

# TOWN CRIER



Telephone: 01582 708540

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

Find us on     



**Don't Forget our  
Fireworks  
Night!**

**Sunday 3rd November  
2019 From 4pm**

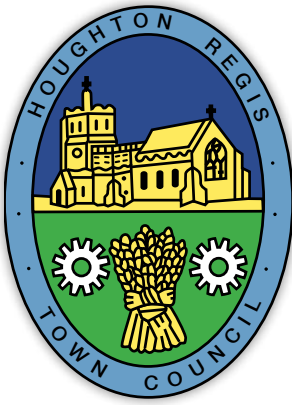


**My Mayoral Year  
so far...  
Words from the New  
Town Mayor**

**Christmas  
Events coming  
up...**

Your 'Town Criers' are still free, delivered straight to your door,  
You'll disappoint us for sure, if it stays on the floor!

So open it up and explore, all the FREE events and more that you don't want to ignore!



## 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)

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

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

@HRCouncil1

@HoughtonRegisTC

### Officers:

Clare Evans Town Clerk	01582 708542
Debbie Marsh Corporate Services Manager	01582 708 544
Tony Luff Head of Grounds Operations	01582 708543
Sarah Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer	01582 708523
Tara Earnshaw, Community Development Officer	01582 240 252
Sonia Stennett Accounts & Cemetery Officer	01582 708541
Chantel England Promotions and Administration Officer	01582 240251
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services	01582 945697

### Councillor contact details:

Houghton Hall Ward:	
Cllr Susan Goodchild	01582 708540
Cllr Yvonne Farrell	07915 088302
Cllr David Jones	01582 708540
Cllr Ray Morgan	01582 708540
Cllr Ken Wattingham	01582 705 830
Cllr Susan Thorne	07847 702 499

Parkside Ward:	
Cllr Jimmy Carroll	01582 708540
Cllr Don Dixon-Wilkinson	01582 529 554
Cllr Clare Copleston	01582 708 540
Cllr Tim Welch	07894 014 441

Tithe Farm Ward:	
Cllr David Abbott	01582 894 060
Cllr Tracey McMahon	07948 532 662
Cllr Martin Kennedy	01582 708 540
Cllr Abby Slough	01582 708 540

Central Bedfordshire Councillors:	
Cllr Antonia Ryan (Parkside)	0300 300 8518
Cllr Susan Goodchild (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8525
Cllr Yvonne Farrell (Houghton Hall)	0300 300 8537
Cllr Patrick Hamill (Tithe Farm)	0300 300 8567

## Christmas Opening Hours

Tuesday 24th December  
Wednesday 25th December  
Thursday 26th December  
\* Friday 27th December  
\* Monday 30th December  
\* Tuesday 31st December  
Wednesday 1st January  
Thursday 2nd January

Open 9am to 1pm  
Closed  
Closed  
Closed  
Closed  
Closed  
Closed  
Normal office hours resume



\* During these times, the Council can be contacted on: 01582 708540

## SUCCESSFUL CHARITY DAY AT HOUGHTON REGIS BOWLS CLUB IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER UK

Thanks to the charitable nature and persuasiveness of Mr Jaff Owens £1,421.27 was raised in support of Prostrate Cancer Uk.



Throughout the bowls season Jaff had managed to recruit bowlers from various clubs in Bedfordshire to gather at the Moore Crescent home of HRBC on the 28th September to take part in a fun day bowls match with all the proceeds from entrance fees, raffles, and many articles for sale due to donations of gifts from club members, going to the charity.

With the help of his endearing and long-suffering wife Margaret, the proceeds far exceeded last year's total of £600. Margaret had to suffer the blustery conditions by manning the raffle and gifts stall while Jaff had the comforts of the clubhouse bar. With the help of HRBC members the day was a resounding success and augurs well for next year project.

