

HOUGHTON CONQUEST Village Newsletter

October 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

Anthony Mullin

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 December 2022 issue of The Houghton Conquest Village Newsletter is 21st November 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 we leave behind the 10 days of Public Mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II her close family are entering a period of private mourning and reflection. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family as they mourn and it is to be hoped that the opportunity to grieve in private will bring them some peace and start the long, difficult journey to acceptance. Any person that has lost a loved one will have empathy for their pain and will perhaps be reliving their own time of grieving. With kindness and understanding we can support each other during these difficult times and come together as a community to bring comfort to each other.

As a result of the Queen's sudden death the scheduled Parish Council meeting for September was cancelled. It is rescheduled for Monday 26th September. The September meeting was to have been a busy one with a presentation from Present Made – the developers of the Mill View/Thickthorn Farm housing.

We also had three members of the public who were coming to report to the Council. By the time you read this some of the issues due to be discussed at the original September meeting will hopefully have been resolved.

One of the issues causing major concern to the residents of Bedford Road and Mill Lane is the constant bursting of the water

main on Bedford Road. This has resulted in households being without water for extended periods of time. An infuriating and distressing situation for all involved. Anglian Water have been approached on several occasions in the past with questions regarding the replacing of the inadequate pipework with a more robust and functional modern pipeline. To date there has been no reasonable response from the Water board. To make the situation worse it would appear that the 650 houses approved for the site at Thickthorn are to be connected to the already struggling water infrastructure. Further questions need to be asked of Anglian Water and CBC to address these issues.

There are other issues arising from the new development. The editor has outlined these in more detail but, to summarise, one of the other major problems is the lack of a link road to the A6. This means that the only route from the development to the A6 is through our Village – potentially 100s of cars a day.

In better news the refurbishment of the Pavilion has been completed and they are looking fresh and clean, ready for the new season. The same cannot be said of the pitches which have suffered from the hot weather. Much of the work to recondition the surface could not take place due to lack of rain. This has pushed the project behind schedule, but the contractors are trying their hardest to make the pitches playable in the not-too-distant future.

By the time of publication, the works to instal the outdoor gym equipment will have commenced. I hope that you will enjoy using it.

Our next meeting after the publication of this newsletter is Thursday October 13th and I look forward to seeing some of you there. We are still looking for additional Parish Councillors so why not pop along to the meeting and see what goes on. You would be most welcome.

I look forward to hearing from anyone in our community who has issues that they would like addressed. In the first instance 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

REPORT FROM YOUR CENTRAL BEDS COUNCILLOR – Rebecca Hares



There has been a lot going on recently within our Ward and I am currently working on getting a list of telephone numbers to appropriate Local Authority Departments in order for the Council to be far more accessible to all residents, not just those who have

a computer and the internet. I will update you with this as soon as it is complete.

Planning – Recently there was a planning application from O&H Properties for an extension of Wixams that would see further increases in housing numbers but no employment opportunities or infrastructure. Whilst the size of the site has increased, the 5 hectares set aside for businesses has been removed.

The S106 and infrastructure contributions this application would provide would not even balance out the deficit in the infrastructure that the Wixams Community have been promised but is yet to be delivered, thus rendering the overall infrastructure provision completely inadequate.

Previous S106 monies towards this promised infrastructure that have not been claimed, cannot now be pursued by the Council due to the time period for implementation having already lapsed.

The delivery of the station is hanging on objections from the Department for Transport with commercial agreements (between National Rail and Thameslink) having not been agreed.

The highways impact on the local road network and associated safety concerns were completely ignored. The Local Authority have dismissed these significant issues and the compounding detrimental impact further applications here will have on current and future residents and are ploughing on regardless.

