

HOUGHTON CONQUEST Village Newsletter

December 2022



Almost Christmas

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/Police
Liaison

PCllr Fry

Planning Sub-Committee

PCllrs Bullock and Whittaker

Village Hall

TBA

Play Area/Rewilding Liaison

PCllr Fisher

Sports Field

PCllr Lovell (K)

Allotments/Orchard/SIDs

PCllr Lovell (L)

School Liaison	Anthony Mullin
Tree Warden	PCllr Lovell (K) 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.**

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

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

Welcome to your Christmas edition of the Village Newsletter. On behalf of your Parish Council, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope it will be a happy, healthy and prosperous one for us all but we are all aware of the challenges ahead due to the cost of living crisis. Please look after each other and try to help out where you can. You have already proved that as a community we can pull together to support each other. Let's hope that continues.

By the time you read this the Christmas lights should be on and the tree will be up by the Church and the Village will be looking festive.

As a result of ongoing residents' concerns a Public Meeting with Anglian Water was set up. Three members of their infrastructure team attended and answered questions relating to the repeated water pipe bursts experienced during the Summer. A transcript of the meeting is available on the Parish Council website. Whilst the result was not the outcome wanted by the residents the meeting did provide some clarity regarding the infrastructure situation and additional services offered by AW in relation to testing water pressure and water quality.

The outdoor gym equipment has been installed and early reports seem to indicate that it is being regularly used and enjoyed. The

one downside has been the increase in litter on the site but this will shortly be addressed by the provision of a new bin – a small price to pay for an area that can be used and enjoyed by the community with the hope of improving the health and fitness of the Village.

One other area of recreational provision that requires attention is the skate park. This has been out of action for a long time due to damaged surfaces and unsafe equipment. It has been decided that we need to address the situation and in order to do this we have set up a public consultation forum. This is accessible through the PC website, email, social media and through Royal Mail. If you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire please contact the Clerk – Jo Graves by telephone 07563 527415 or by email at clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk. You will then receive a copy of the survey via Royal Mail with a stamped addressed envelope for you to return your thoughts. Further details can be found further on in this newsletter. Please do leave your comments. Any thoughts from the end users of this project would be especially appreciated.

The number of elected Councillors on your Parish Council has hit a low point. There is a real danger that the Council will not be quorate at meetings which means that we will not be able to make any decisions about anything – in fact the Council will cease to function. It is therefore, even more important that you take the time to consider whether you can spare the time to join us.

We are also aware that the Council does not have any representation from the newer parts of the Parish in the Wixams. There may well be issues in that part of the Village that we are completely unaware of. If you want your issues addressed by the Parish Council then you need to be represented so please consider either becoming a Parish Councillor or attending our regular meetings. We want to help but can't if we don't know what needs doing.

If you feel that you would like to join us please contact the Clerk at clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you all the very best for the Festive Season. Merry Christmas.

Warm regards

Liz

*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*

REPORT FROM YOUR CENTRAL BEDS COUNCILLOR – Rebecca Hares



SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE CONSULTATION

Get involved in the consultation for alterations to structure of the education placements for our children. The proposal would see Houghton Conquest Lower School extended to include Years 5 & 6 as a Primary School, Holywell Middle School altering to become a Secondary School and Wootton Upper also extending

to be a Secondary School. The future plans for Marston Vale Middle School and Shelton Lower School (currently a Special Educational Needs setting) are yet to be determined. Please complete the survey either by the form on the website or writing to:

Schools for the Future, Priory House, Monks Walk,
Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

schoolsforthefuture@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

PLANNING MATTERS

I recently shared information regarding the Council's new endeavour in Development. The Council have created their own Private Development Company and have so far provided £1.1m of taxpayer money to finance this company known as New Vista Homes. The Board of Directors of this company consists of Employees of CBC, CBC Elected Members (Conservative) and Employees of New Vista. At the last Development Management Committee meeting a Council owned site in Haynes was being brought forward by the Council's Development Company. This site was considered appropriate in the Council's Local Plan – but little investigation found that the Council's own assessment criteria had not been applied consistently to this site, when compared with similar (arguably more suitable) sites within Haynes village. The running costs of this company will be provided by the taxpayers to an expected cost of more than £40million by 2026. Independent Councillors and the public have been refused access to the business plan and the icing on the cake the Elected Members responsible for implementing the Local Plan and it's delivery – sit firmly on the Development Management Committee, effectively marking their own homework. Central Bedfordshire Council are selling off public assets, with associated costs paid for by the public, limited ability to scrutinise and dismissing the public's objections.

POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER SURVEY

There is a survey on what Residents believe the focus of the Police should be on in this area and how effective PCC Festus Akinbusoye (Conservative) has been in his role over the past 18 months. The survey can be found on the Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner website or in writing to the addresses below.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, Bridgebury House, Bedfordshire Police Headquarters, Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedford MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842064

Email: PCC@beds.police.uk

The role of the PCC costs the taxpayer £71,000 in basic salary, and recent appointment of a Deputy Central Bedfordshire Councillor Ian Dalgarno (Conservative) at an annual salary of £32,130 for a 3-day week. Equating to more than £100,000 of the taxpayers funds (before expenses claimed on top of the basic salaries); this eye-watering sum should give taxpayers peace of mind that hard-working officers in the force are well-funded, equipped and supported in their efforts to protect their communities and solve crimes.

A recent FOI by Independent Councillors has found that:

- 11% of all crimes in Bedfordshire were solved last year
- 6% of rapes were solved (despite national statistics showing 90% of victims know their assailant)
- 1% of bicycle thefts are solved (9 out of 643 last year)
- 8% of burglaries are solved.
- 6% of stalking/harassment cases solved.
- 4% of vehicle offenses are solved.

Perhaps the funding and expenses allocated to the PCC and Deputy could be used to provide officers additional resources and recruit additional Police Officer jobs. Make your voice heard and let's get funding where it is needed.

WASTE COLLECTIONS

The collection of garden waste will be suspended for the winter months from the 5th of December 2022 until the 24th of February 2023.

Waste collection over Christmas and New Year will be delayed one day from the normal collection day and collections will revert to normal on Monday 9 January 2023.

Revised refuse and recycling collections days:

- Monday 26 December will be collected on Tuesday 27 December
- Tuesday 27 December will be collected on Wednesday 28 December
- Wednesday 28 December will be collected on Thursday 29 December
- Thursday 29 December will be collected on Friday 30 December
- Friday 30 December will be collected on Saturday 31 January
- Monday 2 January will be collected on Tuesday 3 January
- Tuesday 3 January will be collected on Wednesday 4 January
- Wednesday 4 January will be collected on Thursday 5 January
- Thursday 5 January will be collected on Friday 6 January
- Friday 6 January will be collected on Saturday 7 January

Recycling Centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day when they're closed. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, they will be open between 9am and 1pm and all other dates will operate as normal.

Real Christmas trees will be collected for recycling between Monday 9 and Friday 20 January 2023 inclusive.

BUS SERVICE

I have been recently asked about supporting Wixams with timetable improvements to the new MK1 service. Unfortunately, this service is completely private and though the Council can make suggestions, they have no influence. I am talking to Public Transport Officers, in conjunction with Bedford Borough Council, investigating the possibility of using Section 106 money from development in the area to reinstate the old bus service that used to go through Houghton Conquest and Wilstead to Bedford – introducing stops in Wixams. Feedback on this suggestion would be really useful.

ANGLIAN WATER

I am still yet to receive any update from Anglian Water following the Public Meeting held in October, which is disappointing but not unexpected.

Residents are often shocked and appalled by the things I find out that are going on at the Council and want to know how it happens and what we can do to change it. My advice is – keep yourself informed of what is going on locally. Know what your Local Councillors are up to, whether they are your Ward Councillors or not, and talk about it – most importantly don't forget it when all the campaign leaflets start flying around full of empty promises as they make their way to the taxpayer gravy train.

Merry Christmas, Bec



SKATE PARK CONSULTATION

As you may be aware our village skate park and youth shelter have become worn, damaged, and vandalised. There is no guarantee that if these are repaired, that they will not end up the same condition.

As a result, the Parish Council are seeking to consult with residents as to what you would like us to do.

We are asking that if you wish to be part of this consultation, you complete a questionnaire to indicate your preferred outcome.

The questionnaire can be found online by entering the link below into your browser

<https://forms.office.com/r/AdJpiTfYdh>

Or if you would prefer a paper copy, then please contact our Parish Clerk by phone or email (details below) and you will be sent one along with details as to where to return this to.

