



TOWN CRIER

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HOUGHTON ROCKS

12noon – 6pm
2nd September 2017
Parkside Recreation Ground
Houghton Regis LU5 5PX



Car show
Car boot
Live Music
Stalls...
Plus lots More



**Read about the
Houghton Regis
Carnival & Skate
Park On page 5**





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

[facebook.com/hrtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hrtowncouncil)

[pinterest.com/houghtonregis/](https://www.pinterest.com/houghtonregis/)

@HRCouncil1

@HoughtonRegisTC

Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708542
Debbie Marsh Corporate Services Manager	01582 708540
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer	01582 708540
Sarah Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer	01582 708523
Sonia Stennett Accounts & Cemetery Officer	01582 708541
Chantel England Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 708544

Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward:	
Cllr. Laura Ellaway	01582 537 105
Cllr. Robin Hines	01582 759 026
Cllr. Tim Welch	01582 861 090
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	07748 440 901
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

Mayor's Foreword

My Inauguration in May seems a long time ago now as lots has happened in and around the town in the last few months. Since being joined by many members of the community and local dignitaries at the Mayors reception, it has been quite a busy time.

I've launched the Street Life collection point at Jewels, spent time speaking to members of the Youth Action Team and seen the Recycled Teenagers, all three of this year's Mayors charities, to see how I can best support them this year.

June saw my first event, the Community Big Lunch on the Village Green, where many families enjoyed lots of activities and refreshments. It was a beautiful day and the Houghton Regis Youth Council were incredibly helpful.

I attended Cheering Volunteering at the Grove where Houghton Regis was very well represented in most of the categories, picking up several awards. This town has a lot to be proud of, with so many dedicated volunteers working hard to offer so many amazing opportunities and support to local people.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ken Wattingham

and myself have accepted a great many invitations, allowing us to positively promote all that is happening locally and meeting lots of inspirational people which is an absolute privilege.

Carnival came through the town in July with this year's theme Hollywood to Bollywood going down a storm with all the bright colours, fantastic floats and hip swaying music.

This has been followed by the Skate park competition which has kicked off the many summer activities, so please check out the town councils Facebook page and various noticeboards for more details.

We are now looking forward to Houghton Rocks on Parkside recreation ground in September, fingers crossed for better weather this year. There will be a Classic Car show, stalls, car boot bargains and of course great music.

There are a great many things to add to your diary and I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

Cllr Jo Hillyard, Mayor 2017-18



Town Clerk

I hope you have had a good summer despite the somewhat variable weather. As we move into autumn there is plenty to look forward too, not least the forthcoming opening of the Houghton Hall Park Visitors Centre. This project represents a massive investment in our town from the Heritage Lottery fund, Central Bedfordshire Council and Houghton Regis Town Council. See pages 6-7 for more information.

We hope you have been able to join us at the "From Hollywood to Bollywood" themed Carnival and the 2017 Skate Park Competition. Both events were really well supported, we hope you managed to come along and join in the fun. On page 9 you can find fantastic articles and photographs capturing these days.

There is a lot to look forward to in the upcoming months, the 2nd year for 'Houghton Rocks', a free music event on Parkside Recreation Ground (hopefully with better weather this year) and Fireworks Night on Tithe Farm Recreation Ground also free.

All our events take a huge amount of organising by the Town Council and can

only run with the help and support of our many partners including sponsors, local businesses, charitable and voluntary groups and other volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help make these events both possible and also so much fun. 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.

And as we approach Christmas there will be the School Choir "Celebration of Christmas" show at The Grove Theatre along with the Mayors Carol Service, Christmas Lights Switch on, and not forgetting a visit from Santa to look forward to.

Don't forget to view our website or facebook page for up to date details of these events.

Clare Evans
Town Clerk



Houghton Rocks

Houghton Rocks Music Festival takes place on Saturday 2nd September and there is a great line up of local artists and bands performing on the dome stage.

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 12 noon a classic and vintage motor show, stalls and information stands, a beer tent, fairground rides for younger children and food retailers.

The timetable of music will be revealed on the Town Council website and social media pages over the next few weeks, and there will be plenty of music for everyone to enjoy.

The event also 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.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Thank you to Zebra Properties for sponsoring the event.



