



Houghton Regis TOWN CRIER

SEPTEMBER 2008

HOUGHTON REGIS ARTIST

SHOWING IN ARTISTS NETWORK

BEDFORDSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS AND ART TRAIL



Houghton Regis artist, Celia Glyde Husband will be taking part in the Artists Network Bedfordshire Open Studio and Art Trail being held during September.

As a mature student Celia has just completed a three year course and obtained an honours degree in fine art at the University of Bedfordshire in Luton. She featured in the University's 2008 Degree Show (the photograph shows some of her work on display). Not all of Celia's work is abstract. She uses acrylic and mixed media paint on canvas to produce paintings covering a wide range of subjects from flowers to seascapes in a traditional style. Her latest series of paintings draws on her enjoyment of the carnival to produce bold colourful paintings in an abstract style.

Her work will be on show at the Town Farm Studio in Cheddington where colourful acrylic and mixed media paintings, pastel drawings, digital art and photography, silver and copper jewellery including many giclee prints and cards will be found.

The show also features the work of Christine Bass, Anne Elford and John Winchcomb. You will be able to meet the artists who will be happy to discuss their work and the processes involved.

The show will be open three on weekends in September:

13/14 September, 20/21 September and 27/28 September – 12 noon to 5pm.

Town Farm Open Studio is located at:

6 Town Farm, Off High Street, Cheddington, Beds, LU7 0TT. Entrance is free and there will be refreshments available.

Town Farm Studio is just one of 25 art exhibitions being held across Bedfordshire on these weekends. The Artists Network Bedfordshire organises an annual Art Trail when artists throughout the county open their studios to the public and exhibit their work. The Open Studios section of www.artsnetbeds.org.uk has full details of all the shows and includes pictures of each artist's work.

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Contact Details

Houghton Regis Town Council, Peel Street,
Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY
Tel: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102
Email: info@houghtonregis.org.uk
Website: www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

Officers:

Clare Evans, Town Clerk	01582 708542
Stuart Oliver, Assistant Town Clerk	01582 708543
Julia Warren, Deputy Town Clerk /Town Centre Manager	01582 708544
Sarah Gelsthorp, Promotions & Communications Officer	01582 708523
Sonia Stennett, Accounts and Administration Officer	01582 708541
Sandra Brandham, Administration Officer	01582 708540

Councillors:

HOUGHTON HALL WARD:

Clr Rita Egan 4 Bidwell Close, Houghton Regis, LU5 5TP	868746
Clr Robin Hines 5 Bidwell Hill, Houghton Regis, LU5 5DR	759026
Clr David Marshall 67 Clarkes Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HX	654090
Clr Andrew Roberts 40 Manor Park, Houghton Regis, LU5 5BX	868288
Clr Tony Swain 19 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	522952
Clr Mrs Lynda Walmsley 22 Houghton Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5AD	660408

PARKSIDE WARD:

Clr Eric Ball 39 Dolphin Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5QE	514257
Clr Mrs Janine Dixon-Wilkinson 127 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	514696
Clr David Jones 2 Halley's Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HY	655162
Clr Alan Winter 100 Westminster Gardens, Houghton Regis, LU5 5RU	514654

TITHE FARM WARD:

Clr Gerald Fill 101 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NJ	866373
Clr Mrs Shirley Gilchrist 129 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	519087
Clr Ms Karen Sanderson 149 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5JQ	518482
Clr Ms Ros Williams 18, The Link, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HQ	519327

South Bedfordshire District Councillors

HOUGHTON HALL WARD:

Clr Rae Bird 85 Fensome Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5SF	0845 849 5923
Clr Mrs Elaine Morgan 104 Houghton Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5AB	0845 849 5924
Clr Tony Swain 19 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	0845 849 5925

PARKSIDE WARD:

Clr David Hogan 99 Westminster Gardens, Houghton Regis, LU5 5RU	0845 849 5921
Clr David Jones 2 Halley's Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 5HY	0845 849 5922

TITHE FARM WARD:

Clr Eddie Gilchrist 129 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	0845 849 5919
Clr Mrs Shirley Gilchrist 129 Sundon Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NL	0845 849 5920

Bedfordshire County Councillors

Clr Jack Goodchild 21 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	867557
Clr Mrs Susan Goodchild 21 Roslyn Way, Houghton Regis, LU5 6JX	867557

Houghton Regis Town Council

Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

Telephone: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102

E-mail: info@houghtonregis.org.uk

Web: www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

South Bedfordshire District in conjunction with Houghton Regis Town Council and the Town Centre Management Committee is continuing to run a series of events in Houghton Regis.

