

HOUGHTON CONQUEST Village Newsletter

February 2021



***All the latest news, events and reports
for our Village inside.....***

HOUGHTON CONQUEST PARISH COUNCIL

Members

PCllr Sue Beaumont

PCllr Brian Blackall

PCllr Peter Bullock (Vice Chair)

PCllr Mark Dobson

PCllr Tracey Fry

PCllr Bec Hares (UCllr)

PCllr Liz Lovell (Chair)

PCllr Bryn Whitaker

Committees, Working Parties and Appointed Representatives

Highways & Horse Watch

PCllr Fry

Planning Sub-Committee

PCllrs Beaumont, Blackall
Bullock, Dobson & Whittaker

Village Hall

PCllrs Bullock

Play Area

PCllr Dobson

Sports Field

PCllr Blackall

Allotments

PCllr Lovell

School Liaison

E Thompson

Police Liaison	PCllr Beaumont
Tree Warden	Vacancy
Newsletter	PCllrs Bullock & Fry
Community Facebook	PCllr Fry
Website	Parish Clerk
United Charities	PCllr Beaumont
Covanta/BACI/Millbrook Power	P Rolfe
Climate Change Champion	R Blevins

Parish Council Clerk – Gill Wiggs Tel: 01234 270016
gillwiggs@btinternet.com

All correspondence should be forwarded to the Clerk to the Parish Council: Gill Wiggs, 10 Parklands, Bedford MK41 9LZ
The Parish Council usually meets on the second Thursday of the month except August & December, in the Village Hall committee room at 7.30pm. Parishioners are invited to attend the meetings and time is allocated for them to address the council.

Central Bedfordshire Councillor:

Bec Hares T: 01234 742542

E: rebecca.hares@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If you have a matter you wish to draw to the attention of the Parish Council, you can contact any Councillor, write to the Clerk, or attend a meeting. If you wish to speak to the Council please notify the clerk or the chairman before the meeting, so that you can speak during the time allotted.

**Please note that the closing date for
insertion of copy into the February 2021
issue of The Houghton Conquest Village
Newsletter is 21st January 2021**

You may send copy c/o Clerk to the Parish
Council: Gill Wiggs, 10 Parklands, Bedford
MK41 9LZ or send it by email to the Editor:

hcvillagenews@gmail.com with 'Village
Newsletter' as the subject

All contributions are welcome but are subject to
the editor's discretion as to size and content

Place your advertisement here

For a reasonable payment to Houghton Conquest Parish
Council you can reach the entire Village every two months.

Copy may be emailed to hcvillagenews@gmail.com or
posted to Gill Wiggs, Clerk to the Parish Council, 10
Parklands, Bedford MK41 9LZ

Payments to Houghton Conquest Parish Council please

Parish Council Updates



Chair's Report

As I write we are entering the third week of Lockdown 3 and much of the activity in the Village is still on hold. With the Village Hall being shut many of the regular activities that brought the community together have been cancelled however there is still help available for anyone needs it. This is not just for practical things like shopping or prescriptions but also if you just feel like a chat.

At the start of the latest lockdown the call went out again for volunteers to help out the vulnerable and those who have chosen to isolate. We have a list of volunteers ready and willing to help. We did not have enough people to leaflet the entire village as we did for the first lockdown as many people are back at work so if you need help or know anyone that does please feel free to contact us through this email address.

houghtonconquestpc@gmail.com

Also remember that the Houghton Conquest Care Group are there to help and can be contacted on 07969 982970

Your Parish Council continues to meet via Zoom and, as ever, you can join our virtual meetings. The codes are published on the Agenda on the noticeboard at the front of the shop or can be obtained by emailing The Clerk on gillwiggs@btinternet.com. We are still two Councillors short so if you would like to join us just let Gill know and she will talk you through the next steps. Please have a think about it and consider what you can do to help your community.

Some of you will have noticed that the sports field has had a tidy up. The hedges have been cut back and the ditches cleared. This is potentially only the start. Your Parish Council has some ideas for improving the field and making it into more of a community area. We would like your input so any ideas you may have please submit them to Gill. The Community Orchard is still in the planning stages with a community consultation on-going. The plan is to plant assorted fruit trees provided by Marston Vale and have an open access for everyone in the Village. We had hoped to include the School in this process but currently this is not possible. We also hope to install a footpath from the Village Hall to the Orchard to improve accessibility.

PCllr Brian Blackall is in discussions with various providers of outdoor gym equipment which we hope can be installed and will increase the number of people using the field. In addition, one long term item being considered is an all weather circular track around the field which can be used for running, walking and cycling and which will be fully wheelchair accessible. This is very much in the early planning stages so watch this space.

Another idea that you might wish to get involved in is the creation of a Community Garden. This would be funded by the Parish Council and would be provided for the use of all the people of the Village. There would need to be a volunteer team who would take over responsibility for planting and maintenance – so something you might like to help out with? Again just let Gill know if you are interested.