There is now a live application CB/22/03496/OUT for the erection of a Care Home and ancillary structures, car parking, and external works in the centre of Wixams Village 3. Please feedback your thoughts on this application via the Planning Portal on Central Bedfordshire website, the planning officer

Debbie.Quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or me

bex.hares@gmail.com

There is another Wixams Application likely to come forward in the next few weeks, Mill View – the site close to Great Thickthorn Farm - that is currently out for Public Pre-Consultation and the applicant hosted two events locally last week. It will be for rental only properties and a small community space with a café/shop.

Anglian Water – I am aware that many residents of our village were left without water during record heat for periods of up to 9 hours. I have been working with Anglian Water since this situation became apparent, I have learned areas where I could have done more for residents. I have also discussed the situation at length with Anglian Water about the processes they currently follow, and how they could be adjusted, to ensure that residents are appropriately supported should this situation repeat.

I would like to take the opportunity to inform residents that Anglian Water Engineers do not have the luxury of determining what work is to be undertaken and though they are a face at the site, feedback of the issue should be directed to Anglian Water Customer Service, the Council, the Parish or myself directly; not through the engineers or social media. It is also important to note that though views can be expressed on how to avoid frequent and prolonged outages, ultimately Anglian Water determine any work that may be undertaken.

Cost of living – I am keenly aware that many residents, particularly those on a fixed income will be struggling with the significant increases of the cost of living and energy bills. Central Government, the Local Authority and many charities are looking at providing different means of support for residents in different ways. You can reach out to myself or the Citizen's Advice Bureau if you require guidance in what support is available and how best to access it.

Citizen's Advice Bureau Ampthill
10 Bedford Street,
Ampthill
MK45 2NB T: 01767 601368

Highways – I'm disappointed that the recent repair of the highway at Pump House Bend on the way to Ampthill is already subsiding and cracking. I have raised this with the Local Highways Officer and am seeking the contractor to return and actually repair it. Bedford Road is also in a terrible state and I am actively pushing for it to have the full resurfacing it requires rather than the patchwork quilt it has become. For any highways concerns and fly-tipping please report via FixMyStreet application or 0300 300 8049 or myself.



POLICE & HIGHWAYS MATTERS September 2022

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

Houghton Conquest Crime Figures – August 2022

Offence	Number	Date	Place
Criminal damage to a motor vehicle	2	05/08/22 08/08/22	Syblis Way How End Road
Assault with injury	2	20/08/22 28/08/22	The Grove Banks Croft
Other criminal damage	1	09/08/22	How End Road
Criminal damage residential	1	15/08/22	How End Road
Threats to kill	1	09/08/22	How End Road
Trafficking of drugs	1	04/08/22	Horseshoe Crescent
Interfering with a motor vehicle	1	29/08/22	Four Acre Drive
Harrassment	1	04/08/22	Undisclosed
Grand Total	10		

Houghton Conquest Crime Figures – July 2022

Offence	Number	Date	Place
Criminal Damage to a Vehicle	2	25/07/22 28/07/22	Grange Close Four Acre Drive
Race or Religious Agg Public Fear	1	10/07/22	Undisclosed
Burglary – residential	1	30/07/22	Banks Croft
Threat Intent to Committ Criminal Damage	1	16/07/22	How End Road
Assault with injury	1	21/07/22	Summerhill Place
Harassment	1	24/07/22	Undisclosed
Grand Total	7		

Data from Speed Indication Devices (**Bracketed figures from previous report**)

14/07/22 – 08/09/22

0046 (The Grove) 20mph zone

Arriving – from The Grove towards the High street

Violations	57.01%	(56.51%) up
Of which	67.71%	(66.51%) = 21-25 mph
	32.28%	(33.48%) = 26+
Average speed	21mph	(21mph)
V85	26mph	(26mph)

Average Vehicles per day	250	(251)
Total in period	14031	(9039)
Highest recorded	54mph(48)	Friday 26/8/22 23:00 – 00:00