Email: clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07563 527415

The closing date for responses is 31st December 2022

Houghton Conquest Parish Council



POLICE & HIGHWAYS MATTERS November 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 – October 2022

Offence	Number	Date	Place
Sexual	2	23/10/22 25/10/22	Undisclosed
Stalking	1	14/10/22	Undisclosed
Theft or unauthorised taking of pedal cycle	1	15/10/22	The Orchard
Assault without injury	1	11/10/22	Horseshoe Crescent
Theft from a motor vehicle	1	02/10/22	High Street
Attempt Burg – bus and com	1	12/10/22	High Street
Assault with intent to cause harm	1	12/10/22	High Street
Criminal damage to a vehicle	1	12/10/22	High Street
Grand Total	9		

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

13/10/22 – 10/11/22

0046 (The Grove) 20mph zone

Arriving – from The Grove towards the High street

Violations	53.91%	(54.75%)
Of which	69.46%	(68.39%) = 21-25 mph
	30.53%	(31.06%) = 26+
Average speed	21mph	(21mph)
V85	26mph	(26mph)

Average Vehicles per day	269	(250)
Total in period	7501	(14031)
Highest recorded	52mph	(49) Sunday 6th
November 20:00 – 21:00		

Departing – from The High Street towards The Grove

Violations	70.86%	(70.24%)
Of which	63.66%	(63.47%) = 21-25 mph
	36.33%	(36.52%) = 26+
Average speed	23mph	(23mph)
V85	27mph	(27mph)

Average Vehicles per day	258	(258)
Total in period	7197	(9073)
Highest recorded	55mph	(61 mph) Wednesday 26th
October 09:00 – 10:00		

0156 (Bedford Road) 30mph zone 13/10/22 – 10/11/22

Between Victoria Drive and Mill Lane

Arriving from The Oak

Violations	6.43%	(7.14%) Down	
Of which	83.67%	(83.16%)	=31-35
	16.32%	(16.83%)	=35+

Average speed	24mph	(24mph)	
V85	28mph	(28mph)	
Average vehicles per day	749	(729)	
Total in period	20881	(25621)	
Highest recorded	60mph	(59mph)	Sunday 16 th
October 06:00-07:00			

Departing to the Oak

Violations	9.91%	(10.06%) up	
Of which	83.6%	(84.29%)	=31-35
	16.39%	(15.7%)	=35+

Average speed	25mph	(25mph)	
V85	29 mph	(29mph)	
Average vehicles per day	897	(834)	
Total in period	25008	(29330)	
Highest recorded	60mph	(64mph)	Tuesday 18 th
October 21:00-22:00			

0047 Chapel End Lane 30mph zone. 13/10/22 – 10/11/22

Arriving – from Chapel End

Violations	4.97%	(3.84%)	
Of which	85.91%	(88.1%)	= 21-25 mph

	14.08%	(11.89%)= 26+
Average speed	22	(21)
V85	27	(27)
Average Vehicles per day	303	(346)
Total in period	8457	(1386)
Highest recorded	54	(46) Friday 21st October 14:00 – 15:00

Departing towards Chapel End

Violations	4.37%	(4.55%)
Of which	83.39%	(84.13%) = 21-25 mph
	16.06%	(15.86%) = 26+
Average speed	21mph	(22mph)
V85	27mph	(27mph)
Average Vehicles per day	224	(223)
Total in period	6257	(891)
Highest recorded	62mph	(47mph) Wednesday 19th October 11:00-12:00

Letters from Residents

PUBLIC MEETING WITH ANGLIAN WATER ON 20.10.2022 **“Never still never stop- Anglian water love every drop!”**

We would like to thank our Ward Councillor Rebecca Hares and our Parish Council for arranging and minuting this important meeting with Anglian Water (AW) after requesting their help at a PC meeting.

We would also like to say a very “BIG THANK YOU” to everyone who attended the Public meeting with Anglian Water on 20th October. We had asked for this Public meeting in our Formal Complaint letter to AW CEO, MP and local Councillors, following

5 out of 10 days of interruptions to our water supply in August this year, we live in Mill Lane and Bedford Road, and other roads were affected too.

With limited spare time I did manage at the last minute to type, print and distribute some flyers about the meeting in the Bedford Road area where the majority of the homes were affected. This seemed successful and we were so pleased with the number of residents who attended and spoke out in support of us. It was very reassuring to hear the comments and questions by some of the skilled engineers present, members of the public and our councillors which we believe the three AW representatives present were a bit surprised at.

The AW representatives present confirmed that 8 burst/faults which occurred in July and August in the Bedford Road region were due to a faulty PRV (pressure reducing valve) which was placed in 2016. This controls the water pressure with regards to this old remaining asbestos pipe in Bedford Road, which many of us commented affects our household water pressure showers, toilets, washing machines etc. The AW engineers' advice was to contact them to check individual properties.

