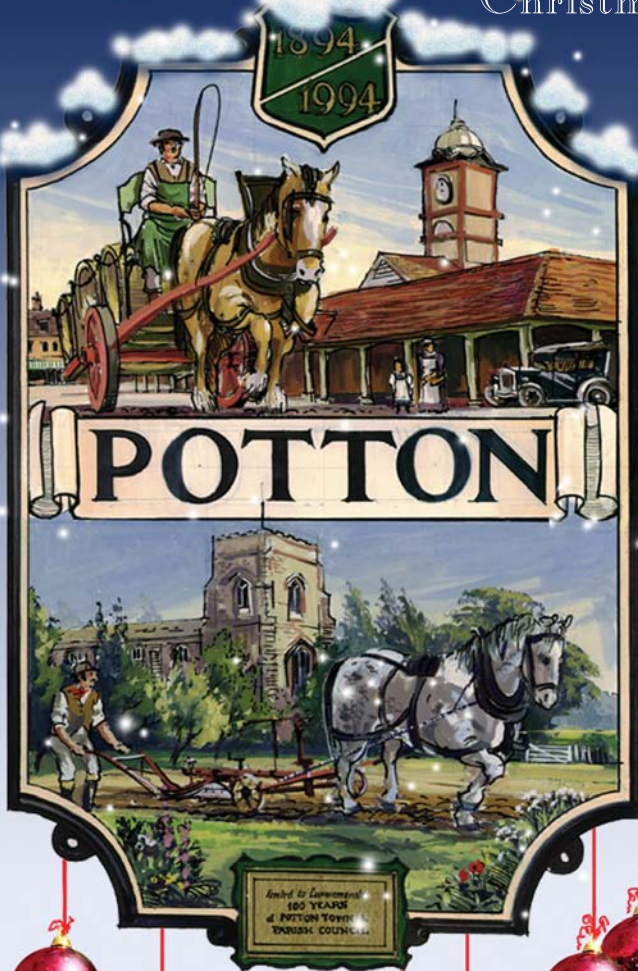


Potton Town Council Newsletter

Christmas 2008



Chairman's Message

Chairman's Christmas Letter 2008

HO HO HO

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL. At the time of sitting down to write this Christmas greeting so many things are happening in our town, but not quite complete.

The hardy and willing group of volunteers have erected the Christmas lights in the square again, in time for the 5th. December switch on. They are looking very good with some new additions this year. When Santa switches them on at 7pm. I am sure they will be the best in the area again by far.

The town centre enhancement is all but complete, The major works are now done and it is just the final touches such as the milestone being replaced, the benches in the centre and brackets on street lights for Christmas decorations in the future. To me it is everything that was promised at the start of the project and well worth waiting for.

During this, the season of celebration and enjoyment many of you will be making use of our excellent facilities in the community centre and Mill Lane for parties and such. As this is the time of goodwill to all please remember the "fairies". When I was a little boy I would leave my toys and such all over the house during the day. When I got up in the morning everything was put away, clean and tidy and repaired. Everytime I asked my mother how it happened she would always reply "The fairies did it". So please spare a thought for them when you leave your parties. In the same vein please give some thought to all the other people who work for us all year in the background and not in the spotlight to enhance our lives. Now would be a good time to welcome our new PCSO who has recently been assigned to us.

During all the festivities please take time to reflect on the underlying reason for the celebrations. We all like to receive presents and bring joy to our nearest and dearest but there is more to it than that. We could also take this opportunity to mend some personal fences, after all it is the season of goodwill.

I hope, whom ever is writing this messege next year will enjoy the priviledge as much as I have over the past two years.

So have a great Christmas, be merry, and enjoy.

Seasons greetings.

Peter J. Langridge.



*Potton Town Councillors and Staff
would like to wish everyone
a very happy Christmas
and a Peaceful
New Year*



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



The Christmas lights were switched on Friday 5th December. The display, as usual, is fantastic especially the new lights in the trees. The Town Council wishes to thank all of the volunteers who work so hard every year to put on this marvellous display. Thanks are also due to the Choirs, Performers, Father Christmas and his elves and every one who plays a part to make the evening such a great community event, not forgetting those traders who allow us to use their electricity. A number of people and organisations have made donations this year to help with the ever increasing costs and a list of these will be published in the Spring Newsletter.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE HOURS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The Town Council Office will be open
Monday 22nd December 9-12.20am
Tuesday 23rd December 9-12.10am
will then be closed until
Monday 5th January 9-12.30am
In an emergency please contact your local Councillor



Councillor Profile - Ruth Burmo



I have lived in Potton since 1971. I have taught at Potton Lower School and am now Acting Head Teacher. I have been a Councillor for several years and I enjoy working for the good of the community.