Departing – from The High Street towards The Grove

Violations	72.22%	(71.69%)
Of which	61.20%	(60.20%) = 21-25 mph
	38.79%	(39.79%) = 26+
Average speed	23mph	(23mph)
V85	27mph	(28mph)

Average Vehicles per day	244	(255)
Total in period	13628	(9192)
Highest recorded	68mph (69mph)	Friday 26th August 08:00 – 09:00

0156 (Bedford Road) 30mph zone 20/07/22 – 08/09/22

Victoria Drive and Mill Lane

Arriving from The Oak

Violations	7.27%	(7.11%) up
Of which	84.09%	(83.14%) =31-35
	15.90%	(16.85%) =35+

Average speed	24mph	(24mph)
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V85	28mph	(28mph)
Average vehicles per day	629	(6687)
Total in period	31592	(23984)
Highest recorded	65mph	(61mph) Friday 12 th August 18:00 – 19:00

Departing to the Oak

Violations	9.18%	(10.10%) down
Of which	84.44%	(85.12%) = 31-35
	15.5%	(14.87%) = 35+

Average speed	24mph	(25mph)
V85	29 mph	(29mph)
Average vehicles per day	739	(780)
Total in period	37117	(28003)
Highest recorded	66mph	(63mph) Sunday 21 st August 22:00-23:00

0047 (The Oak) 20mph zone. This device has only recorded 7 days worth of data since being reset by Morelock

Arriving – from Chapel End Lane

Violations	49.15%	(49.09%)
Of which	71.74%	(72.66%) = 21-25 mph
	28.29%	(27.33%) = 26+
Average speed	21	(21mph)
V85	25	(25mph)

Average Vehicles per day	818	(654)
Total in period	5758	(3051)
Highest recorded	50	(46mph) Saturday 3 rd September 01:00 – 02:00

Departing towards Chapel End

Violations	66.96%	(69.00%)
Of which	54.26%	(55.22%) = 21-25 mph
	45.73%	(44.77%) = 26+
Average speed	22mph	(23mph)

V85

28mph(28mph)

Average Vehicles per day **1128** (838)
Total in period **7943** (3911)
Highest recorded **58mph** (52mph) Tuesday 6th
 September 23:00 – 00:00



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: See below

Church Social/ Fundraising committee

Sarah Hanant 07900 927050 Brenda Hartley 01234 740482

Church Issues

Hello again everyone. The usual quick- ish 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.

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

Team Curate: Rev'd Steve Marsh. Email: curate@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Team Ministry Website: www.elstowteamministry.org.uk

SCARECROW TRAIL CANCELLED due to lack of staffing

Services/Events for October to December are as follows:

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

Oct. 9th. 9.30am HARVEST Holy Communion - Rev'd Jennie Cappleman. (**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**)
1.00pm HARVEST LUNCH – Village Hall (£10 contact Gary Mudd for tickets)

Oct. 16th 9.30am Holy Communion - TBA

Oct. 23rd 9.30am Holy Communion - Rev'd Jennie Cappleman

Oct. 30th 9.30am (All Souls/AllSaints) Morning Praise – Robert Heley.

Nov. 6th 9.30am Holy Communion – TBA.

Nov. 13th REMEMBRANCE

10.45am at Memorial

11.00am Holy Communion - Revd. Jennie Cappleman

Nov. 20th 9.30am Holy Communion - Rev'd Peter Littleford

Nov. 27th 9.30am Holy Communion - Rev'd Jennie Cappleman

Dec. 4th 9.30am Holy Communion – Fr. Paul Messam

Dec. 9th – 11th CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Dec 10th 6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons with Carols – Rev'd Steve Marsh .

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

Dec. 18th 9.30am Holy Communion - Rev'd Jennie Cappleman

Dec 24th Christmas Eve

3.00pm – Christingle – Rev'd Steve Marsh

11.30pm Candlelight Midnight Mass – Archdeacon of Bedford , Ven. Dave Middlebrook

Dec 25th Christmas Day – No Service.