Prostate Cancer UK also donated various gifts of different descriptions in aid of it's charity, lapel badges being one of the most popular. Anyone wishing to join the Bowls Club next year should keep an eye out for the next open day which will be advertised on the Village Green in March-April time next year. Another successful season for the Club saw 5 of them get to the all England finals at Leamington.

# My Mayoral Year

I hope you have had a good summer enjoying all the wonderful weather that we've had. As we move into autumn/winter this edition of the Crier looks back at some of the summer events which have taken place and looks forward to the jam-packed winter events, and there certainly is plenty to look forward to.

If we look back over the summer months, the Town Council held the annual Carnival and the Skate Park Competition in July. Both events were well supported by residents & the local community and we were lucky with some great weather too. August saw the 4th year for 'Houghton Rocks', a free music event on Parkside Recreation Ground, with a host of bands playing for your entertainment, a fantastic selection of classic cars,

group served the refreshments and looked after the guests, and I was very grateful for their help. Incidentally, the café is open on a Tuesday lunchtime (from 1pm to 3pm) at the Sandringham Drive Hub, and I would recommend popping in for some freshly made meals and a warm welcome from the volunteers.

The second fundraising evening that I held, was a Charity Curry Night, which took place at Cinnamon Lounge, Bedford Square. I would like to thank Mohammad and his staff for arranging this event, which was enjoyed by all, and we raised substantial funds for my nominated charities. Next on the fundraising agenda is a pre-Christmas Quiz Night and a Burns Night Supper in January. The events are open to all to attend and details will be available on the Town Council's Facebook Page (@hrtowncouncil) and the website

There is a lot to look forward to in the upcoming months too. November plays host to our FREE Fireworks Night on Tithe Farm Recreation Ground and we also pay our respects to the fallen in our Remembrance services being held in the local parish church. Moving into December details of all our Christmas events can be found on page 8. We hope you will be able to join us for them all.

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 possible.

We really hope you enjoy reading through your Town Crier. The next edition will be dropping through your



motorbikes and commercial vehicles. On pages 4 you can find articles and photographs capturing these days.

Since becoming Mayor in May, I have held two events to raise funds for my nominated charities. The first event was a Coffee and Doughnut Morning, which took place at the Hub Café. The members of the Hub Café

[www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk). The monies raised at these events will be directed to The Firefighter's Charity, High Five For Ollie and East Anglian Air Ambulance at the end of My Mayoral term. I am very much enjoying working with these organisations and all the funds raised will help to support their valuable work.

door in March 2020. Look out for forthcoming events (Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Playscheme, May Fair, and of course the Carnival).

[Log on to our website or Facebook pages for up to date details of future events.](#)

# Review of events of the last few months



## Carnival

The Village Green was again the setting of the Houghton Regis Carnival 2019 with the theme for this year being 'Rhythm of the World'.

Back, by popular demand, was the 'University of Bedfordshire Pipe Band' who led the Carnival Procession through the streets of the town. The street procession was presided over by Egyptian nobility, who were followed by some amazing colourful entries from local organisations and groups. The winners of the Procession competition were:

**Most Original entry:** 1st/3rd

Houghton Regis Scouts

**Best Performance:** Thornhill Primary School

**Best Dressed Team:** 4th Houghton Regis Scouts

**Best Dressed Walker:** Treow House

**Mayor's Choice:** (Yvonne Corkerton Trophy) 1st/3rd Houghton Regis Scouts

Back on the Green the procession was met by a lively and welcoming crowd whose cheers gave performers an extra spring in their step for their final stretch towards Houghton Hall and The Green.

The Carnival was officially opened by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Tracey McMahon. The afternoon went by in a whirl of arena performances from Donna's Dance School, On Pointe Dance Academy, Zumba with Sally and the Lightning Athletic Cheer and Dance Display, fair rides, and craft and game stalls. The event ended with a musical finale from the local band, Déjà Vu, who performed songs from 11 different countries including Australia, Barbados, Cuba, Jamaica, Ireland, USA, Sweden, Trinidad, Hawaii, Germany and of course England.