Medieval Day

The Medieval Day, will return to the Village Green on Saturday 6th September from 10am – 4pm. Free Parking will be available at Red House Court.



The day will feature a comprehensive programme of free events and details can be found on the Town Council website at www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

The programme of free family entertainment will include jousting with the Devil's Horsemen, plus combat in armour with the House of Bayard along with archery, birds of prey, dancers, musicians, jesters, hog roast, refreshments, picnic area, traditional crafts, archaeology road show, puppet show, children's activities, skittles and stocks and guided walks.

A LOCAL HERITAGE DAY

A local Heritage Day is being held on Saturday 27th September 2008 from 11am at Red House Court and entrance to the day is free.

Come along and see a wonderful display of Vauxhall cars manufactured during the 1960s & 70s, including one of the oldest surviving Bedford Trucks! Discover your Bedfordshire ancestors! Ever thought about tracing your family history but don't know where to start? Free help and guidance with the Bedfordshire Family History Society. Bring your finds and talk to your local Manshead Archaeologist. Try your hand at metal detecting! Displays of local crafts. Children's games & activities. Photograph display of Historic Houghton. FREE Guided Walk in beautiful Houghton Hall Park with the Greensand Trust, meet at Red House Court at 11 am. Refreshments available.



For further information on these events please contact Sue King on 01582 474026 or sue.king@southbeds.gov.uk

Free History talk

A free History Talk about Houghton Regis & its Hamlets will take place on Tuesday 23rd September. Just come along to Red House Court in Clarkes Way, Houghton Regis at 7 pm. Free light refreshments will be available.

Houghton Regis was once the centre of a ring of outlying hamlets, each with its own character and stories.

The talk at Red House Court will explore the history of St Brigid who gave her name to Bidwell Hill, the quarrel between the Norman landowner and Dunstable priory, which led to the development of Thorn and Calcutt, the connection between Tithe Farm and St Albans Abbey, the 'suffering' of the Quakers' at Sewell, a revenue racket at the Puddle Hill tollgate and a highwayman hung at Gibbet Close.

Houghton History Corner

– by Sarah Gelsthorp.

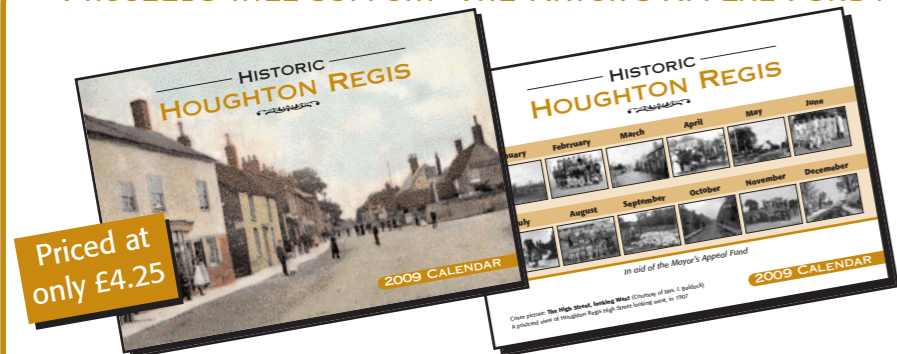
Once again, I am delighted to write about the story behind the street names of Houghton Regis. In this edition we will look at Platz House.

Platz House C 1980s

Platz House was named after Councillor Maurice Platz who was both Chairman of the Parish Council between 1977 and 1979 and Mayor of Houghton Regis in 1986/1987.

