

HOUGHTON CONQUEST Village Newsletter

October 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 Tracey Fry

PCllr Bec Hares (UCllr)

PCllr Liz Lovell (Chair)

PCllr John Miller

PCllr Anthony Mullin

PCllr Bryn Whitaker

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

Highways & Horse Watch

PCllr Fry

Planning Sub-Committee

PCllrs Beaumont, Blackall
Bullock, Whittaker and Mullin

Village Hall

PCllr Bullock

Play Area

PCllrs Blackall and Miller

Sports Field

PCllrs Blackall and Miller

Allotments

PCllr Lovell

School Liaison	PCllr Mullin
Police Liaison	PCllr Beaumont
Tree Warden	PCllr Miller and L Askham
Newsletter	PCllr Bullock
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
clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

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.

Parish Council website

You can register for email news updates from Houghton Conquest Parish Council by going to houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk & click on the "subscribe" button on the home page. We promise we won't inundate you. We only post news items that we believe are important to Houghton Conquest residents. Subscription is completely free of charge

Thanks, Houghton Conquest Parish Council

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



Hi and welcome to the Autumn edition of the Village Newsletter

As the early days of Autumn arrive and we begin to feel a nip in the air we are hopefully seeing a glimpse of normality as the children settle back into school and people start to return to their offices.

As there was no Parish Council meeting in August we had a lot to discuss at our latest meeting and it was especially good to see nine members of the public coming forward to discuss the issues that are affecting their lives in the Village. Remember you are all welcome to attend meetings even if you don't wish to raise any issues or speak during the time set aside for public comments. Your Parish Council cannot try to resolve issues if we don't know what they are so come along and have your say.

In addition to the members of the public we had other guests. Firstly Tina Knibbs from Grantscape laid out plans by the Rookery South Community Fund to make grants to local communities. These would be to facilitate community projects which benefit the health and well being of everyone. If anyone has any ideas for projects please let us know.

Our second guests were representatives for the Thickthorn Farm development. This is the 650 homes that are going

on the land at the end of Bedford Road. Outline planning already exists for this development and it includes the Country Park that is to form a buffer between the Village and the development. Alan Penfold from Present Made outlined the proposal that will be put out for public consultation. Primarily the site will be a mass rental site – meaning that all 650 homes will be for rent. 422 private rentals and 228 affordable houses. The public consultations are due to start shortly with the provision of a website and some local open events. We will keep you updated on the noticeboards so you are able to have your say.

The issue of the on-going status of the Royal Oak was also discussed. This was because a group of Villagers have got together to try and get the pub registered as an Asset of Community Value. The Parish Council were asked to comment and did not raise any objections. Once the pub is registered nothing much happens until the Brewery want to sell it. There are more details in the Editors Ramblings.

Work continues to try and improve the condition of the playing field. Repairs are set to be made to the skate park and the youth shelter to repair the on-going vandalism yet again. The green container is scheduled to be moved, leaving a hard standing for the static fitness equipment.

The installation of which has been held up by the legal team who are changing the terms of the S106 agreement which is required to pay for the equipment. A bit of a saga!

Pitch repairs and maintenance is being carried out by a team of volunteers led by the Manager of HCFC Steve Lee. He has ambitious plans for expanding the use of the field once the necessary pitch and pavilion repairs are completed. The PC has agreed to a new boiler being installed so hot showers can be provided. This is part of the project to make the Pavilion a more pleasant facility.

Also part of the drive to increase use of the sports field is the Community Orchard. As a result of the appeal for feedback in the last newsletter we will be carrying out further consultation to ensure the Orchard is accessible for people who are less mobile or need to use a mobility scooter or wheelchair. Work on the access route from Cherry Close is due to start as is the levelling of the site. It is hoped that the fruit trees can be planted in March.

Parking around the Knife and Cleaver continues to cause issues. It has been suggested that yellow lines outside the pub might resolve some of the dangerous parking on the bend however it was felt that this would simply move the problem elsewhere, as can be seen by the willingness of some inconsiderate individuals who seem to think that parking on pavements is permissible. Unfortunately, due to a lack of enforcement officers and no interest from CBC there appears to be little that can be done to improve the situation unless alternative parking can be found. If this issue is causing you problems, then reporting it to CBC regularly may prompt some response. This can be done quite easily on their website.

The school parking issues are scheduled for discussion at the next meeting. One proposal is the creation of a crossing on the High Street. This idea has been discussed by the PC on several occasions with the general outcome being that it would create even more parking problems for the residents of the High Street. If you have any comments please feel free to attend and make your points.

I think that's it for now but as always a full record of Parish Council meetings is available on the website

<https://houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk/> and in hard copy on the noticeboard at the rear of the shop.