Look out for more detail of Christmas services and other events on Posters and Facebook

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

It is still not too late to give should you still wish. Faculty request has now been submitted and posted in church and on Facebook. Hopefully we will have a positive reply in October

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:

Aug. £10 Winners: Christina Mudd; Paul Wickings; Val Roberts.

Sept. £10 Winners: Brenda Hartley; Celia Lia; Jennie Murphy

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.)

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)**

Village Clubs, Organisations & Events

**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

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 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 the Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

Houghton Conquest Lower School

Friendship Tolerance Courage Peace

Welcome to the new term!

It is great to see all the children and staff settling back into school; the school already has a lively and engaging atmosphere and the children are certainly enjoying getting to know their new teachers and classmates. It was also fantastic to see so many children looking smart in their school uniforms; it really helps them to feel part of the Houghton Conquest school family.

All of the children have jumped straight into their learning activities together with learning/refreshing school routines and expectations. It is wonderful to hear the school corridors full of laughter and discussion from the classrooms.



We **welcome** new members of staff to our team; Mrs Squires our new Communications Officer, who is always happy to help parents and signpost you to the where you would like to go. Miss Phillips has joined us as a Teaching Assistant and has enjoyed getting settled into her new role.

Harvest will soon be upon us and the children are starting to plan activities, including harvest crafts and we are busy working out our plans which will be shared with parents and the community shortly.

Finally, we have planned some **'Open Day'** dates for parents of children starting school in September '23. We will be open on the 4th of October at 3:30pm – 5pm and the 6th of October from 9.15am to 10:30am, 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.

We were very saddened by the news regarding the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her dedication to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is unparalleled and we thank her for her service. As part of observing the national period of mourning, and as a mark of respect to the Queen, we reflected on her life and service, British values and the royal succession.

Take Care.

The Team at HCLS

Houghton Conquest Garden Club



At our September meeting Paul Rabbitts gave an interesting talk about the eight Royal parks in London. He told us of the history and how they have changed over the years, especially as originally only the privileged few were allowed in them, but now the parks are open to everyone to see the beautiful displays of flowers.

On 11th October we have our AGM and after the official business there will be cheese and wine and a quiz. Also, someone from the Forest Centre will be coming to tell us about the rewilding of some of the ground near and village hall, and he would like our ideas for this. The talk on 8th November by Joe Sharman will be on propagation of plants.

It's time to plant spring bulbs such as Daffodils, Crocus, and Iris, but it is best to leave Tulips until November. If you are keen to help wildlife in your garden, it's a good idea to leave dying perennials, as many have seedheads for birds, and they can provide shelter for insects and spiders. Also planting a hedge will give shelter for birds and other wildlife.

Enjoy the fruits of autumn.

Margaret Whalley
01234 740892

Houghton Conquest Art Society



Houghton Conquest Art Society members were very saddened by the news of Her Majesty. I decided to find out more about art in the Royal Family and thought you would enjoy my journey.

The Queen was an avid photographer, who liked to take photos of her travels, family, and pets. These photos were carefully arranged in navy blue leather albums, which often travelled with the Queen. There are many photos of Her Majesty using a variety of photographic equipment, including video cameras.

Prince Philip was a prolific watercolour artist as is King Charles III, here is a lovely soft-focus painting of Castle of Mey by Charles. The foreground fades away to nothing at the bottom which suggests more land beyond and gives a scale to the huge castle. The lines in the grass, moving towards the building draw the eye towards the main subject. The trees give an idea of height, especially the castles, towers, and turrets. There is no need for any detail on the castle, as the viewer is looking from the bottom of the picture into the distance. The castle is too far away to see roof tiles and bricks, but you can tell from the colours, and the blobs of colour that they are there.



Below is another beautiful watercolour by King Charles III, of Ben Avon. I think you will agree the sky is quite wonderful and very atmospheric. It is not very easy to achieve this layered effect, you have to work quickly, whilst the paint is still wet, adding the different colours in just the right amounts.

