

HOUGHTON CONQUEST Village Newsletter

August 2022



Your Newsletter, for Your Village

HOUGHTON CONQUEST PARISH COUNCIL

Members

PCllr Peter Bullock (Vice Chair)

PCllr Sally Fisher

PCllr Tracey Fry

PCllr Bec Hares (UCllr)

PCllr Katie Lovell

PCllr Liz Lovell (Chair)

PCllr Bryn Whittaker

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

Highways & Horse Watch

PCllr Fry

Planning Sub-Committee

PCllrs Bullock and Whittaker

Village Hall

TBA

Play Area

PCllr Fisher

Sports Field

PCllr Lovell (K)

Allotments

PCllr Lovell (L)

School Liaison

TBA

Police Liaison	PCllr Fry
Tree Warden	PCllr Lovell (K) and L Askham
Newsletter	PCllr Bullock
Community Facebook	PCllr Bullock
Website	Parish Clerk
United Charities	PCllr Bullock
Covanta/BACI/Millbrook Power	TBA

Parish Council Clerk:

Jo Graves T: 07563 527415

E: clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

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

Central Bedfordshire Councillor:

Bec Hares T: 0300 300 8505

E: rebecca.hares@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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.**

Please note that the closing date for insertion of copy into the October 2022 issue of The Houghton Conquest Village Newsletter is 21st September 2022

You may send copy c/o the Editor, Village Newsletter, 38 Victoria Drive, Houghton Conquest MK45 9LY or send it by email to 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 the Editor at the address above.

Payments to Houghton Conquest Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Chair's Report



Hi All

As I write this we are gearing up for some of the hottest days ever so I hope everyone takes on board Government advice and stays cool and hydrated.

We have been granted funding by Grantscape for the refurbishment of the Pavilion changing rooms and kitchen and work will commence in August. It is hoped this will improve the facilities and make it nicer for teams to use in conjunction with the relaid pitches. The groundwork contractors are due to start work on those shortly. The patio area will be relaid in November.

We have received the plaque for the Orchard and this will be put in place in the near future. The trees are struggling in this weather so we have arranged for them to be watered. It is hoped that this will give them a fighting chance in the heat.

The outdoor gym equipment should be installed within the next 6-8 weeks in the space where the old green container was on the sports field. The original plan to split the equipment between the Children's play area and the field was abandoned due to the high cost of the groundworks

which took up a substantial part of the S106 monies that were available. It was decided that this money could be better spent on more equipment.

An enthusiastic resident has come forward with a proposal for the re-wilding of the area of the field behind the Pavilion. It has been suggested that in conjunction with Marston Vale the area could become a sanctuary for bees and bugs surrounded by wildflowers and grasses. Bug hotels and bee accommodation could be included. It has also been suggested that artwork and information boards could be secured to the back of the Pavilion to educate and enlighten people about the nature that surrounds them.

In planning matter the prior notification of the proposed 15m Monopole has been refused because it was deemed to be visually intrusive. Your Parish Council has also submitted some robust comments regarding the proposed outline application for 5,000 new houses between Brogborough, Lidlington and Marston Mortaine. These relate to issues surrounding lack of clarity in regard to schools, infrastructure, biodiversity and the potential lack of affordable housing within the development.

I would like to thank the Parish Council Sub-committee who organised the fantastic event at the Village Hall for the Queen's Jubilee. It was well attended and it would appear that the children during the day and the adults at the evening function all had a great time so thank you Tabitha Lay, Natalie Allen, Tracey Dobson and Karen Miller. Also thank you to the entertainers in the evening – Liz and Sean for your wonderful singing and of course Disco Dave without whom no village event would be complete.

Some concerns have been raised about speeding in the Village. The data from the speed indicator devices shows that over 70% of the drivers through the village exceed the 20mph limit along the High Street in both directions. The limit was placed there for the very good reason of keeping our residents safe but it would appear that the majority choose to ignore it. If you regularly drive at more than 20mph through the village then you are part of the problem. Please be mindful of your speed and consider the possible consequences of your actions.

As you will have noticed from the posters around the Village we still have vacancies on the Parish Council so if you are feeling unrepresented or out of touch with Village affairs why not join us? We need you to help us stay in touch with what matters to you. In the first instance contact Jo <https://houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk>. We look forward to hearing from you.

That's all for now but if you have any comments you would like your Parish Council to consider please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk at houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

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 & HIGHWAYS REPORT July 2022

Not much to report, am always a little surprised by Highways Dept telling me a pothole does not need any further action even though it's right in the path of cyclists and horses.

Had a quick chat with the guys working on the road and they have agreed to repair whilst here.

Awaiting feedback on the wired speed data boxes from the Grove and Bedford Road

Houghton Conquest Crime Figures – June 2022			
Offence	Number	Date	Place
ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	2	08/06/2022	Broadway
		17/06/2022	Almers Close
OTHER CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1	04/06/2022	How End Road
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	1	12/06/2022	Stableford Road
PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	1	02/06/2022	Victoria Drive
THREAT INTENT TO COMMIT CRIM DAM	1	13/06/2022	How End Road
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO A VEHICLE	1	08/06/2022	Summerhill Place
HARASSMENT	1	21/06/2022	Undisclosed
Grand Total	8		

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 Tracey Fry - Police Liaison and Highways Officer

A NOTE FROM *BedsALERT*

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) is warning the public about the continued increase in reports about scams where victims are targeted on WhatsApp by criminals pretending to be someone they know – typically their children.

Between 3rd February 2022 and 21st June 2022, there have been a total of 1235 reports made to Action Fraud linked to this scam, with total reported losses exceeding £1.5mn.

Criminals will usually begin the conversation with “Hello Mum” or “Hello Dad” and will say that they are texting from a new mobile number as their phone was lost or damaged. They will then ask for money to purchase a new one, or claim that they need money urgently to pay a bill

The criminal will provide bank details for the payment to be made to, with some coming back with further demands for money.

