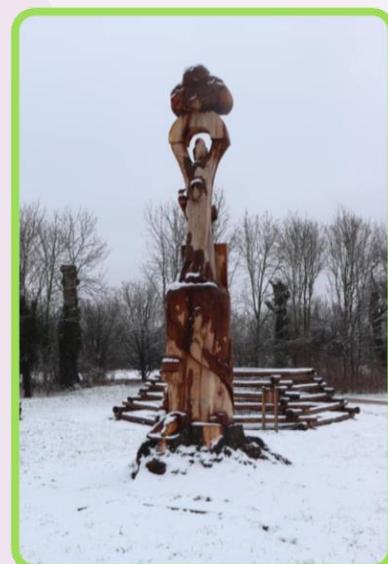


# Houghton Hall Park

## March 2020 Newsletter

The Houghton Hall Park Renaissance and Renewal Project is being managed by Central Bedfordshire Council in partnership with Houghton Regis Town Council and is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

March has arrived we can see that winter is making way for spring with lighter mornings and evenings, buds are starting to appear on the trees in the park and the birds can be heard singing. We had a sprinkling of snow one morning in February our Activity Officer Hayley and one of our volunteers Lucy managed to capture these pictures before the rain washed it away, the park looks truly stunning.



**A great place to live and work.**

We also had great fun in February half term making mini mummies/carers for our café window display. Each child that took part will go into a prize draw to win a bunch of flowers for their mum, the draw will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March, some pictures of the special people they created are below.



## Monthly Photography Themes

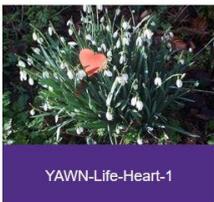
We welcome photographers of all abilities from the age of 16 to get creative, use your imagination and enter our monthly themes, **March's theme is: Black & White**, a new one this month, let's see what you can do with just two colours.

Please send your submissions to [hbp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hbp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk). The images must be taken between 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and each person can submit up to 5 entries. We will not accept any overly photoshopped images that do not represent the reality of the subject in the photo. Some images will be featured on our website, social media platforms, notice boards around the visitor centre and in our monthly newsletter.

Please see our website for the full terms & conditions before you submit your work:

[www.houghtonhallpark.org/photography](http://www.houghtonhallpark.org/photography)

Below are the entries from February's theme: Snowdrops in Houghton Hall Park, this has been the most popular theme in quite a few months and the submissions we have received are truly stunning, thank you everyone who took part.



YAWN-Life-Heart-1



YAWN-Life-Heart-2



YAWN-Life-Kitten



Snowdrops-Under-Tree-Cindy-Lee



Olwen-Davies-2



Snowdrops-Cindy-Lee



Welcome-Spring-C-Mahony



YAWN-Life-Fairy



Snowdrops-Growing-by-a-log-Cindy-Lee



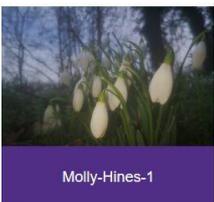
Snowdrops-Ivy-Cindy-Lee



Olwen-Davies-1



Molly-Hines-2



Molly-Hines-1



Michele



Malcolm-Lea-Snpwdrop-3



Debie-Hamill-4



Debie-Hamill-Poem



Ann-Brodie-2



Malcolm-Lea-Snowdrop-4



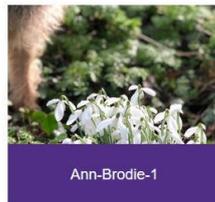
Malcolm-Lea-Snowdrop-2



Malcolm-Lea-Snowdrop-1



Carpet-of-Snowdrops-Cindy-Lee



Ann-Brodie-1



Stefanie-Schapp-Beanie-Boo-amongst-the-snowdrops



Emily-Peirce-2



Emily-Peirce-3



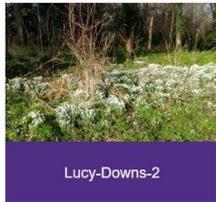
Emily-Peirce-4



Lucy-Downs-4



Lucy-Downs-3



Lucy-Downs-2



Debie-Hamill-1



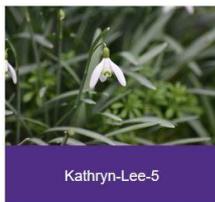
Debie-Hamill-2



Debie-Hamill-3



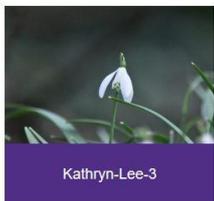
Lucy-Downs-1



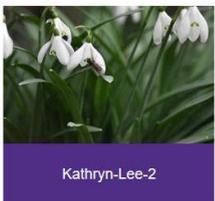
Kathryn-Lee-5



Kathryn-Lee-4



Kathryn-Lee-3



Kathryn-Lee-2



Kathryn-Lee-1



Jayne-Hart-3



Jayne-Hart-2



Jayne-Hart-1



John-and-Lis-Morris-5



John-and-Lis-Morris-4



John-and-Lis-Morris-2



Emily-Peirce-5



Gemma-Bunting



Emily-Peirce-1

# What's On

## Mother's Day Crafts

**When:** Saturday 21st

**Time:** 10.30am to 12pm

1pm to 2.30pm

**Cost:** £4 per child

Make a flower tin with a mixture of handmade flowers and real bulbs, plus a card for your mum/special person.

