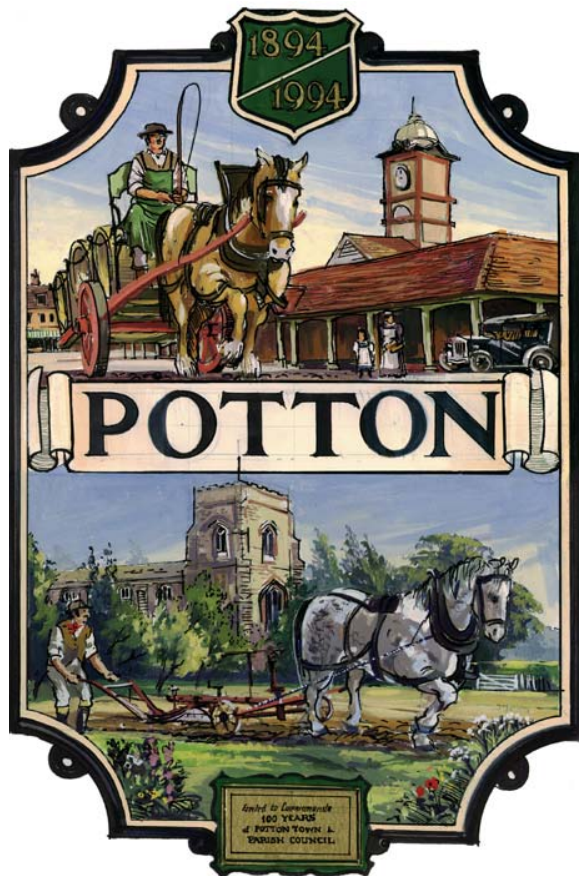


Potton Town Council



Newsletter Spring 2009

Chairman's Message

This is the first letter of 2009 and if the current situation is an indication it will be a busy year. Large projects such as the town centre enhancement and the town plan are well advanced.

The town centre enhancement is all but complete, only the final finishing touches are now needed. Small trees are still to be sited and benches around the large trees in the centre will be fitted very soon. I believe it has improved the look of our town centre a great deal and will delight visitors to our town for many years.

The town plan steering committee have formed individual smaller committees to study the results of the questionnaire distributed throughout the town. Using this information they will formulate action plans to address the problems raised and any ideas that have resulted. These individual plans will be forwarded to the steering committee who will use them when producing the final town plan. The steering committee will attempt to publish an interim progress report in the near future to keep the residents informed.

The Beds Rural Charities (BRCC) are running a housing needs survey which is a central government initiative. This is in addition to the section in our questionnaire and is to ascertain if there is a need for particular types of housing. Some of the information will be a duplication of information you have given in the questionnaire but I would encourage you to complete the form and return it as some exchange of ideas could result to our benefit.

The Christmas lights were once again a success. I think everyone was pleased to see Santa arrive on a steam engine escorted by Noddy and Big Ears. Next year could be even more fun.

Much has been written in the press recently on the remuneration of local councillors. With the inception of the new Central Beds unitary authority all the expenses and payments have obviously had to be reviewed. Members of Potton town council act as your representatives and endeavour to do this to the best benefit of the residents of Potton. They do this on a voluntary basis. No councillor acting as a Potton town councillor receives any payment. They are entitled to receive out of pocket expenses but to my knowledge since I have been associated with the town council no expense claim has ever been submitted by any councillor. This may be reflected in the fact that for yet another year Potton town council have not increased their proportion of your council tax.

At long last we have managed to have a seat placed in Station Road for the benefit of those walking the long uphill distance from the town centre to the Newtown/Paddocks end of the town. Our thanks go to the landladies in the Red Lion for their assistance in providing a site for the bench and Mr. Utting for his work in campaigning on this issue.

Finally I would inform you that the town's annual meeting will take place on Monday 20th April in the pavilion at Mill Lane. Hope to see a good turnout of residents.

Best wishes

Peter J. Langridge

WINTER VISITORS TO POTTON BROOK

Walkers along the millennium path in the Henry Smith Playing Fields may have been lucky enough to see the beautiful pair of swans that have visited us this winter joining the ducks on the brook. They have visited Potton for a few days most winters but this year they have stayed much longer. I wonder where they come from and where they go when they leave us?



