubs including football, dance, drama and robotics.

We are a welcoming school with a strong caring ethos. Our parents are very supportive and in a recent Ofsted survey 100% of those parents who responded said they would recommend the school to another family.

To find out more about us take a look at our website, like us on Facebook or call us to arrange to have a look around!

Interim Headteacher
Telephone 01582 865047
Fax 01582 865057
E mail tithefarm@cbc.beds.sch.uk
Website www.tithefarmprimary.co.uk

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 Monday 10th April 2017 at 7.30pm at Bedford Square Community Centre, Houghton Regis.

The agenda will include an update on issues and developments facing Houghton Regis, an update on the Town Council's forward plan, Houghton Regis: Our 2020 Vision, presentations from the Chairs of the Town Council's Committees and an open session for members of the public to ask questions or make comments.

Whether to listen or ask questions or make comments, please do come along.

Poppy Appeal

Please could you post it in your next newsletter that Houghton Regis raised a massive £11.050.74p for this years Poppy appeal. This is a fantastic amount and next year we are looking a getting more youth groups involved in assisting us with collecting.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and thank you for the support

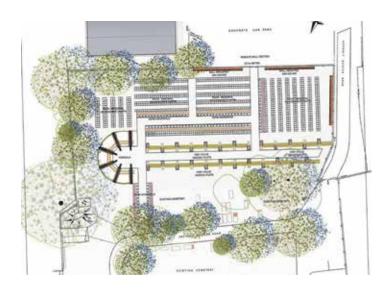
Michael (Sam) Price Royal British Legion Riders Branch Poppy Appeal Coordinator The Town Council has been honoured to have been able to offer residents of the Town a tranquil cemetery in which to inter loved ones and to visit them in due course. It is acknowledged that the Cemetery is a valued facility within the town and the Council are committed to ensuring this continues.

Inevitably as time has progressed the Cemetery has become increasingly occupied. In planning for the future the Town Council has sought to secure a new cemetery site through emerging planning applications and though investigations into existing areas of green open space to see if they could be converted. It was with deep regret that the Council were not successful in securing a new cemetery site within the plans for HRN1 and HRN2 and although hope remains that other land in proximity to these developments may come forward in due course it cannot be guaranteed. Residents can be assured that the Council will continue to monitor and explore options as they arise in future years.

However the need remains to provide interment space within the town. To meet this challenge within the confines of the existing cemetery the Council has worked with a cemetery design expert to maximise the space and opportunities available within the current site and plans have been drawn up to utilise the area to the right of the main entrance gateway. The memorial garden plans include for paved walk ways, peaceful reflective areas and a variety of cremated remains interment options / styles. However in seeking to maximise on the space available the Council has come to the difficult decision to cease full body burials once the existing body burial space has been completed. Whilst it is

acknowledged that this may present a great disappointment to some as personal burial choices may not be able to be met within a person's home town, the Council is confident that the high specification design of the new area will provide an exceptionally beautiful and tranquil interment space for many years to come. It is hoped that this new area will provide for interment space for the next 40-50 years.

This illustration shows the preliminary design for this new area:











1. How long have you been in Houghton Regis for?

Although the company has been trading since 1979 we only moved to Blackburn Road, Houghton Regis from Leighton Buzzard in April of 2016. It took us awhile to get everything organised but it's finally starting to feel like home.

2. What kinds of services does your organisation provide?

At BCS we design, manufacture and distribute machines that make cardboard boxes. We use a lot of cutting edge control technology and software, combined with solid engineering to build a machine that sells throughout the world.

3. Last year you were honoured with a prestigious business award for international trade. How did this make you feel?

It was really great to get recognition for the effort that we put into making our machines as good as possible. Two of us even got invited to Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen! That was quite a day. Then in the summer we had a big BBQ where the whole company, families, customers and friends celebrated and the Queen's award was presented to us by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire. The weather was kind and the bubbles flowed that day! It's proved quite a talking point with some of our overseas clients – seems most people love our monarchy!

4. How many do you have working for you?

We have a total of 43 people based at BCS House in various departments – finance, sales, design, components manufacturing, assembly and aftersales. We have a further 9 people based in our overseas offices. 85% of our production is exported. The nice thing about our business is that no matter where you go in the world a box is still a box!

5. What is a typical day like?

Busy usually! There are various challenges that vary from one day to the next. From making sure production has everything it requires to keep up with delivery schedules to fielding questions from companies across the globe. We often have visitors from overseas coming to see the box making machines in action; they are always hectic days with airport runs and entertaining in the evening.

6. What are your biggest problems/challenges you face?

Brexit is a big topic for us right now – how will our current easy access to markets in Europe and further afield be affected by the exit? There will no doubt be some challenges ahead for us in this area, but we hope the pain will be short term only. America is our biggest export market and so Trump's recent comments about a trade deal with the UK being top of his agenda is welcome news. As we are growing company another challenge we have is that it's not always easy to find new employees with the relevant engineering skills. We do have a number of apprentices coming through the ranks and this should help secure our future as some of the others approach retirement age. It's healthy to have a good cross section of ages in the company.