This activity needs to be booked in advance by contacting [hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



## Spring Heritage Walk

**When:** Wednesday 25th

**Time:** 2pm

**Cost:** Free

There will be a FREE historic spring walk led by David Hill of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society. Come along and enjoy a leisurely circular walk of approximately one hour whilst learning about the history of this 17th century park and finding out about the development and progress that has occurred throughout the park including the restored Kitchen Garden, Formal Gardens and the Visitor Centre.

## Easter Workshops

**When:** 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April

**Time:** 10.30am and 12pm

**Cost:** From £5

Family events where you can make a beautiful Easter creation to take home. We will provide all the materials you need and Jenny our Community Gardener will be there with her expert knowledge, along with our team of volunteers, to lend a hand. To book please email us at [hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) with your name, contact tel & email, payment will be cash on the day.



## Volunteer at the park this month

Take part in valuable conservation work at Houghton Hall Park with the Greensand Trust one Sunday a month! This month, on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10am-3pm**, it's the annual park litter pick. We'll provide tools, bags, snacks and drinks. We'll be going off the beaten tracks and digging out all the rubbish hiding in the bushes. If you would like to come along, please email: [hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) to let us know. This is open to everyone so please join us, we hope to see you there!

## What's the latest in the gardens?

### Formal Garden

*Well, it would be nice to tell you that we are getting on well with the formal garden, but this rainy weather is now beginning to heed progress. In between the downpours we have managed to get on with some of the weeding, but the soil is very wet, and it really doesn't pay to keep walking on wet soil as it compacts it too much.*



*For those of you that regularly walk through the garden you will notice we are trying hard to remove the bulbs from the beds. These were not in the original planting plan and have simply been left in the soil from when it was a wooded area. We are replanting these bulbs in designated areas for you to still enjoy.*

*With this mild weather comes weeds and knocking them back now should mean we may be on top of them come the spring.... Well that's the plan.*

*Once we have completely tidied these areas, we will be giving the roses a good feed and mulching the beds to help keep some of the wonderful moisture in and get us through another hot summer.*



### Kitchen Garden

*It is starting to look really nice in the kitchen garden with organic matter and bark chippings demarcating the paths. You can see that the Autumn sown onions, garlic and shallots have put on a great deal of growth this past few weeks. Although that bout of snow would have given them a shock!*



*We have started some peas and mangetout off in modules as the pigeons had a great munch on the first lot. The potatoes are chitting and will be ready to go out by the time I write next month's newsletter.*

*The cut flower patch is underway as the first wave of seedlings are about to be pricked out. These include hollyhocks, ornamental grasses, sweet peas, zinnias, cosmos, foxgloves to name just a few.*





*Our school groups have been busy writing labels for their Dig for Victory bed and the chicken run is now complete and will go on the bed any day.*

*You may have noticed our cabbage frames are now completed with a fine mesh, this will help stop the cabbage white!*

*The autumn planted spring cabbages are putting on healthy growth now and will benefit from a feed in the next few weeks.*



### *Volunteers keeping busy ....*



*So, our merry band of volunteers are busy with a variety of projects at the moment. These include making work benches so we can pot on all our plants, Easter preparations for some family workshops, completing habitat piles, making water but stands and compost covers. Whilst weeding, pruning and mulching beds. There is plenty going on here to keep us going!!*

*Hope you will pop by and see us soon.*

*Fingers crossed we get some drier weather in the next few weeks, until then....*

*Happy gardening!*

*Jenny*





## Become a friend of Houghton Hall Park

### Keep in touch

#### Facebook

HoughtonHallPark

#### Instagram

HoughtonHallPark

#### Twitter

@BedsCountryside

#### Website

[www.houghtonhallpark.org](http://www.houghtonhallpark.org)

#### Email

[hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

### Current Opening Times

#### Monday to Friday

10:00am - 15:30pm

#### Saturday and Sunday

9:00am - 16:00pm

Thinking of joining the Friends of Houghton Hall Park? Then get in touch with us to see what you can do to get involved. Here are some ideas below:

- Observational Surveys
- Community engagement
- Weeding and clearing
- Cleaning
- Watering
- Growing food and encourage healthy eating
- Teach younger generations (if you have a skill or qualification, let us know!)
- Become a community leader
- Support other volunteers
- Contribute to the annual park events calendar
- Volunteering assistant at events running at the park
- Curate local history talks at visitor centre
- Habitat enhancement work in the woodland and meadow

There are many opportunities to take part. If you would like to volunteer and join the Friends of Houghton Hall Park, please email [hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



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