Detective Chief Inspector Craig Mullish, from the City of London Police, said:

“If you receive a message like this from a friend or family member, don’t send any money until you’ve had a chance to call them and confirm their identity. Taking a moment to stop and

think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe."

How to protect yourself:

- **STOP. THINK. CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- **You can report** spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.
- **Never share** your account's activation code (that's the 6 digit code you receive via SMS)

Speed Indication Device Results

(Bracketed figures from previous report)

12/05/22 – 08/06/22

0046 (The Grove) 20mph zone

Arriving – from The Grove towards the High street

Violations	55.54%	(55.87%)	Down
Of which	67.01%	(67.81%)	= 21-25 mph
	32.98%	(32.18%)	= 26+
Average speed	21mph	(21mph)	
V85	26mph	(26mph)	
Average Vehicles per day	232	(239)	
Total in period	6264	(6495)	
Highest recorded	48mph	(51)	Monday 30th

May14:00 – 15:00

Departing – from The High Street towards The Grove

Violations	70.53%	(71.93%)	
Of which	61.00%	(59.98%)	= 21-25 mph
	38.99%	(40.01%)	= 26+
Average speed	23mph	(23mph)	

V85	27mph	(28mph)
Average Vehicles per day	240	(239)
Total in period	6475	(6485)
Highest recorded	51mph	(59mph) Thursday 20th May 10:00 – 11:00

0156 (Bedford Road) 30mph zone

Victoria Drive and Mill Lane

Arriving from The Oak

Violations	6.96%	(7.03%) down
Of which	82.83%	(83.35%) =31-35
	17.16%	(16.64%) =35+

Average speed	24mph	(24mph)
V85	28mph	(28mph)
Average vehicles per day	687	(670)
Total in period	18530	(18024)
Highest recorded	67mph	(61mph) Monday 16th May 14:00 – 16:00

Departing to the Oak

Violations	8.83%	(9.77%) Down
Of which	84.14%	(84.67%) =31-35
	15.85%	(15.32%) =35+
Average speed	24mph	(25mph)
V85	29 mph	(29mph)
Average vehicles per day	821	(819)
Total in period	22132	(30383)
Highest recorded	68mph	(62mph) Saturday 14th May 21:00 – 22:00

0047 (The Oak) 20mph zone.

Arriving – from Chapel End Lane

Violations	52.12%	(53.79%)
Of which	71.33%	(70.30%) = 21-25 mph
	28.66%	(29.69%) = 26+
Average speed	21	(21mph)
V85	25	(26mph)
Average Vehicles per day	795	(849)
Total in period	21488	(22826)
Highest recorded	63	(61mph) Sunday 22 nd May 22:00 – 23:00

Departing towards Chapel End

Violations	71.21%	(73.01%)
Of which	54.61%	(52.80%) = 21-25 mph
	45.38%	(47.19%) = 26+
Average speed	23mph	(23mph)
V85	28mph	(29mph)
Average Vehicles per day	1065	(1136)
Total in period	28789	(30526)
Highest recorded	60mph	(57 mph) Thursday 2 nd June 23:00 – 00:00

V85 = The 85th percentile. The average speed of the 15th fastest vehicle per hundred vehicles in the period being assessed. This figure is one used by the police and they will not consider action unless it exceeds the level at which they would issue a ticket ie: 35 in a 30 mph zone.



All Saints Church

Team Rector: Rev'd Fr Paul Messam SCP, Tel: (01234) 261477.

email: vicar@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Curate: Rev'd. Steve Marsh

Readers: Robert Heley, John Hinson and Helen Habron-Applegarth

Wardens: Gary Mudd – 01234 741871

Chris Robertson – 01234 741964

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

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

Church Social/ Fundraising committee

Sarah Hanant 07900 927050 Brenda Hartley 01234 740482

Church Issues

Hello again everyone. The usual quick update.

From May 1st All Saints Houghton and All Saints, Wilstead became part of a team ministry of 5 churches with Elstow Abbey, St Michael & All Angels, Bedford and St Mary's, Cardington.

We start with Lead Team Vicar: Fr. Paul Messam. Rev'd Steven Smith has retired and we are looking for a replacement. As yet one has not been found so it may be some time until we fill this post.

A curate, Rev'd. Steve Marsh, has joined the team, which is rounded off by our Readers: Robert Heley, John Hinson and Helen Habron-Applegarth.

Steve our curate will be moving up from Reading with his family shortly and will have a house in Wixams.

He is already about in the benefice and making contacts. Do pray for him and his family as they join us in ministry

Any contact for the 5 churches re services, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals etc. should be made to our central office number (with answer phone) or email –

Team Rector: Rev'd Fr Paul Messam SCP, Tel: (01234) 261477.
email: vicar@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Services for Aug/Sept are as follows:

Aug 7th: 9.30am Holy communion – Rev'd Marcus Ottaviani

Aug. 14th. 9.30am Morning Praise – Robert Heley

Aug. 21st. 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev'd Jenny Cappleman

Aug. 28th. 9.30am Holy Communion – Fr. Paul Messam

Sept. 4th. 9.30am Holy Communion – TBA

Sept. 11th. 9.30am Morning Praise – Robert Heley

Sept. 18th. 9.30am Holy communion – Rev'd Peter Littleford

Sept 25th. 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev'd Jenny Cappleman

Oct. 2nd. 9.30am HARVEST FESTIVAL Morning Praise – John Hinson.

Our 'Out & About' Concert with Cantamus Chamber Choir was enjoyed, as were the tea and Cakes, by many and raised £132 plus some donations, for the church .

Val Salter Memorial Window: Thankyou to all have donated towards the memorial window for Val.

It is not to late to give should you still wish. We are still going through the process of getting a faculty (legal permission from the Diocese and whatever planning permission is necessary). I hope to have news for the next newsletter.