7. Does your organisation take part in any kind of special events?

We take our machines around the world to various trade shows. There's nothing like seeing one of the machines actually working and these events are a great opportunity to expand into new markets. They are always long hard days but always very fun too. In 2016 we travelled to Thailand, America, Germany, France, Poland. Most shows are 3-4 days duration, but one in Germany lasts 12 days straight – it's an absolute killer on your feet! (and liver)

8. What are the organisation's plans for future growth or change?

We have grown very rapidly in the past 4 years – which in fact is the reason behind our relocation to Houghton Regis in the first place. Now that we have settled in and have all of our operations under one roof we will start to see further production efficiencies. We have also just launched a brand new machine 'The Boxer' which is more focused on e-commerce. It allows internet retailers to quickly and easily produce perfect size boxes no matter what they are shipping. We've all seen the huge waste of space and packing material in Amazon boxes and this new machine offers a solution to that.

Review of 2016's Events

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

February

This saw our 3rd Pancake Race event.

It was another Flipping...

Success, with schools, residents,

staff and councillors taking part in teams of 4 competing in a Flip the Pancake Race.



April

The Town Council's annual 'Easter Egg Hunt' in Bedford Square, in which children took part in the Hunt along with an Egg and Spoon Race.

> July The Tov which v

September

We held our first ever live music event Houghton Rocks at Parkside. Considering the rainy weather over 200 residents and visitors turned up.



We started our Christmas events season off with a bang with our "A Celebration of Christmas", held at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable.

We also held our FIRST Fireworks Night a spectacular display which saw a crowd of over 3,000 enjoy the free family event.





October

Our annual Pride of Houghton Award Ceremony.



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 or our Facebook page.



May

We held our second May Day event with Maypole Dancing, traditional fairground rides various activities for children all presided over by Houghton Regis' very own May Queen' & her Princess's.

We also held a 'High Tea' to
Celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday
there was a real sense of community
spirit. The guests enjoyed the
afternoon's festivities and a

sing-along' and dance.

vn Council Annual Carnival "Royal Houghton" Themed, was another very successful event.

Also in July we held our Skate Park Competition, which is open to skateboard, scooter and bike riders of all ages, to come along and show off their talents.







December

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

www.houghtonregis.org.uk



Spotlight on the Community

What is S.N.O.O.S.C?

S.N.O.O.S.C (in Beds) is a happy, lively club catering for all types of disabilities including complex and profound needs, learning difficulties and challenging behaviours across a wide range. S.N.O.O.S.C - Special Needs Out Of School Club in Beds.

How is it funded?

SNOOSC is a non profit making charitable organisation. It is funded through SLA with the local authorities, parental contributions, both corporate and community fundraising.

What services do you provide?.

We currently offer 113 Afterschool club dates for the 16/17 academic year. The club is run on a Monday/ Wednesday/Friday. 3.30 PM to 5.30PM Transport with passenger escort is provided for homeward journey. We will run 23 Saturday clubs for the 16/17 academic year. The club is held on alternate Saturdays during term time. 10AM to 4PM. We will run 33 Holiday club dates for the 16/17 academic year. This includes Feb half term, Easter, Whitsun, July/Aug days and October half term. 10AM to 4PM. We provide short breaks for parents/ carers, 1:1 ratio for member/staff, and the intimate care service for all sessions

Can anyone join?

Members will range in age from 9 to 25. We normally provide separate activities for the over 18s. Anyone with a disability would benefit from being a S.N.O.O.S.C member.

How do we get hold of you?

Our office telephone 01582 868244. This number can be used throughout the year with the exception of the Christmas/New Year Holidays and late August. Our email address is SNOOSC1@GMAIL.COM Our full postal address is SNOOSC

c/o The Chiltern School, Parkside Drive Houghton Regis, Beds LU5 5PX

Have you got anything exciting coming up?

Of course we hope to run stalls at the Houghton Regis May and July fetes. We also have some great activities lined up for the February half term.

Houghton Hall Park New Year update

The Houghton Hall Park Visitor Centre construction is well underway with groundworks completed and steel erected. We are eagerly looking forward to our 2017 grand opening!

We saw the launch of our Mums and Buggies group in 2016 and February half term saw the park play host to the Xplorer activity aimed at preschool, primary school children and their families undertaking navigational challenges.

The formal garden and kitchen garden are almost complete, awaiting the installation of new fencing and gates and the appointment of the park Head Gardener.