POTTON TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Potton Town Council's new website has gone live!!!



You can find it at www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

The site has a history of Potton with the help of the History Society and a gallery of pictures from around the town together with pictures of local events.

There is information about the Council, details about your Councillors and copies of minutes and newsletters. We have included a Forthcoming Events page for your use, just send details of your event to the Clerk and it will be posted on the Web (*text only please we cannot reproduce posters*).

There is a page for young people to use to advertise their own news and events, again send your information to the Clerk (*e-mail, post or telephone*).

The information about local organisations has been reproduced from the Town Guide. If you wish to make any changes please notify the Clerk. We hope you like the site please contact the council with your comments.

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 or the post office.



We found Sun house 23 years ago and instantly fell in love with it and the little gem that is the town of Potton. It is so rare to find such a community as that of Potton still surviving in the hustle and bustle of the twenty first century. I came from a career in Education which included teacher, college lecturer and inspector of schools.

I have been a member of the Town Council for 13 years at the same time as I became a District Councillor for Potton at MBDC. One of my main interests is in the young people of the Town. I have been a Governor at Burgoyne Middle School for almost two decades. I am currently Chair of the

Governing Body. I sit on the Bedfordshire Schools' Forum representing the Middle School Governors. I also sit on the transitional task force for Children, Families and Learning for the new Unitary Central Bedfordshire.

I take a pride in the historical heritage of our Town with our many listed buildings and conservation areas. Living in the oldest dwelling to survive the great fire of Potton in 1783, I feel a responsibility to preserve and record the history of our Town for the generations yet to come. I have been the Treasurer of Potton History Society for the past 18 years. Living near the Market Square I have been an enthusiastic member of the Town Centre Enhancement Group.

The role of the Town Council is destined to be evermore important once the new Unitary Authority is established in April 2009. I am determined to play a full part in representing the people of Potton in this new era.

Anita Lewis

POTTON HISTORY SOCIETY

POTTON HISTORY SOCIETY



The Society was formed in 1977 and has built up a membership of over 100. It holds monthly meetings in the Community Centre in Brook End, normally on the fourth Thursday of a month. It is an active society which organises trips, publishes material and maintains a developing archive of past and present photographs and documents.

Aims of the Society.

1. To promote an interest in history and particularly in that of Potton through regular meetings, exhibitions and other activities.
2. To collect, record and publish information on the history of Potton for the benefit of members and the local community.
3. To record current events in Potton for the benefit of future generations.
4. To help in the general conservation and preservation of the buildings and surrounding countryside.

Committee:- 2009

Chairman	Mr George Howe	Station House, Potton.	01767 260935
Secretary	Mrs J McLennan	3 Station Court, Potton.	01767 261867
Treasurer	Mrs Anita Lewis	Sun House, Potton	01767 260726
Programme	Mr Peter Ibbett	e-mail: pibbett@aol.com	01480 218756

Members:- Mr John Boston; Mr Sean Hendy; Mr M Horgan

Last Updated 01/09.

Publications

Pictures of Potton	P Yates/N Parry	Vol 1	£4.00
		Vol 2	£4.00
		Vol 3	£4.00
Potton Manor - An Enigma (2 nd Ed)	T Bail		£3.50
Potton Consolidated Charities	P Yates		£3.50
The Potton Car (3 rd Ed)	P Ibbett		£1.00
Potton Market Square	P Ibbett		£3.00
The Great Fire of Potton	P Ibbett		£2.00
The Potton Clock House	P Ibbett		£2.00
A Pottonian Remembers	K Lawson		£2.00
Potton:- A Brief History	P Ibbett		£1.00
Potton Historical Walk	- Free		
Potton Tea Towel			£3.20
Over The Brook	J Butcher		£2.00

Copies of current publications can be obtained from the Society Secretary (add £1 for postage and packing per volume.) A newsletter is published twice a year, recent copies of which are available at 50p.

Last Updated 01/09

Potton History Society Archive Collection.

The Society has a growing archive collection of photographs, documents, maps, scrapbooks, microfiche, films, slides, tapes and books of Potton past and present. This also includes the "Potton Car". These may be used for research into any aspect of local history. Contact the Chairman or Secretary for details. The collection is maintained by the Society with help from donations but is held on private property thus restricting public access. Copies of items for which the Society has copyright can be provided for private use for a fee to cover costs. Please contact the Society for further details. The society is always pleased to receive new material for its collection.