There is another method where you can add layers on top once the paintings dry, however watercolour paintings must be kept fresh, crisp, and alive its a rather spontaneous way to paint, unlike other mediums such as oil paint which benefits from layers and 'fiddling'.

The foreground being darker in tone pushes the mountains into the far distance. The farther away, the lighter the tone and colour of the paint. In fact some the paint is mostly water with just a touch of pigment.

However, rather cleverly there is a bright light on the right horizon, suggesting a sunny valley beyond perhaps. There is no

true white in watercolour, therefore I think good use has been made of the plain white watercolour paper, to achieve the right effect.



The picture below is rather special, it depicts Prince Philip painting a watercolour study of the Queen at breakfast. The Prince, rather like me, obviously liked lots of details in his paintings. I especially like the way the huge painting behind the queen dominates and draws the eye to the horse and soldiers. The white areas in the painting jump out, if you almost close your eyes you still see those blobs of white and on the front of the tablecloth, suggesting light from a window opposite the table. When painting figures its quite scary getting the features right but there is no need in this painting, just a representation of the eyes, nose and mouth is all that's required.



There are over 7000 paintings in the Royal residences, it is heart-warming to think the Queen enjoyed looking at them and future generations will also have that pleasure.

Our small committee met recently to discuss lots of exciting ideas for visiting demonstrators and workshops. Amongst our visitors we have artists using all sorts of different art mediums, such as Lino Cutting, Charcoal, Collage made with bit and pieces found around the home and garden. Several of these practical evenings require no previous experience of art.

The Society will, again this year, be decorating the Christmas tree in our beautiful village Church of All Saints. We are thinking of various ideas including decorated pinecones. In previous years we have created individual lino cut blocks and printed tiny Christmas cards, on our printing press, using different coloured inks.

The famous Houghton Conquest Art Society 2023 calendar is nearing completion. This time we have painted Bedfordshire Scenes, each with an explanation of their history. The calendars are inexpensive and make very interesting Christmas presents. Details of how to purchase the calendars will appear shortly, on

our website and social media, alternatively contact us via the website below.

Below is an example of a painting from our next year's calendar, to give you a flavour of what to expect. There will be history text on each page too. This is my own coloured pencil drawing of the derelict onion barn in Sandy. Although this is coloured pencils it is called a painting in the art world not a drawing as one would expect!



We have some members come and join us who have not painted since their school days, this doesn't matter at all. Our meetings are about enjoying yourself, meeting new people and maybe going home with something you have created. You will be made welcome, do join us on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Houghton Conquest Village Hall. If you would like to chat about the club or have any questions please see the

contact details on our website, we are also on Facebook and Instagram.

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

OUR PHONE NUMBER is 07969 982970

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.

We still have a few tables left for our quiz night on October 8th at 7pm for 7.30pm. For details see our attached advert. If you need help getting to and from Houghton Conquest Village Hall for the quiz please phone Kate or Sue.

A Festival for Older People will be held on:

Friday 7th October 2022 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick

This year the focus for the day is to celebrate older people and the contribution they make to society. The international theme this year is "The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women".

If anyone from the village who would like to attend needs transport, contact the Care Group in the normal way.



We were certainly lucky with the weather when we had our garden party in August, which was not too hot. We each took our own picnic and the committee provided lots of lovely puddings.

At our September meeting Colin Hill told us what it was like to be a protection officer to the Royal Family. There was a lot of training involved including firearms practice every month, but he also told us some amusing stories. On 6th October Jo Cowan is going to talk about magnetic jewellery.

Then on 3rd November there will be a floral demonstration by Marion Tucker, who will be doing several arrangements for the Christmas season and these will be raffled at the end of the evening. This is an open evening and visitors will be very welcome and the cost will be £5 to include refreshments.