BE PART OF HOUGHTON ROCKS

On Saturday 2nd September 2017 from 12 Noon—6pm at Parkside Drive Recreation Ground, Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5RQ

PREBOOKED CAR £5 VAN £7 ON THE DAY CAR £7 VAN £10

To book your car boot stall, please contact Sarah Gelsthorp at Houghton Regis Town Council on 01582 708540 / sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk

SELLERS CAN ARRIVE FROM 10AM

Houghton Regis Town Council PRESENTS **HOUGHTON ROCKS**

September 2nd
12noon TO 6pm
Parkside Recreation PARK
HOUGHTON REGIS, LU5 5RQ

KIDS RIDES
FOOD STALLS
LIVE MUSIC

ENTERTAINMENT+FOOD+CAR SHOW

WWW.HOUGHTONREGIS.ORG.UK

Fireworks Display



Following on from its success in 2016, the Fireworks Display is to return to Tithe Farm Recreation Ground on Sunday 5th November 2017.

Once again, Houghton Regis Town Council has teamed up with the award winning Fantastic Fireworks to host a spectacular display which starts at 7pm. This year, there will also be a Fairground at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground and dates and times will be published on Social Media soon.

Residents are reminded that Road Closures will be in place from 6pm until approx. 9pm on the day to enhance the safety of the event.

Last year, the newly introduced event created a huge buzz on social media with many comments and photos flooded Facebook and Twitter with one person stating 'it's the best fireworks display I have ever seen'. In addition to great fireworks a true community spirit was felt throughout residents of Houghton Regis with many praising messages such as 'a lovely local event' was posted to thank everyone involved with the organisation and delivery of the display.



Plaque Unveiling

On Wednesday 19th July, Councillor Joanna Hillyard, Town Mayor and Councillor Robin Hines unveiled a special plaque at the Moore Crescent Sports Pavilion.



The Pavilion was opened on 21st May 2010 by Councillor Robin and it was his first official engagement as Town Mayor. The sports pavilion was built by the Town Council for community use and it is also the home of Houghton Regis Bowls Club.

Here are some pictures from the unveiling and the Official Opening in 2010



Skate Park Competition

Young people from the local area took part in the Skate Park Competition on Tuesday 25th July at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground, Houghton Regis. The event was free to attend and was open to scooter and bike riders who came along to show off their talents. The youngest competitor was just four years old and she won over the audience with her ride across the Skate Park on her scooter.



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 free climbing wall, an inflatable Bungee Run (thank you to Houghton Regis Youth Council for providing this attraction), a Circus Skills Workshop, activities from Houghton Regis Craft and Coffee, and



information stands Groundwork, Fire Bike, the SOS Bus and Crew, Bedfordshire Police and the Terence Higgins Trust.

A design a Skate Board competition was held by Houghton Regis Craft and Coffee, with a Skateboard as the first prize.

Prizes for the winners in each category were presented by the Town Mayor, Councillor Joanna Hillyard and each young person was awarded a medal for taking part.

Sarah Gelsthorp, Civic and Events Officer added "There were some fantastic displays from the young people during the Skate Park Competition, as well as some daring performances from team 3Sixty. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event and we hope that you all enjoyed the activities".

Houghton Hall Park

Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre is almost complete and is planned to be open by the end of September. The centre includes a café, toilets, multi-purpose meeting rooms for hire, heritage displays and a children's area. Staff members, Rachel Orme (Park Manager) and Robyn Godfrey (Activity Officer) will be based in the visitor centre providing a full time staff presence at the park. Keep up to date on our social media pages and website for details of our confirmed opening date.

Formal and Kitchen Gardens

The Formal and Kitchen gardens continue to be tended by volunteers, alongside our Head Gardener Jane, with flowers in full bloom and a continual healthy crop of vegetables in the raised beds. See our volunteer times below on when you can get involved.

Play Trail

Several natural and explorative play features have been installed around the park, including a toddler play feature next to the brand new Visitor Centre. These natural play areas are designed to be lots of fun as well as being educational. Take a look at the map for exact locations.

Volunteers in the park

Join in with our volunteer gardening group in the Kitchen and Formal Gardens - Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-3.30pm. No need to book, simply turn up when you can.

Other current volunteer opportunities include fixed point photography, wildlife surveys and observational surveys.

