

March 2019

On Shrove Tuesday (5th March 2019) the Town Council held the sixth annual Pancake Race. The races were held at the Houghton Hall Park Visitors Centre and spectators were able to enjoy the races, whilst having some tea and pancakes in the café.

Each Pancake Race was started by the Town Mayor, Councillor Ken Wattingham, using the historic Houghton Regis Town Crier's Bell, which is believed to have come from the original Thomas Whitehead School. Musician Mike Ruff played some background music on his Accordion to encourage the runners and entertain the spectators, and there was even an appearance from Regis the Lion. This year, for the first time, there was a special race, in which Dogs and their owners could take part. Congratulations to 'Blaze' for taking part and for winning a special medal. There was also some inter Council competition from Ampthill Town Council, Luton Borough Council and Houghton Regis Town Council. There were medals for the winners of each age category, and the Key Stage 3 team from All Saints Academy won the trophy for the fastest race time of 10.10 seconds!



Councillor Wattingham taking part in the Pancake Race and with 'Blaze' who took part in the 'Dog and Me Race'.

Councillor Wattingham also held a Charity Dinner at Go Houghton Restaurant, which raised an amazing £2000 for his nominated charities. The guests included representatives from each of the Mayor's charities, the Chairman from Aylesbury Vale District Council, the Mayor's from Dunstable, Luton and Leighton-Linslade, representatives from the local community, Councillors, family and friends. There was a raffle and the auction of a signed photo donated by Brian Wheeler (who the Mayor met at the Grove Theatre) of his Star Wars character. Go Houghton arranged a magician to complement the evening and the event was a huge success.



Councillor Wattingham and fellow members of the ‘Chain Gang’ at the Charity Dinner at Go Houghton.

Other events that Councillor Wattingham attended were the Ground Breaking Ceremony for Houghton Regis Central, the Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council’s Civic Service, the launch of the Youth Manifesto event, certificate and prize presentations at Tithe Farm Primary School and All Saints Academy, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire’s Citizenship Awards, the Red Nose Day Street Party, St Patrick’s Day Parade, a Charity Darts Evening and the Mayor of Dunstable’s Civic Service.

Spring was in the air as April approached....