



**Houghton Regis Heritage Society
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**Annual Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Period Ended 31st December 2024**

Charity Number 1174720

**Trustees Report
for the period to December 31st 2024**

Charity Name	Houghton Regis Heritage Society
Charity Number	1174720
Registered Office	C/O Houghton Regis Town Council Peel Street Houghton Regis LU5 5EY

Trustees	Office Held	Term of Office Ends
David Hill	Chair	June 2025
Roger Turner	Treasurer	June 2025
Dudley Smy		June 2025
Janet Smy	Secretary	June 2025
Tracey McMahon		June 2025
Catherine Aganoglu		June 2025
James Carroll		June 2025
David Woods		June 2025
Lorna Morrison		June 2025

Bankers	Nat West, Dunstable
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Trustees' Report

for the period to 31st December 2024

Aims and objectives

To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the town of Houghton Regis, in particular but not exclusively through the collection, preservation and making available to the public of material and artefacts of historic significance by the establishment and maintenance of an archive and collection for the preservation of such material and artefacts and by the production of literature, films and recordings.

Governance and management

The Society is managed by the Trustees who are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The committee elect the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The powers of the management committee are set out in the Constitution agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

The Society has concentrated on two main projects.

The Red House

The Society worked to maintain the building for Community and Society use. Houghton Regis Town Councilors agreed to work with the Society to try to ensure Community use of the building. The property is owned by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). To fund such a project, we have drafted a business plan in order to apply for grants. This is an ongoing project to save a valuable Heritage building for public use.

Vane Cottage

This 14th century, Grade II listed building is sited on Park Road North, and has been left vacant after the previous occupier moved into a care home. When the property was sold after being empty for over two years, the new purchaser stripped the garden of trees, shrubs and grass and started to do work on the cottage without Listed Building or Conservation Area consent. Subsequently a planning application was submitted to CBC to demolish the cottage and replace it with a new building. The Society mounted an email and social media campaign to make members and the residents of Houghton Regis aware of the danger of losing a valuable heritage asset. We received support from over 150 residents. The planning application was subsequently withdrawn. No further application has been submitted to date. The Society is keeping a watchful eye out for further developments.

The Society's Archive (hrhsarchive.org.uk) is a valuable asset in making the heritage of Houghton Regis available to all. It is financed with assistance from the Houghton Regis Town Council. We continue to receive pictures and stories from the public and several new items have been added to the Society's Archive.

The Society has also maintained a website (hrhs.org.uk), a Facebook page and an email contact list to keep members and residents updated on the work of the Society.

We attended the Annual Houghton Regis Carnival and a Craft Fare in the Memorial Hall. We also gave presentations to the Tibbs Dementia Charity.

An information board describing the History of the Brandreth Family in Houghton Regis was installed in Houghton Hall Park in September and unveiled by the Town Mayor Cllr Elaine Cooper.



Financial Review

The Charity reported a deficit of £221.27

Principal Funding Sources:

Membership subscriptions amounted to £100.00

Houghton Regis Town Council Key Partner Grant and other Grants £800.00

A donation of £500.00 was received from D Woods. Other donations amounted to £57.00.

Future funding will be via Member Subscriptions, fund raising activities and grants.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Charity is governed by its Constitution (Articles of Association) and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered as a Charity on 19th September 2017. A copy of the Articles of Association can be found on our website – www.hrhs.org.uk In the event of the CIO being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1, which was paid with their initial subscriptions and is held in the Member Liability Fund.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The directors of the company are also the Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. The Trustees form the management committee for the Charity. The Trustees are appointed for a period of three years, by election at the Annual General Meeting. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Responsibility of the Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Balance Sheet for the Period ended 31st December 2024

	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	0.00			0.00
				0.00
Current Assets				
Current Account				2069.45
Less Outstanding Cheques	1996.28			
	-235.17			
		<u>1761.11</u>		<u>2069.45</u>
Debtors				
Current Balance		1761.11		2069.45
Cash		121.86		30.79
Total Assets		<u>1882.97</u>		<u>2100.24</u>
Current Liabilities				
Creditors				
Member Liability Fund		34.00		33.00
New Member Liability for the Year		4.00		1.00
Less Members Leaving		-3.0		
		<u>35.00</u>		<u>34.00</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>1847.97</u>		<u>2066.24</u>
Represented by				
General Reserve B/F	2100.24		2590.62	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-221.27		-479.88	
Member Liability for the Year	4.00			
General Reserve C/F		<u>1882.97</u>		<u>2100.24</u>
Member Liability		-35.00		-34.00
		<u>1847.97</u>		<u>2066.24</u>

Receipts and Payments for the Period Ended 31st December 2024

Receipts	£
Subscriptions	100.00
Society Meetings	0.00
Quiz	421.30
Shows	6.10
Book Sales	103.40
Walks	0.00
Archive Web Site	12.00
Grants/Donations	1357.00
Vane Cottage Donations	<u>130.00</u>
Total Income	<u>2129.80</u>

Payments	
Stamps	0.00
Web Site	1304.10
Society Meetings	12.49
Quiz	99.17
Shows	25.32
Insurance	96.00
Equipment	441.39
Expenses	<u>372.06</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>2351.07</u>

Surplus/Deficit -221.27

Bank and Cash	
Bank at the start of the period	2069.45
Cash at the start of the period	<u>30.79</u>
Total	<u>2100.24</u>
Bank at the end of the period	1761.11
Cash at the end of the period	<u>121.86</u>
Total	<u>1882.97</u>

This statement includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Approved by the Trustees on 30th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Roger Turner Treasurer

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2024

Cash Assets

	£
Current Account	1761.11
Cash	121.86
Total Cash Assets	
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	1882.97
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Other assets

2 Digital Recorders & 2 Lapel Microphones
Panel Display Stand
PC Projector
Gazebo

Notes to the Accounts
for the Period Ended 31st December 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

Subscriptions of £5 per member will be due in January 2025.

2. Grants & Donations

	£
D Woods	500.00
Houghton Regis Town Council	800.00
Donations from Talks to Organisations	50.00
Miscellaneous	7.00

Total	<u><u>1357.00</u></u>
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3. Trustees Remuneration

No Trustee received any remuneration during the year.