In our email correspondence with AW CEO Peter Simpson, his response and answer to the many and some very long interruptions of our water supply many of us experienced was due to the extremely hot weather conditions causing ground movement and in turn bursts etc....However he had not mentioned about the PRV being faulty and have challenged this in our response to him. Many residents have complained along with ourselves that AW communication has been appalling and this he agreed and has apologised for- so now a case of WTS!

In our opinion the general consensus of the public at the meeting was that the old asbestos pipe in Bedford road is 'no longer fit for purpose' and should now be replaced, particularly as seemingly the hot weather is causing ground movement affecting this old pipe and in turn bursts, but this did not affect the newer MDPE

pipes (medium density polyethylene) in place elsewhere in the village, proving our point raised that it was not the weather causing the problem, but the fact it is an old asbestos pipe!

We would like the Anglian Water publicised statement to be the same for paying customers in the village which was definitely not the case this summer! - “Never still never stop- Anglian Water love every drop”. ‘Their’ water supply did stop, and far too frequently for many residents in the Bedford Road area!

After the meeting I thanked the AW representatives for attending this meeting, and also outlined that should there be a repeat of this next year that I would protest and contact media, and authorities to draw attention and get ourselves heard RE: AW failures to replace this old asbestos pipe with the new MDPE pipes so that all their customers are treated equally and get a good service with their water supply. If you would like to join me, should it be necessary my contact number is 07899 806461.

Thank you from - Julie Bave, Graham Bave and Mac Harvey.



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. An update on events over Advent and Christmas

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 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

Services/Events for December are as follows:

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

Dec. 9th – 11th CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL Fri: 6.00pm – 9.00pm, Sat: 11.00am-4.00pm, Sun: 11.00am-4.00pm

(Do join us for the Friday opening with Mulled wine and nibbles and Carols from the School Children)

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

(Mulled wine and Mince Pies afterwards)

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.

January services are either Holy Communion or Morning Praise at 9.30am each Sunday

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

Val Salter Memorial Window: We now have a faculty from the Diocese to proceed and are meeting with Bedford Stained-Glass to move forward and bring this project to a joyful fruition!

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. Pleasingly we have had some new parishioners join us and it would be lovely to have more to move our church forward and help with its day to day running and services.

100 Club: Oct. £10 Winners: Christine Bates; L. Fuller; Isabel Davies.

Nov. £10 Winners: Isabel Davies; Valerie Souster; Naomi Hennessy.

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: 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)

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 \(houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk\)](http://HoughtonConquestCharities-HoughtonConquestParishCouncil(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



The Houghton Conquest Local
Voluntary Unit



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 10th December 2022

12PM-4PM



Houghton Conquest Village Hall
High Street, Houghton Conquest, Beds, MK45 3LL



Hot Turkey Rolls | Santa's Grotto* | Local
Business Stalls | Arts & Crafts | Animal Petting |
Raffle | Tombola | Hot Chocolate | Bar | Music |
Face Painting | Fun and Games and so much more!



*Tickets to our super special Santa's grotto
must be pre-booked.
Booking will open on 1st Dec 2022. Scan this QR code or visit
www.pta-events.co.uk/fohcls/ to book from 1st Dec.
NOTE; You'll need to sign in or register before booking.



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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- Licensed bar with air conditioning at £25 hire charge
- Large hall including stage area with curtains
- Small committee room and lounge area
- Large car park

Village Notice Boards

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

- Hand them in to Houghton Conquest village shop.

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

Any queries please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk

Houghton Conquest Lower School

Friendship Tolerance Courage Peace

The **autumn term** is well and truly under way! It is great to see all the children and staff fully immersed into the learning around their topics. Last half term was very rewarding here at school and it was wonderful to see how all the children settled and how much progress each child made in such a short time. I am very much looking forward to seeing this continue.

Remembrance - Our year 4 children have been learning about WW1 and WW2. The children across the school have learnt about the Poppy Appeal and had the opportunity to

purchase a poppy to wear, along with observing the 2-minute silence. We thought we would share with you some amazing remembrance artwork made by our preschool children. I am sure you will agree they are wonderful.



We **welcome** a member of staff to our team; Miss Carroll as a Teaching Assistant and has enjoyed getting settled into her new role.

Christmas will soon be upon us and the children are starting to plan activities. This year, our pre-school and Robins class will be taking part in a Christmas Nativity Story and the remainder of the school are also taking part within a Christmas story all together, they are all busy rehearsing. We will be having a Christmas dinner and Jumper day which always causes much excitement. The children will also be attending a **Pantomime** supported by the Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School, which is an annual event organised by them – thank you Friends!