We have one vacancy on the Council so please consider joining us and helping to support our community. Just email Gill Wiggs at gillwiggs@btinternet.com and she will guide

you through the process. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards

Liz

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 SEPTEMBER 2021

These past two months have continued to see on-going anti-social behaviour on the Kier estate. As stated in the last report, these incidents range from the dumping of rubbish, damage to trees through to threats of violence. Such behaviour is blighting the lives of residents, leaving, sadly, to some leaving the estate. The police have now made several patrols around the area, which will, hopefully, act as some deterrent. In addition, a site survey has been undertaken with the Design Out Crime Officer. This officer is seeking to arrange an 'Environmental Visual Audit' with partners to provide a clear picture of which agency should take responsibility for what action. Hopefully, this EVA [described by one wag as a look....I'm sure it is more than that!!] will be underway shortly. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, although this is being written on a glorious September evening, the Autumn Equinox is upon us, meaning the nights are

drawing in fast. The police would urge all residents to be vigilant and ensure all garages and outbuildings are kept securely locked.

The last matter, which is causing concern, is the rise of inconsiderate parking. Raised by our Chair in the last Newsletter, we continue to see an increase in parking on pavements, blocking paths for those in wheelchairs or pushing prams and forcing people onto the road. Of note, recently, has been parking on the double bends by the church, by those potentially visiting the Knife and Cleaver. After so long in lockdown, it is great to see the business thrive but it is important that parking is safe and parking on the double bends certainly isn't! The Parish Council is working with the Knife and Cleaver to address this. We are assuming that those residents who can walk up for a drink or more do so.

Finally, for anyone wishing to report a crime that does not merit a 999 emergency call, please either ring 101 or report a crime on-line by visiting www.bedfordshire.police.uk, where you will be offered a variety of options for reporting.

PCllr Sue Beaumont
Police Liaison Officer

Central Beds Council Issues

If you have any issues that you wish me to raise with Central Bedfordshire Council, please do not hesitate to contact me at bex.hares@gmail.com, on 0300 300 8505, or via my Facebook page: Facebook.com/CllrHares/

Rebecca Hares

Speed Indication Device Data Summary

For the Period 06-08-21 to 08-09-21

Arriving – from High Street to The Grove		Departing – from The Grove to High Street	
Violations	60.11% (58.33%)	Violations	74.4% (70.72%)
Of which	69%. (67.4%) = 21-25mph	Of which	61.1% (60.8%) = 21-25mph
	31%. (32.5%) = 26+		38.8% (39.1%) = 26+
Average speed	22mph (26mph)	Average speed	23mph (23mph)
Average Vehicles per day	284 (251)	Average Vehicles per day	274 (270)
Total in period	7,034 (5,205)	Total in period	9,038 (7,567)
Highest recorded	51mph (45mph)	Highest recorded	58mph (54mph)
Arriving from Chapel End Lane to Oak		Departing towards Chapel End from Oak	
Violations	51.17%. (52.43%)	Violations	68.65% (69.48%)
Of which	72.3% (73.4%) = 21-25mph	Of which	72.3% (56%) = 21-25 mph
	27.6% (26.5%) = 26+		27.6% (43%) = 26+
Average speed	22mph (21mph)	Average speed	23mph (23mph)
Average Vehicles per day	789 (702)	Average Vehicles per day	1,118. (1,078)
Total in period	25,707 (24,650)	Total in period	36,423 (37,880)
Highest recorded	54mph (53 mph)	Highest recorded	59mph (54 mph)
Arriving towards the Oak from Vis Blinds		Departing towards Vis Blinds from Oak	
Violations	1.58% (1.76%)	Violations	2.79% (3.4%)
Of which	85.4% (84%) = 31-35	Of which	85.66% (87%) = 31-35
	14.5% (16%) = 35+		14.3% (12.8%) = 35+
Average speed	19mph (20mph)	Average speed	20mph (20mph)
Average vehicles per day	923 (623)	Average vehicles per day	1133 (763)
Total in period	25,110 (10,574)	Total in period	30,833 (12,954)
Highest recorded	56mph (48mph)	Highest recorded	66mph (65mph)



All Saints Church

Rector: TBA

Assistant Minister: The Rev'd Roger White

Reader: Mr. Robert Heley 01234 740927

Wardens: Gary Mudd – 01234 741871

Chris Robertson – 01234 741964

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

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

Church Social/ Fundraising committee

Sarah Hanant 07900 927050 Brenda Hartley 01234 740482

Church Issues

Hello again everyone, here is my usual update on things.

Main Roof: The roof is now finished and blessed by the Bishop. So we now turn our sights to the South Wall and New Heating.

Churchyard: Our little team is working to keep things tidy and gradually go through the many jobs needing doing. If you can assist do let Chris know.

Services: Our Rector, Stephen has now retired and the Church is in Vacancy. It will be some months before we get a new Priest appointed. It may also be that, with a Deanery reorganisation, our churches at Wilstead and Houghton will become part of a team ministry for Wixams under the Vicar at Elstow.

Meanwhile, Sunday Morning Eucharist at 9:30am continues if we can find visiting Priests to cover, or there will be a service of Morning Prayer if not. We are most grateful to clergy from the deanery, curates and the archdeacon and Bishop for covering services. At present we do not have cover for our Remembrance Service in November so we may have to join with our sister church in Wilstead. I will keep you informed via FaceBook. Looking further ahead the Bishop wishes to take our Christmas Midnight Mass and again to join both churches of our Benefice together at Wilstead.