On Saturday 5th November we will be having a get ready for Christmas table sale for toys, games and children's cloths. It will be £12 to have a table, and could be a chance to re-home all those extra toys and hardly worn youngsters' cloths. If you would like a table please call Linda and 01234 740610.

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://amphillclimatechange.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

QE2 RIP

Since the last edition, where we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we now find ourselves in a period of national mourning, following her death.



Many have found themselves much more emotional about the Queen's passing than they had expected, due in part, to her constancy, with most of us never having lived in a period without her as the monarch. Some of us also think of those closer to us who have passed away in recent years.

From a personal perspective, I was very much reminded of my own little, white-haired old lady's passing (i.e., my mother), the 8th anniversary of which occurs on the day I write this, and I find myself strangely conflating the two sad events.

I found it interesting and somehow pleasing, that both avid monarchists and staunch republicans alike, have been moved to express kind words about the late Queen, which says much about her, personally.

The practical arrangements necessary for lowering of flags, raising of flags, and lowering of them again has proved interesting. We received official instructions on the flag movements via Central Beds Council who have doubtless had some poor, unsuspecting clerk sifting through dusty leather-bound regulations at the back of a long-forgotten cupboard.

Furthermore, and understandably, no-one was still around who could remember what a proclamation was, who had to proclaim it, where it had to be proclaimed or to whom.

God save the King.

Happenings around the Village

Garden Club Summer Show

Early in September, the village Garden Club held their Summer Show – I would normally have bombarded you with photos, however I remembered it was on, just as it had finished! Sorry, Gardeners!

Charity Dog Show

Chapel End Farm held their popular Charity Dog Show with a whole host of rosette-winning categories ranging from Best Cross

Breed and Best Rescue, Most Obedient all the way through to Scruffiest Dog/Bitch, Waggiest Tail and not forgetting the Doggie Egg and Spoon Race.....

Tea, coffee, BBQ food and a raffle kept the human attendees entertained between categories.



Usual judges – Dave and Linda Sutton – were in action.

The event – the first for some time and extremely well attended – was hosted by Chief Announcer Sarra Wilson and Barbeque Boy Adam Wilson and their team. There were 85 dogs entered in all classes and the massive **£600 raised** on the day will go to **East Anglian Air Ambulance**.





Mill View/Thickthorn Presentation and Public Consultation

Villagers were invited to a presentation of the plans for the new “Mill View” development.

I went along and asked several questions to supplement what I learned from the presentation and in summary, discovered the following:

- There will be a new footpath down Bedford Road towards the Country Park
- Existing footpaths will be maintained and extended or diverted through the park area
- There seems to be little, if any, provision for cyclists. There is no dedicated cycle link from the new development to the old village – roads are the only access by bicycle.
- There will be a small café/shop targeted mainly at residents at the “Amenities Centre” based around the

Great Thickthorn Farm site. This facility will also contain changing facilities for those using the junior football pitches located at the top end of the park.

- There will be no other retail facilities and no pub. The development relies on the planned (but unbuilt) Wixams Village Centre under the control of another developer, for any other facilities of this nature.
- A primary school will be built within this 650 home development, which will cater for a **maximum** of 420 children.
- They are making a Section 106 contribution to local busses but couldn't say what that meant other than the existing 42 bus (that goes via Houghton Conquest village centre) would go through the development. It couldn't NOT as the bottom of Bedford Road will be closed off. There was no suggestion that the service would be improved in any way.
- There is no adoption by NHS for any healthcare facility on this development
- It seems that they will be reliant on the Bedford Road water main, which is very concerning.
- They are also contributing towards the Wixams station (if it is ever built)
- They seem to have been open to the provision of additional parking – especially for visitors – given that public transport will be limited.
- There is no concrete evidence of a link road to the A6. The map shows a road going off in that direction, but the area of land it then goes through is not being developed by Present Made so they cannot guarantee its construction nor can they put a time frame on it. Therefore, potentially upwards of 1000 additional vehicles cutting through the village to the A6 daily.

