

Houghton Hall Park

April 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.

Even though life has changed for all of us in the last couple of weeks the nature in the park carries on and we can be grateful that we can still enjoy it once a day. Some days can feel long at the moment but make the most of your daily exercise, nature can be a wonderful tonic for the mind. The team have still been on site in the formal and kitchen gardens keeping on top of things, we want everything looking splendid for when we can all venture out again!



A great place to live and work.

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, **April's theme is:** 'Thank you Keyworkers', we would like to thank all keyworkers for the work they are doing. We have put posters up at different locations around the park, when on your daily exercise we would like you to take photos with them, email the photos to us and we will create a collage of all the pictures to say thank you this will be on display in the cafe windows.

IMPORTANT: Please remember to practice social distancing when coming to the park, only come with members of your household and keep two metres apart from other park users. Please walk, run or cycle to the park and refrain from using the play equipment.

We know that some of our regular park users cannot visit the park at the moment, if you would still like to take a picture the posters are available for you to download at our website:

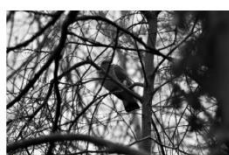
<https://www.houghtonhallpark.org/photography-theme>



Please send your submissions to hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. The images must be taken between 1st – 30th April 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

Below are the entries from March's theme: Black & White in Houghton Hall Park, it has been a very different month and we appreciate it that you have still taken the time to submit some photographs, they have really cheered the team up and we hope that by taking them it has taken your mind off other events.



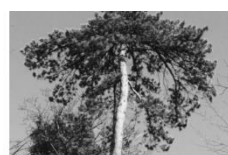
Kathryn-Lee-5



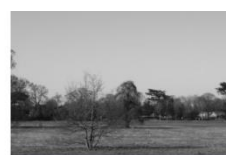
Kathryn-Lee-4



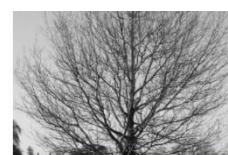
Kathryn-Lee-3



Umbrella Tree Cindy Lea



Malcom Lea 4



Malcolm Lea 5



Kathryn-Lee-2



Kathryn-Lee-1



Jo-Lovesey



Malcolm Lea 3



Malcolm Lea 2



Malcolm Lea 1



Emma Slough Squirrel



Emma Slough Tree



Emma Slough Close up Squirrel



David Evans Lines 1



Olwen Davies 5



Olwen Davies 4



Emma Slough Across the park



Chloe Baxter 3



Chloe Baxter 2



Olwen Davies 3



Olwen Davies



Olwen Davies2



Hawthorn Branch Cindy Lea



Garden View Cindy Lea



Hawthorn Blossom Cindy Lea



Chloe Baxter 1



Agnieszka Domanska



David Evans Lines



Hawthorn Blossom 2 Cindy Lea



Evie Hayley Clear



Emma Slough Under the trees



David Evans Lines 5



David Evans Lines 4



David Evans Lines 3



Fergus Mc Grath 2



Fergus Mc Grath 3



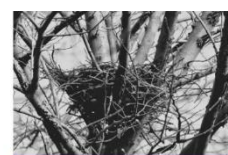
Fergus Mc Grath 1



Ann-Brodie-2



Ann-Brodie-1



Nest Rita Egan

What's On

All the Easter activities and events for April have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 response in the UK. The park remains open as valuable green space for the community for independent exercise and access to the outdoors, please abide by the social distancing rules.



Buggy Exercise via Zoom

When: Every Wednesday

Time: 10am

Cost: Free

Buggy Exercise cannot take place in the park at the moment but fear not you can still take part at home! The class is being offered via Zoom, the first one took place last week and it was a huge success. If you would like to take part please contact Hayley at hayleyclear@gmail.com, you don't need to have a baby the class is open to everyone.



What's the latest in the gardens?



I took this picture a few weeks ago who would have thought our lives would have been turned upside down? If ever there was a time to pull together it is now and as a community I have read and seen first-hand how you are achieving this. We are all now much more aware of gardening as a form of social prescribing, and I am finding this true for me. There is something rather special absorbing and calming about being outside. Your senses home in on the small but constantly evolving pace of nature.

If you are able to get into your garden even for a few minutes every day it will be of huge benefit to your well-being. If not but you are able to get out for your one form of exercise why not pop down to the park and see what we have been up to in the garden? I can assure you the weeds haven't stopped growing!



I am thankful in one of the most difficult weeks we have ever faced that it was offset with some beautiful sunshine. I have made the most of this and spent a lot of the week putting pollinating plants into bed 7 (the one close to the path) this will hopefully turn into a riot of colour over the summer and attract plenty of bees, wasps, butterflies and moths.

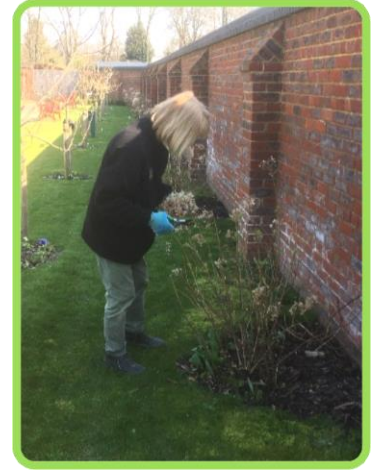
The kitchen garden has indeed seen a flurry of activity as we have been busy planting new potatoes, lettuces, beetroot, onions, shallots, mangetout, peas, beetroot and radish. Direct sowings of parsnips, spinach and carrots.



The summer cabbages have just been potted up in anticipation of going out next month. Seedlings are being pricked out now at an incredible pace, 134 lupins later!! The strawberries are growing well now and we are just tidying up the tatty leaves, giving them a feed and patiently waiting for June!

The formal garden has finally started to dry out, so we are working at full steam ahead to tackle the weeds. I think we are just about winning! It is nice to see the herbaceous perennials start to green up and create lovely mounds of leaves. The promise of another year is upon us.

There have been a few particularly bad patches of ground elder and nettles in the bed so being able to have time to tackle this has been a big step forward.



*Things have changed in the world that we know
 Yet at Houghton we will continue to sow
 It's important that you know your park is still here
 As it will be tended, weeded and cared for; don't fear
 Before long there will be things ready to share
 So that you know at the park we really do care
 About how this is affecting each and everyone
 And staying inside is not much fun
 And as you exercise and pass this way
 Don't be cross when I continue to say:
 Enjoy this green space but from a 2m distance
 We need to be strong and build a resistance
 These days will pass, and normality will soon be in sight
 Until then enjoy the longer days and extra daylight*

Take care, stay safe

Jenny

Keep in touch

Facebook

HoughtonHallPark

Instagram

HoughtonHallPark

Twitter

@BedsCountryside

Website

www.houghtonhallpark.org

Email

hhp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Current Opening Times

Visitors Centre closed until further notice.



Become a friend of Houghton Hall Park

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



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Council



LOTTERY FUNDED