URGENT: PCC Secretary: we are still looking for a new candidate. It is not too onerous a task and only involves a meeting every 2 months, taking of minutes and the occasional letter. **If anyone would be able to help, please contact me or any PCC member.**

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

Also, again, we'd love to hear from local Christians who'd like to be involved in taking our church forward with ideas for worship and events.

Our team /congregation is ageing, small and dwindling and needs support if the Church is to survive

100 Club: July Winners of £10: Vic Paxton; Val Woodburn; Ann Burman.

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).

Fundraising & Events: During Lockdown and since a small and dedicated team has raised much needed funds, mainly for the roof repair, which is now done. We have many projects that need attention in the church. Immediately we need funds for new heating and repointing the South Wall. Both are expensive and

we need to show that we are raising funds before we can apply for any available grants.

We desperately need more volunteers/helpers to run events, sort recycling etc. If you can give some time to help at Teas, Lunches, Jumble Sales, Concerts etc please let us know with your details. It would be great to have a data base of those we can call on. (Your data will not be passed on or used for any other purpose.) Sarah hopes to run a Scarecrow Trail again this year and it would be nice to spread this wider over the five church area.

We also need teams for cleaning the church for services, weddings etc. and maybe flowers. If your forte is this then, again, let us know.

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

Best Wishes, Gary Mudd (01234 741871)

Christian Aid Week 2022 Report

Huge thanks to everyone involved in our fundraising efforts this year, both volunteers and donors: we raised an impressive £1133 altogether (including £70 on the Give Star online giving page and £28.16 from a cake sale event in one of the new estates) which will go a long way to helping people in really great need.

As I have said before, the door to door collection represents approximately 43% filled envelopes compared with the number delivered by volunteers and if only 10p were donated from each of the other 57% that would have added over £30 to our total... I could really do with more volunteers for next year to enable us to cover more of the village with the house to house collecting, but maybe a better idea in the big new areas would be for more people to arrange small, local events, sales or sponsored activities? Please contact me for details of how you can help!

Helen Mudd (Houghton Conquest Christian Aid Week Group organiser/treasurer)

Village Clubs, Organisations & Events

HOUGHTON CONQUEST GARDEN CLUB

SUMMER SHOW

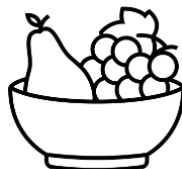
Saturday 3rd September

In the village hall at 2pm

Raffle



Refreshments





**QUIZ NIGHT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HOUGHTON
CONQUEST CARE GROUP
&
THE JIGSAW CLUB**

**COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THESE TWO
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS BASED IN
HOUGHTON CONQUEST**

**AT
HOUGHTON CONQUEST VILLAGE HALL
ON
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th, 7 for 7.30pm**

**TICKETS, INCLUDING BUFFET SUPPER, £12.
ALSO LICENSED BAR AND RAFFLE
Teams of six welcome but teams can be organised
on the night**

To purchase your ticket phone or text:

Sue 07886459225

Jan 07940218634

Val 07591391161

Kate 01234740522

THE JIGSAW CLUB PRESENTS:



As seen on TV
ROBB DEE PERFORMS AS
TOM JONES
Experience one of the
UK's top tribute performers

APPEARING AT THE PARKSIDE HALL AMPHILL ON
SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH 2022, 7.30pm
TICKETS, INCLUDING SUPPER, £25.
LICENSED BAR, RAFFLE AND ALL THE FUN OF A JIGSAW
FUNDRAISER

To purchase your ticket phone or text:

Jan 07940218634	Sandy 07944361247
Olive 07597761588	Sue 07886459225

Greetings from Our Village Hall

It seems a very long time since we contacted you all via the Parish Magazine.

At last, it does seem that things are getting back to near normal, (whatever that is) Clubs and Societies are returning to the Hall, although some are still struggling.

The Officers from the Committee all worked hard during lock down, to ensure the Hall kept in good repair, we managed to have the kitchen updated and the stage refurbished. There are always ongoing “jobs” At the moment, we are trying to get a grant to have the flat roof repaired and the guttering replaced. As always, we hope to improve the car park, update the Kissing Gate and replace the screen above the stage, with a new projector, remote control and screen. More fund raising!

Our vibrant Line Dancers were the first to return to the Hall, they were fortunate being considered sport/exercise and accordingly, were allowed, under very strict management to return in advance of most clubs. A great deal of enjoyment comes from the dance groups using the Hall.

Gradually, our Village members are returning, although the Pandemic has caused some to be ultra-careful. The Art Society was able to hold a very successful annual “Showing” in May. If anyone is interested the Society meet on the first and third Thursday in the month, at 7.30, generally in the Village Hall, just pop along. Likewise, the Gardening Club were able to have their beautiful Spring Show and will be holding their next Show on 3rd September, well worth a visit. Why not make an entry? Contact the Secretary for information, there are some fun entries.

If you would like some gentle exercise, try the Bowls Club on Monday afternoons, you do not have to play, just go for “the craic” and a biscuit. It will help exercise the mandibles.

The W.I is back on the first Thursday in the month, 7.30pm start, again this association has managed to get back into “the swing” having had very late Christmas party in April, and a rather tasty Jubilee Tea in June. They have a very varied program, and just because it is known at the Womens' Institute, it does not prohibit men from attending, just not the parties. Check with the Secretary to see what is happening.

Christine Lane has managed to reintroduce the Whist Club, this is one of our longest running associations, and all profits made are donated to the Hall, making Christine our most generous benefactor.

All being well (famous last words) the Friday night Quizzes will start in September, the first Friday in the month, well worth a visit for a laugh and a glass of lemonade, 7.30 start. For the more selective, there is also the Family night, on the third Friday in the month, giving you a chance to relax.

