

HOUGHTON CONQUEST Village Newsletter

October 2023



Autumn?

Your Newsletter, for Your Village

HOUGHTON CONQUEST PARISH COUNCIL

Members

PCllr Sahqib Ali

PCllr Peter Bullock (Chair)

PCllr Sally Fisher

PCllr Liz Lovell (Vice-Chair)

PCllr Alan Ross

PCllr Bryn Whittaker

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

Highways/Horse Watch/Police
Liaison

TBA

Planning Sub-Committee

PCllrs Bullock and Whittaker

Village Hall

TBA

Play Area/Rewilding Liaison

PCllr Fisher

Sports Field

PCllr Lovell

Allotments/Orchard/SIDs

PCllr Lovell

School Liaison

FoHCLS

Tree Warden

PCllr Lovell and L Askham

Newsletter/Community
Facebook/United Charities

PCllr Bullock

Website

Parish Clerk

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.**

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

Please note that the closing date for insertion of copy into the December 2023 issue of The Houghton Conquest Village Newsletter is 21st November 2023

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

Parish Council Updates

Chair's Report



Hi All

October 2023 Chair's Report – PCllr Pete Bullock

Hi,

Firstly.....

Parking

We have received a number of complaints from residents over inconsiderate and, frankly, rather stupid parking incidents.

These include:

- Parking on pavements and blocking of driveways and access to garage blocks (Almers Close)

- Parking on pavements (Bedford Road)
- Blocking driveways and access to **Home Farm** (High Street)
- Access to Albert Place

Can I urge drivers to show some more consideration – pavement parking causes a risk to pedestrians and the blocking of driveways and other access is not only inconvenient and irritating to those who have the right to use these driveways and access routes but is also very rude and completely lacking in common sense. “I’m only going to be 10 minutes” is **NOT** a valid excuse. **Please use your brains delete**. The CBC Safer Communities & Partnership Team - Community Safety, Parking & Programmes have now passed on details to their patrol team.

Planning

The council held an additional meeting in August, owing to some urgent planning applications that we were asked to comment upon. There were two of these – the first being the erection of an amenity building and an increase in pitches from four to six **Where – this does not make any sense out of context**; the second was the full application for the development of the film and TV studio campus planned at Quest Pit, which falls within the parish boundary. The council resolved to not object to either of these applications. The Quest Pit development could well provide significant employment opportunities for residents both during its construction and later the ongoing operation of the facility.

New speed restriction

It was welcome news that the stretch of Bedford Road from the start of the existing 30mph limit to the B530 is to also now have a 30mph limit – ie the full length of Bedford Road will be subject to a limit of 30mph or less.

Orchard

The long-awaited replacement of the fence identifying the footpath at the end of Cherry Close towards the Orchard has now been completed and at the Orchard itself, a rustic bench has been commissioned and installed, incorporating the name sign. We are also arranging for the cutting back of bushes, brambles, clearance of ditches and removal of a couple of unwelcome trees around the Orchard area and the edges of the playing field.

Football

We are close to concluding an agreement for the football field for the forthcoming season. Having spent funds in getting both the pavilion facilities and the main pitch itself back in usable condition, it will be good to have these in regular use once again. There is some outstanding pitch work which we are chasing up and may have been completed by the time this is published.

Allotments

Down at the allotments, we are being provided with hedging from the Forest of Marston Vale Trust in order to restore the boundary.

Parish Councillor down

We are sorry to lose Bec Hares from the Parish Council as her expanded duties as our Unitary Councillor on Central Beds Council are such that she is unable to spend the time she would like to. As Unitary Councillor, she can still be approached to answer our questions and ask for her help in that role as we have been doing for the last 4 ½ years. We thank her for her service and help on the Parish Council over the last 5 or 6 years and will miss her input.

We are now four members short of a full council, so if you would like to contribute to your community just for the odd hour or two of your time, then please apply to our clerk, who will lead you

through the simple process. Email clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk or call 07563 527415

Kind regards

Pete

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

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Houghton Conquest Parish Council
NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:
The Clerk: clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

CENTRAL BEDS INDEPENDENT COUNCILLOR – Rebecca Hares



Please contact me at bex.hares@gmail.com or on 0300 300 8505 if you have any issues I may be able to help with.

Bec Hares



POLICE & HIGHWAYS MATTERS June 2023

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.