It will be interesting to see what, if any, changes are made to the finer details of the development as a result of public consultation.

The Chair and the Unitary Councillor expand on some of this above

Dry...

I'm sure you've all noticed how dry and parched the local landscape became over the summer



Ok – the lizard I found in Utah, USA, but it did feel a bit like that!

As it has now rained a couple of times, I must get my lawnmower out of hibernation. Enjoy the oncoming autumn.

Pete



The Jigsaw Club Amphill

The Jigsaw Club meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm until 9.30pm in Houghton Conquest Village Hall

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 October and November will be on: October 13th when Nick Aston is giving a presentation entitled, 'Stepping into Britain', on October 27th we will host Roy's Quiz Night and in November we have "Grouching ?" and 'Would I lie to You Christmas Special'. Our last meeting of 2022 will be on December 8th with Billy Keyes entertaining at the Christmas Party.

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



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

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

Adults: £3 – Children: £3

EVENING PROGRAMME

Sat 8 th Oct	Phantom of the Open
Sat 12 th Nov	Benediction (Siegfried Sassoon biopic)

Sat 10th Dec

West Side Story (NB. Later start for this film only – doors open at 6:30, film starts at 7:30)

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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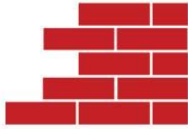
Contact our office on:
01908 972489

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BedsRCC launches You Can Do IT! Project

In today's society, technology has transformed our lives, and many of us could no longer imagine living without it. Although those digitally-skilled take these changes in their stride, it is clear that those who are used to more physical forms of life such as paper forms, face-to-face meetings, and physical photographs can struggle to adapt.

At Bedsrcc we recognised the need to provide a service to people who need help using digital technology. In February this year, we launched our *You Can Do IT!* project. *You Can Do IT!* is a digital inclusion project which improves people's lives by getting them online and accessing services and systems that will improve their health and wellbeing. During the sessions, participants are shown how to use their smartphones, tablets, or laptops to carry out tasks such as joining an online activity group, shopping, making video calls to friends and family, and more.

Aside from learning how to book a GP appointment online or re-order medication using an app, the smaller things often feel the most heart-warming and rewarding. From helping a grandmother to see her grandchildren abroad via a video call, or from scanning utility bills with a tablet so they can be read aloud, or discovering music online, these things can help improve someone's sense of health and wellbeing too.

You Can Do IT's groups often turn frowns into smiles or even laughter, I think everyone in any position in our groups benefits from being part of it.

Bill Simmons, Digital Lead

Not only does the YCDIT! project benefit those who attend the sessions as participants, they also help give purpose to the Digital Health Champions, who without, the sessions couldn't happen.

After taking early retirement I was looking for something that would enable me to use my professional skills in a way that could help the wider community.

Getting involved with the project has been immensely beneficial as it has given me a much needed sense of purpose, brought me into a very positive environment and given me the opportunity to meet a wide range of very friendly people.

Jonathan Jones, Volunteer Digital Health Champion

We now have four groups running in Biggleswade, Putnoe, Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Over the next two years, new groups will be added across Bedfordshire. Visit www.ywb.org.uk/IT to find out more.

Do you need help with your smartphone, tablet, or computer? Join a local You Can Do IT! Group and receive practical help with smartphones, tablets and computers from our lovely volunteers.

Or, could you become a volunteer Digital Health Champion to teach people digital skills to support their health and wellbeing?

For more information, email YouCanDoIT@bedsrcc.org.uk or phone 01234 838771.