Our **Christmas Tree Festival** will take place over 10th, 11th, 12th Dec. Starting on Fri Evening at 6.00pm and with our 9 lessons and Carols Service at 6:30pm on Sat the 11th.

Weddings and Funerals: These are going ahead with the advice that people still wear masks if possible and are aware of space.

Church Wardens: Myself (01234 741871) and Chris Robertson (01234 741964). Let us know of any concerns.

Scarecrow Trail: Sat. Oct 2nd.....Let's have lots of entries this year and make the village colourful.

Jumble Sales: Now we are out of lockdown we do not have the time to process regular amounts of goods so we will be limiting to several jumble sales a year and will keep you posted. The Sale on 18th Sept did well and we made £590.90 initially. We now need to clear the excess and get things picked up by our recyclers CTR then we can let you know a final total. Thanks to all who contributed or helped.

Christmas Bazaar: Is on November 13th in Village Hall – helpers wanted, please.

100 Club: September Draw: 3 prizes of £10 to – Caroline Perry, Dulcie Perry and J. Dean. Our thanks to all who take part in this. If you would like to join 100 Club or find out more, please contact Carol (01234 381393) or Jackie (01234 740635).

Children's Society: Our box Collection for the Children's Society for 2020-2021 was £465.71

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

Stay Safe

Best Wishes, Gary Mudd (01234 741871)

Keeping our beautiful church alive and active!

About 18 months ago, I attended a meeting at which we and other local parish churches were asked to find a way to increase our congregation and our "Mission" in the parish: in order to survive we need to find a way to halt and reverse the steady decrease in

size and increase in average age of our congregation at a time when the parish population is rapidly increasing...

This prompted a dream about all those in our parish who, I know, regularly worship elsewhere. Some of these previously worshipped with us here, others had maybe tried us once or twice before deciding not to join (presumably our style of worship did not suit, but people so rarely feel able to say this) and a plan began to form in my mind that we could try transforming our jaded 1st Sunday of the month "Family Service" into a lively and well attended Ecumenical Service, open to all practising Christians of any denomination resident within our parish. I put this to the PCC and they all sanctioned my idea of writing to a few known people who fell into these categories prior to publishing in the newsletter, to gauge interest in its implementation... This was ready to deliver to the selected few at the precise moment when the country was first plunged into Lockdown, so it has "sat on ice" but now it has been decided that we should skip the personal invitation phase and throw the suggestion open to the whole village!

We would like to invite you to join us to form a small working party to devise a suitable form of worship, not necessarily rigid, which could fill our lovely church, if only once a month, and thereby secure its future.

Please offer this idea up in your prayers and let me know if you feel able to help make this dream a reality. Feel free to offer any skills or experience you may have: leading prayers, playing musical instruments to lead the singing of worship songs, etc. I am well aware of the saying that "you can't please all the people all the time" but nonetheless I have a Utopian vision that we can create a service incorporating the best from several different traditions... Please offer any suggestions, including whether you would like such a service to be Eucharistic or non-Eucharistic (i.e. Communion or not), or even if you have a completely different vision of a way forward that we could discuss!

I believe the time has come to set aside our differences, concentrate on the core beliefs we hold in common and make our beautiful church once again a focal point for all Christians in our community, if only once a month (with the added bonus of reducing

people's "carbon footprint" by travelling to other churches a little less often)!

Helen Mudd

Email: helenmudd@tiscali.co.uk

Village Clubs, Organisations & Events

Village Hall Regular Events

Contact group contacts for details.

Weekly

Monday	Indoor Bowls	2pm to 4pm
	Whist	7:45pm
Tuesday	Line Dancers	10am to 12:30pm
Wednesday	Line Dancers	10am to 12:30pm
	Novice Line Dancers	1pm to 2pm
Thursday	Line Dancers	10am to 12:30pm

	Houghton Pioneers (Start date TBA)	5.30pm to 6.45pm
Friday	Yoga	7pm to 8pm
Friday	Yoga	7pm to 8pm

Every Other Week

Thursday	Jigsaw Club	7pm to 9:30pm
----------	-------------	---------------

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
------------------------	--------------	--------

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 Council's representative, who kindly keeps all the noticeboards up to date.

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

Houghton Conquest Garden Club



At last we were able to have a meeting on 14th September when it was good to see members and quite a lot of new faces. We

had a most interesting talk about plants that have been used to help cure different ailments over many years. Now the clever scientists are able to make the medicines synthetically but they will do the same job. On 12th October we will have our AGM and after the business there will be cheese and wine and a quiz.

Now is the time to collect the seeds from any annuals that you have grown which should be put in a paper bag rather than a plastic one. While the soil is still warm it is a good time to plant perennials and shrubs to give them a head start for next year, but if you have perennials that have got too big they can be divided now. If you have a patch for wild flowers now is the time to sow more seeds.

If you want any more information about the Club please give me a call on 740892.

Margaret Whalley

01234 740892

Houghton Conquest Art Society



Houghton Conquest Art Society

We finally managed to get back to our Wednesday evenings at the start of September, in the Village Hall, respecting covid guidelines.