Whilst we continually report the multitude of potholes in and around the village via the CBC FixMyStreet app, it is always helpful for others to post these too, as multiple postings will draw more attention to them and potentially get them fixed more quickly.

You can access this by either going to:

<https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

or by downloading the **FixMyStreet** app on your phone available from Apple's App Store and Google Play

Houghton Conquest Crime Figures – August 2023

Offence	Number	Date	Place
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	1	13/08/23	Glebe Way
Perverting the course of justice	1	24/08/23	Banks Croft
Trafficking drugs	1	20/08/23	Four Acre Drive
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	1	20/08/23	Four Acre Drive
Public fear, alarm or distress	1	13/08/23	Stanbridge Way
Assault without injury	1	13/08/23	Stanbridge Way
Threats to kill	1	20/08/23	Four Acre Drive
Harassment	1	24/08/23	Undisclosed
Assault with injury	1	22/08/23	Banks Croft
Malicious communications	1	01/08/23	Undisclosed
Grand Total	10		

Data from SIDs (**Bracketed figures from previous report**) 10/08/23 – 14/09/23

0046 (The Grove) 20mph zone

Arriving – from The Grove towards the High street

Violations	53.61%	(55.87%) DOWN
Of which	69.71%	(71.02%) = 21-25 mph
	30.28%	(28.97%) = 26+
Average speed	21mph	(21mph)
V85	26mph	(26mph)

Average Vehicles per day **264** (317)

Total in period	9302	(11106)
Highest recorded	45mph	(46) Saturday 12th

August 14:00-15:00

Departing – from The High Street towards The Grove

Violations	69.66%	(73.99%) DOWN
Of which	63.20%	(61.84%) = 21-25 mph
	36.79%	(38.15%) = 26+
Average speed	22mph	(23mph)
V85	27mph	(27mph)

Average Vehicles per day	263	(327)
Total in period	9250	(11446)
Highest recorded	51mph	(67 mph) Sunday

20th August 08:00 – 09:00

0156 (Bedford Road) 30mph zone

Victoria Drive and Mill Lane

Arriving from The Oak

Violations	5.27%	(5.33%) DOWN
Of which	85.89%	(85.91%) =31-35
	14.10%	(14.08%) =35+

Average speed	23mph	(23mph)
V85	28mph	(28mph)
Average vehicles per day	716	(716)
Total in period	25342	(25067)
Highest recorded	63mph	(65mph) Thursday 24 th

August 20:00 – 21:00

Departing to the Oak

Violations	7.35%	(7.16%) UP
Of which	85.77%	(85.11%) =31-35
	14.22%	(14.88%) =35+

Average speed	24mph	(24mph)
V85	28 mph	(28mph)
Average vehicles per day	808	(837)
Total in period	28581	(29308)

Highest recorded
September 20:00 – 21:00

59mph (63mph) Friday 1st

0047 Pereville 30mph zone.

No new data available due to non-functioning SID.



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

Church Issues

Hello again everyone.

All Saints Houghton and All Saints, Wilstead are now 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 Fr. Paul Messam on 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 Vicar: Rev'd Mike Stuart. email: vicar2@elstow-abbey.org.uk

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

Team Ministry Website: www.elstowteamministry.org.uk

Services/Events for October are as follows:

1st October – 9.30am Harvest Holy Communion – Fr. Steve Marsh

8th October - 9.30am Holy Communion- Fr. Paul Messam

15th October – 9.30am – Holy Communion – Rev'd. Jennie Cappleman

22nd October – 9.30am – Holy Communion – Fr. Mike Stuart

29th October – Holy Communion with Blessing of Val Salter Window – Bishop Richard

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

We always 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 **Sarah Hannant** know on **07900 927050** 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.)

Fundraising & Events:

Autumn Fayre: Village Hall. It is pleasing that this event raised exactly £900 for the church heating fund after costs.

Oct 1st Harvest Service 9.30am in Church. **Harvest Lunch** in Village Hall – 1.00pm. Cost £10 adults, £5 children. Let Gary know on 741871 if you intend to come (it helps to know numbers for catering!)

All donations both monetary and in kind at this event and the morning Harvest Service will be donated to the Bedford Foodbank.

Oct 11th: The School are having their Harvest Celebration in Church.