I serve on the Buildings and Facilities Committee and the Playing Fields and Environment Committees.

I represent Potton Town Council on the Board of Trustees to Potton Charities.

BUS TIMETABLES



There has recently been a change to the bus timetable. The Town Clerk has a number of copies of the Biggleswade and Sandy Area Public Transport Guide in the Town Council Office at the Community Centre. There are also copies at the Library. The guide covers Potton, Biggleswade, Sandy, Blunham, Langford and the surrounding villages.

Please call to collect your timetable during office hours



PUT THE FLAGS OUT

Councillor Nigel Butlin does a very good job of hoisting the appropriate flag on the Clock House Flag Pole for commemorative and special occasions. If you have ever wondered why the flag is flying today here is a list of some of those important dates.

February	6th 19th	The Queens Accession The Duke of York's Birthday
March	10th 2nd Mon	Prince Edward's Birthday Commonwealth Day
April	21st 23rd	The Queen's Birthday St George's Day
June	2nd 21st 10th 1st or 2nd Sat	The Queens's Coronation Prince William's Birthday Duke of Edinburgh's Birthday The Queen's Official Birthday
August	15th	The Princess Royal's Birthday
September	17th	Prince Harry's Birthday
November	14th 2nd Sunday	Prince of Wale's Birthday Remembrance Day

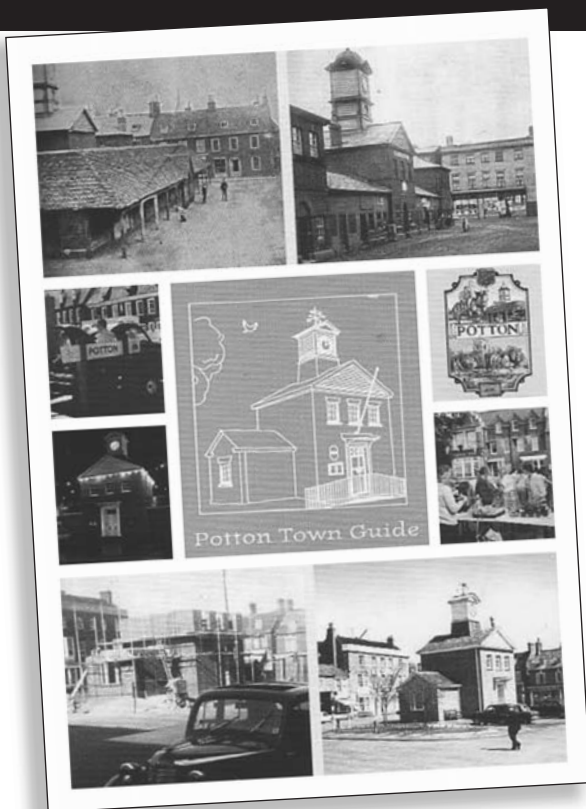
RESURFACING BROOK END

A number of roads in Potton have been resurfaced by the County Council during 2008. A resident celebrated with his own flag when Brook End was repaired recently. He tells me that the road had not been resurfaced for over 40 years. It did create some inconvenience for two days but the contractors have done a splendid job at Brook End.



POTTON TOWN GUIDE

The Town Guide was produced and distributed in 2006. The Guide lists local organisations and has more detailed information about most clubs and community groups. There is information which new residents may find useful including a local map. If you have lost your copy or you are a new resident and would like to have a copy of the guide please call in at the Town Council office during opening hours or collect a copy from the library.