The Art Club Committee pondered would we would have enough members attending to enjoy the evening together and also a good audience for the demonstrators we provide. We decided for the first few meetings we would tap into the wealth of knowledge within our members, rather than paying visiting demonstrators outside the Society, which can be quite expensive. However we need not have worried we have had a very healthy attendance, excuse the pun!

The first evening back we had a demonstration by one of our members Doreen Buckles who showed us how to use a painting knife and acrylic paints to create splendid cliffs and rocks, in fact any subject can benefit for the natural finish a knife provides. Its often helpful to use a knife for the rough textured parts of the painting such as bricks, walls rooves even waves have a broken paint pattern which the knife work provides, quite easily. You can combine the knife technique with brushes for the smoother textured areas of your picture.

So how is it done, well let's look at the effect of the cliffs below



The outline of the top, bottom and edge of the cliffs and the sea where it meets the sky, have been softly drawn onto the canvas in light pencil. No need for accuracy cliffs are rough by their nature. Paint the sea and sky with a brush, if you dare, use a fat brush not a tiddly one. Where the sea ends at the top left if you don't fancy painting a straight line, or like me cant get it straight then use a ruler first then some masking tape up to the line and paint the bottom edge of the sky, gently peel off the masking tape. When the sky is completely dry to the touch, roughly a couple of hours, then put some masking tape over the sky up to the bottom edge and paint the sea. It doesn't matter if the masking tape has paint on it but don't go over the edge. The secret of this paint a straight line tip is not to press the masking tape on too firmly or you may peel paint off.

Ok so lets paint some bluey hues in the sky and mixture of blues even greens and grey in the sea. Next the knife. On your pallet or

a cheap plastic throwaway plate will do, you need a light medium and dark colour any ones you fancy we are not painting a photograph! I used a light yellow an orange and a brown. Using a small trowel shaped palette knife lightly pick up a tiny bit of all three colours and the end of the blade, now scrape the colours downwards laying the tip of the knife flat on the canvas. Work down to the bottom of the cliff which will be darker than the top. Just cover small areas at a time you can always go back in with more paint. Once you have something on each cliff and the white canvas is not staring at you anymore, start lower down the cliffs and randomly add shapes with the knife using the same mix of 3 colours. Give the appearance of ledges and rocks jutting out. IMPORANT TIP- wipe your knife often or you will end up with sludge cliffs. Start with the far cliffs, which will be lighter than the close up ones. As I got closer I added some purple instead of the brown, just for some excitement. You can keep adding acrylic paint on top, leaving it to dry in between, until you are happy. Then using the same technique and greens, yellows and , made with white and yellow, add some moss and grass, little blobs for flowers. This scene is too far away from you to see any small details. Again with the tip and also the edge of the clean knife and white acrylic paint carefully tap in some waves and splashes. I have a habit of putting my forefinger in the white and dragging it about back and forth, half circles but gently does it. I used the very point of the knife and pure white to makes spray dots on the cliffs just little taps. I added some rocks in the sea at the last minute to balance the painting. I thought it looked a tad heavy on the righthand side, so obviously I had to then have some sea splashing g against the rocks, no problem for the acrylic paint, you can alter as much as you like.

Do have a try. You could have a practise first on card, or just attempt one cliff and a small area of sea and sky.

Everything I used can be purchased cheaply at the Works, within Poplars Garden centre, from the Range or Hobbycraft. Acrylic paints start at around £1 a pot or you can purchase a set of different colour tubes. Canvases also start very cheaply and

painting knives can be plastic to begin with. If you become hooked you can purchase artists quality equipment later. I used Naples Yellow, Burnt Sienna, cadmium orange and purple on the cliffs. The sea and sky used ultramarine, Prussian blue and cerulean blue. I mixed the greens using blues and yellow in different quantities, on the palette before using the knife. I have a fat tube of white acrylic paint because I add it to other colours to lighten them as well as using it alone. You don't need to buy all these colours just a basic set and mix a little at a time to find a shade you like. Acrylic paint dries very quickly if you want to change something or paint over an area you don't love its easy and quick, nobody will ever know.

Here's another example of knife painting by our President Dave Williams



We have lots of exciting things coming at the Art club and we really enjoy welcoming new members. To find out all about us visit www.houghton-conquest-art-society.co.uk

Happy painting

Barbara

Houghton Conquest Art Society
Publicity Manager

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



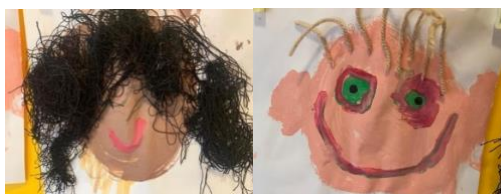
Houghton Conquest
Lower School

Growing together

Welcome to the new term! It's been a busy summer at the school getting ready for the return of the children, and we were so pleased to see their smiling faces once again. They all look so smart in their uniforms!

Welcome to our new foundation teacher Mrs Waby to the school, along with Mrs Hattle. Miss Drew has also joined the teaching assistant team and we would also like to welcome Miss Villa-Buil who has joined the team at the preschool.

The new term has started with '**getting to know you**' activities and the children have produced some amazing literature and beautiful self-portraits. I am sure you will agree that the foundation self-portraits are brilliant! Great job Robins!