October 29th: Holy Communion taken by the Bishop of Bedford. Do come and swell our numbers as we formally bless the new window to the memory of Val Alden-Salter

Looking forward.... Sorry to mention the ‘C’ word but Christmas will be upon us all too soon. Here is advance notice of events

Dec 15th - 17th: Christmas Tree Festival. (opening with School Carols on 15th. Service of Nine Lessons with Carols on 16th.)

Christmas Eve 24th Dec.: 3.00pm Christingle 11:30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass led by Fr Steve

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

100 Club: £10 winners for August/Sept were: Teresa Huckle, C. Hale, Heather Goldthorpe / Denise Molyneux, Babs Hill, Len Watts (re-donated to church). If you would like to find out more,

please contact Carol Juffs (01234 381393) or Jackie Davis (01234 740635)

Children's Society: The Box Collection for the Children's Society 2022/23 raised £420.81.

Carol Juffs sends her thanks to all who contributed

Best Wishes, Gary Mudd (01234 741871)

HOUGHTON CONQUEST CHARITIES

You may not be aware, but Houghton Conquest has its own small Charities, dating back many years: Charles I was on the throne when the first of the original charities was founded in 1621!

Originally designed to help the poor of the village with educational needs, food and clothing. As things have evolved over the years it now concentrates on educational needs.

Although there is not a vast amount available, rent is still received from the Village Hall, which enables the Trustees to continue to help those living in the Parish of Houghton Conquest.

Grants are available to Village Organisations and as well as individuals for educational purposes, and the good news is that there is no age limit, but applicants must be resident in the parish.

It is not possible to list all the areas where a grant might be given, but if funds cannot be realised anywhere else, you might well be able to obtain some help towards expenses from this organisation.

Of late we have assisted people with university books, computer and riding equipment required for study, some College expenses, and coaching fees.

As previously mentioned we do not have a huge treasury, BUT if

you need help and think we might be able to assist please complete the application form which is on the **Parish Council Website via this link:** Houghton Conquest Charities – Houghton Conquest Parish Council (houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk) and return the completed forms via email to helenmudd@tiscali.co.uk or deliver to

23 Victoria Drive, MK45 3LZ

Houghton Conquest Charities
Incorporating The Clerke & Wilde Educational Foundation
Charity No. 307480

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

AT

HOUGHTON CONQUEST VILLAGE HALL

ON

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18th, 7 for 7.30pm

TICKETS, INCLUDING BUFFET SUPPER, £12.50
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 Kate 01234740522
Jan 07940218634 Val 0759139116

HALLOWEEN FARM OPEN DAY

Chapel End Farm, Houghton Conquest MK45 3LW

Pumpkin Carving

Fancy dress competition

Spooky Arts & Crafts

**Scarecrow making
competition**

(bring along empty clothes with
you for stuffing)

Tractor Rides

Face painting

**Food & drink stands,
bar & lots more fun!**

Meet our animals



Saturday 28 October

Gates open at 11am - farm closes at 4pm

£5 per child - accompanying adult £1

Further information will be posted on our

Facebook: Chapel End Farm - Instagram: @Chapelendfarm0

THE JIGSAW CLUB PRESENTS

PAUL PERFORMS AS

ELTON JOHN

Experience one of the
UK's top tribute performers



APPEARING AT

THE PARKSIDE HALL, AMPTHILL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH 2023,

7 for 7.30pm

TICKETS, INCLUDING FISH AND CHIP SUPPER, £28.

This includes a £5 donation to the Jigsaw Club - Registered Charity Number 1161907

LICENSED BAR, RAFFLE AND ALL THE FUN
OF A JIGSAW FUNDRAISER

To purchase your ticket phone or text:

Phil 07904 953096 Fred 07720 381914

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
Friday (school term only)	Toddlers Group	9:30am to 11:30am
Friday	Yoga	6:30pm to 7:30pm

Monthly

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

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

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

- Run by volunteers for the benefit of the villagers. Hire charges are very reasonable with varying rates for day, evening and weekend, with residents getting preferential rates.
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Licensed bar with air conditioning at £25 hire charge
- Large hall including stage area with curtains
- Small committee room and lounge area
- Large car park

Village Notice Boards

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

- Hand them in to Houghton Conquest village shop.
- We have 6 noticeboards, so please provide 6 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.





Harvest will soon be upon us and the children are starting to plan activities, including harvest crafts, donations to our local food bank and practicing for their Harvest Festival which will be at the local church.