We managed to hold our first A.G.M. in May, the first proper one for three years. We were able to form a committee with a new Chairman and Vice. Our Hon.Secretary has agreed to stay on for the time being, but she would like to step down, so if you are interested, please contact the Committee.

Any constructive comments or offers of help will be gratefully received, it should be remembered that the Hall is for the use of the Village and run by volunteers.

On a note of caution, we are concerned about the rising fuel prices, the heating system in the Hall is expensive, although we are always trying to find ways of saving and economizing, possibly we should fit a meter!

Village Hall Committee of Management

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	6:30pm to 7:30pm

Every Other Week

Thursday	Jigsaw Club	7pm to 9:30pm
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Monthly

1 st Wednesday	Art Society	7:30pm to 9:30pm
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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.
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- 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 Council's 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 the Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

Houghton Conquest Lower School

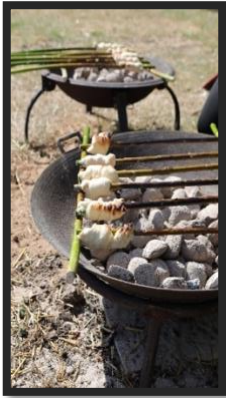


Happiness – Respect – Hope – Resilience – Peace

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on how proud we are of all our children and on how much progress each one of them have made. We can truly see how each child has flourished. It has been amazing to welcome the community into the school once again and we look forward to many more events in the coming year.

This half term has been super busy, offering our children a range of enrichment activities, that enables our children to develop. With help from our local community and the Friends of Houghton Conquest we were able to host a wonderful '**Food and Farming Day**', where children were able to take part in a range of activities. These included understanding the milling process of farming, the caring of animals, viewing farmyard vehicles, making and cooking bread on a campfire, learning about sustainable farming and all in the comfort of our school grounds. We give a tremendous thanks for all those people in our community who helped to make it happen. The children had a remarkable day and loved every minute of it.





On sports day we had the pleasure of welcoming to the school a top athlete, **Victoria Ohuruogu**. Victoria competes for Great Britain in sprinting events, and she ran a sponsored fitness station. This enabled our children to hear directly from an inspiring role model, motivating and encouraging them to pursue their passion in life just like she did!

As the end of term approaches, we bid a fond farewell to our current year 4 pupils and wish them all the very best of luck as they transfer to middle school. We look forward to welcoming the children back in September, including our new foundation stage children who will be starting school for the very first time.

We are so proud to be part of such an amazing village and really admire the courage, kindness and support which we see every day in our community.

Have a brilliant summer!

From, the team at Houghton Conquest Lower School and Preschool.

Happiness - Respect - Hope - Resilience - Peace

Houghton Conquest Garden Club



We had a lovely trip to Kelmarsh Hall in June when the weather was very kind to us, and we were able to wander round the beautiful garden, and also look round the interesting house. In July Sue Lang, who is a beekeeper, told us all about the life of honey bees. There can be 60,000 bees in one hive and they are all there to protect the queen and to make honey, and it is important to have plants with plenty of pollen and nectar for them, especially in early spring.

Our speaker on 9th August will be Andrew Grout who is one of the gardeners at Woburn Abbey. Then on 13 September there will be a talk about London Royal Parks by Paul Rabbitts.

A reminder that the summer show is on Saturday 3rd September, and the schedule is available now and if you would like one please give me a call on 740892.

Courgettes should be growing quickly now so it is best to keep picking them so that they don't get to marrow size. It's a good time to take cuttings of tender plants such as Fuchsias, Pelargoniums and some Salvias which are not totally hardy, and they can be kept in the greenhouse or on a windowsill to over winter.

Margaret Whalley
01234 740892

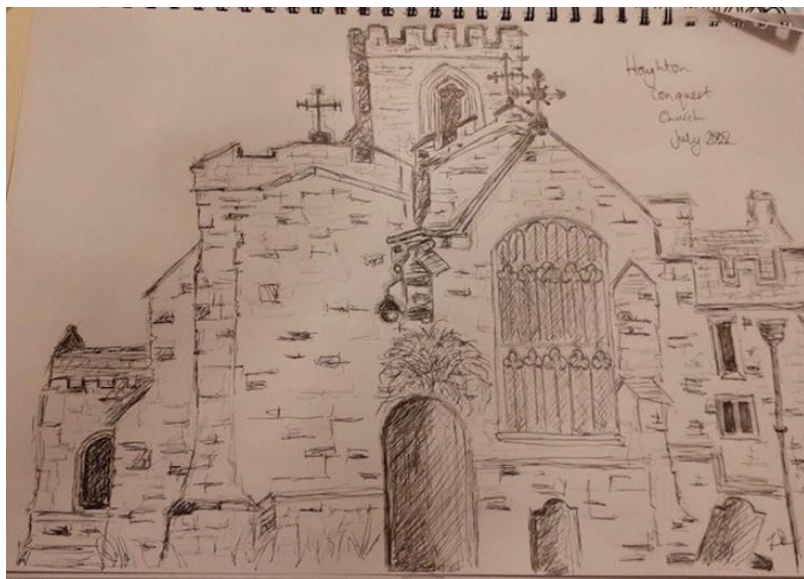
Houghton Conquest Art Society



On a warm Wednesday summer evening recently, you may have noticed some strange goings on in the churchyard of the beautiful church of All Saints Houghton Conquest. Maybe you had popped out for a 'swift half 'at the Knife and Cleaver or perhaps you were walking the dog and spotted ten ladies and gentlemen wandering, sitting, leaning on the wall, albeit very carefully, staring at things.

That was us from the art club, we were having a lesson in continuous line drawing from our president Dave Williams. What better subject than this stunning, huge church with so many amazing features to capture.

We didn't realise just how complex the building was until we began looking for an area to draw. From a perspective point of view its incredible the brickwork goes in all directions and all quite ornate too. If you haven't already taken a closer look at the stone carving, you should, it must have taken an awful long time to complete each cleverly arched window and intricate panel.