In my previous update I noted that Bedford Road would be closed from January to March. You will have noticed that this did not happen. The new dates are 8th-9th February (again subject to change).

That's pretty much all the news for now but hopefully by the next Newsletter we will all be enjoying a bit more freedom and getting on with our lives in a more normal fashion.

Warm regards

Liz

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

The next few council meetings may or may not be held in person and we will be reliant on using Zoom and email in order to conduct Parish Council business. Should you wish to raise anything with the Council, please direct your question to the The Clerk, Gill Wiggs via email gillwiggs@btinternet.com or by post c/o 10 Parklands, Bedford MK41 9LZ

The Chair's newsletter is intended to provide a general update. Agendas and approved minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website www.houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

POLICE LIAISON REPORT JANUARY 2021



Hello all. I am writing this on a very wet, grey day in lockdown but I should like to wish you all a Happy New Year, with the hope that things will get better this year.

There are only two matters of

significance for this report, on-going anti-social behaviour and the request by the police for all residents to abide by the current lockdown regulations.

Recently, anti-social behaviour has become a not uncommon feature on the Kier Estate. It is blighting the lives of other residents on the estate. The police are patrolling regularly and have a dedicated 'Design Out Crime Officer', an expert in Crime Prevention and Planning. This officer is working with Stonewater Housing to deal with the issue, so it is hoped a resolution will be found. I understand this scheme has been very successful in other areas. In the past, we have suffered bouts of anti-social behaviour from groups of youths from other parts of the village, so, this current behaviour, whilst unwelcome, is not unusual. The village has been subject to incremental growth, since I first moved here in 1992. It has seen various developments over time and the residents of these developments have become part and parcel of village life and activity. The residents of Keir are no exception, with one of our own PCllrs living there. Unfortunately, the growth of housing has not led to the growth of provision for young people. In fact, services for our youth have declined. However, we do have some exciting developments in the pipeline for activities around the village, initiatives taken forward by Cllr Blackall. It will be good to see more recreation for all ages around the village. Watch this space!

In relation to the coronavirus lockdown regulations, I refer you all to the Open Letter written by the Chief Constable with his significant message to "stay at home":

PCllr Sue Beaumont

Police Liaison Officer

**Force Headquarters, Woburn Road
Kempston, Bedford, MK43 9AX
15 January 2021**

OPEN LETTER TO PERSONS ORGANISING AND/OR PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Infection rates across Bedfordshire are rising and we are seeing a greater increase in those aged between 19 and 59 years old. The most common form of transmission is between people who are in close contact.

The NHS is under significant strain from both those suffering from Covid 19 related illness and those who require other urgent treatment. The message is clear: stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

The government has introduced guidance and there is legislation to support this message in order to keep you safe, with restrictions on all outdoor activity including meeting people, exercise and work. There are restrictions on travel and gatherings, but the single most important action we can take is to stay at home.

Bedfordshire Police strongly advises people not to attend any gathering, for the protection of yourselves and others. We are still in the middle of a global pandemic.

Please be advised that you may also be at risk of committing a criminal offence. Under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 (as amended) no person in a tier four area may participate in a gathering of more than two people in a public outdoor place (or two or more people in any other outdoor place, such as the

outdoor area of any private premises), unless certain exemptions apply.

There are exemptions that apply to gatherings, for example those that are necessary for the purposes of work, providing emergency assistance or escaping the risk of harm, such as those fleeing domestic abuse. This open letter does not contain all the provisions.

To find the Regulations, look online at www.legislation.gov.uk

If you attend a gathering that breaches the Regulations, you may be committing an offence, which is punishable by a fine. In certain circumstances, if you hold a gathering of more than 30 people and you do not meet the requirements of the Regulations you might be committing a different offence, which is also punishable by a fine.

It is also an offence to encourage others to unlawfully participate in a gathering (contrary to s44 or 45 of the Serious Crime Act 2007). Police officers will take appropriate enforcement action where necessary.

It is your responsibility to check the current position and ensure you are not committing an offence by being involved in a gathering. We urge anyone arranging a gathering to inform your local police via Bedfordshire.police.uk/report.

We all need to continue to play our part to prevent the spread of the virus.

Yours faithfully

Sharn Basra - Temp Assistant Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police

Highways & Horse Watch

Highways

Whilst I and other Parish Councillors do report the various issues we find with the highways within the village - potholes; poor resurfacing; damaged signage and so on, we do urge Villagers in general to also report these issues where possible. Generally speaking, more reports to the Highways Department at CBC usually result in more action.

To report any highways matter to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), log in to the following website <http://centralbedfordshire.gov.uk> and follow the instructions.

Horse watch

I'm currently finding that even in lockdown some people are driving dangerously fast past horses through the village, not only endangering a half ton animal and its rider but also themselves



PCllr Tracey Fry



All Saints Church

Rector: The Rev'd Stephen Toze 01234 740423

Assistant Minister: The Rev'd Roger White

Reader: Mr. Robert Heley 01234 740927

Wardens: Margaret Tyler – 01234 740964

Pearl Tompkins – 01234 741958

Services: Sunday Eucharist - 9:30a.m.