Open Days - Finally, we have planned some open day events for parents of children **starting school in September '24**. We welcome new parents to the school to have a look around and to ask all of your questions;

- ☐ _26th of September at 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- ☐ _27th of September from 9.15am to 10:30am
- ☐ _21st November 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- ☐ _22nd November 9.15am to 10:30am

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

Take Care

The Team at HCLS

Friendship – Tolerance – Courage – Peace



Houghton Conquest Garden Club



The summer show was a great success with lots of entries of fruit, veg and beautiful flowers, so it's a big thank you to everyone who entered, and also those who helped on the day.

Instead of a meeting in September we visited a garden in Bedford, and despite the rain it was a very enjoyable afternoon. On 10th October we have our AGM and after the business there will be cheese and wine and a quiz. Then on 14th November we have a speaker telling us about the dos and don'ts of Roses.

Now is the time to think about colour in the garden next spring, and all the Daffodil bulbs are in the garden centres. There are so many varieties to choose from, whether it's the miniatures for tubs and window boxes, or the taller ones for clumping up in borders. The paperwhite variety is not hardy so it can be grown indoors somewhere cool, and after about six weeks the flowers will start to open so that's the time to bring them into the living area so you can smell the lovely fragrance.

Margaret Whalley
01234 740892

Houghton Conquest Art Society



Save the date!

I am excited to tell you we have our first **Art and Craft Fair**, in the village hall Saturday 18th November. Stalls include card making, crochet, jewellery, painted stones, watercolours, oils, coloured pencil and resin paintings and more. You could stock up on Christmas presents and our legendary cakes will be on sale along with other refreshments. There will also be an opportunity for children (or grown ups) to make Christmas cards.

I will be holding a session on painted stones during October. Below is an example of what you can achieve on a very small pebble, some of you may recognise Jeremy Fisher from the tales of Peter Rabbit.



Please see our website or Facebook page for details of everything we are up to houghton-conquest-art-society.co.uk

We have recently started back after the summer break on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the village hall and, as usual, you are more than welcome to join our happy all abilities group. Our first professional artists demonstration was from Judith Jerams a very talented local watercolourist, who also works in a variety of other mediums. We invited Julia to help us with painting skies in watercolours. It is sometimes difficult to produce realistic clouds.

Simple cloud painting

If you study the sky you will notice all sorts of greys, mauve's, blues, pinks, yellows, even red. The simplest way for beginners is to paint the sky area of a landscape painting, is to wet the paper evenly with water, using a large watercolour brush. Always work on a flat surface, not an upright easel, when using watercolours, or they will run all over the place! Reload the brush with damp blue watercolour paint and work down the paper in horizontal bands, from side to side, starting at the top. You won't end up with stripes because of the dampness. Make the blue weaker as you move down towards the horizon, by adding more water to the blue colour. The sky near the horizon is generally paler and the eye is drawn towards the main subject area. Watercolour dries lighter than it looks when wet. Whilst the sky is still wet, blot out cloud shapes using small pieces or scrunched up kitchen roll. With this method you are revealing the bright white paper underneath the blue. There is no true white in watercolour paint, so this is a simple answer. Whilst the painting is still wet you could drop in tiny touches of grey, mauve etc., in the clouds or even the sky itself. Let the wet paint run a little and do its own thing, this keeps things natural rather than a contrived look. Clouds have hard and soft edges, bits of fluff, all sorts of wispy shapes, but they are never regimental so try not to make a row of identical clouds. Another idea is to take clouds out of wet blue sky with a thirsty brush, this is a dry watercolour brush that will blot up the wet paint. You can use different size brushes from big

fat soft ones to weeny brushes with a few hairs. These will create different effects. I find rolling the brush around creates something natural looking. Remember to wipe the brush as dry as possible in between paint blotting.

One very important point to remember is you must use thicker watercolour paper if its going to get very wet, or it will wrinkle and tape it to a board with masking tape. When you pull the masking tape off, after the paintings finished snap/pull the tape away from the paper not towards it, in a quick movement or you might tear the paper. You can buy low tack or artist masking tape, to prevent rips.

Simple cloud shapes - blotting method



Acrylic paint can be used like watercolour, very wet and thinned but it will dry quicker so you need to keep moving with any additional colours.