Harvest will soon be upon us and the children are starting to plan activities, including their scarecrows for the village church competition. This year each of our school teams will come together to make a scarecrow. Each team is made up of the different age groups across the school, so it will be lovely to see them work together. I have to say that this is usually a very fun activity and almost always accompanied by a big dollop of competitiveness!

We will also be supporting the same local charity this harvest time by collecting non-perishable foods

for Central Bedfordshire's 'Need Project.

Finally, we have planned some '**Open Day**' dates for parents of children starting school in September '22. We will be open on the 5th of October and the 8th of November from 3.30pm to 5pm for

new parents to look around the school. Please book your slot by calling the school office, 01234 740202. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mrs A Allen

School Business Manager



Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School

The friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School are delighted to welcome all the children back into the school, following what has been a wonderful summer break. With all restrictions lifted and school bubbles a thing of the past, this school year feels very much different to the past year and children are finally able to enjoy life at school as the school intended it – it is wonderful to see, and every parent is delighted to see the fantastic impact this has had on the children.

We reported in the last issue on the planned school leavers event to celebrate the coming of age for the year 4 children. We were delighted to see the event was incredibly successful and the children loved it! Special thanks must be given to some very generous people who, at the last minute, gave their time and generosity in providing cars and gifts for the children. These included Linda and Dave, Graham and Babs, who provided special cars for the event to ferry the children to the field in style. We also had several parents' relatives who stepped up, thank you, it would not have been possible without all your support. In addition, thanks to Bindy and Mani for also generously providing sweet treats for the year 4 leavers.

The friends have also been busy painting the school playground pirate ship. Whilst the ship looked a tad tired, the children love their play periods on this, so the school asked the Friends charity to step in. Many thanks to Ruth and Sam, Kerri, Marc, Dawn, Naomi, and all the children who helped bring the pirate ship back to life. It looks amazing!!

Finally, there are some events that are planned before the end of the year, including a Pirate Ship Flag Competition, the Harvest Festival, the Christmas Pantomime, and the Christmas Fayre. All dates and details will be confirmed by the school so please do keep a look out for these. As always, the Friends of HCLS charity are ready to support the children and school however they need us with fundraising and special events. These events provide much needed support for the children in terms of learning and making education fun, but, as always, we need volunteers to be part of our charity to make us successful. If anyone would like to join the Friends charity as a year representative, join the committee, or just volunteer to support our various events, please do contact us on friendsofhcls@hcschool.org.uk and I will be in touch. It is fair to say that without parents and volunteers, we as a charity would not be able to provide the support for the children that we do. It is hard work at times and demanding, but the benefits provided by the fundraising we commit to, provides incredible support for our children, from enrichment activities to days out, equipment and materials for education. We could not do any of this without the support and generosity of our parent volunteers, parents, and the school.

Thank you so much for all your support, Best Wishes, Friends Team.



Bowls Club



The club is open again!! Carpet bowls is an easy game to play and gives you some exercise but is not too strenuous. We play on Monday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2pm until 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



It seems that the residents of Houghton Conquest are in excellent health this summer as for nearly six weeks we have had no calls to our phone. Of course it may be because there are fewer face to face doctors' appointments now. I have been involved with the Group for over 20 years and have never known a period like this before.

Despite this we are always looking for new volunteers. Most requests are to take people from the village to doctors' surgeries and hospital appointments. It is not a big commitment – just the offer to help occasionally would be fine. Any expenses incurred can be reimbursed. If you would

like to find out more please contact either Sue or Kate (numbers below).

Date for your diary – we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall at 2pm on 23rd October 2021. Please come along to hear about the group's work. Tea and cake will be served. If you need transport to the meeting, please phone 740522 and we will arrange for a volunteer to collect you.

If you need help, please phone 07969 982 970 and leave a message. One of our volunteers will return your call. If you need 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



Our summer garden party had to be held indoors as it rained all afternoon, but everyone enjoyed a good chat with lots of cake and different liquid refreshments. At the September meeting a

member gave us a very amusing talk on her life as a store detective. Although this is a serious subject many funny things happened including someone stuffing frozen chicken down their trousers when they were caught.

On 7th October we will be having a crazy bag whist evening, when we all need to bring along a bag with three items costing 50p, £1 and £1.50. We will go home with three items but who knows what they will be. You don't need to know how to play whist to enjoy this evening. Then on 4th November there will be a Christmas themed demonstration by Andy who is a chef. On 2nd December there will be a Christmas social evening.

Please give me a call on 07951024876 if you would like any more details of these meetings or the WI in general.

Shirley Johnson

Houghton Pioneers



Unfortunately, we haven't yet re-started Pioneering but hope to soon.

Ramblings

That, there Parish Council

As you may have read in the Chair's report, we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you have been in the village for 12 months or more and want your voice heard, then why not put yourself forward? You should either email the Clerk to the

Parish Council at clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk or write c/o Gill Wiggs, 10 Parklands, Bedford MK41 9LZ and give a few details about yourself and what you might bring.

Opening up again

The country as a whole has embarked on the sluggish container ship that is gradually sailing towards something approaching normality. Some guidance and restrictions in place and my attendance at the last council meeting was preceded by this:



You will note that I did pass the test!