Family Service - First Sunday of the month at 9:30am

(With effect from Sunday, 16th August, regulations permitting)

Church Social/ Fundraising committee

Margaret Tyler 740964

Brenda Hartley 740482

Church Roof and Other Issues

Hello again everyone, here is a quick update on things.

Main Roof: Work was expected to start on the church roof in early January but, unfortunately, two of the roofing team went down with COVID so it'll be a few weeks before we get started.

Services: Due to the present lockdown the Rector and most of the congregation are in isolation so there are no church services at present and this doesn't seem likely to change until March at the earliest. Some other churches and Cathedrals are continuing to stream services so you are quite spoilt for choice if you wish to worship online. Locally Flitwick and St Paul's, Bedford are streaming and Ely and St Alban's Cathedrals. If you like Evensong then there is a wealth of lovely services on youtube.

Lockdown Library etc: The firm that collects all recycling donations from us is unlikely to be able to restart collections until March. At present the church is rather full and we need to tidy up so keep an eye for when we can start collections again.

Valentine's Raffle: Our latest online Valentine's Raffle for funds is now running and will be drawn on 14th February. Contact Sarah Hannant (07900 927050) for tickets. As usual £1 a ticket or 6 for £5.

Please check posters and Facebook page for further information and events.

Stay safe

Best Wishes, Gary Mudd (01234 741871)

Houghton Conquest Charities

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Houghton Conquest Charities owns the land the Village Hall stands on. The rent paid by the village hall enables this charity to give grants for educational purposes. Residents of the parochial Parish of Houghton Conquest who may benefit from a grant are encouraged to come forward and make an application. Grants are also available to village organisations for educational purposes, and age is not a restriction.

Some idea as to what we can give grants for are listed below, however any real educational need will be considered.

- Books or computer equipment for further education
- Help with university or college fees
- Outward bound or similar courses
- Tall ships or Jubilee sailing trust
- DOE or similar
- Sporting activities and school trips

Application forms can be found by going to the Parish Council website houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk, & selecting the tab called "The Parish". In the drop down menu you will see a page called "Houghton Conquest Charities", where you will find the application form. Once completed, it should be returned to 23 Victoria Drive or by email to the Secretary:

helenmudd@tiscali.co.uk

Houghton Conquest Charities
incorporating The Clerke & Wilde Educational Foundation
Charity no. 307480

Village Clubs, Organisations & Events, etc.

Village Hall Regular Events

***MOST OF THESE ARE NOT CURRENTLY BEING HELD
OWING TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS, BUT ARE LISTED
BELOW FOR FUTURE REFERENCE:***

Weekly

Monday	Indoor Bowls	2pm to 4pm
	Whist	7:45pm
Tuesday	Line Dancers	10am to 12:30pm
	Brownies	6:15pm to 7:30pm
	Rainbows	6:15pm to 7:15pm
Wednesday	Line Dancers	10am to 12:30pm
	Novice Line Dancers	1pm to 2pm
Thursday	Line Dancers	10am to 12:30pm
	Houghton Pioneers	5.30pm to 6.45pm
Friday	Toddler Sense	9:45 am and 11 am
	Indoor Bowls	2pm to 4pm
	Qi Kwan Do	7pm to 8pm

Monthly

1 st Wednesday	Art Society	7:30pm to 9:30pm
1 st Thursday	WI	7:30pm to 10pm
1 st Friday	Quiz Night	8:30pm
2 nd Tuesday	Garden Club	8pm to 10pm
2 nd Thursday	Parish Council (Committee Room)	7:30pm
3 rd Wednesday	Art Society	7:30pm to 9:30pm
3 rd Thursday	Village Hall Management Committee	7:30pm
3 rd Friday	Family Night	8:30pm
Last Thursday	BINGO	7:30pm to 10:00pm

To Book Contact:
Mrs Christine Dean
01234 741182
Cjdean5@aol.com

IF YOU ARE PLANNING
A ONE-OFF EVENT OR
REGULAR MEETING.
DON'T DELAY AND
BOOK TODAY.

- Run by volunteers for the benefit of the villagers. Hire charges are very reasonable with varying rates for day, evening and weekend, with residents getting preferential rates.
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Licensed bar with air conditioning at £25 hire charge

- Large hall including stage area with curtains
- Small committee room and lounge area
- Large car park

Village Notice Boards

If you would like to put notices in our boards, please:

- Hand them in to Houghton Conquest village shop.
- We have 5 noticeboards, so please provide 5 x A5 copies to ensure a copy goes in each board. Regrettably, we cannot accept larger than A5 due to limited space.
- If you provide only one copy it will only go in one board. The choice of board will be at the discretion of the Parish Councils representative.
- If you are advertising an event, please allow plenty of time, as our noticeboards are only updated once a week.
- We do not accept commercial advertising, unless it is for community activities, such as local classes.
- Space is limited, so priority will be given to local community events, & is at the discretion of the Parish Councils representative, who kindly keeps all the noticeboards up to date.