Planting Pants at Warden Abbey Vineyard

Community vineyard Warden Abbey Vineyard have been hosting a range of events and activities to benefit Bedfordshire citizens, including students from St John's Special School

It's been a busy year so far at Warden Abbey Vineyard, and the summer of activities are in full swing. Based between Old Warden and Cardington, Warden Abbey Vineyard is a hidden gem just waiting to be explored.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity has leased the vineyard since 2010, and developed it as a unique resource for the local community. Throughout the year, staff and volunteers are kept busy with jobs such as pruning the dormant vines, stripping leaves from fruit zones, and harvesting grapes.

Since 2017 a group of students from St John's Special School have been visiting the vineyard over 6-7 weeks to work with the vineyards volunteer 'mentors' on a range of tasks. The students visibly gained in confidence and learned new skills, as did the volunteers, and true bonds were built which lasted the whole of the length of the project. After a successful first year, the school have been coming back ever since.

Five students took part this year and were kept busy planting new vines, weeding and watering, as well as growing sunflowers and building bug hotels. The students got involved in a unique way, with a #Plantyourpants activity acting as a fun method of testing life in the soil. On their first day, the students buried some cotton pants to dig up again

on their last day. The more the pants had decomposed over the weeks, the better the life in the soil.

The vineyard has also been building links with Bigglewade Adult Centre. During the planting days in May, a couple of their service users came to help plant vines. The vineyard planting days saw other Vineyard volunteers and Ivel Valley Conservation Partnership volunteers come together to prepare the vines for a busy summer of activity.

Not only is the vineyard itself used as a community and educational resource, but the grounds are also used to for other activities such as yoga and art sessions.

The vineyard has a range of tours and events throughout the summer. Find out more about these on the website.
<https://wardenvineyard.org.uk/event/open-day-2022/>

**Warden Abbey Vineyard, Bedford Rd, Biggleswade
SG18 9LS**

Get Outside this Autumn with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Taking a walk outside is known to help lift the spirits, and has real benefits to both body and mind. In fact, research shows that spending just two hours a week in nature can help us feel happier and healthier. Being outside in nature can have a calming and restorative effect, helping us to reduce stress. It can also help bring some relief to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression. And the best part is that getting outside in nature is free and available to all. Nature is everywhere!

Promoting health and wellbeing in communities is at the heart of Beds RCC's work. This is one of the reasons that

we are promoting National Self Care Week running November 14th until November 20th – whose theme is Exercise Care for Life.

Going out for a walk is something we can do to look after ourselves. And as the nights begin to close in, some of us may need to give ourselves that extra bit of self-care.

Beds RCC offers Wellbeing Walks across Bedfordshire - free, regular walks open to all. They are aimed particularly at people who are presently doing little or no exercise. They usually last from 60 to 90 minutes, though there are also some shorter 'beginners' walks.

Our walks are led by friendly people, specially trained for the job. Along with fellow walkers, our walk leaders provide all the advice and encouragement a new walker needs to build fitness at a pace that's right for them.

In just a short time, a small amount of regular exercise can significantly improve a person's health, well-being and confidence.

We're currently looking for new walk leaders, to help set up new and support existing Wellbeing Walks across the county. By becoming a volunteer walk leader, you can play a part in helping people to improving their health, well-being and confidence through walking.

For more information about Wellbeing Walks or to find out about becoming a volunteer walk leader go to www.bedsrcc.org.uk/wellbeing-walks or contact Mike Fayers on mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk or 01234 832619.

Another way Beds RCC help people to look after themselves is through our Social Prescribing service. Our Community Wellbeing Champions who help people to take control of their wellbeing by connecting them with their local community, improving physical activity, and empowering them to make decisions to support their health. Visit www.yourwellbeingbedfordshire.org.uk to find out more.



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: <a href="mailto:houghtonconqu<sup>e</sup>startsociety@outlook.com">houghtonconqu^estartsociety@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
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CRISIS TEXT LINE	Text "SHOUT" to 85258
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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	
Amphill - Houghton Close Surgery	01525 300898
- Oliver St Surgery	01525 631395

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

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