Drawing by Zoey Didlik

Continuous line drawing involves exactly what it says, not taking your pen or pencil off the paper, well at least not too often. Dave challenged us to draw straight away with pen and ink, obviously he knew if we used a pencil there would be lots of rubbing out going on. With ink you have to just 'go for it' mistakes are woven into the loosely captured subject. You don't try to draw every detail but look for shapes, curves and angles. You will see in the lovely drawings, by our members here, the squiggles and wobbles enhance rather than spoil the picture, its good to wiggle! This is a totally different approach to the usual sketching and frees the artist up to have fun rather than take the session too seriously. You can add colour at the time or later at home. The colour can be pencils, coloured inks, water colour or acrylics. Its also a very pleasing effect to just add a little muted colour here and there.

You can see from the final results below how different artist have tackled the same subject with very different results. The trick is

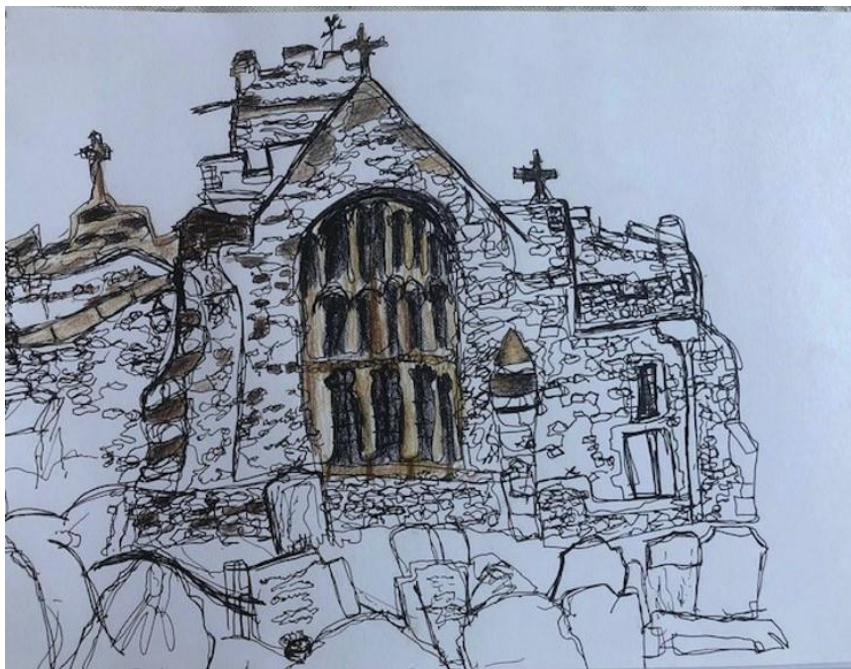
don't try to capture it all in one go, choose a small area or feature even the gate to the churchyard to begin with.



Drawing by John Broadhouse our Chairman

You can see from the gravestones the inscriptions are there but just as squiggles, this is how they would look from a distance but also it gives the impression of age and decay.

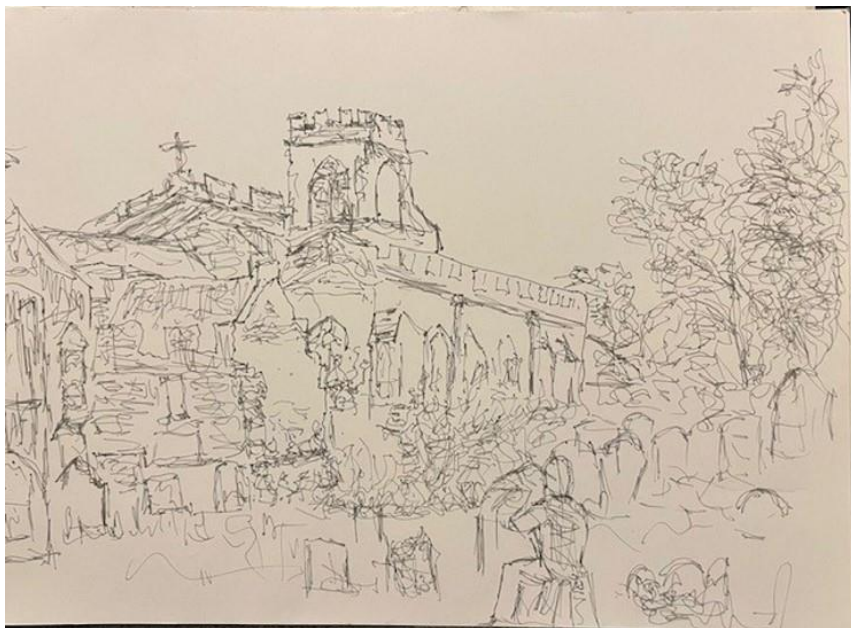
You do not need to draw every brick, stone or windowpane a few broken bricks here and there let the viewer know its a brick or stone part of the building. With windowpanes look for which way the sun is shining, part or even all of the window may be in shadow, this can be fully inked in or a series of lines. You would mostly be holding the pen comfortably with medium pressure, but you can press harder for a thicker line, or very lightly maybe for a ghostly line.



Drawing by Emma Broadhouse

Now to the equipment. Some of our artists bought a portable easel to rest the paper on, others just used the pad, with the sheet of paper they were working on still attached. When working with pencils or ink I prefer to use Bristol Board, which is not a board at all, but a very smooth thick paper, which comes in bright white or normal white in A4 or A3 size. However, if you are planning to add watercolour later you would need to use

watercolour paper because it has a 'tooth' or slightly uneven surface to grab the paint.