If you have any information regarding your street name I would be pleased to hear from you. My email address for any information, or to comment generally on any of the street names featured is: sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT 'THE MAYOR'S APPEAL FUND'.



Priced at only £4.25

GET YOUR 2009 CALENDAR WITH LOTS OF GREAT HISTORICAL PICTURES FROM THE HOUGHTON REGIS AREA.

FOR AVAILABILITY CONTACT:
HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL TEL: 01582 708540

Carnival 2008

The Houghton Regis Carnival was a terrific success – despite concerns about the weather. The event included a vast range of stalls and attractions including the street procession and it is estimated that 3,000 people attended the event throughout the day.

The winners of the procession competition were YAWN 16 followed by the Bedfordshire Pathfinders Scouts, who won £300 and £150 respectively along with trophy cups. YAWN 16 have also won the Yvonne Corkerton Memorial trophy for a year.

The planning starts here for 2009 and the date has been confirmed as Saturday 11th July, with the theme of the event set as Films and Musicals. For more details and for early booking, please contact Sarah on 01582 708523 or sarah.gelsthorp@houghtonregis.org.uk.

The Town Council would also like to hear from residents who are interested in becoming members of the Carnival Working Group. The Carnival Working Group meets six times a year for approx two hours to discuss ideas for the event. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and some time to spare on Carnival Day itself. For more details, please contact Sarah.

The Town Council would like to thank Greenstar, Hartwell plc, Nisa and Three Counties Training for assisting with the event.



Houghton Regis Town Council Annual Report 2007/2008 – Summary

The Annual report contains the Chairman's Foreword, the Chairman's Overview, a review of the Year of 2007 / 2008, a look forward to the Year of 2008 / 2009, a Summary of Accounts and the Contact Details, List of Councillors and Areas of Responsibility of Houghton Regis Town Council, South Bedfordshire District Council and Bedfordshire County Council. A full version of this report can be obtained from the Council offices or from the Council's website, www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

Chairman's Foreword

Councillor Eric Ball, The Town Mayor chose the Hydrotherapy Pool at Hillcrest School and The Monday Club for the Blind as his chosen charities. Through a range of events £3,160 was raised for these causes.

In May 2007 Town Council elections were held and accordingly a new Council elected. Town councillors serve on the Council's committees and sub committees and are appointed to be the Council's representatives on 13 outside organisations who work in Houghton Regis.

Chairman's Overview

The Town Council manage and run most of the recreation grounds and play areas within the town. During 2007 / 08 the Town Council were pleased to find that the football pitches and bowls green were fully utilised during their respective seasons. In addition the Council permitted two community run five aside football tournaments, the Medieval Fayre, an Easter egg hunt and food and craft fayre, two visits by the fun fair, and a visit from the circus in October.

The Council continues to produce the quarterly Town Crier newsletter and maintain a Council's website (www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk).

Houghton Regis Town Council Committees

The Town Council has three main committees to carry out the work of the Council. These are Policy & Resources Committee, Environment Committee and the Planning & Licensing Committee. Details of the work of these committees can be found in the full version of the Annual Report or in the Minutes of the meetings posted on the Council's website, www.houghtonregis-tc.org.uk

The Year 2008 / 2009

For the financial year 2008 / 2009 the Town Council has many aspirations. Below are listed a few of them:

- Active involvement in emerging policies and plans relating to the growth area;
- Progression of the proposal to develop land off Windsor Drive into a comprehensive sports facility for the community;
- Organisation and promotion of Town Council and other community events;
- Review of the Town Council's grant scheme to ensure it is effective in meeting the needs of local community groups;
- Progression and development of skate park facilities within the town.

Summary of Accounts

INCOME 2007 - 2008	Income £
Precept	564,000
Agency	9,708
Loan & capital receipts	69,000
Interest & investment income	15,425
Leisure & recreation, including pavilions	13,636
Cemetery fees	13,321
Cash office reimbursement	2,259
Miscellaneous income	3,029
Town security	8,736
Mayors Charity Grant	5,006
TOTAL INCOME	704,120
EXPENDITURE 2007 - 2008	Expenditure £
Establishment/general admin	347,764
Election expenses	8,732
Grants	17,414
Capital expenditure	305,963
Leisure & recreation – play areas & pavilions	80,220
Cemetery	4,718
Christmas lights	10,450
Democratic representation & management	13,088
Town security	41,626
Community development	16,249
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	846,224

Houghton Regis Town Council Committee's.