Any queries please contact Gill Wiggs on 01234 270016,
gillwiggs@btinternet.com



100 Club

If you would like to join the Hundred Club or find out more about it, then please contact Carol (01234 381393) or Jackie (01234 740635)

At present Carol and Jackie are unable to collect, so no monthly draws are being made. As soon as things can restart they will collect your back payments and all the missed draws for the year so far will be drawn then.

Houghton Conquest Garden Club



Unfortunately it seems unlikely that our postponed AGM and also the spring show will now not take place, so perhaps we should spend our time planning the garden for the coming months.

Every day this month we hope that winter will start to lose its grip, and we will see signs of Hellebores and Primroses, and hopefully your chairman's challenge Daffodil. As the garden centres are open perhaps its time to get some vegetable and hardy annual seeds, which can be sown in pots or trays now.

Now is the time to move any shrub that is in the wrong place, or even to plant a new fruit tree. Older fruit trees can be pruned now to removed damaged or diseased branches.

I hope everyone is keeping well and it won't be too long before we can start our meetings again.

Margaret Whalley
01234 740892

Houghton Conquest Art Society

Sadly, as a result of the most recent lockdown, there is little to report just now, but if you would like to know about the Society and the kind of things that we get up to in more normal times, then please visit our website below.



Barbara Boxshall
Publicity Manager
Houghton Conquest Art Society
www.houghton-conquest-art-society.co.uk



**RESPECT - TRUST -
PATIENCE - SUPPORT
- APPRECIATION -
UNITY**

Greetings to you all

As we begin the third lockdown in our UK wide battle against this awful virus, I would like to take some time to reflect on some positive news.

Whilst the school has moved to an online education for the majority of pupils, we are still providing vital places for key workers and vulnerable children at the school. For the skeleton staff remaining it is very quiet, and we really miss the many beautiful smiles and collective palpable buzz of passion for education.

During the summer we were able to take up the government grant to implement an online learning platform through Google Education. We trialled this with parents over the Christmas period by airing our successful virtual Christmas performance through this technology. As the lockdown came into force in January very suddenly, we were therefore able to move seamlessly to delivering remote education having already tried and tested the platform. We applaud the children, their families and teachers for

their excellent engagement in adapting so readily and positively to this significant change.

We are also able to support children at home who do not have appropriate technology to engage with this learning. Again, the media has made much of the need for the government to provide support in this area. All schools have been allocated a number of units and with the need in our school community outstripping this number, we have worked closely with the 'Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School' to provide vital support. We were thrilled to receive 10 Chrome books as this will increase our laptop capacity, enabling us to support families in the community whilst still providing technology in school for those key worker and vulnerable attendees. The strong working partnership between the 'Friends' and the school is a very important one, and this donation demonstrates just how much the funds they raise can make a huge difference to the children.

Finally, I wanted to touch on some queries we have received in regard to Cllr Bec Hares recent social media posts in regard to a new school being built on the Wixams site, close to BCA, but partly within our catchment. We've been asked several questions in regard to whether the village school will close and move to the new school when it is built, at some point in the future. We can categorically confirm that the existing village school will remain open for village children and confirm that the new school being built will cater exclusively for children living in the new build homes in that area.

Central Bedfordshire's plans are gathering pace to transform the educational landscape in the region from 3 tier system to a 2 tier system, whilst providing a significant number of additional new places to cater for children moving into the increasing number of new developments that are underway and planned for this area.

The schools in our area are currently working together, and with Central Bedfordshire Council to develop a plan to meet the growing demand for new school places. When a draft plan is made available for consultation, this will be shared with all. We look forward to this transformation in the future.

Stay Safe
Mrs A Allen
School Business Manager

**LIBERTY - HONESTY -
RESILIENCE - HAPPINESS -
DEMOCRACY - HOPE**



**Houghton Conquest
Lower School**

Growing together

Bowls Club



When the club is open again, we will let you know, but for your information carpet bowls is an easy game to play and gives you some exercise but is not too strenuous. We normally play on Monday and Friday in the afternoons in the Village Hall from 2pm till 4pm. The majority come for a good natter, a good laugh, a cup of tea and a biscuit – also a game of bowls. This costs only £2 per session. If you would like to join in, please come and give it a try.

Houghton Conquest Care



Since lockdown we have had fewer calls as most requests are for transport to appointments at surgeries and hospitals. This is fortunate as many of our volunteers are unable to drive due to their own health status and the level of risk assessment required.

Doctor's surgeries are open for business and with Covid inoculations beginning, the Care Group will try to help with transport to and from appointments, but with a shortage of drivers, we may not be able to give the same level of support as in the past.

If you need help, please phone 07969 982 970 and leave a message. One of our volunteers will return your call. If you require transport please try to give us at least 24 hours' notice. We charge £3.00 per trip or 30p per mile for trips over 30 miles.