Village groups are all gradually getting back to their regular meetings and schedules of events.

Garden Club

Their annual Flower and Produce show took place early in September.



This proves that I'd bean there.....sorry, that was corny!







Scarecrows.....

As you read this, the annual Scarecrow Competition has been or will be being judged – I will try and get round the entries for the next edition.

General Activity

With the school now back in action; the Village Hall hosting the regular village groups, along with the Garden Club show, a Jumble Sale and other events; the football team back in action, with plans for the future and the Knife and Cleaver continuing to do a roaring trade, the village seems to have come alive again.

Naturally, this has not been without some issues – principally parking. It could just be that having saved a lot of money during the lockdown periods, villagers have been able to rush out and buy a new car, a motorhome and an old banger to take the garden rubbish to the tip in.

This is partly due to the village being significantly larger than it was and the lack of (or indeed absence of) facilities in the new developments, which can only worsen the situation as the latest development is constructed. The Chair has already made some comments about this in her report at the beginning of the Newsletter, but just to add a request that villagers are sensible about where they are parking and if there is a regular issue, then to report it to CBC via their website.

The Royal Oak

Whilst, in the light of the last paragraph, some may wish that the Oak is demolished and the whole area turned into a sizeable car park, many others want the pub to re-open and provide what it had done for a couple of hundred years beforehand.

A group of interested and concerned parties led by Liz Lovell (in her capacity as a resident of the village and NOT as Chair of the Parish Council) have submitted to CBC an application for The Royal Oak to be listed as a Community Asset.

Property is seen to be of community value if currently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community (or has been in the last five years) and it is realistic to think it will continue to do so in the future (whether or not in the same way).

If the application is successful nothing further will happen unless the owner decides to dispose of it. When a listed asset comes up for sale the community group that nominated the asset for listing must be informed. There is then an initial holding period that gives community groups up to six weeks to request in writing that

they want to be treated as a potential bidder for the asset. If no request is received, the owner is free to sell the asset at the end of the six weeks. If a community group does make a written request during these six weeks, then the sale will need to be put on hold for six months to enable the community group to raise the money to put in a bid. Once the asset goes on sale the owner is free to sell the asset to whomever they choose and at whatever price.

The Council (who discussed this item and voted on it without the Chair, myself and 1 other council member who signed the application were not present), resolved to support the application.

I'll let you know what happens.

Golf

At the end of July, the annual Houghton v Wilstead Golf Match took place. I received the following picture and match write-up from an intrepid reporter on the course....



Houghton v Wilstead Golf Cup 2021

On Friday 30th July, 36 players from Wilstead took on 36 players from Houghton Conquest in the 14th year of the competition. Due to the pandemic, the event was cancelled in 2020 so it was great to bring everyone together again, as the local community is at the core of this event. Wilstead won the cup back with a very well contested total of 9 1/2 points to Houghton's 8 1/2 points.

Players from either side of the A6 came together to raise funds for Sue Ryder St John's Hospice in Mogerhanger, a hospice which offers palliative care and is close to many people's hearts in the local community. We are pleased to be able to say the total money raised surpassed our previous record set in 2019. A total of £3977.50 was raised for the fantastic St John's Hospice.

Winners: Wilstead

Stableford Winner: Jagtar Singh (43 points)

Stableford Runner Up: Joe Toomey (39 Points)

Nearest the Pin Winners:

3rd Hole: Jas Parmar

13th: Nick Bell

15th: Ketan Lall (HOLE IN ONE!)

18th: Bob Hull

Longest Drive Winners:

7th Hole: Harry Boyle

16th Hole: Ricky Chamberlain

Wilstead winning now makes the total score 7 all, so the 15th edition of The Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup is all set up to be a great day.

Next year, the event will take place on Friday 29th July 2022 at Cainhoe Wood Golf Club and we welcome new players but also non-players if they would like to volunteer their services on the day to help make this event run smoothly.

Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee is holding an **AGM on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 7:00PM.**

The Village Hall Committee runs the Village Hall and is separate from the Parish Council. It is a registered charity and is run by residents of the village and by representatives of all the organisations that use the Hall.

Village residents are invited to attend the beginning of the meeting (ie the first ½ hour or so) to hear the reports from the Executive Officers and others and have the opportunity to put themselves forward for any of the Executive Officer posts.

It would be great if someone stepped up and became a Fundraising and Events Officer, perhaps?

We are always looking for new blood, and yours will be very welcome!

The annual Village Hall Quiz is also taking place in October – on Saturday 9th – there is a poster about this later in the newsletter.

Remembrance Day

In past years, a number of village groups have laid wreaths on Remembrance Sunday. This year may well be a much smaller affair.

Firstly, we do not currently have a vicar and hence there will not be a service of Remembrance in our Church. In addition the Rainbows and Brownies have moved to Wixams and the Pioneers are yet to re-assemble since lockdown.

However, wreaths will be laid at the Memorial by Annie Huckle on behalf of the Royal British Legion and Liz Lovell on behalf of HCPC.