Painting clouds in Oil paints is entirely different. There are a few different whites, that can be painted on top of blue sky. You can wait for the blue to dry first but I prefer to add white whilst the oil paint is still damp, this makes for more soft realism. It's a good idea to add a tiny touch of a buff or cream colour to the white oil paint, because cloud are rarely pure brilliant white. You can add all the other cloud accents like dark shadows below. Practise storm clouds with a whole lot of different hues. The blotting method doesn't work with oils because they are too sticky, so you

are painting the clouds on to the canvas, but because it stays wet for some time you can fiddle until you are happy with the effect. There is a medium called Liquin which is sold in small bottles, this can be added to oil paint to make it less sticky and so it flows easily. Liquin also stops the white oil paint blending into the wet blue sky, it stays on top, if that's the effect you are after. Below is a rather dramatic sky of mine, where I went wild with colours, its called artists licence, you can do whatever you fancy!



We are all spending a evening practising skies and following Judith s lead. You can see more of Judith's work at Woburn Art Gallery or online, search for Judith Jerams. Here are some dramatic storm clouds over Dunstable Downs by Judith, they really create an atmosphere don't they!



We hope to see you soon.

Barbara Boxshall
Publicity Manager

All details of the society and contacts are on our website:

houghton-conquest-art-society.co.uk

We are also on Facebook.

Houghton Conquest Art Society **Programme for 2023**

18th October Fiona Wilson

Collage

Matisse cut outs. Talk and demo on how Matisse created his famous collages.

1st November Members' Evening

Collage - Use the Matisse cut out demo as inspiration for our creations

15th November TBC

Christmas tree decorations

6th December Xmas Social

20th December No meeting

Bowls Club



We would still very much welcome new members, (particularly those who feel fit enough to help roll the mat up after our session.) We meet in the Village Hall on a Monday afternoon (2.00 pm start until 4.00 pm with a break for tea and a biscuit). At the moment we pay £2.00 a session (but newcomers get their first visit free).

Please come along and it a go , it really is a very easy sport to play , it is not too competitive and all the equipment is provided.

If you would like further details please contact Monica (01234 743345) or just come along to the Village Hall at two o'clock on a Monday afternoon.



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 needs help with small tasks around the house, such as changing a light bulb or filling out a form.

For short return journeys, for example to Ampthill or Bedford we do ask for a small donation of £4.00 towards the cost of petrol for our volunteers. Where the journey is over 10 miles there is a charge of 45p per mile.

Thanks to our very willing team of volunteers, we are rarely unable to meet requests, but we always need more volunteers as there are times when we struggle to find drivers.

Drivers are re-imbursed for their petrol costs (currently 45p per mile) and any other out of pocket expenses, such as parking fees. We do have a parking permit that can be used for trips to the South Wing Hospital.

The Care Group have their own lightweight wheelchair that can be borrowed by villagers, but our drivers are not insured or trained to assist wheelchair users. If you would like to borrow the wheelchair contact Sue.

If you need assistance 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 at least 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

CARE GROUP AGM

Don' forget the Care Group AGM is on Saturday 28th October, 2 – 4pm in the Village Hall. 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 and need transport, contact Kate or Sue

Advanced notice for your diaries:

Our very popular quiz night, in conjunction with The Jigsaw Club, is to be held again this year in the village hall on Saturday 18th November at 7pm for 7.30pm

If you need help getting to and from Houghton Conquest Village Hall for the quiz, please phone Kate or Sue.

OUR PHONE NUMBER is 07969 982 970



We were very lucky to have a fine day for our August garden party in a member's garden, and at our September meeting we had artist Michael Peachey giving a demonstration of how to paint a landscape. He even got several members to help him with this. He is a very amusing speaker chatting away while he paints.

On 5th October we have a speaker from the RNLI, and then on 2nd November it's members evening when the committee have a

rest and three members take over organising the evening. The programme has changed for December as we will be visiting Waddesdon Manor to see their Christmas celebrations.

Each week several members go for a walk, we are also hoping to organise an afternoon tea at a garden centre next month and possibly a lunch. So there is a lot going on, and if you would like to join us for any of our meetings please come along to the village hall at 7.30 on the first Thursday of the month.

Shirley Johnson

THE GREEN PIECE

Good for the Planet, Good for Everyone

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



GREEN FAIR Sunday 8th October 11-3pm Parkside Hall, Ampthill
Lots of activities for children and adults (quizzes, craft, face-painting), stalls with produce and crafts from local sustainable businesses, information on recycling, local environmental charities and lots more. Bring your broken items including bicycles along to the Repair Café and Dr Bike. Ampthill Climate Change Group (the organisers) look forward to welcoming you.