Tree and shrub planting within the park will be taking place in March. If you would like to be involved, please like our facebook page or visit the website: https://www.houghtonhallpark.org/home





Strategic Updates

HRN2-Bidwell West

We are continuing to progress the scheme via technical assessments to discharge the planning conditions. The majority of the conditions have been successfully discharged with technical approvals on some highway matters still awaited from CBC. In parallel with that process we are marketing the first phase residential land parcels with completions anticipated in the Spring. Developers will then submit reserved matters applications dealing with the detailed planning approval with a view to construction commencing in 2018. We are liaising with potential investors and community groups on the makeup and delivery of the Local Centre.







Houghton Regis Central - What's next?

We now have planning permission to go ahead with the scheme, as per the conditions set out in the approval. In summary, the conditions are about conserving the heritage of the area and site, protecting local residents' privacy and safeguarding the boundary of the site - all of which are important to us. The process of designing, planning and building a project like this is always a long, complex process, so you won't see diggers on site straight away! First of all, we need to go out to tender for a builder and this takes some months. When we have some concrete timescales in place for the construction planning phase, we will set out a timeline of projected activity so that you know what to expect and when. If you wish to express an interest in living at this new development, please email independentliving@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.



Then sign up to Groundwork's social action events.

Plus! Register for 3 social action events and get a free trip to Bounce or bowling.





We are working in partnership with Houghton Regis Town council to provide a number of Social Action Projects for young people to take part in.

More social action events - coming soon!

For more information contact David Ramsay, Senior Youth Worker on 07736 132293 or david.ramsay@groundwork.org.uk





www.groundwork.org.uk/beds

@gwklutonandbeds #HoughtonRegisYouthClub

Houghton Regis Youth Centre





Services for Disabled and Older People

The Disability Resource Centre provides a range of FREE services empowering people of all ages who are affected by disability or health conditions to fulfil their potential and aspirations. We help disabled people, carers and families across Bedfordshire and Luton.

Disability Advice Services

- · Information on many disability-related topics
- · Equipment advice from trained staff
- Equipment Showroom
- · Benefits advice
- Disease-specific support groups
- Carer services
- · Outreach services

Personalisation

- · Services to help manage your direct payments
- · Help recruiting a Personal Assistant
- Personal Assistant Register
- Payroll and Holding Accounts
- Services for Self-Funders

Call: 01582 470900

Website: www.drcbeds.org.uk Email: information@drcbeds.org.uk

Health, Learning and Work

- Financial advice
- · Specialised workshops
- Care Academy
- Support into employment
- Personal development
- · Health, fitness and wellbeing
- Disability awareness

Poynters House

- · We house a number of groups and services
- · Meeting rooms and tenancies available
- · IT training suite and social enterprise hub
- Room hire including clinic, meeting and training rooms

Visit: Poynters House, Poynters Rd, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 4TP

Registered Charity No 1041712 Our Patron: The Duke of Bedford









Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from April to end of May 2017. 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 April	Monday	Town Partnership	
10 th April	Monday	Annual Towns Meeting	
18 th April	Tuesday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning	6.15pm
8 th May	Monday	Accounts Sub Committee Planning	
22 nd May	Monday	Town Council (AGM)	



Can you & your dog find the Eggs? Join Tom for a 30 minute scent workshop. Sessions start at 12.15, 1.30 & 2.15pm - £2.50 per dog - booking essential

Walkies! Join Reserve Officer Esther for a guided dog walk around the reserve. Walk starts at 1pm. Suitable clothing & sturdy footwear advised.



Local Pet Photographer Sue, will be taking photos on the day. Come and talk to her to order a copy or to book a photo shoot for you and your pet.

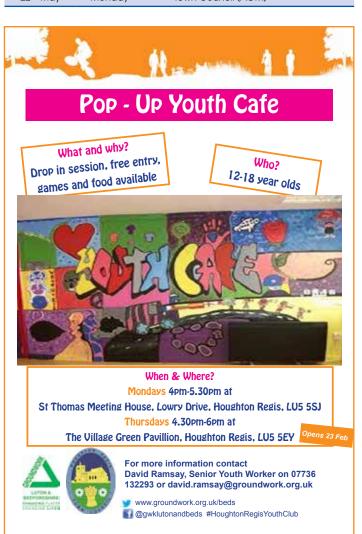
And more..

- Find out more about your local Wildlife Trust and how we look after Blow's Downs
- Nature Crafts for the kids
- Unique Pets boutique stall
- Other local dog businesses

Location: The Paddocks, Blow's Downs accessed via Half Moon Lane, LU5 4AE

For more information or to book a place on the Easter Egg hunt please contact Sarah: 01525 874317 or email sarah.cowling @wildlifebcn.org

www.wildlifebcn.org Registered charity No. 1000412



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 28th August 2017.

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 <u>cannot</u> be made for Town Council Staff, Town or Central Bedfordshire Councillors) Previous winners can be considered again.

3
I would like to nominate:
For: (please tick appropriate box) Individual
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)

Fown Crier designed and printed by Perfect Print | Tel: 01582 477557 | Email: info@perfect-print.co.uk | www.perfect-print.co.uk | Stationery | Leaflets | Posters and more