The jewel in the collection are our photographic albums with over 8000 mounted and captioned photographs. The table below shows the topics that are covered. Contact pibbett@aol.com for information.

The Potton History Society Photographic Collection

Topic	Albums	Additions
1. Aerial	1-3	4 Cardington Airships
2. Celebrations	5-8	8a; b Golden Jubilee
3. Charities	9	8c; Party On Potton 2006
4. Cockayne Hatley	10a	8d; Millennium Week
5. Commercial	11-21	8e/ PHS Players 2000
6. Conservation	22	16a Shannon Yd
7. Council Events	23	26a Lower School
8. Education	24-27	
9. Everton	28	
10. Families	29-31	
11. Fire Brigade	32-33	34a Footpaths
12. Footpaths	34-35	
13. Gmtingay	36	
14. Hassell's Hall	37	38a Sandstone Project
15. Ironstone	38	
16. Land & Property	39	
17. Land Settlement	40	
18. Local Poets	41	45a Manor
19. Manor	42-47	53a MSq 2002
20. Market Square	48-57	56a Jackson's Yard
21. Miscellaneous	58	
22. Politics	59-60	
23. Public Houses	61	
24. Quiz Photographs	62-66	83 Salvn; 84 Methodist
25. Non-Conformist Churches	67-68	76a; 79a; 82a
26. St Mary's Church	69-82	89a PHS Show
27. Sand Extraction	85	93a; b; 100 a-d;
28. Societies	86-100	102a; 104a; 112a
29. Sports	101-105	126a 128a; 128b; 128c
30. Streets	106-133	138a
31. Sutton	143-136	
32. Transport	137-142	
33. Wartime	143-146	
34. Waterways	147	
35. Weather	148	
36. Wrestlingworth	149	

183 Albums Dec 2008

Contact George Howe, Chairman or Peter Ibbett (pibbett@aol.com) for more details or enquiries about photographs. We welcome additions to the collection including current day photographs. The Society can take copies and return the original(s).

Please see Town Council website for the History Society Programme and dates of meetings

You can find it at
www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

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

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas Lights ceremony this year was the best yet and the weather was kind to us. This could not happen if it were not for the many volunteers who work so hard to put up the equipment and take it down again in January, giving up many Sunday mornings, thank you. The Town Council also wishes to thank the businesses, individuals and everyone who gave donations. It is more expensive every year to pay for the safety checks, hire the platform lift, replace bulbs and buy new decorations. We hope you liked the new tree lights this year. The Council is very grateful to those who allow the use of their electricity especially as costs have increased so much recently. We also thank the donor of the Christmas Tree which stood above the bank, not forgetting the choirs, the Master of Ceremonies, Father Christmas, his elves and helpers and the cavalcade of traction engine and cars which accompanied him to the Square.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**The Annual Town Meeting will be held this year on
MONDAY 20TH APRIL 2009
7.30pm
AT THE MILL LANE PAVILION**

Everyone is welcome to attend and make their views known.

There will be representatives from the District, Unitary and County Councils as well as Local School Governors and Police.

BUS TIMETABLES

There are bus timetables available from the Town Council Office during opening hours.

Town Council Information

Wwebsite www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

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 30th November 2009
Precept	105000	105000
Cemetery	3890	1883
Grants/Donations	12989	575
Interest	4252	2740
Hire of Grounds	1150	1104
Grass cut for B C Council	1406	1517
Refund of VAT	13247	5820
Allotments	*1185	150
Hire C. Centre & Pavilion	21085	16028
Other Income	9706	4218
	173910	136035
Expenditure		
Community Centre	12483	8563
Mill Lane Pavilion	16903	9168
Recreation Grounds	11425	8797
Administration /staff wages	67543	48005
Clock House/Market Sq.	3936	*13747
Allotments	450	480
Cemetery	17322	19890
New Play Equipment	6836	0
Other Expenditure		
Street Lighting	595	214
Grass Cut Town Verges	2604	2406
Public Conveniences	10658	5226
Car Park	2352	1940
	153107	118436

* 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