Christmas Tree Festival will take place on Friday 9th December at 6pm at the village church, and our year 3 and 4 children will once again be singing a couple of Christmas carols to open the Festival.

Christmas Fayre (Friends Event) will take place on Saturday 10th December. This annual fundraising event is taking place at Houghton Conquest Village Hall from 12noon until 4pm. There will be many amazing stalls to buy your Christmas gifts from and even a Santa's Grotto (*to be booked in advance*). *For more details please contact the school office.*

Finally, we do still welcome parents of children starting school in September '23 to get in touch with us if you wish to come and visit us and have a look around. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school office, 01234 740202. We look forward to welcoming you.

Take Care.

The Team at HCLS

Friendship Tolerance Courage Peace

Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School

After what has been an incredible year for both the school and the charity; the Friends are delighted to invite the whole village to the Annual Christmas Fayre, in support of the school. Everyone is welcome, there are lots of stalls, activities, animals, food – the village hall bar is also open! Santa will be available to book from December 1st – first come first served with limited spaces! So, come along, have some awesome fun and festive cheer, can't wait to see you there.

All proceeds raised will be used by the school to provide enrichment activities for the whole school, including Forest School, external trips and a year of incredible memories!!!

Little Friends Toddler Group

The Little Friends Toddler Group is a playgroup for Children of preschool age to play and meet new friends, whilst their parents / carers get a chance to relax with a cuppa and a chat.

The group runs during term time at Houghton Conquest Village Hall, 9.30-11.30am on Fridays. We ask for a £2 donation per child towards the running of the group, in return for as much tea, coffee and biscuits as you can handle.

The group is run by me, Anthony; I am a local dad of 3 little ones, as well as being the Chair of the Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School Charity. I am passionate about giving local parents the chance to meet and be a part of a supportive and friendly community.

There is no need to prebook, please just come along and enjoy! Feel free to check out and join our Facebook page so we can spread the word on this lovely little group. Final session for 2022 will be December 9th, returning on January 6th.

Houghton Conquest Garden Club



At our November meeting Joe Sharman gave us a very informative demonstration on different types of propagation, such as softwood, hardwood and root cuttings.

Our December meeting is a meal out at a local hostelry, and then on 10th January there will be a talk by John Gibson on growing and showing Daffodils. The postponed talk by Justin Swan about rewilding the field at the village hall will be on 14th February, and this will give us the opportunity to ask questions about what will happen.

Some bees are increasingly active in the winter now, so we can help them out by growing plants such as Heather, Mahonia and Hellebore which all flower during the winter. Avoid overwatering houseplants as they don't need so much water at this time of year, but they do need plenty of light. If the leaves start to go yellow it is probably because of low light levels, so a south facing windowsill is a good place for them.

Margaret Whalley
01234 740892

Houghton Conquest Art Society



We have enjoyed a wide variety of professional local artists demonstrating this Autumn. We learnt how to create themed paper collages from scraps of torn paper, pasted onto card, using a simple glue stick such as Pritt Stick. Torn paper edges look more natural for the background, with carefully cutout shapes on the top layer. This is a cheap, fun project for a rainy afternoon perhaps, with bits and bobs from around the home or garden.

Below Fiona Wilson, the visiting artist, is demonstrating the technique. The second photo is Fiona's work in progress. At that point we broke off for refreshments, a closer look and a chat with Fiona. Finally, you can see her finished article completed in just an hour and a half.





What follows are examples of our members creations. In the first one John has used an autumnal theme for the background then a selection of dried leaves from his garden on top. The leaves are not fully glued down giving a very effective 3D appearance.



In the above collage Karen has also used a garden/nature theme. I particularly like the snail peeping round the corner. The creatures need not be to scale, a variety of sizes actually improves the effect. Karen looked through numerous magazines tearing out bits and pieces that she might be able to use. The next stage is to arrange these pieces on the card base, without

glueing, tearing them to fit a pleasing layout. Overlapping and interweaving the papers is a good idea. When you are happy with the background layout it's a good move to take a photo, then when you stick them down you will remember exactly where they went!

Finally on top of the background you can glue your subject matter, be it pictures of flowers, animals, leaves, insects or whatever you fancy that fits in with the background theme.

You can create lovely, personal card fronts with this method for birthdays, weddings etc., they could be for adults or children.

We had an good evening learning lino cutting and printing. Several members made Christmas cards with this method. A kit for lino cutting with all the instructions can be purchased cheaply from Hobbycraft or online.

Currently we are working with pinecones to make colourful Christmas decorations for the Christmas tree in the beautiful Houghton Conquest church, which we will decorate ready for Christmas, as usual.