Groups in the park (free of charge)

- Buggy exercise - Wednesday at 1.30pm and Fridays at 10.00am – visit <https://ourparks.org.uk/borough/houghton-hall-park> to book or phone 0800 111 4464.
- Health Walks - Tuesday 10.00am-11.00am and Thursdays 2.00pm-3.00pm - 0300 300 5125

Half-term October activities

See our website and social media pages for the latest details on activities being held across October half-term.

Junior Park Run

We are currently working with Parkrun UK to launch a new, weekly junior parkrun at Houghton Hall Park. Junior parkrun is a series of 2k runs for children aged between 4-14 years that are free events, open to all, even if you have never run before. They are already held in parks across the UK and we are hoping to make Houghton Regis their newest location. Once confirmed, the weekly events will take place every Sunday morning, starting and finishing at the visitor centre. Full details will be made available on the Houghton Hall Park website and social media feeds. In the meantime if you would like to find out more about parkrun events please visit <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/>



Contact us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/houghtonhallpark/
 Twitter: twitter.com/BedsCountrySide
 Website: www.houghtonhallpark.org
 Email: hnp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Central Bedfordshire Council

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In partnership with



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Spotlight on the Community

What kind of services do you offer?

Houghton Regis Art Town creates artistic opportunities for people living in the town.

Children and young people can take part in free weekly sessions run by trained practitioners every Tuesday during term time at Hawthorn Park Community Primary: Arts Starters (age 7- 12) meet at 4:45 – 6:15pm and Arts Leaders (age 13+) at 6:30 – 8pm. All participants are also offered the opportunity to work towards an Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification.

During school holidays Art Town organises workshops and activities for local children, as well as the opportunity to see professional theatre performances – for free. This summer we launched Houghton Regis Hullabaloo, an arts festival for local families which included an exhibition of photography in the library, a dance performance by local school children with a professional choreographer, a live theatre performance in Bedford Square, a graffiti arts session with a professional graffiti artist and a brand new show created by young people of Houghton Regis in partnership with Red House Court.

We also have opportunities for Houghton Regis residents to become involved in the running of Art Town as a Community Ambassador, including Arts Award training opportunities, the chance to be involved in running sessions and helping to shape the future of the project as a resident of the town.

Art Town is run by Full House Theatre, a professional theatre company based in Bedfordshire.

How long have you been going?

Art Town has been running since 2014. Full House Theatre has been going since 2001.

Who do you work with?

Art Town works with a range of arts professionals to deliver sessions including actors, choreographers, photographers, dancers, film makers, artists and designers.

We work with local organisations including Houghton Regis Town Council, Bedford Square Community Centre, Houghton Regis Library, Red House Court, Houghton Regis Helpers and local schools. We also work with Central Bedfordshire Council, and receive funding from People's Health



Trust, Big Lottery, the Frank Branston Charitable Trust and Houghton Regis Town Council to make Art Town happen.

Is there a charge for your services?

Everything offered by Art Town is free.

If someone would like to take part, what do they need to do?

Please contact Full House Theatre on info@fullhouse.org.uk or call us on 01525 630783. We are always interested in hearing from local people wishing to get involved with Art Town, or local organisations or schools looking for ways to get involved.



Are there any exciting events coming up? Regular sessions start again on 12th September. We will be running a programme of events during October half term as part of Halloween Handmade Tales, including

workshops and a performance of Granddad's Eating Rubbish by Le Petit Artiste Theatre Company.

For more information go to www.fullhouse.org.uk

Houghton Regis Carnival

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!!

The Village Green was the setting for the Houghton Regis Carnival on Saturday 8th July, on the theme of 'From Hollywood to Bollywood'.

No Hollywood to Bollywood event would be complete without some traditional Bollywood dancing and music and the Carnival Procession was lead this year by 'Band Baja'. Spectators listened to some show tunes from the 'Just Friends' Jazz Band, before taking part in some spectacular Bollywood dancing, in a special workshop hosted by 'Absolute Bollywood'. The trio also performed some energetic dance routines in traditional costumes.

The arena displays started with the Central Bedfordshire Canine Trust 'Pet Dog of the Year Show' and there were lots of furry friends who took part in the various classes.