Kate Smith (Honorary Secretary) 01234 740522

Sue Derrick (Acting Chair) 07886 459225

OUR PHONE NUMBER is 07969 982970

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Just as we were planning to start regular walks we had lockdown number 3, and at the moment only

two people can walk together but, hopefully, you are able to get some exercise. We will keep everyone informed as and when circumstances change and groups can walk together.

I hope you were all able to have a reasonable Christmas despite these very unusual circumstances, and that you are keeping well. Who knows when we will be able to meet again but let's hope it's not too far in the future

I have recently been contacted by a number of new ladies in the village who are interested in our WI, this is great and we so look forward to meeting you as soon as WI is up and running again. We are a small fun group with a nice range of ages.

Please feel free to contact me for any more information, keep safe everyone.

Shirley Johnson

Tel: 07951 024876

Houghton Pioneers

Unfortunately, we are unable to say when we will be back Pioneering, but may know more in the next edition.



Ramblings

That, there Parish Council

We are still a couple of councillors short of a full argument and I am sure there are those amongst you who would like to join in.

It doesn't have to take up too much of your time and the areas you might be invited to take a special interest in, vary in scope.

Our overall aim is to continue to make the Village an inclusive and supportive community in which to live. Current members are of different backgrounds/ages/interests and this all helps us to adopt a balanced approach to any decisions/recommendations we make.

You can apply if you have lived or worked in the Parish for 12 months or more. Simply send an email to our Parish Clerk, Gill Wiggs (clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk) with a few details about yourself, your background and what you could bring to the Council.

Applications are welcomed from residents of the new developments around the Parish (Kier, Morris Homes, Harrowden Green etc) as well as from those living nearer the centre of the Village.

Mud.....

As you can see from the picture, taken near the beginning of one of my walks, many of the paths lately have been covered in what could be described as chocolate mousse.

Walks do take longer and are probably a better workout, however, along some parts of the journey, all I get to look at, are my muddy boots as I try to find somewhere to place my foot without slipping, getting stuck or falling over.



Eventually, I do reach the top of the hill, burst out of the woods and the sun is shining. Just have to negotiate past the wild animals and I'm on firm ground once again - for a little while at least.



Speeding.....

It's not just my esteemed colleague, PCllr Fry, that has been aware of poor and inconsiderate drivers.

There does seem to have been an increase in idiots on the village roads in recent months. I witnessed one of these myself, a few days ago, screeching into my road as I walked up the pavement, narrowly missing parked cars and almost hitting a cyclist. The "driver" could only use one hand as the other one was much more importantly occupied holding his phone aloft, either texting or possibly even video calling.

What's wrong with these people?

The Speed Indication Devices will be re-installed shortly (there will be 3 of them).

Christmas.....

How was your Christmas?

The Christmas frocks and jumpers left in drawers? The cards half written and un-posted? The turkey order cancelled and replaced with that bit of spag bol you'd put in the freezer last May?

or...

Decorations up in November and yet to be put away? More cards sent than ever as you couldn't see anyone face to face?

Listening to carols and Christmas Services on the radio or TV?

Zoom calling Aunty Gladys on Christmas Day and pointing because she doesn't know how to unmute and giggling as she shouts a bit louder.....silently?

Waving through windows as you take your daily exercise (there's that mud again) and making the best of it.

Oh! We had lights!

Next year will be different and hopefully less enforced loneliness that has been suffered by many this year.

There will still be lights!

Vaccinations.....

These are being rolled out at pace now and I trust that as you become eligible and are invited for your very own needle-stabbing, that you bare your upper arms with abandon.

If targets are met, then we may see village life begin to creek and groan its way back to normality later in the year.

I'll still be suspicious of Mexican beer, though.
(Apologies to the Mexican population of the village)



[Photo by Daniel Schludi on Unsplash](#)

Changes under the Tree.....

The tie-ing of someone new's yellow ribbon around the old Royal Oak is still undecided as far as I know - naturally with the latest round of lockdowns, nothing much can go forward just yet, I suspect. Watch this space!

Future Events.....

Will be much more likely later in the year!!!

Pete

Roger de Winton Kelsall Winlaw's Cricket Cap



I have obtained an Old Bedfordshire Cricket Cap (1930's) with the name of Roger De Winton Kelsall Winlaw in it. I see that his name is on the War memorial in Houghton Conquest and wondered if anyone knew of his descendants family, so that I could send it to them.

Please contact me at david.manning17@btinternet.com or on telephone number 01409 231176

Regards David Manning

THE GREEN PIECE

Good for the Planet, Good for Everyone



Welcome to “The Green Piece” – a place where we can share ideas on how to live a ‘greener’ life. Please send in suggestions.

Happy New Year. While Covid continues to affect all our lives in different ways and the climate crisis has not gone away, I hope you are well and my thoughts are with everyone really struggling at the moment. Whilst we’re in lockdown and unable to get out much, I thought I’d share some suggestions for things you might like to watch or listen to.* They are various lengths so something for everyone I hope.