We have a very varied and interesting programme for 2023, none of which requires you to be an accomplished artist. Beginners and old hands at art are welcomed just the same at our friendly club, do join us, all details are on the website, feel free to ring for a chat about the club activities first, if you prefer. Happy Christmas and a creative new year from us.

We produce a calendar which will shortly be online to purchase and makes a good present. Each page a different Bedfordshire site, painted by 12 different artists from the society. They have been sent to the US, South Africa and Botswana, so far to local people living abroad.

You can purchase one of these by going to www.askonline.shop and scrolling down to Houghton Conquest Art Society page and click.

If you find the 2022 calendar, then please try again in a couple of days, but hopefully the 2023 calendar will have been uploaded by the time you read this.

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.



Bowls Club

Following our invitation a short time ago we were pleased that a few newcomers tried their hand at bowling with us and we hope we will see them again as regular bowlers in the near future .

Sadly however as time catches up with long standing bowlers we are still depleted and would 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

If you are a new resident of Houghton Conquest, you may not be aware of the Houghton Conquest Care Group.

The group started in 1994 to help parishioners and since then we have answered nearly 7,000 requests for assistance. As a village community with a poor bus service, no doctor or chemist, the Care Scheme is a lifeline to many residents of all ages.

The Care Scheme is run by volunteers for the benefit of ALL who reside within both the old and new areas of Houghton Conquest.

Anyone wanting assistance calls the mobile phone (07969 982 970) and the call handler will arrange for one of our volunteers to assist. As most requests are for transport to local surgeries and hospitals, those helped give a donation of £4.00. For longer journeys there will be an additional charge depending on the distance travelled. All our drivers are Disclosure and Barring Service (previously CRB) checked.

We need more volunteer drivers as our main request is for transport to and from the local doctors' and dentists' surgeries as well as help with getting to and from local hospitals. Drivers are re-imbursed for their petrol costs (45p per mile) and any parking charges incurred. Even the offer to drive only one day a week would be helpful. Most journeys are booked several days ahead so you do not have to stay in waiting for a call.

We also need people willing to do such good-neighbourly tasks as changing a light bulb, collecting a prescription, filling in a form or doing a little shopping for someone who is housebound.

If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer please contact Sue Derrick (07886 459225) or Kate Smith (01234 740522).

OUR PHONE NUMBER is 07969 982 970

You may need to leave a message but the call handler will contact you to make arrangements to help. Just leave your name, telephone number, address and details of the help needed, e.g. "transport to a doctor's appointment next Tuesday at 10.30am in Ampthill".

These telephone numbers are also in each edition of the Parish Magazine.

The Care Group is funded by the small charge made (£4.00 per trip), by other donations and by funds raised by the Group.



One of our members gave a floral art demonstration at our November meeting, when she did seven beautiful arrangements which were raffled off at the end the evening. On 1st December we will be having a social evening when some of us will read poems or funny stories with a Christmas theme, and no doubt there will be a few carols sung.

Our new year party is on 5th January when we will have a three course meal, followed by entertainment. If you would like to join

us for this evening please give me a call on 07951 024876 for more details.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings which are held on the first Thursday of the month in the village hall starting at 7.30. Why not give it a try.

Shirley Johnson

Houghton Pioneers



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

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.



“No one is too small to make a difference” Greta Thunberg
It may seem as an individual you can't do much against global governments determined to keep on emitting carbon and destroying the environment. Individual personal actions might not seem much but taken collectively can result in change.

CHRISTMAS

With the current cost-of-living crisis many may be worried even more than usual about the potential cost of Christmas. I posted lots of suggestions last year for making Christmas more sustainable, both on your pocket and for the planet – see <https://houghtonconquest-pc.gov.uk/parish-newsletter> - December 21 newsletter. Tip: if you have parcels to post, plastic-

free parcel tape is far easier to use than conventional tape and sticks well.

As far as I'm concerned the most important part of Christmas is having Fun with Friends and Family. It's their Presence not their Presents that counts. It was recently announced that the global population is now 8 billion, was 7 billion just a decade ago. That's a lot more children for Santa to find presents for – his elves must be working overtime. Perhaps he can be excused for giving fewer or smaller gifts to each individual this year.

Earlier in the year I joined others taking on the challenge to try to buy "Nothing New in 22" (secondhand and materials to make repairs etc allowed but still trying to reduce consumption altogether). I'll write more once the year's complete and Xmas over.