HALLOWE'EN

Don't be **tricked** into thinking you have to buy a brand new outfit for your children or new decorations. Instead **treat** the planet and your pocket by avoiding buying more stuff or plastic. First of all, re-use what you've already got. Otherwise Charity shops have plenty of secondhand Halloween outfits or items that could be

turned into an outfit – thinking of black dresses for witches, white sheets for ghosts and zombies, orange for a pumpkin.

If you're buying a pumpkin to carve, do make soup, pumpkin pie or cakes out of the flesh. Over 18,000 tonnes of edible pumpkins go to landfill each year in the UK which, to my mind, is a dreadful waste of food and of land which could be used to grow something else. Also when Hallowe'en is over, please don't leave your pumpkin out. It seems a nice idea to leave it to the wildlife but badgers and hedgehogs can get very ill from eating pumpkins.

Treats – please avoid individually plastic-wrapped sweets. Perhaps wrap loose sweets yourself in tissue (biodegradable), put a few in a paper bag or lay out on a tray. (I appreciate no-one wants sticky fingers touching everyone else's treats). When my children were little we used to enjoy making fairy cakes, coloured orange or black, with spiders or witches hats in black icing or spiders' webs in white. Or decorating satsumas with spiders drawn on with a black pen.

Decorations – something to do at halfterm! Plenty of ideas online for making your own eg some easy-to-make bats out of toilet rolls on www.darcyandbrian.com/coffee-filter-bats-halloween-craft-for-kids or make some colourful fabric bunting which can be used every year, or paper bunting which can be recycled. (Please avoid plastic balloons.)

This barely needs to be said in our lovely village – whilst having fun at Hallowe'en, remember not everyone enjoys the event and some feel threatened by Trick or Treat. Most know that a decoration on the gate or door indicates visitors are welcome.

CHRISTMAS

Apologies for mentioning the C-word so soon but by next issue those organised souls (not me) will have done their preparations. Can we do Christmas without the Cost to the planet and pocket? Focus on family, friends and festivities (and obviously religious

meaning for many).

Cards – no need to give cards to those you will be seeing and can personally give warm wishes to. Consider emailing those further afield, saving on paper and stamps.

Wrapping – scarves or fabric can be used, either as part of the gift or just use your own and keep. Avoid using paper with foil or glitter on which can't be recycled. Possibly get a roll of plain brown paper and let the kids enjoy decorating it themselves with crayons or homemade stencilled snowflakes.

Gifts – fight the pressure of the advertisers and shops to buy lots. What does the recipient actually want or would they really appreciate and keep longterm? Would an experience – a day out doing something special together or a meal together – mean more than a physical gift?

Decorations – re-use what you already have or craft new ones out of environmentally-friendly materials like pine cones, garden greenery, paper, biodegradable glitter. Ignore the trends to make it gold and red this year or whatever.

Food – consider just how much you are really going to eat. There's so much temptation to buy more than you'll consume and it ends up in food waste.

GLOBAL WEIRDING is a good expression to describe the unusual weather the world is experiencing due to climate change. Global warming causes erratic weather, not only hotter weather. I've been finding it very scary watching the News with the wildfires in Greece and elsewhere in the Mediterranean, followed by severe flooding there and of course recently in Devon. A video of a hailstorm in Spain with hailstones the size of tennis balls made the film "The Day after Tomorrow" look like a documentary rather than fantasy. Australia's Spring temperatures are already 10°C higher than normal.

LOCAL BY-ELECTION - please question candidates about their green policies. We all need to act now on every aspect of our lives (health, work and economy, food availability, properties eg

flooding, subsiding, building on agricultural land, migration....) will be adversely affected. Creating a greener economy will bring jobs and a better life for all.

SHARE: Flitwick and Ampthill

Open Saturdays 10-12, entrance around back of Flitwick Village Hall. Free parking outside.

This is a “Library of Things” where instead of borrowing a book as from a conventional library, you can borrow tools, sewing machines, kitchen items, camping gear, party packs ... Items are being added all the time. The website has illustrations of the items which are available to borrow for a very small hire charge which will go towards replacing things like drill bits. All electrical equipment is PAT tested and volunteers check items between loans. There are now regular Repair Cafés where you can bring broken items to be fixed. <https://shareflitwickandampthill.org>

DIARY DATE: Sunday 8th October 11am-3pm - Green Fair, Parkside Hall, Ampthill

Rosalind Blevins
ros.blevins@btinternet.com



We had a good turnout for our opening films this season, but of course we would always welcome more of you! Why not come along and see how we do.