REPORTING PROBLEMS

The Town Council looks after the Cemetery, the Allotments, the Henry Smith Playground, the Mill Lane Playground, the Recreation Fields, the Public Conveniences, the Brook End Car Park, the Pavilion and the Community Centre. For problems or enquiries about these facilities please contact the Clerk at the **Town Council Office, Brook End Tel: 01767 260086**
pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk

Many problems are currently being reported to the Clerk which the Town Council has no power to overcome, please contact the relevant authority as listed below:-

If your problem is about refuse collection, environmental issues, recycling, or street cleaning please contact:

Mid Beds District Council Tel: 08452 304040 Email: customer.services@midbeds.gov.uk

If your problem is about safety on the roads, pot holes, problems with the pavements or hedge cutting please contact

Bedfordshire County Council Tel: 01234 363222

Bedfordshire Highways help desk Tel: 01234 228661

Email: highways@bedscc.gov.uk

Town Council Information

Town Council Office, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS
Town Clerk Valerie Moles
Telephone 01767 260086
Email pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk

Office opening hours:

Monday 9am to 12.30am
Tuesday 9am to 12.30pm
Wednesday Closed
Thursday 9am to 12.30pm - 2pm to 4pm
Friday Closed

Town Councillors

Mick Allen	260227	Sharon Kingham	261213
Jeremy Armond	260521	Peter Langridge	260362
Richard Baker BEM	260212	Alan Leggatt	260001
Jim Burke	261275	Anita Lewis	260726
Ruth Burmo	260712	John Lewis	260726
Nigel Butlin	260075	Brian Lilley	261044
Geoff Emery	261710	Jean Way	260456
Eric Jakes M.B.E.	260779		

Mr P. Langridge is Chairman of Town Council
Mr A. Leggatt is Vice Chairman of the Town Council
Mr J. Lewis is Chairman of Planning Committee
Mr A. Leggatt is Chairman of Financial and General Purposes Committee
Mr FW Jakes MBE is Chairman of the Burials Committee
Mr M. Allen is Chairman of the Playing Fields and Allotment Committee
Chairman of Buildings and Facilities Committee is to be elected
Mr B Lilley is Chairman of the Transport Committee

The Town Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month except August. Meetings are usually held on the first floor of the Clock House in the Market Square and start at 7pm. Committee Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the same venue, starting at 7.00 p.m. If you wish to attend a meeting and would find access to the first floor Council Chamber difficult, please notify the Clerk as soon as possible prior to the meeting

Other Council Representatives for Potton

County Councillor

Richard Baker B.E.M 260212 Richard.baker@bedscc.gov.uk

Mid.Beds.District Councillors

Doreen Gurney 680395 doreen.gurney@midbeds.gov.uk

Anita Lewis 260726 anita.lewis@midbeds.gov.uk

John Lewis 260726 john.lewis@midbeds.gov.uk

Summary of Town Council Accounts Financial year 2007-2008

Income	Total 2007/08	To 31st October 08
Precept	105000	105000
Cemetery	3890	1757
Grants/Donations	12989	350
Interest	4252	2403
Hire of Grounds	1150	1014
Grass cut for B C Council	1406	1517
Refund of VAT	13247	5820
Allotments	*1185	150
Hire C. Centre & Pavilion	21085	13407
Other Income	9706	1392
	173910	132810
Expenditure		
Community Centre	12483	6487
Mill Lane Pavilion	16903	8220
Recreation Grounds	11425	8424
Administration /staff wages	67543	43708
Clock House/Market Sq.	3936	*13296
Allotments	450	280
Cemetery	17322	12353
New Play Equipment	6836	0
Other Expenditure		
Street Lighting	595	214
Grass Cut Town Verges	2604	2119
Public Conveniences	10658	4410
Car Park	2352	1712
	153107	101223

* includes Town Centre Enhancement costs

Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as at 1st September 08

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Main Hall	£6.50	£7.50	£9.00
Upper Hall	£4.00	£5.00	£6.00
Both Rooms	£9.50	£11.50	£13.50

Mill Lane Pavilion, Mill Lane, Potton

	Up to 5pm Weekdays	5pm to 10.30pm Weekdays	Weekends/ Bank Holidays
Pavilion	£7.00	£10.00	£14.00

To check availability please contact Bookings Clerk Mrs S Williamson 01767 260086

Potton Library Opening Hours

Monday	2pm to 6pm	
Wednesday	2pm to 6pm	
Friday	10am to 1pm	2pm to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 1pm	

- Free Wireless Internet transmitting 24-7
- Daily and weekly newspapers are available
- The librarian, Gillian, will be happy to answer any queries on 01767 260740