1. Watch *A Perfect Planet* BBC i-player With David Attenborough. Our planet is one in a billion. How incredible, awe-inspiring life is driven by its natural forces –and how we can ensure humans become a force for good. (5 episodes 58mins each)

2. Watch *Horizon 2021 Feast to Save the Planet*. BBC2 i-player. Mike Berners-Lee (“How Bad are Bananas?”) and mathematician Hannah Fry, with Masterchef judge Greg Wallace, challenge 5 special guests to make their choice of a 3 course dinner with minimal carbon footprints. Entertaining and informative. (58 minutes.) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000qzyd/horizon-2021-feast-to-save-the-planet>

3. Watch a lovely video on agroforestry (around 6 mins) on the Soil Association page:

<https://www.soilassociation.org/causes-campaigns/agroforestry>

4. Listen to *39 Ways to Save the Planet*. BBC Radio 4 in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society. The 15 minute Podcasts with Tom Heap present a wide range of people working variously at the forefront of the climate campaign. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qwt3>

5. Listen to *BBC Radio 4 Reith lectures 2020*. Mark Carney, 4th lecture *From Climate Crisis to Real Prosperity*. 30 mins+27mins Q&A. Following the first 3 lectures, this covers important issues including stranded assets, the important role of insurance, investment in the green economy and jobs, and carbon tax. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00729d9>

6. Watch <https://countdown.ted.com> *Countdown to a Better Future 10/10/2020* (50 talks)

Here are some examples:

Transformation: Monica Araya 'How Cities are Detoxing transportation'. With examples from around the world including her city Amsterdam. (10 mins).

Breakthroughs: Tom Schuler 'How Could we make Carbon Negative Concrete?' Tom explains why traditionally made concrete is so carbon polluting and how innovation could help. (5 mins)

Action: Andri Snaer Magnason 'On Time and Water'. Icelandic writer Andri reflects on the loss of the first glacier and time left for the others, and how future generations will be affected (4 mins)

Action: Roman Krznaric 'How to be a Good Ancestor'.

The Philosopher focuses on Intergenerational justice and includes the Future Design Movement active in Japan, where adult groups design and plan as though they lived in 2060 to create a liveable world for their offspring. (7 mins).

7. Listen to a podcast <https://plantproof.com/our-diet-is-destroying-the-planet-with-environmental-researcher-nicholas-carter/> (1hr 39mins)

8. Watch *Dancing on Thin Ice with Torvill and Dean*. (ITV catch-up 1hr) Breathtaking scenery but scary how much the ice is receding.

9. Watch *The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures* BBC i-player (various topics, for children and adults)

Finally, on a hopeful note, Joe Biden's commitment for the US to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement has got to be good news!

Save the date: Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum are planning an online event on sustainable revival of local town centres on *Wednesday February 10th*. Please ask me for further information. Everyone is welcome.

Rosalind Blevins
ros.blevins@btinternet.com

*I can email this article to make it easier for you to click and open the links

Best wishes

Rosalind Blevins ros.blevins@btinternet.com

Growing Your Own this Year?

Why not take part in MYHarvest, a national project on food sustainability? All you need to do is record the weights of your

produce, note the area they are grown in and submit the results online.

MYHarvest (Measure Your Harvest) is a collaboration between University of Sheffield, RHS and National Allotment Society, looking at the contribution home-grown fruit and vegetables make to UK food production and sustainability. The role of gardens and allotments in increasing household food security in times of crisis, like the one caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, is very relevant. It may also influence future planning with regard to allotment, community and private garden provision.

Vegetables and fruit being recorded include potatoes, tomatoes, beans, onions, courgettes, brassicas, apples, currants, strawberries. (A full list and an explanation of what simple measurements are required are on the website.) You don't have to record everything you grow - you may just chose to submit details of one or two crops. Everything is useful.

Take part at: www.myharvest.org.uk. You can also follow the project's progress on Twitter (@MYHarvestUK), Facebook (/MYHarvestUK) and Instagram (@MYHarvestUK). For anyone wanting to get more involved, there is the new MYHarvest Diary project - recording the proportion of home-grown to bought food. Full details on website.

Your help with these exciting projects will be much appreciated. (Many thanks to those already contributing.)

Rosalind Blevins

ZONITA Community Cinema

Parkside Hall, Woburn St, Ampthill MK45 2HX

We hope that you are keeping well and safe.

As we remain in lockdown once again, it is difficult to plan ahead with any certainty. At the moment, we hope to be able to recommence indoor screening from March 2021. Of course this may change but we will keep you informed through this newsletter.

Take care one and all,

The ZONITA Team.

www.zonita.org.uk email: info@zonita.org.uk

www.facebook.com/zonita.cinema

Commercial Advertising Rates:

Annual Rates = 6 Issues

£10 per half page = £60 pa. £20 per page = £120 pa

Published every 2 months; April to February

Copy may be changed subject to receipt before published cut-off dates by prior arrangement with the editor

Payments to: Houghton Conquest Parish Council, c/o:
Clerk to the Parish Council: Gill Wiggs, 10 Parklands,
Bedford MK41 9LZ

Tim Downing

**Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Dryers:
Repairs & Sales**

**20 years' Experience
A quality service at a competitive price**

**Clophill: 01525 860148
Mob: 07969 545276**



**Number 1 for local Computer Support.
Business & Home**

**Do you need to work from home?
Speak to us about remote working solutions.**

Remote PC Support.