Drawing by Karen Moynihan

There is a whole plethora of pens and inks, including coloured ink or the lovely sepia. Inks must be permanent or they will run. It will say if its permanent or not on the pen. If you are feeling brave its fun to use a fountain pen or the old fashioned dip pen. My dip pen is just a wooden stick really, with a slot at the end for different type of nibs. If you press harder, lighter or even use the side of the nib you can create all sorts of interesting lines and effects. Several nibs have a slot cut out in the centre so you can draw two lines at once. Ready filled pens can be purchased easily in sets or individually. I like Sakura Pigma Micron pens which are not as posh and expensive as they sound, they come in various nib sizes from .005 (very thin line) up to .08, they are often referred to as fineliners. Once they have dried on your watercolour paper you can paint over them without the ink bleeding. Unpin Fineliner Drawing pens are another good

example at a little over £1 each, you sometimes see these in supermarkets. I have black, the most common colour, but also, sepia and grey pens. I've invested in red and blue ones too. I use these to tidy up watercolour paintings around the edge of windows, or on doors. I always like a red door in my paintings! The sepia and grey are good for bulrushes and grasses or even bricks. On churches I dot the pens randomly on the walls to give a stone effect. Its ok to mix up what materials you use in the same painting, its then called a mixed media picture. Now you need to have a go, good luck.

Barbara Boxshall
Publicity Manager

Houghton Conquest Art Society

Email us at Houghtonconquestartsociety@outlook.com

<http://www.houghton-conquest-art-society.co.uk>

Look for us on Facebook too.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022



DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DATE	EVENT	TYPE
19th January	AGM & Big Paint Launch	Members' Evening	15th June	Art Exhibition Preparation	Members' evening
29th January	Saturday Workshop with Jane Rhodes: Pastels over Watercolour	Workshop	19th June	Art Exhibition	Public Event
2nd February	Big Paint	Members' evening	6th July	Continuous Line Drawing	Workshop
16th February	Multimedia Collage Part 1: making collage papers using Sarah Janavicius' techniques	Members' evening	20th July	Painting Outdoors	Workshop
2nd March	Multimedia Collage Part 2: creating a collage picture using Sarah Janavicius' techniques	Members' evening	3rd August	Reference Photography and Quick Sketching	Workshop
16th March	Liquid Acrylics Demonstration with Stuart Amphlett	Demo & Workshop	17th August	Reference Photography and Quick Sketching	Workshop
6th April	Animals in Acrylics Demonstration with Karen Mangold	Demo only	7th September	Painting from Photos and Sketches	Members' evening
20th April	Acrylic Animals using Karen Mangold's techniques	Members' evening	21st September	Paper Making	Workshop
4th May	Portrait Drawing Techniques with Dave Williams	Members' evening	25th September	Plaster Cast Making and Painting Sunday Workshop with John Broadhouse	Workshop
18th May	Mountains and Meadows: Acrylics using Palette Knife with Doreen Buckles	Demo & Workshop	5th October	Watercolour Pen and Wash Demonstration with Paul Fulstone	Demo & Workshop
1st June	Wet in Wet Oils Demonstration with Linda Peacock	Demo only	19th October	Collage and Multimedia Demonstration with Karen Mangold	Demonstration Only
			2nd November	Collage using Karen Mangold's techniques	Members' Evening
			16th November	Christmas Decorations	Members' Evening
			7th December	Christmas Social	Social



Bowls Club



Sadly, in recent times we have lost 4 of our regular Members and our numbers are depleted. We miss them all.

We would now be really pleased to see some new bowlers (no experience — or particular skills are required) . We would be especially pleased to see some younger, fitter men who could assist in rolling up the mat after our game.

We start bowling at 2.00 pm on a Monday and have a two hour session with a tea and biscuits (and a natter to catch up on local village news) break half way through. It is just £2.00 per session (first week taster session is free)

If you would like more details please phone Monica (01234 743345)

We look forward to seeing you at the Village Hall on a Monday afternoon soon

Houghton Conquest Care



Houghton Conquest Care Group is run by volunteers to provide support to any member of the village who, for example, needs transport to their doctor's surgery, hospital or dentist or needs a prescription picking up or some shopping done, or even help with small tasks around the house, such as changing a light bulb or filling out a form. For transport to Ampthill or Bedford we do ask

for a small donation of £4.00 towards the cost of petrol for our volunteers.

If you need help please phone our pager phone, 07969982970 and leave a message and one of our volunteer phone holders will get back to you. If possible, try and give 24 hours' notice.

If you would like to volunteer or have any other enquiries, please phone:

Kate Smith (Honorary Secretary) 01234 740522

Sue Derrick (Chairperson) 07886459225

Advanced notice for your diaries:

Care Group AGM, Saturday 29th October, 2 – 4pm. Please try and come along and join the committee for afternoon tea and share your ideas with us about the running of the Care Group. If you would like to attend but need transport contact Kate or Sue.

Joint Care Group & Jigsaw Quiz night Saturday 8th October 7 for 7.30pm start.

OUR PHONE NUMBER is 07969 982970



Another lovely event was enjoyed by everyone when we had a jubilee celebration afternoon tea in June. Everyone was dressed in red, white and blue, and before tucking into delicious sandwiches, cream scones and cake, we were encouraged to join Aimi Percival singing patriotic songs and some from Julie Andrews musicals.

In July Sue Fleming told us about her life as a baker's daughter, when her dad and uncle got up in the early hours to make the bread and cakes for the shop. Originally deliveries were made by horse and cart but eventually they were able to get a van. Sadly that type of business no longer exists.

August brings us round to our annual garden party which we hold in a member's garden, so let's hope the fine weather lasts till then. On 1st September there will be a talk by Colin Hill called 'Dancing with Diana', and he was a close protection officer for the Royal Family. Then on 6th October Jo Cowan will talk about magnetic jewellery.

Once again a varied programme and if these subjects interest you why not come along as a guest you would be very welcome.

If you would like any further information about the meetings or WI in general, please give me a call on 07951 024876.