One thing that could help reduce individual purchases, save money and space at home, especially for items you only use once in a while, is:

SHARE: Flitwick and Ampthill (see poster below)

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 ... 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.

On Saturday 10th December, Zoe Austin of CBC will be there to answer your questions on recycling. From January it is hoped that Share will be open every Saturday morning.

SWITCH YOUR SEARCH ENGINE TO ECOSIA

Why? - If the internet were a country, it would rank #3 in the world for electricity consumption. According to *How Bad are Bananas?*, a single Google search could generate up to 4.5g CO₂ depending on the type of device you're using, which is more than watching an hour's worth of TV on a 15" LCD flat screen. Ecosia is a search engine that is carbon negative - they plant trees with their profits, and have their own solar arrays that

provide twice the renewable energy than they use. So every search with Ecosia actually removes CO₂ from the atmosphere.

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

Amphill Climate Change Group has lots of advice on their website including the local recycling directory. www.amphillclimatechange.co.uk.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy and Sustainable Christmas and New Year

Rosalind Blevins
ros.blevins@btinternet.com

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**



WELCOME TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OF THINGS



Share: Flitwick and Ampthill is now open for membership and borrowing. Find out all about us, browse the library and become a member at www.shareflitwickandampthill.org

Come and meet the team **10am-12 noon** on **Saturdays**
26th November, 10th and 17th December.
We're in the **Conference Room in Flitwick Village Hall** - entry at the back of the building.
Call in to chat about membership and borrowing over a cup of tea or coffee.
Donations, offers of help and suggestions all welcome!

Save Money Save Space Save the Planet

Registered Charity No 1198511
Email: info@shareflitwickandampthill.org

Ramblings



It has got darker for longer, as you may have noticed and on those days recently where rain has been re-introduced, I find myself somewhat grumpy. Some might say that they haven't noticed any difference, however I am much jollier when the sun shines, although, being British, obviously not when it's too hot.

The earlier darkness struck me particularly when commencing a walk to Clophill one afternoon about 3:30pm, I found by the time I got to Maulden Woods about 4:00, I could barely see where I was going. Fortunately, I had already passed all the places where I have been known to go the wrong way (I have form), so was able to stumble from tree to tree, being guided by the sound of traffic on the A6. Will take a torch next time.....or a car.

Witches, extortion by children and commemorating the failure to blow up Parliament.

We do have some strange customs in the early winter months!

There were multiple firework parties throughout the village (I hope all pets were kept safe). During a particularly loud period that sounded like all the bangs were going off in my garden, my daughter, who was on the phone to me at the time, piped up that it sounded like her neighbourhood. Nothing to do with any fireworks at her end – she just lives in Chicago.

Remembrance Sunday

Prayers were said and wreaths were laid in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the benefit of the rest of us, in conflicts both old and more recent. In particular, those who came from the Parish and fell in the two World Wars. In attendance were representatives of The Royal British Legion, HC Lower School, Central Beds and Parish Councils and a number of other villagers.





Go and see Gym

The long-awaited outdoor gym has now been installed and early reviews from those physical types are that it is really good. It is located next to the sports pavilion on the playing field behind the Village Hall. It is of good quality and offers a range of exercises.

So put on your lycra and plimsols and get sweaty!





Christmas

Yup – it's nearly here! By the time you read this or shortly thereafter, the village lights will be twinkling and our Christmas Tree will be up. Get the sprouts on.

Have a great Christmas or whatever other festival you may celebrate and a splendid New Year.

Pete



The Jigsaw Club Amphthill

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

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



We've had a good season so far; our last show before Christmas is on the 10th Dec at the Parkside Hall in Ampthill. We are showing *The Grinch*, an old favourite for the children, followed by *West Side Story* in the evening. Please note the revised times for this show only.

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

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

Trevor Blevins & the ZONITA Team.

MATINEE PROGRAMME

Sat 10th Dec **The Grinch** (*NB. Later start for this film only – doors open at 4:00, film starts at 4:30*)

Adults: £3 – Children: £3

EVENING PROGRAMME

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 6:30PM, Show starts 7:30PM

Adults: £5 – Children: £3

<http://zonita.org.uk> email: zonitacinema@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/zonita.cinema

@ZonitaAmpthill

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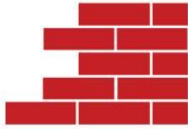
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Registered Charity no. 1077055

Help create a new nature reserve for Bedfordshire!

Local environmental charity The Greensand Trust is working hard to create a new nature reserve for Bedfordshire at Clophill Lakes, transforming a former restored quarry site into a haven for wildlife which it expects to open to the public next year, and has launched its Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve Appeal to help make it happen.

Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve will provide a tranquil greenspace allowing people to experience its rich wildlife, historic heritage and varied landscapes.

Since acquiring the land earlier this year The Trust has been busy planning and carrying out initial habitat works, including planting thousands of trees with the help of its volunteer team and local people over two public tree planting days. Fencing has been erected to allow livestock to be brought in to graze areas to create wildlife-rich grassland and meadow habitats and further works are planned to create safe access routes for visitors.

For The Greensand Trust sensitive public access to the nature reserve is essential as providing opportunities to connect with nature is beneficial for people's mental and physical health and wellbeing, and also helps create an understanding of the importance of our habitats and wildlife, as well as the site's

historic features, such as Cainhoe Castle, for future generations to enjoy.

We need your help!

As a charity we need to raise funds to put towards the costs of establishing the public access and to enhance the reserve's habitats and conserve and protect the Cainhoe Castle Scheduled Monument.

The Trust is therefore asking for your support to help create what will be a cherished site by donating to the **Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve Appeal**. **All donations made in 2022 will be matched by the The Peter Smith Charitable Trust For Nature.**

Donations can be made at
www.greensandtrust.org/Appeal/clophill-lakes.

About The Greensand Trust

The Greensand Trust is an independent environmental charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and promote the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge and to improve access, understanding and enjoyment of this fascinating area. Find out more at www.greensandtrust.org

Contact Details: The Greensand Trust: Carolyn Londer-Ward, Communications Manager,

Email: carolyn.londer-ward@greensandtrust.org, tel: 07740 576956

 @greensandtrust  /greensandtrust  /rushmerpark 
/greensandtrust



UPDATE



CLOPHILL LAKES



The
Greensand
Trust

**A new nature reserve for benefit of
wildlife and local communities**

We have launched our appeal to support our conservation work and the supporting facilities that the site will need to ensure its future sustainability and protection.

Greensand Trust Patron and former Chairman Peter Smith MBE has offered to match any donations made to the Clophill Lakes appeal before the end of December via The Peter Smith Charitable Trust.

To find out further information or donate to our appeal please visit our website: www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes

- Our target is to open for Public Access in 2023.
- We are awaiting Central Bedfordshire Council's approval to begin establishment works in line with the approved Nature Reserve Masterplan and Management Plan.
- We have more tree planting events coming this autumn.
- Come and visit our stand at the Clophill Pumpkin Festival on 29th October.
- Site checks, surveying and monitoring work is ongoing and will continue before and after public access is enabled to ensure any impacts are minimised and/or mitigated and inform any future activities.
- We'd like to thank everyone for their continued patience, respecting No Access on site and keeping to the Public Rights of Way. If anyone has any concerns about unauthorised activity on site, please Arena Security on (Freephone) 0800 389 1494.



A note from your Editor...

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

Contact details are as follows:

Email: hcvillagenews@gmail.com

A note through my letterbox at 38 Victoria Drive or
call or text me on 07748 187069 – Pete Bullock, Editor

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

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

Please note:

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Around the Village

ART SOCIETY	Karen Moynihan	Email: houghtonconquestartsociety@outlook.com
CARE GROUP	Sue Derrick	07886 459225
FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH	Carol Juffs	381393
GARDEN CLUB	Margaret Whalley	740892
HOUGHTON PIONEERS	Liz Thompson	07810 298069
INDOOR BOWLS	Monica Mannings	743345
JIGSAW CLUB	Sue Derrick	07886 459225
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	Christine Dean	741182
WOMENS' INSTITUTE	Shirley Johnson	740265
YOGA	Lisa Van Calsteren	07581 242895

Help Lines

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

Contacts outside the Village

AIRPORT (London Luton)	01582 405100
BEDFORD HOSPITAL	01234 355122
BUSES (Grant Palmer)	01525 719719
CHURCHES	
C of E	TBA
Methodist - Rev. Silas Wood	01525 571392
D.H.S.S. - (Bedford)	01234 365155
SCHOOLS	
Lower School - Houghton Conquest	01234 740202
Middle - Stewartby	01234 768224
Senior - Wootton	01234 767123
Holywell School - Cranfield	01234 750381
LIBRARIES Bedford	01234 718178
Ampt Hill	0300 300 8053
Flitwick	0300 300 8057

ELECTRICITY (UK Power Networks) General Enquiries	0800 029 4285
ELECTRICITY (UK Power Networks) Power Cuts	0800 316 3105 or just 105
ANGLIAN WATER	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.