There was a range of stalls on the green including crafts, jewellery,



directors, and the Town Council's very own Regis the Lion, who celebrated his 15th Birthday this year.

Sarah Gelsthorp, Civic and Events Officer said "The Carnival was a very successful day for the town and we hope that everyone enjoyed

all contributed to the festivities".

Houghton Regis Town Council would like to thank Houghton Regis Development Consortium, Zebra Properties, Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, Go Houghton, Grovebury



popcorn, sweets, charity stalls, games, ice cream food (including pizza, Chinese and Indian Food) plus refreshments in the Village Green Pavilion from Houghton Regis W.I. The Town Mayor, Councillor Joanna Hillyard hosted a stall in aid of her nominated charities.

The Carnival was be presided over by the Carnival Court of actors, actresses, camera people and

the occasion. There were some amazing Bollywood and Hollywood Costumes and we would like to thank everyone who took part in the procession and arena, and the stallholders who



Photographs by Joanna Cross Photograph

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Business Interview with...

From Brown and Whites Opticians, Bedford Square as a participant of the Shop Local Campaign.

Thank you so much for taking part in the shop local campaign as we are coming to the end of the first phase which will be end of September, can we ask you a few questions on your experiences with the scheme.

1. Have any vouchers been redeemed in your store as a result of the campaign?

Yes

2. What has gone well about the shop local scheme?

There was a lot of talk about it from customers at the beginning and they said it was a good idea. Unfortunately it has not been mentioned too much lately.

3. What adjustments/changes do you think would help to improve the shop local scheme improve?

I think a larger banner in Bedford Square would help, Perhaps bunting to get more people talking about it.

4. The shop local campaign has been advertised in the Town Crier, in shop windows and on social media

pages since its launch in March. Are there any other advertising methods that you think would have helped the campaign?

Just As above

5. Within the scheme periodic Town Centre Attractions have been organised and delivered in Bedford Square Community Centre to help increase the footfall. Have you noticed an increase in business during these events?

Unfortunately not for us.

6. Are you happy to be part of the second phase of the shop local scheme, due to launch in October 2017?

Yes we would like to part of it again.

7. Are there any other Town Centre Attractions that you would like to see happen in Bedford Square Shopping Centre in the future?

Flower boxes would make the square looking more attractive.

Thank you once again for your support in the Shop Local Scheme and we look forward to the second phase.



Residents of Houghton Regis— do you need help?

Houghton Regis Helpers
07587 004514
Phone us & we will call you back

Houghton Regis Helpers can help YOU.
We are a group of "good neighbour" volunteers helping residents of Houghton Regis

We can provide occasional assistance with shopping, gardening, minor DIY, walking the dog, or providing transport to the doctor, hospital or other appointments if you have no family or friends nearby to help you. (we just ask you to reimburse the driver for expenses incurred)

Our volunteers are also happy to befriend our neighbours—have a chat and a cup of tea!
All our volunteers are DBS checked and insured

Email us: houghtonregishelpers@hotmail.co.uk
Visit us: www.houghtonregishelpers.co.uk

We have no political affiliations.
Supported by Houghton Regis Town Council and Beds Rural Communities Charity



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from September to the end of December 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
25th September	Monday	Corporate Services	
2nd October	Monday	Accounts Sub Planning	6.15pm
9th October	Monday	Town Council	
17th October	Tuesday	Town Partnership	
23rd October	Monday	Accounts Sub Planning	6.15pm
30th October	Monday	Community Services (Grants)	
6th November	Monday	Community Services	
13th November	Monday	Accounts Sub Planning	6.15pm
20th November	Monday	Environment & Leisure	
27th November	Monday	Corporate Services	
4th December	Monday	Accounts Sub Planning	6.15pm
11th December	Monday	Town Council	
18th December	Monday	Planning	

Independent Living

Houghton Regis Central Newsletter No.1 –July 2017

great lifestyles

Welcome to the first edition of the Houghton Regis Central Newsletter. These newsletters will keep you up to date with the development of Houghton Regis Central (HRC), the Council's new independent living scheme. Whilst we are still some time away from starting construction, there is a lot going on 'behind the scenes' to make sure the new development meets the needs of its future residents and the local community.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up to our email alerts to receive future updates. You can do this by clicking on this link or by visiting the HRC pages on the Council's website.
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/hrc-emails

