Houghton Regis Heritage Society
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Annual Report of the Trustees

and Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31st December 2025

Charity Number 1174720

Trustees Report
for the period to December 31st 2025

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 2027
Mark Bolan	Secretary	June 2027
Roger Turner		June 2027
Dudley Smy	Treasurer	June 2027
Tracey McMahon		June 2027
Catherine Aganoglu		June 2027
James Carroll		June 2027
Lorna Morrison		June 2027

Bankers	Nat West, Dunstable

Trustees' Report
for the period to 31st December 2025

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 whose 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, which can be viewed on our website: https://hrhs.org.uk

Summary of the main achievements during the period

TIMELINE – A history of Houghton Regis

Roger Turner designed a Timeline showing the history of Houghton Regis from 9500BC to today. It is a unique record of the rich history of the Town and was made with school pupils in mind to achieve our aim of educating residents of the heritage. It will be displayed at the annual Town Carnival and other School visits.



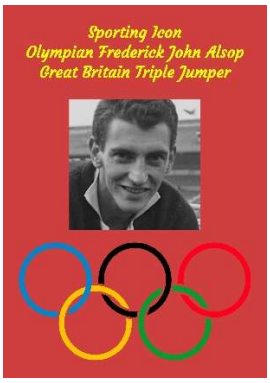
SCHOOL PROJECT

In JUNE we partnered with Lime Tree Primary Academy in a unique enriching educational Experience as part of the school's History Week. The Experience featured the Timeline, which is mounted permanently in the School Hall. The event was spread over two days and each class displayed their work on a project covering one aspect of the Timeline. We obtained on loan artefacts featuring Medieval Finds and a Roman collection, which pupils could handle and ask questions about. All the pupils enjoyed seeing our 1762 map and we talked about showing them how the Town looked then compared to now. At a Special Whole School Assembly, the HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Susan Lousada spoke to the pupils and congratulated them on a wonderful, unique display of their work and how knowing about the Town's history was important.

Tracey McMahon and Catherine Aganoglu assisted Roger Turner and David Hill. Chairman David Hill said he was inspired by the enthusiasm of pupils and how keen they were to learn.

CARNIVAL STAND

In July the Society had a successful stand at the Annual Town Carnival. Many visitors enjoyed looking at the Timeline which was on display, in addition there was a display of pictures featuring important historical sites of the town, together with the Society's Duke of Bedfordshire's 1762 Estate map. The theme of the Carnival was Sporting Heros and the Society featured pictures and information about Fred Alsop who represented Great Britain in the Triple Jump at 3 successive Olympic Games the 1960s. Alsop Close in Houghton Regis was named after him to recognize his achievements.



ARCHIVE

Our unique collection of pictures of old Houghton Regis is as popular as ever. We receive many pictures from residents living in the area and we welcome contributions from the community. https://hrhsarchive.org.uk.

THE RED HOUSE

For many years the Society has endeavoured to ensure that the Red House is secured for community use and as a base for the Society. At this time, we have had no further information from Central Bedfordshire Council on their plans for the building. The Partnership Committee of the Town Council will consider the future use of the Red House during 2026.

VANE COTTAGE

A successful campaign during the year kept residents aware of the redevelopment of Vane Cottage a 17th century grade 2 listed building on Park Road North. The Trustees would like to thank everyone who supported this campaign. Progress on the redevelopment has been reported regularly to members and on the Society's Facebook page.

HERITAGE SOCIETY TALKS AND ACTIVITIES

The Society gave talks on the history and heritage of the Town to the Dunstable Guides, Dunstable Ladies Thursday Club. We will be speaking with member s of the Luton University of the 3rd Age in 2026. Please let us know if your club/society would like the Society to speak with your members.

The Society had a large display in the Visitor Centre for the Heritage Day Event in September and had two successful one hour Heritage walks around the Town.

The Town Council commissioned a video about our Town which was release in 2025:
"Houghton Regis – A Story Told by Its People
Discover the journey of our small town with a big history — and an even bigger future. From the close-knit community life of the 1950s through to the changes of the 70s, and into today's thriving, fast-growing town, this film celebrates how Houghton Regis has evolved — while never losing its heart.

Now at the centre of one of the fastest-growing regions in the country, Houghton Regis is home to new communities, new schools, and new opportunities. A modern town rising with pride in its past and ambition for its future."

The Heritage Society provided many images from our Archive and Roger Turner spoke of the vital role played by the Meteorological Office, based in Upper Houghton Regis during World War 2, in determining June 6th 1944 for the D-Day Landings.

The video can be viewed on Youtube: https://bit.ly/AStoryToldbyItsPeople

Financial Review

The Charity reported a deficit of £1,109,09. There were two debtors owing a total of £1,000 to the Society.
Principal Funding Sources:
Membership subscriptions amounted to £107
Grants £107 - £800 grant from Houghton Regis Town Council, one of the Debtors, will be received in 2026.
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 2025

	2025		2024
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	0.00		0.00
			0.00
Current Assets			
Current Account	724.55		1996.28
Less Outstanding Cheques	-32.40		-235.17
	692.15		**1761.11**
Cash	83.73		121.86
Debtors	1000.00		
Total Assets	**1775.88**		**1882.97**
Current Liabilities			
Creditors			
Member Liability Fund	35.00		34.00
New Member Liability for the Year	2		4.00
Less Members Leaving	1		-3.00
	36.00		**35.00**
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	**1739.88**		**1847.97**
Represented by			
General Reserve B/F	1882.97	2100.24	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-1109.09	-221.27	
Member Liability for the Year	2	4.00	
Debtors	1000.00		
General Reserve C/F	1775.88		1882.97
Member Liability	-36.00		-35.00
	1739.88		**1847.97**

Receipts and Payments for the Period Ended 31st December 2025

Receipts		£
Subscriptions		105.00
Society Meetings		0.00
Shows		17.00
Book Sales		39.00
Archive Web Site		300.00
Grants/Donations		107.00
	Total Income	**568.00**

Payments		
Stamps		0.0
Web Site		1328.96
Society Meetings		0.0
Shows		35.00
Insurance		150.00
Equipment		59.40
Expenses		103.73
	Total Expenditure	**1677.09**
	Surplus/Deficit	**-1109.09**

Bank and Cash		
Bank at the start of the period		1761.11
Cash at the start of the period		121.86
	Total	**1882.97**
Bank at the end of the period		692.15
Cash at the end of the period		78.73
	Debtors	**1000.00**
	Total	**1775.88**

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

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2025

Cash Assets

	£
Current Account	692.15
Cash	83.73
Total Cash Assets	**775.88**

Other assets

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

Notes to the Accounts
for the Period Ended 31st December 2025

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 2026.

2. Grants & Donations

		£
Donations from Talks to Organisations		30.00
Miscellaneous		77.00
	Total	**107.00**

3. Trustees Remuneration

No Trustee received any remuneration during the year.