The event even offered food from



around the world ranging from a delicious British afternoon tea from Houghton Regis Women's Institute to pizza inspired by the US to a taste of the Caribbean.

The best stall competition was so tough the judges just couldn't decide so there were joint winners this year. Well done to the 4th Houghton Regis Scouts and Girlguiding Houghton Regis on their amazing stalls.

A final BIG thank you to all the sponsors of the 2019 Carnival: Zebra Properties, Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, Signposts Luton, Grovebury Cars and Perfect Profiles and to all the volunteers and helpers without whom the day would not have been possible.



## Houghton Rocks

Houghton Rocks Music Festival ran into its 4th year as the crowds once again gathered on Saturday 31st August at Parkside Drive Recreation Ground, Houghton Regis, amongst brilliant sunshine.

This free music event included an array of bands, with the line up being The Long Riders, The Flying Ants, Supersonic, The Kolliders, The Chevtones, Sweeney Todd and Lil Mazy. The crowds were entertained from classic music numbers to original songs.

Running alongside the event we had the Classic and Vintage



motor show. Our Town Mayor, Councillor Martin Kennedy, had the very difficult task of deciding the winners, but after much careful consideration and with the help from Cllr Tim Welch, the winners were announced as:



- **Pre-War** – Bentley MK6 special (Mr Bedford)
- **1945-1968** – Messerschmitt KR200 (Dave Watson)
- **1969 onwards** – BMW 3.0cs (Mr Varney)
- **Commercial** – Dodge Pick-up (Tony Harrison)
- **Mayor's Choice** – Vauxhall Senator (Gordon Batsford)

There was again a range of stalls on side including food, charity stalls, and information.



The day was another big success and the Town Council would like to thank all the bands that took part, the volunteers, council staff and councillors that helped out on the day plus a BIG thank you to our sponsors of the event Zebra Properties and Perfect Profiles.

# Committee Updates

## Since March 2019:

### Town Council

The town mayor provided updates on the fundraising events he had held and on the community and civic events he had attended. Other councillors provided verbal reports from meetings they had attended of outside organisations or from training courses they had attended on behalf of the council.

Of particular note was:

- The election of the new Town Mayor Cllr Martin S Kennedy and new Deputy Mayor Cllr Tracey McMahon
- Continued discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council on the future use of Red House Court.
- The approval of the annual internal audit report 2018/19.

### Town Partnership

Many issues continue to be considered at this joint meeting, ranging from environmental health matters to car parking to the provision of services.

The development of the independent living scheme in the centre of the

town is well under way and this landmark building has been named All Saints View.

### Corporate Services Committee

This committee have:

- Reviewed available s106 funding
- Considered revisions of various town council policies.

### Community Services Committee

This committee have:

- Received reports about the youth work and pop-up youth cafes in Houghton Regis;
- Discussed the summer playscheme including the increased number of people who enjoyed the family day trip which had employed two coaches for the 2019 outing.
- Considered producing a revised Town Guide 2020/2021.
- Received a grant from Bedfordshire Police to deliver with Central Bedfordshire Council an anti-knife campaign.
- Advised that the Community Graffiti Project had been completed.

### Environment & Leisure Committee

This committee have:

- Continued to address enviro crime matters reported by councillors.
- Repaired and maintained existing play areas and outdoor gym equipment
- Considered designs for the new area within the existing cemetery.
- Received a grant for an outside gym area on Orchard Close Recreation Ground.

### Planning Committee

This committee have:

- Considered 37 planning applications, some were supported, some were objected to and some were commented on
- Received updates on strategic development sites in the town and on the local plan.
- Appointed a member of the planning committee to attend Houghton Regis North Stakeholder Group meetings.

### Cemetery update:

As the current space within the existing cemetery off Cemetery Road continues to reduce the council have been working hard to make additional provision.

This work has been following 2 strands. The first being the design and development of the remaining space within the current cemetery. It is intended to create a truly beautiful and peaceful area whilst providing residents with a variety of options for ashes entombment.