**Anti-Virus, Online Back-up, Online Security
PC Slow, Email or Internet Issues**

Call - Enzo 01234 860620

www.PCfixer.co.uk



be **haus** proud



MILTON KEYNES - 01908 984 321

www.hausmaids.co.uk

Weekly

Forthnightly

Monthly

One Off Cleaning



guitar tuition

V8 GT

Shift your playing up a gear

Anastassios Savvides, BMus

Direct: 01234 740 757

Mobile: 07979 212 589

anastassios97@hotmail.com

**Lessons for beginners to
advanced, including music theory**

Louiza Savvides, ABRSM

with over 25 years experience

Direct: 01234 740 757

Mobile: 07778 896 685

louizalovespianos@hotmail.com

The
Pianoforte

Make piano playing
your forte

CONQUEST
CHIMNEY SWEEP

Dominic Gruzelier

☎ 01234 742549 / 07783 656571

✉ info@conquestchimneysweep.co.uk

🌐 www.conquestchimneysweep.co.uk

f @ConquestChimneySweep



65 Bedford Road
Houghton Conquest
Mk45 3NA



- Extensions and Alterations
- Garage Conversions
- Groundwork and Brickwork Contracts
- Landscaping
- Driveways
- Chimney Repointing and Repairs
- New Builds



We take great pride in maintaining a reliable and friendly service.
Call today for a non-obligatory quote. References are available on request.



Call for a free quote: 01234 840879 or 07712121493



info@dixonandsons.co.uk or www.dixonandsons.co.uk

Conquest Oil



An independant, family-owned company, delivering home heating oil and lubricants since 1960.



A personal touch to all your heating needs

**Call Now On
01525 402209**

or visit our website:

www.conquestoil.co.uk

EMPIRE CARS BEDFORD

**QUALITY USED CAR SALES
0% DEPOSIT FINANCE AVAILABLE
SERVICING & REPAIRS
MOT
AIR CON, TYRES & EXHAUSTS
DPF CLEANING
FREE PICK UP/DROP OFF
HOUGHTON CONQUEST**

**01234 741002 OR 07727 258633
WWW.EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK
SALES@EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK
1 COTTON END ROAD, WILSTEAD
MK45 3BT**

SAVINGS ON HOME SERVICES

Hello,

I hope you are keeping well in these awful times.

While you are staying home is it not a good time to check that you are not paying too much for your home services?

I live in the village and offer a free cost comparison of your current bills against a unique way of lowering them with award-winning service.

This cost comparison is free and without obligation, so give me a call and let's see how much we can save you!

Adrian Richardson.
07931316690



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

**The Flitvale WLT
Local Group Zoom
Series of Lectures**

‘Future Wildlife’

A talk by Brian Eversham, CEO of the Wildlife Trust, BCN

24 February (7.30pm) - delivered via Zoom to your home!

What might our wildlife be like in 50 years' time, if the Trust succeeds in its aims (or not)? A thought-provoking discussion of

future habitats and the species which may live in them, especially in response to the warming climate.

Don't miss out on these fascinating talks! - Please contact Ann on **flitvale.info@gmail.com** if you wish to participate in these talks. She will then send instructions on how to log on nearer the time.

Also please Ann know if you wish to receive monthly copies of our newsletter by email.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org Flit Vale Local Group www.flitvale.org.uk

Walking Routes

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Bedfordshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/beds is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Greensand Country Landscape Partnership



Celebrating Greensand Country - Stories of the Landscape, Oral History Project

- Do you live or work in Greensand Country?
- Are you interested in local history and oral history?
- Are you looking for a new challenge?
- Would you like free training in archiving, research and oral history?
- Would you like a project you can do entirely remotely

Then this project is for you.

Project Overview

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is looking for volunteers to uncover and gather stories, past and present, from

across Greensand Country. These stories will provide inspiration for our commissioned artists, whose work will be presented during The Greensand Festival in May 2021.

A key part of the project is collecting living memories from those who know and love Greensand Country in order to build the Greensand Country Oral History Suite, which will be housed on the Greensand Country website.

The final stages of the project will involve volunteers collating findings ready for the Greensand Country Archive which can be used for generations to come.

Volunteers will receive free training from industry experts in Oral History, Archiving and Historical Research to provide them with the necessary skills to embark on this exciting project. Training begins in January 2021 and the project culminates in May 2021.

Commitment and requirements

Volunteers will need to be able to commit to at least two hours a week for five months (approx. 50 hours in total)

You will need access to a computer and a quiet place to work

Training

Volunteers will be asked to undertake the following training in late Jan 2021/Feb 2021:

Four half day sessions in Oral history (remote learning, 25th, 26th, 27th Jan 2021 & Feb 2021 TBC)

One half day session in archiving (remote learning, dates TBC)

One half day on historical research (remote learning, dates TBC)

What can you expect to gain from the project?