We would like to get as many people involved in this short but poignant act of remembrance. If anyone has any suggestions for additional activities or groups who might like to lay a wreath or just people would like to attend, can they email the Editor on hcvillagenews@gmail.com and I will liaise with the other parties.

Catch you next time

Pete

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.

A good news story – came across this by sheer chance – about the Indian state of Sikkim which, in 2003, committed to farming without use of any pesticides or fertilisers. After 3 years when yields were lower, now not only are yields higher than before, the farmers are saving money and the health of the population has improved. The full article can be found at:

<https://returntonow.net/2020/01/03/indian-state-bans-all-pesticides-wildlife-and-tourism-flourish/>

COP26

In November this should be featuring heavily in The News so what’s it all about?

What is it? Who’ll be there?

COP26 = 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties. Since 1995, world leaders and representatives of 197 Parties (196 countries plus EU) have met annually to discuss climate change and what measures might be taken to ensure the future well-being of the planet.

Representatives from all the world’s governments, plus people from NGOs, businesses, faith groups, scientists, and other groups such as Indigenous Peoples’ delegations will attend COP26. Media outlets from around the world will also be present.

This is the most important meeting since COP21 in 2015, where nearly 200 world leaders signed the Paris climate agreement. This committed nearly all countries to stop climate change and deal with its causes and effects. In Paris, each nation promised to develop plans for deep cuts to their carbon emissions and present these plans five years later, in time for the COP26.

When? Where?

31st October – 12th November, Glasgow

Why should I be interested?

Climate change is affecting us all already. Recently we've seen awful floods in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, New York and fires in Greece, Turkey and Canada – countries we don't normally associate with severe weather. Worldwide, records for high (and low) temperatures, wind and rainfall are being broken with frightening frequency. Here in the UK we've had another odd year with flooding in February, frost every April night, short heatwave, dullest August – "Global Weirding" is a phrase which aptly describes these effects of global warming. So whether it's homes at risk or agriculture being messed up and threat of food shortages, climate change is affecting us all.

What can I do re COP26?

Look out for information and petitions on websites for various environmental groups eg Climate Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace who are all calling on governments internationally to commit to meaningful measures and act now.

Further information: www.ukcop26.org and <https://together-for-our-planetukcop26.org> and many other sites.

Kings Wood, Houghton Conquest

As winter approaches and presumably wetter weather, a plea to walkers to keep to the footpaths. After last winter, due to a combination of social-distancing (with some people walking abreast rather than in line or walking to one side to avoid oncoming traffic) and avoiding the mud in the original path churned up by increased footfall, many of the paths are now twice as wide as originally. This has of course encroached on

the bluebells and other vegetation. Let's make sure the paths don't become any wider!

Please continue to enjoy our lovely woods but come prepared for mud, wearing sturdy boots or wellies and enjoy squelching!

Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum talks are continuing each month on Zoom and are now recorded so if you can't make the date you can listen at your leisure at home. Talks are free, optional donation. Everyone welcome to join – see website <https://bedsclimatechange.org>

Amphill Climate Change Group has been busy locally with information stalls in Kings Arms Garden, maintaining wildflower areas and compiling a directory of local recycling points. Do take a look at their website: www.amphillclimatechange.co.uk.

Rosalind Blevins

ros.blevins@btinternet.com



ZONITA is back! We showed our first film in 18 months on Sept 11th. It was all a bit different trying to keep you all COVID safe – socially distanced seating, trying to reduce the numbers standing in the foyer, contactless payments – but it worked and we had good feedback from all who attended. See our full COVID statement on the website.

Our next show is Nomadland on the 9th October, we hope to see you there. If you can book your seats in advance, it helps us to plan the seating, but tickets are available on the door.

MATINEE PROGRAMME

Sat 9th Oct **Onward**

Sat 13th Nov **Bedknobs and Broomsticks**

Sat 11th Dec **Trolls World Tour**

Doors open 1:15PM, Show starts 2:00PM

Adults: £3 – Children: £3

EVENING PROGRAMME

Sat 9th Oct **Nomadland**

Sat 13th Nov **Dream Horse**

Sat 11th Dec **One Chance**

Doors open 6:15PM, Show starts 7:00PM

Adults: £5 – Children: £3

TABLES can be reserved free of charge via email or Facebook.
Licensed bar, popcorn, ice creams and a full range of refreshments

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

www.facebook.com/zonita.cinema



The Jigsaw Club Amphill

Are you disabled or feeling socially isolated due to a lack of mobility?

The Jigsaw Club meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening, from about 7pm until 9.30pm and provides a varied programme of entertainment, activities, speakers and outings; refreshments are also provided. We have three wheelchair adapted minibuses, one of which could pick you up from your home in Houghton Conquest or Stewartby.

If you would like more information or would like to come along and give the Club a try telephone Sue on 07886459225.

For the more able of you who may be interested, volunteer members are always welcome to drive or escort on the minibuses or help support our disabled members, for example with their mobility, or even by just chatting to them.

If you are interested in helping telephone Sue on 07886459225.