We have made a few changes for this season: firstly, the shows will start a little later, at 3:00 o'clock for the matinee (doors open 2:30) and 7:30 for the evening show (doors open 6:45) so you have more time to get something to eat before coming out.

Secondly, children go free for all performances; there is no change to the £5 admission for adults. Finally, only two of the matinees this autumn are aimed specifically for children, the other two are aimed at a wider audience. We would love to hear your comments on this.

Trevor Blevins & the ZONITA Team.

Saturday 14th October

3:00pm Minions – The Rise of Gru

7:30pm A Man called Otto 2022, Tom Hanks

Saturday 11th November

3:00pm War Horse

7:30pm Living 2022, Bill Nighy

Saturday 9th December

3:00pm Matilda, The Musical

7:30pm

The Fabelmans

Tables can be reserved free of charge via email or Facebook.

Licensed bar, ice creams and a selection of refreshments.

Tickets available on the door.

<http://zonita.org.uk>

email: zonitacinema@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/zonita.cinema

@ZonitaAmphthill

Ramblings



There has been a flurry of activity within the village over the last couple of months, where a number of groups have held various shows and fêtes.

Dog Show

The annual dog show was held at Chapel End Farm, hosted by Sarra and Adam Wilson and their team.

There were dogs of all shapes, sizes, colours and temperaments (the hot ones were only available from the barbeque). Categories were:

- Best Rescue
- Best Cross Breed
- Cutest Pup (6-12 m)
- Veteran Over 8 Years
- Most Handsome Dog
- Prettiest Bitch
- Best sausage catcher!
- Best Junior Handler
- Most obedient
- Scruffiest dog/bitch
- "Waggiest" Tail
- The dog the judge would like to take home.



The event was very well attended with over 250 two-legged and over 70 four-legged visitors. Adam and Sarra also managed to order some hot sunshine

I feel that there should have been some additional categories, such as Dog with the Wrinkliest Face.....



Or Judge with the Coolest Hat – obviously won by Debonair
Dave the Dog Whisperer



The Show was held in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance and a marvellous £700 was raised on the day.



The Village Hall held their monthly quiz on 1st September, a Family Autumn Fayre on 16th attended by hordes of locals (in aid of the Church Heating Appeal) and by the time this goes out, will have had a Back to the 80's Night. - it is hoped that there will be many more events in future months, with lots of them allowing villagers and guests to strut their stuff, make some shapes and shake their booty – whatever that means.

The Knife and Clever continue with their monthly quiz on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and live music on Friday evenings. There is now a new menu to tempt your taste buds.

What was the Chequers on the Ampthill Road just beyond How End, has now transformed itself into The Bowl – part of the Caffeine and Machine franchise, which provides a venue for those wishing to show off their customised cars or motorbikes and talk with fellow petrol heads, whilst drinking a coffee, a beer and eating a burger. Charges apply for parking at certain times (mostly weekends) to park your custom hot rod or your Vauxhall Corsa. Half the parking fee can be offset against purchases at the bar/kitchen.

The Garden Club held their Flower Show on 2nd September, which was, again, well attended.

We received an email from a resident pointing out the diversity of wildlife we are lucky enough to have in and around the village:

Hi,

I noticed an interesting amount of wildlife in our village recently and wondered if it would be of interest to the community by having the details in the Parish Magazine.

*The red admiral butterflies have been sighted for the second year
Foxes in Cherry Close (particularly in my garden)*

*Owls near Sybils Way
Muntjac deer in Bedford Road*

We are lucky to be able to see these beautiful creatures and particularly right on our doorstep!

Thank you for your input – should anyone else like to send any articles, comments or notes about anything in the village or surrounding area, whether wildlife orientated or otherwise, then please do send in.

Happy wandering

Pete

Commercial Advertising Rates:

Annual Rates = 6 Issues

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

Published every 2 months; April to February

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

Payments to: Houghton Conquest Parish Council



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or

Phone us on 01525 582002

or

Pop in for a chat and to meet the team



4-week block booking £36 / PAYG £10 a session
**If you would like to know more or view the timetable
 please find us on Facebook, Instagram or email –
info@thepilatesbox.co.uk**

NEW Pilates classes based in **Houghton Conquest village**. Small group classes to ensure correct posture and alignment in a friendly private studio. All abilities and ages welcome with equipment provided. Classes are 45 mins in length, including a warm-up, main session and closing stretch.