Shirley Johnson

Houghton Pioneers



Unfortunately, we haven't yet re-started Pioneering but plans are afoot – watch this space!

Recycling

Local recycling directory (for stuff that can't currently go in our green wheelie bins) can be found at <https://amphthillclimatechange.co.uk/projects/recycling-directory>. Various packaging labelled 'Do Not Recycle' can now be accepted (incl biscuit wrappers, toothpaste tubes). Unfortunately, some collection points are not that local so please don't waste fuel making a special journey, wait until you're passing.

Recycling used stamps for charity Many thanks to everyone who has been passing stamps to me throughout the year. I am happy to continue to act as a collection point (please pop through my letterbox at 29 Rectory Lane) but unfortunately the RSPB has stopped collecting everyday used stamps. I will now take the stamps to the Oxfam shop in Bedford which is still happy to receive everyday stamps as well as more valuable ones. The stamps are sold to collectors worldwide and thus raise funds for the charity.

Ros Blevins

Ramblings

Platty Jubes! Jubilee events and celebrations were held across the Parish – the first being a picnic in the park organised by local residents and held at lunchtime on the Thursday in the playpark by the Four Acre Drive/Meadow Road roundabout. Union Flag bunting surrounded picnic tables and blankets on the grass, upon which sandwiches, snacks and refreshments were being munched.

In the centre of the village, the Village Hall railings were decorated with bunting and a commemorative flag was flown from the flagpole, also on the Thursday, with active events happening on Saturday.



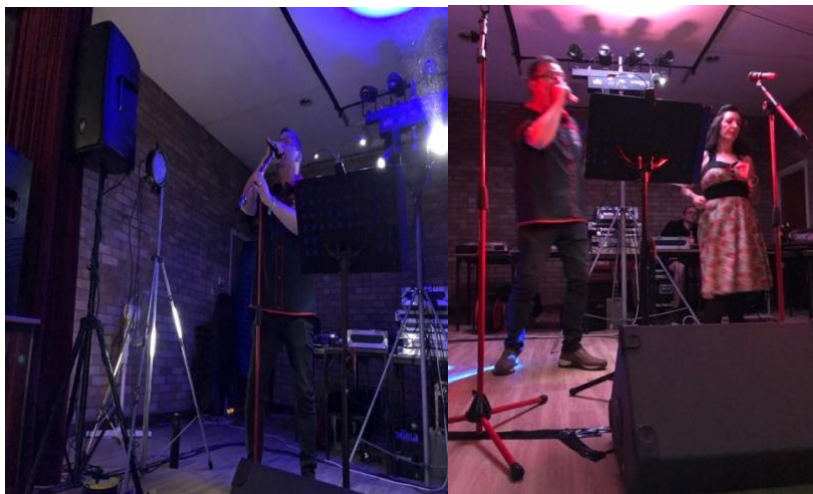
Villagers in many parts of the Parish decorated their houses with flags and bunting to mark the occasion. Other residents held street parties in their own streets both on the Friday and at the Village Hall on Saturday.





The fifties themed party in the evening at the Village Hall was well attended with the bar open doing a brisk trade and music by Sean and Liz and, of course DJ Dave.





HOT HOT HOT!!!

June saw temperatures soar to 33 degrees centigrade or so (over 91 degrees in old money) and July nudged 40 degrees C (over 100 degrees F)

I managed to protect the parts of my head that have hair follicle scarcity, but my earlobes turned into 2 oversized red Smarties on the sides of my face. Where did I put that tube of factor 50? I also risked scaring animals and those of a delicate nature, by wearing my shorts and revealing my very manly (?) but brilliant white legs.

In typical British fashion we will continue to lurch from “are we ever going to get Summer this year?” to “ooh, it’s too hot for me – I can’t be doing with all this scorching weather”

OTHER THINGS

On 3rd July, at All Saints Church, Bedford Sinfonia presented one of their ‘Out and About’ Concerts, with Cantamus Chamber Choir, directed by our very own Gary Mudd, raising funds for the church.

Sadly we learned of the death of our former rector Stephen Toze, whose funeral was held on Monday 11th July.

I have spent the middle of July in the company of my 2 grown-up children, who have been visiting me in the village for the last 20 years and it has been interesting to talk about the differences in the village over this period. Naturally, the village has grown a fair bit in that time and some faces that they remember are regrettably no longer with us.

However, the biggest concern was – “Why isn’t The Royal Oak open and where are we going to play pool, now?”

Have a great summer
Pete



The Jigsaw Club Amphill

Now meeting in Houghton Conquest Village Hall

The Jigsaw Club meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm until 9.30pm.

Our aim is to meet the social and emotional needs of people who are disabled or feeling isolated due to a lack of mobility. We provide a varied programme of entertainment, activities, speakers and outings; refreshments are also provided, all for a small donation of £2.00. Our meetings during August and September will be on: August 4th when Amphill Town Band will be entertaining us, August 18th when we will have a speaker from Guide Dogs for the Blind, September 1st when we will all be going to the Cross Keys in Pulloxhill for our annual pub night out and on September 15th we will have our very own Desert Island Disks. So a lot to look forward to.

On June 22nd we had our summer outing; members met at Seasons Garden Centre where the restaurant provided us with a delicious and plentiful buffet lunch. After lunch we made our way to the Corn Exchange in Bedford to see "Happy and Glorious", a stage show that celebrated the Queen's Jubilee. It was a great afternoon, we enjoyed songs from different eras of the Queen's reign and members enjoyed singing along to these popular songs. Other recent activities included an Ascot Race Night, an evening trip to Poplars Nursery where we were able to shop without the crowds and then enjoy refreshments provided by Poplars staff.

If you would like to come along and join us let Olive or Sue know. If you need help getting to Houghton Conquest village hall, we can pick you up from your home in one of our three, wheelchair adapted minibuses for a donation of £3.00.