**HOUGHTON
CONQUEST
CARE**

*Annual General Meeting
in the Village Hall at 2.00pm on*

**SATURDAY
23rd OCTOBER 2021**

*Please come along and hear about the work we do
for parishioners of all ages.*

*Everyone welcome
Refreshments will be served
If you would like transport, please call 740522*

QUIZ NIGHT



Houghton Conquest Village Hall

Saturday 9th October

7.00pm for 7.30 Start

Teams of 6 (Can be arranged on the night)

Bar! Real Ales! Raffle!

Tickets £10.00 Including Supper

Please Ring Karoline on: 07969-491-965

To book your tickets

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



- 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

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Dominic Gruzelier

☎ 01234 742549 / 07783 656571

✉ info@conquestchimneysweep.co.uk

💻 www.conquestchimneysweep.co.uk

📱 @ConquestChimneySweep



65 Bedford Road
Houghton Conquest
MK45 3NA



GP Air Conditioning LTD

07904 531677

info@gp-airconditioning.co.uk

Installation – Design – Degas – Service and
Maintenance



Part of Checkatrade.com



Black Cricket Animal Services

Outstanding care for your precious pets

pop-in visits, pet sitting & overnight stays

small pet boarding

walking & exercise

pet taxi

new enclosure set up

animal collections and smallholdings support

Exotic species specialist

www.blackcricket.co.uk/pet-care-services

www.facebook.com/blackcricketanimalservices

07922155565



Cakes and Canapés
Catering Co

*Barista Van serving fresh coffee, delicious
lunches and homemade cakes & treats*

HOUGHTON CONQUEST VILLAGE HALL

**Every Wednesday
11:00am – 2:00pm**

FB & Insta - Cakes & Canapés
www.bedfordshirecatering.co.uk
bedfordshirecatering@gmail.com





- Over 7 years of beauty and spa experience
- Offering treatments from my home every Monday 8.30am – 4pm
- Private and cosy room
- Offering lower lobe ear piercing, gel polish, massage, waxing & tinting & ear candles

Please visit my social media pages Facebook; 'Beautiful you by Katie' and Instagram 'Beautifulyoubykatie'
Contact 07557 445056

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



be **haus** proud



MILTON KEYNES - 01908 984 321

www.hausmaids.co.uk

Weekly

Forthnightly

Monthly

One Off Cleaning



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife walks & talks

Geology walk* with Derek Turner (BNHS)

Saturday 9 October 2021

Starting from Maulden Church Meadows (10.30)

On this guided walk, Derek will explain how the flora of this area is influenced by the underlying geology of our region. Please wear sturdy footwear as the ground will be uneven and potentially slippery if damp.

***£3 per adult**

We very much look forward to seeing you!

Booking is essential, as places are limited. Please book with Ann by emailing: flitvale.info@gmail.com or 'phone: 07580178889.

Open to all. Events have group size limits. Please reserve.

To book places or for additional information please email flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring Ann on 075801 78889 between 6 and 8 pm or at weekends.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
Registered charity number: 1000412
www.wildlifebcn.org
Flit Vale Local Group
www.flitvale.org.uk



Registered Charity no. 1077055

Youth Rangers wanted at Maulden Wood

Local environmental charity The Greensand Trust is looking for young people aged 13-18 to take part in our next **Youth Ranger Scheme** coming this autumn to our Maulden Wood location.

Free to participate, the scheme is a perfect opportunity for young people interested in conservation and the environment to learn new skills, gain valuable work experience and a recognised environmental award, while having fun and making a difference to the environment and the local community.

Greensand Trust Chief Executive Gill Welham said: “Our previous Youth Ranger schemes have been incredibly successful and it’s been a pleasure to watch the young participants get involved. We’re proud to be able to offer this as our 5th Youth Ranger Scheme, helping a new generation of young people become volunteers while receiving valuable training and an insight into what’s involved in a career caring for the environment.”

Starting in September over six months, young rangers will be required for two sessions per month, including one

weekend and one evening. They will plan, take part in and lead practical conservation projects which could be anything from planting trees and creating trails, to making bird and bat boxes. They will also work alongside other conservation volunteers and gain a John Muir Award - an environmental award scheme focusing on discovering and conserving wild places.

This scheme will be based at the Trust's **Working Woodlands Centre**, Maulden Wood and will involve practical tasks on a number of our woodland sites and nature reserves in the same area.

Although the scheme starts in the autumn, places are limited so now's the time to apply to join. To find out more or to sign up, please call on 01234 743666 or email:

Erika.pratt@greensandtrust.org

Any companies interested in sponsoring the Youth Ranger Scheme, or for information on other corporate sponsorship opportunities on offer at The Greensand Trust please visit

www.greensandtrust.org/corporate-sponsorship



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. 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
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	Monica Mannings	743345
JIGSAW CLUB	Sue Derrick	07886 459225
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	Christine Dean	741182
WOMENS' INSTITUTE	Shirley Johnson	740265
YOGA	Lisa Van Calsteren	07581 242895

Contacts outside the Village

AIRPORT (London Luton)	01582 405100
BEDFORD HOSPITAL	01234 355122
BUSES (Grant Palmer)	01525 719719
CHURCHES	
C of E	TBA
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
Amphill	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
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	
Amptill - 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.