The design work has been completed and installation is underway.

The second strand relates to the ongoing search for new cemetery land.

As you would expect with all the development taking place around the town, this is not proving easy. The New Cemetery Sub Committee have considered a variety of sites but for various reasons, largely geological and ownership reasons, these have proved unsuitable.

The council really do appreciate the local demand from residents for burial and interment options to be provided in the longer term within the town. We have worked hard to try and deliver this and will continue to explore options as and when they arise.

If you have any thoughts, suggestions or ideas on how and, in particular, where the council could establish a new cemetery, we would be really grateful to hear them. Please contact us. Contact details can be found here <https://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/contact-us>



 **Houghton Regis Town Council**  
**Responsible for:**

- Town Mayors Christmas Cards • Consultee for planning • Local elections • Civic & Mayoral events • Recreation grounds
- Dog Kennel Down & former railway line
- Recreation Play Areas & Sports Facilities (including multi use games area & skate park) • Football pitches • Bowls • Burial Grounds (Houghton Regis Cemetery, All Saints churchyard) • Noticeboards, Seats, Litter bins, Dog bins • Community events (Inc. Carnival, Pride of Houghton Awards, Fireworks, Santa's Grotto) • Fair visits, Circus visits • Social Media & Website
- Town Crier Newsletter • Town Guide
- Town Centre Public Toilets • Community Grants Scheme • Community Services
- Community Safety

**Tel: 01582 708 540**  
**Email: [info@houghtonregis.org.uk](mailto:info@houghtonregis.org.uk)**

## Pride of Houghton 2019

At going to press the annual Pride of Houghton Awards will be taking place to celebrate the achievements and success of some truly remarkable residents of the town. The award nominees, local businesses and the Town Mayor are just some of the guests that will be attending the event, due to be held at Houghton Regis Memorial Hall on Saturday 12th October 2019.

The Pride of Houghton Awards started in autumn 2003 and has been held annually since then. Each year nominations for the Pride of

Houghton Awards are invited from residents during March until August. The nominees are often from all walks of life and of all ages, their achievements are remarkable and a lesson to us all.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Martin Kennedy will open the event. Seven Pride of Houghton Awards and Highly Commended certificates will be presented, as well as some special certificates of recognition.

The award winners and photographs from the evening will be made

available on our Facebook page and website, So, don't forget to go over and take a look.

Houghton Regis Town Council would like to take the opportunity to thank the following sponsors of the event for all of their support and help in making this year's Pride of Houghton a real success: Spicer & Co Chartered Accountants, D&I Butchers, Proludic Ltd, Vauxhall, Safer Luton Partnership, Perfect Profiles, and Zebra Properties.

## Bricks start to go up at All Saints View

As you will have seen, work is progressing well at All Saints View. The 'superstructure' (the bones of the building) are going up fast and bricklaying has begun in earnest. Make sure to have a look through the viewing panels on the High Street if you're walking past. You'll see phase one of the project, which includes the shop spaces at apartments at the front on the High Street, really start to go up over the next few months.

The contractor, Galliford Try Partnerships, has been able to negotiate a dedicated space for contractors to park in (the old Netto site) which is great news as more and more sub-contractors come on board. At the moment, they are mainly scaffolders and bricklayers, but once we get towards the end of the build in 2021, there will

be joiners, plasterers, plumbers, electricians and so on, so this is very good news.

The best way to keep up to date is to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/allsaintsview](http://www.facebook.com/allsaintsview) or sign up for email bulletins at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/all-saints-view](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/all-saints-view). This is where we post the latest updates, photos and news that don't appear anywhere else. If you liked the drone footage of the site (including this photo), then keep your eyes out for the next one to see how much the site has changed! We have really enjoyed having conversations with some of you on Facebook, so please do share your pictures, thoughts and stories with us there.



**HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FIREWORKS**  
**SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER**  
 Tithe Farm Recreation Ground  
**FAIRGROUND OPEN FROM 4PM**  
 Fireworks Bonanza to begin at 7pm  
 Food retailers  
 Fairground rides for younger children



Entrance to the Recreation Ground will be via Hillborough Crescent

For more details contact  
**01582 708540**  
 or email: sarah.galsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk  
 www.houghtonregis.org.uk



Please find below the calendar of meetings for the Town Council from October 2019 to the end of February 2020. All council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Offices on Peel Street at 7.00pm 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
<b>2019 - 2020</b>			
7th October	Monday	Town Council	7pm
14th October	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
21st October	Monday	Planning	7pm
28th October	Monday	Community Services (Grants)	7pm
29th October	Tuesday	Town Partnership	7pm
4th November	Monday	New Office Provisions Sub-Committee	6pm
4th November	Monday	Community Services	7pm
11th November	Monday	Proposed New Cemetery Sub-Committee	6pm
11th November	Monday	Planning	7pm
18th November	Monday	Environment & Leisure	7pm
25th November	Monday	Corporate Services	7pm
2nd December	Monday	Planning	7pm
9th December	Monday	Town Council	7pm
16th December	Monday	Planning	7pm
6th January	Monday	Planning	7pm
13th January	Monday	Personnel Sub-Committee	6pm
20th January	Monday	Town Council	7pm
27th January	Monday	Planning	7pm
28th January	Tuesday	Town Partnership	7pm
10th February	Monday	Community Services	7pm
17th February	Monday	New Office Provisions Sub-Committee	6pm
17th February	Monday	Planning	7pm
24th February	Monday	Environment & Leisure	7pm

**DEAR RESIDENTS**



**TITHE FARM ROAD**  
 (from the junction with Recreation Road to Hillborough Crescent) WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER FROM 6PM TO 9PM TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY (resident and emergency access only)

**FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL 01582 708540.**

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS MAY CAUSE BUT TRUST THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE SAFETY BENEFITS FOR THE EVENT.

## Follow us

You can use the following platforms to Follow, and keep in touch with Houghton Regis Town Council.

 [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)

 @HRCouncil1

 Houghton Regis Town Council



**COME  
MEET  
SANTA**

**FREE  
ENTRY**

*surprise gift for every child*

**SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER**  
**Houghton Regis Library**  
**10AM-2PM**

SPONSORED BY  
 HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL



The Town Mayor's

*Christmas  
Carol  
Service*

and Christmas Light switch on

**Saturday, 7th December**  
**from 5pm**

**All Saints' Parish Church**  
**Houghton Regis**

This will be followed by the switching on of  
 the Christmas Tree lights in Bedford Square,  
 Plus light refreshments

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

More info: [www.houghtonregis.org.uk](http://www.houghtonregis.org.uk)



**Register for your  
Christmas Card**



If you are aged 65 or over you can register for the Mayor's Christmas Card. Please contact Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708523 to ensure that you are on the list.

**NEED SOME GRANT FUNDING?**



Are you part of a local group or organisation? Would you benefit from some additional funding. If so the Town Council may be able to help.....

The council have a grant scheme to which local groups and organisations are invited to apply. So whether you have a small project in mind or are raising funds for something more substantial and need a bit more cash, why not look at the grants scheme and decide if the town council can be of help. Applications for funding need to be received by 29th January to be considered at the meeting on 10th February 2020. Follow this link for more details..... <https://www.houghtonregis.org.uk/community-grants-scheme>

*Lest We Forget*  
 NOVEMBER 10th 2019

*Remembrance Day  
Service*

**EVERYBODY WELCOME**

All Saints' Church 9.45am  
 Memorial Stone (village Green) 10.50am

*Refreshments will be available following the service in the Memorial Hall*

Monday 11th November (Armistice Day)  
 Members will gather at 10.40am at the Memorial Stone for the service to commence at 11am, with light refreshments served afterwards at the Council Offices.