Relocation of recycling point in the centre of Houghton Regis
From Tuesday 1 August 2017 the recycling point in the Town Centre (within the Houghton Regis Central site boundary) will be relocated to Houghton Regis Leisure Centre. Signs are now being displayed at the current site to inform people about the change and the location of the new site. If you have any questions please contact Waste Services by emailing wasteservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Update on retail units
We have been getting a lot of interest in the new retail units that will be built as part of the Houghton Regis Central development. To help answer some of the questions that have been raised we are currently putting together an information pack containing details on the size and layout of the units and rental costs. This pack will be published soon on our website. In the meantime if you are interested in renting a retail unit please complete an expression of interest form by visiting:
<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/housing/independent-living/houghton-regis-central/retail.aspx>

A great place to live and work.

The Red House

Over the summer scaffolding will be going up around the Grade II listed Red House. This will allow us to carry out a full structural survey of the property to work out what needs to be done to retain this important asset and keep it safe. Once the survey has been completed, we will be applying for Listed Building consent to undertake works to prevent further deterioration, and will use traditional materials where possible to maintain the character of the building.

To ensure the security of the building moving forward, an alarm has now been fitted and linked to our security system.

The Red House

At the end of June we met with the Houghton Regis Heritage Society to talk about the future use of the building. Whilst no decision has been made we will continue to work with the Heritage Society and keep them involved in future discussions and meetings.

Contact us...
by telephone: 0300 300 8000
by email: IndependentLivingHR@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/houghton-regis-central
write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Houghton Regis Central Project Team, Housing Service, Watling House, High Street North Dunstable LU6 1LF

Do you have time to help others?

Become a 'Good Neighbour' volunteer with Houghton Regis Helpers!

Our Aim is to: Provide to residents in Houghton Regis, short term help such as transport to doctor or hospital appointments, help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, light household jobs such as changing light bulbs or popping round for a chat and a cup of tea

For more information:
Phone us: 07587 004514
Email us: houghtonregishelpers@hotmail.co.uk
Visit us: www.houghtonregishelpers.co.uk

All volunteers are covered by insurance and will need DBS clearance, which is arranged by us on your behalf

Find us on Facebook

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.



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www.zebra-properties.co.uk

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01582 866344

Email: info@zebra-properties.co.uk
www.zebra-properties.co.uk

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The Disability Resource Centre
Health, Learning and Work



Money Management

Do you want to improve your financial health?

Would you like advice on how to manage money?

Are you interested in learning new skills?

Are you disabled and unemployed?

Our **FREE** friendly and supportive course offers one-to-one coaching and group support, helping you to take control of your financial wellbeing. The course may lead into further training and work.

We will assess your current situation and provide practical actions for you to take forward. Workshops will include managing your money, employment support, IT and welfare benefits.

For more information call our health, learning and work team on 01582 470900 or email hlw@drcbeds.org.uk

The Building Better Opportunities "Financial Inclusion" project is funded by the European Union European Social Fund and the Big Lottery Fund






Call: 01582 470900
Website: www.drcbeds.org.uk
Email: hlw@drcbeds.org.uk
 Poynters House, Poynters Rd, Dunstable, LU5 4TP
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Free business adverts sponsored by HRIC in support of local businesses

'HOUGHTON REGIS REMEMBERS'

All Saints' Parish Church

'Remembrance Service'

Sunday 12th November 9.45am
 Followed by the
'Act of Remembrance'
 at the Memorial
 on the Green 11am

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**Saturday 11th November 11am**  
**'Act of Remembrance'**  
 at the Memorial  
 on the Green

## "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

# HOUGHTON REGIS SHOP Local

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 1.** Pick up your Shop Local Loyalty card from any participating shop! (where you see the logo)


- 2.** For every £2.50 you spend in participating stores on 1 purchase you will get a stamp.


- 3.** Once you have filled up all 10 boxes take your card along to Houghton Regis Town Council, Peel Street.


- 4.** Claim your FREE Shopping bag full of goodies and a voucher booklet containing discounts and freebies to use in the Town.



For more details, please see our website [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk) or email: [tara.earnshaw@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:tara.earnshaw@houghtonregis.org.uk)