To enable us to provide the activities we have a hard-working committee and a very willing band of volunteers, however we would love to have more drivers and escorts for our three minibuses. If you are able to drive a minibus/van and would like to volunteer to pick up members, both wheelchair users and ambulant members please get in touch. The commitment could be as little as one Thursday evening every couple of months.

Olive Mitchell (Chairperson) 01525 751379
Sue Derrick (Treasurer) 07886459225

PS

In order to provide a varied programme of activities and to keep our vehicles on the road, we also need funds and our committee work hard to provide a range of fund-raising activities. Please see the advertisements for our next two events elsewhere in this newsletter and come along and enjoy a good night out and support a very worthwhile, local cause.



I don't want to wish the summer away, but at Zonita we are busy preparing for the Autumn season. Our screenings are every month (usually second Saturday) from September to April at Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill MK45 2HX. We screen a matinee at 2pm aimed at children and families and an evening screening at 7pm. If you've never been before you will be very impressed by the quality of the sound and visuals, plus our excellent kiosk and bar for snacks and refreshments. We are even a bit old-school, with an interval for ice creams and to top up your glass!

It is possible to reserve a table if you plan to come with a group. All details on the website.

If you have any suggestions for films you would like to see, please let us know.

MATINEE PROGRAMME

Sat 10 th Sept	Encanto
Sat 8 th Oct	Sing 2
Sat 12 th Nov	Charlotte's Web
Sat 10 th Dec	The Grinch (<i>NB. Later start for this film only – doors open at 4:00, film starts at 4:30</i>)

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

Adults: £3 – Children: £3

EVENING PROGRAMME

Sat 10 th Sept	Belfast
Sat 8 th Oct	Phantom of the Open
Sat 12 th Nov	Benediction (Siegfried Sassoon biopic)
Sat 10 th Dec	West Side Story (<i>NB. Later start for this film only – doors open at 6:30, film starts at 7:30</i>)

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

Adults: £5 – Children: £3

<http://zonita.org.uk>

email: zonitacinema@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/zonita.cinema

@ZonitaAmpthill

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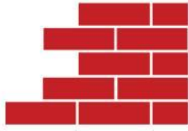
Contact our office on:
01908 972489

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BedsRCC features on BBC's Escape To The Country

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity made a star appearance on a recent episode of Escape to the Country, aired on Tuesday 31st May 2022.

The episode followed Chris and Albert's search for a home in Bedfordshire. It opened with a clip early on of our Environment and Community Officer Mike Fayers, who is involved in our Wellbeing Walks and Good Neighbour Schemes:

"There's some beautiful villages in Bedfordshire, it's really lovely looking round. So although I've lived here as long as I have, I've still got a lot more exploring to do." - Mike Fayers

With 800 miles of public right-of-way in Central Bedfordshire alone, the county is filled with places to walk, run and cycle. Our deputy CEO Cliff Andrews shared about the Biggleswade Green Wheel in today's episode, which BedsRCC was involved in bringing about. Cliff explained how the Green Wheel benefits the local community, explaining the many ways it gets used. When asked who uses the Green Wheel, Cliff said:

"Everyone. Loads of people from the local community, runners, walkers, cyclists, parents with buggies, parents teaching kids to ride their bike, dog walkers, everyone."

The episode highlighted how the Friends of Biggleswade Green Wheel look after the Biggleswade Green Wheel by keeping the vegetation off the path so it's clear for everyone to use.

We also saw a Wellbeing Walk in action, who regularly use the Green Wheel for walks. One wellbeing walker explained the importance of paths like these:

It's just uplifting. ... It really is very pleasant to just go out and forget all your worries.

As well as featuring some of our staff here at BedsRCC, the episode also highlighted how important volunteers are to the work we do. If you're interested in getting involved and making a difference to your local community, visit the volunteering page of our website (www.bedsrcc.org.uk).

Watch the Bedfordshire episode (Series 22 Episode 52) of Escape to the Country on BBC iPlayer.

BedsRCC reaches finals for SME National Business Awards

We're delighted to announce that for the second year running, we have reached the finals for the Community Business of the Year Award category for the SME National Business Awards.

The Small-to-Medium (SME) National Business Awards are now entering their sixth year. They give businesses the opportunity to be celebrated for their achievements and hard work.

The Community Business of the Year Award category celebrates both Community Businesses and Not for Profit Organisations who have positively benefitted society. We were thrilled to win the national award in 2021 after also winning the regional award for Luton and Bedfordshire. To reach the finals for the second year running is a true testament to the real difference staff and volunteers at BedsRCC are making.

This year, the awards ceremony will be held at Wembley Stadium again in December for an evening of celebrating the best of small and medium businesses.

BedsRCC CEO Tracy Cowan said:

"We are hugely excited to be shortlisted as a finalist for SME National Best Community Business of the Year Award. We believe that everything we do is for our communities and I know our staff, volunteers and trustees are delighted for our hard work to be acknowledged this way. Fingers crossed for the final!"

BedsRCC runs a variety of projects and services to benefit local communities in and around Bedfordshire. This includes digital

skills groups, Good Neighbour schemes, not-for-profit businesses, and community transport. To find out more about the work BedsRCC does, visit www.bedsrcc.org.uk.



A note from your Editor...

We are always happy to receive your articles/comments/concerns/reports and hopefully I have included as many of these as I can. We are also happy to accept letters and even Births, Marriages and Deaths, should you wish to share these with the Parish.

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

The Newsletter is also posted to the 3 Village Facebook pages and can be found on the Parish Council website under News:

<https://houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk/category/news/>

Please note:

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	Karen Moynihan	Email: houghtonconquestartsociety@outlook.com
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

Help Lines

SAMARITANS	Call 116 123 Email: jo@samaritans.org
CRISIS TEXT LINE	Text "SHOUT" to 85258

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
Ampt Hill	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	
Ampthill - 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.