- New skills which can feed into your work, hobbies or creative practice
 - 21 hours of free training
 - Free access to equipment and software
 - Small group sessions with commissioned artists and Community Arts Officer
 - Access to archives in Bedfordshire
 - A greater understanding of your local area
 - New friendships and a community of likeminded individuals
- Who can apply:
- Volunteers are welcome from all backgrounds, but we ask you be over the age of 18
 - Ideally volunteers will live or work in Greensand Country. However, we would also like to hear from individuals across Bedfordshire who are interested in Greensand Country

How to apply:

To find out more about the project and to book your place on the training sessions please email Sally Christopher on sallyc@greensandcountry.com.

Please note: We are committed to ensuring that this opportunity is accessible to everyone. If you experience or anticipate any barriers within the process, or require any help to make an application, please contact us.

We can also be contacted at The Old School, Cardington, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK44 3SX.

Information about Greensand Country

‘Greensand Country’ is an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside, based on a band of higher ground ‘Greensand Ridge’. The Greensand Ridge is a narrow, wooded sandstone ridge over 40 miles long, stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, rising out of the surrounding clay vales.

It contains all of Bedfordshire’s remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland, and more surviving historic parkland than any other landscape in the country, often surrounding notable manor houses. This landscape character is a legacy of its underlying Greensand geology, which led to much of it being regarded as ‘marginal land’ not suitable for agriculture, as well as its management over centuries by major estates.

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership are thrilled to have gained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a Landscape Partnership programme and an array of exciting projects which will help us raise awareness of the heritage value of the Greensand Country and to reverse the gradual decline in the distinct landscape character of this beautiful and loved place. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded this funding in January 2017. The programme will run until June 2021.

Visit us at www.greensandcountry.com



A note from your Editor...

We are always happy to receive your articles/comments/concerns/reports on events and hopefully I have included as many of these as I can. Please send more!

As always, delivery volunteers are welcomed, if not immediately, then for the future as regular volunteers step down over time.

Contact details are as follows:

Email: hcvillagenews@gmail.com

A note through my letterbox at 38 Victoria Drive or
call or text me on 07748 187069

Pete Bullock

Editor

Please note:

Whilst the cost of the Village Newsletter is kindly funded by the Parish Council, the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of either the Parish Council or the editor. Editorial comments are completely independent of and not a reflection of the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles for inclusion are welcomed, subject to the standard appropriate editorial control. Any questions for the Parish Council should be directed at the Clerk to the Parish Council.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Around the Village

ART SOCIETY	Mary Rich	01234 272470
BROWNIES & RAINBOWS	Laura Cullingham	07747 549531
CARE GROUP	Sue Derrick	07886 459225
FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH	Carol Juffs	381393
GARDEN CLUB	Margaret Whalley	740892
HOUGHTON PIONEERS	Liz Thompson	07810 298069
INDOOR BOWLS	TBA	
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	Christine Dean	741182

WOMENS' INSTITUTE	Shirley Johnson	740265

Contacts outside the Village

AIRPORT (London Luton)	01582 405100
BEDFORD HOSPITAL	01234 355122
BUSES (Grant Palmer)	01525 719719
CHURCHES	
C of E - Revd. Stephen Toze	01234 740423
Methodist - Rev. Silas Wood	01525 571392
D.H.S.S. - (Bedford)	01234 365155
SCHOOLS	
Lower School - Houghton Conquest	01234 740202
Middle - Stewartby	01234 768224
Senior - Wootton	01234 767123
Holywell School - Cranfield	01234 750381
LIBRARIES Bedford	01234 718178
Ampthill	0300 300 8053
Flitwick	0300 300 8057
ELECTRICITY (UK Power Networks) General Enquiries	0800 029 4285

ELECTRICITY (UK Power Networks) Power Cuts	0800 316 3105 or just 105
ANGLIAN WATER	08457 145145
HIGHWAYS Dept. (Helpline)	0300 300 8049
Forest of Marston Vale	01234 767037
Central Beds Council	0300 300 8000
POLICE (Emergency only!)	999
County H.Q.	01234 841212
Amphill	101
Incidents needing non-urgent response	101
Reporting Anti-Social behaviour	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
RAILWAY STATIONS	
Travel Enquiries	0345 748 4950
Silverline	01923 207258
Bedford station	0345 748 4950
Flitwick station	0345 748 4950
DOCTORS	
Amphill - Houghton Close Surgery	01525 300898

- Oliver St Surgery	01525 631395
- Greensands Surgery	01525 631390
Kempston	01234 852222
REGISTRATION	
Marriage & archives	01525 403430
Births & Deaths	0300 300 8089.

Should any of the above contacts be incorrect, changed or if additions are required please contact the Parish Clerk or email hcvillagenews@gmail.com.

Amendments will be made in the next Issue.