Town Council

A full meeting of the Town Council was held on 30th June 2008 and the accounts for 2007/2008 were approved subject to audit. In addition the Annual Report for the same period was approved, a summary of which is within this edition of the Town Crier.

A full copy of the Annual Report can be requested from the Town Council offices or downloaded from the Town Council's website.

Environment Committee

The Environment Committee has instigated and overseen the launch of a play area consultation including the provision of a skate park the purpose of which, is to enable local residents to comment on the current and future play provision. The results of the consultation will be presented to the Environment Committee at its meeting on 8th September.

Policy and Resources Committee

This committee oversaw the organisation of the Houghton Regis Carnival, which proved to be another successful event for the town.

The Policy and Resources Committee also set up a Christmas Lights Sub Group to oversee the Christmas Lights display. The work of this sub group will be to try and ensure a bright and festive display.

The Grants Sub Committee approved seven grants to local organisations totalling £4600.

Planning and Licensing Committee

The Planning and Licensing Committee considered ten planning applications together with notices of planning decisions. In addition it was agreed that some members of the committee would attend a skills seminar entitled "The Planning System – How it Works".

Town Centre Management Committee

The Town Centre Management Committee received an update on the Bedford Square Renaissance Project, which is due to be completed Spring 2009, and on the 'Masterplan' for Houghton Regis town centre.

Allotments

Residents are invited to contact the Town Council if they are interested in seeing an allotment site developed in Houghton Regis. All comments are invited in writing and should be marked for the attention of the Town Clerk.

Town Mayor's Christmas Cards

Every year the Town Mayor sends Christmas cards to residents over 65 years of age. The time is approaching again to ensure that your details are on the list. To register or to check that your details are included on the 2008 list please call Sarah on 01582 708523.

Quiz Challenge Series!



Houghton Regis Town Council is delighted to confirm the dates for the Town Mayor's Quiz Challenge Series 2008/ 2009.

Heat 1	Friday 26th September 2008
Heat 2	Friday 24th October 2008
Heat 3	Friday 14th November 2008

The dates for 2009 will follow in a future edition.

Heat one of the competition is being held at the Dunstablians Rugby Club in Bidwell Hill, with the remaining heats being held at St Vincent's Social Club, Hammersmith Gardens at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Each heat of the quiz is a separate competition and the winning teams from each heat will qualify to play at the Grand Final in March. At the Grand Final, the winning team will win £300 cash prize with the runner up taking home £150.

To register your team, please call Sarah Gelsthorp on 01582 708540. Teams may consist of up to six players and entrance to the quiz costs £3.00 per person, with 50p of the entrance fee going towards a cash prize on the night.

The Quiz Challenge Series 2008/09 has been kindly sponsored by: Borras Construction and Martin Slowe Property Services Limited.

Town Council Calendar of Meetings

This is the calendar of meetings from 1st September – 1st December 2008. All Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Offices on Peel Street at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. The agendas for forthcoming meetings can be found on the notice boards outside the offices and on the Town Council website. Copies can also be obtained from the office.

DATE	DAY	COMMITTEE
1st September	Monday	Grants Sub
8th September	Monday	Accounts Sub (6.30pm) Environment
15th September	Monday	Planning & Licensing
22nd September	Monday	Policy & Resources
25th September	Thursday	HR Town Centre Management (7.00pm)
29th September	Monday	Accounts Sub (6.30pm) Town Council
13th October	Monday	Planning & Licensing
20th October	Monday	Accounts Sub (6.30pm)
3rd November	Monday	Environment
10th November	Monday	Accounts Sub (6.30pm) Planning & Licensing
24th November	Monday	Policy & Resources
27th November	Thursday	HR Town Centre Management (7.00pm)
1st December	Monday	Grants Sub