Pilates is a low impact form of exercise which is kind on the joints. Focusing on strengthening the **deepest core muscles** which support and wrap around the spine. There are many benefits to Pilates including the easing of lower back pain and reducing stress and anxiety.



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World Mental Health Day – Tuesday 10th October

Every year 10th October marks World Mental Health Day to raise awareness of mental health, drive positive change and encourage discussions about looking after our mental health. This year the theme is 'Mental Health is a universal human right'.

At Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, we have a number of services that can help those feeling isolated and alone or struggling with their mental health.

If you feel you need one-to-one support, our Social Prescribing service can help. Our team of Community Wellbeing Champions help people take control of their health and wellbeing and help people to connect with their local community, improve physical activity, and empower them to make decisions to support their health.

We have a range of Green Social Prescribing activities and courses available that are free to attend and help people to spend time in nature and look after their wellbeing.

Our Community Agents make home visits to older people living in towns and villages across Bedfordshire to help them with free support and assistance. Our Good Neighbour scheme supports groups to provide a 'safety net' for their local area, responding to requests from residents in need of a bit of extra help. We also provide wellbeing walks which are free and open to all.

Online resources

There are also many online resources available if you or someone you know needs support.

MIND

You can access lots of information on the MIND website, including tips for everyday living with mental health and for staying well at work.

Visit the MIND website (www.mind.org.uk) to find out more about looking after your mental health, the local support available and about World Mental Health Day.

Samaritans

If you feel like you need to talk to someone, you can contact the Samaritans. Call 116 123 any time, from any phone for FREE. Find out more: www.samaritans.org

Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation website has some tips on talking about your mental health, and talking to others about their mental health so you can have useful conversations and help each other. Visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk for more information.



mentalhealth.org.uk

Registered Charity No. England and Wales 801130 Scotland SC 039714
Company Registration No. 2350846

Find out more about Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and the ways we can help people struggling with their mental health at www.bedsrcc.org.uk or call us on 01234 838771.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is 70! Celebrate with their Platinum Ball on Friday 3rd November

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (Beds RCC) is the leading community development agency working across Bedfordshire, with a proven track record built over the past 70 years.

Beds RCC was originally set up in 1953 as part of the Rural Community Councils set up across the United Kingdom. During the first three years, they became associated with many social aspects of rural life – such as playgrounds and playing fields; clubs and services for the elderly; village halls and Parish Councils – which promoted improvements to their local communities. Many of this work still continues today, alongside new projects and services which have evolved over the years. Over the past 70 years, both past and current staff and volunteers here have been an integral part of improving the lives of those living in Bedfordshire. Beds RCC's projects and services benefit local communities in areas such as rural development, wellbeing, and community transport. The charity also owns two non-profit businesses: Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room and Warden Abbey Community Vineyard. The Platinum Ball is Beds RCC's main celebratory event of the year and will be held at The Bedford Swan Hotel, overlooking the River Great Ouse.

There are limited tickets available, so book your ticket soon to ensure you get a space. Tickets are £85 per person and include a drinks reception, three course dinner, after dinner

entertainment, DJ, silent auction and raffle. Purchase your ticket here: www.bedsrcc.org.uk/ball



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Please visit: www.bedsrcc.org.uk/ball or scan the QR code
below to purchase your tickets.

Please email info@bedsrcc.org.uk if you have any queries.



Do you want to get involved and help out your local community?

Find out more about Beds RCC's volunteering opportunities by visiting bedsrcc.org.uk, calling 01234 838771 or emailing info@bedsrcc.org.uk.

www.bedsrcc.org.uk

Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: @bedsrcc

Twitter: @bedsrcc

Instagram: @bedsrcc

LinkedIn: Bedfordshire Rural Communities

Charity



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: houghtonconqustartartsociety@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
Ampthill	0300 300 8053
Flitwick	0300 300 8057
ELECTRICITY (UK Power Networks) General Enquiries	0800 029 4285
ELECTRICITY (UK Power Networks) Power Cuts	0800 316 3105 or just 105
ANGLIAN WATER	0800 145145 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.