



Central Bedfordshire Council Volunteer of the Year Awards

Potton Town Council nominated Kim Gutteridge in Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC), **Fundraiser of the Year** category as recognition of her contribution towards community life in Potton. While her main voluntary activity is in support of the **Hall For All** project (as secretary for 20 years), Kim has helped other local organisations: Potton Cricket Club; St Mary's Church and Hall; Potton Scout Group; Potton Bowls Club; Potton Community Orchard; Potton Music Festival and Biggleswade Splash Park. Kim was Highly Commended in the category.



left to right: CBC Cllr Adam Zerny, Kim Gutteridge and town Cllr Geoff Emery

Can you spare a bit of time to help **Potton Hall for All** as a volunteer?
Get in touch via Facebook
www.facebook.com/pottonhallforall

Allotments

Do you want to grow your own fruit and vegetables? Would you like to have a more active lifestyle and eat healthily? Would you like to make friends and learn from their expertise?



If so, why not think about renting a Town Council Allotment?

Contact Sarah Williamson
E: pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com or T: 260086.



Town Council Information

Potton Town Council employs a small team. Some staff are essential office holders who perform statutory obligations key to the internal administration. The Town Clerk Jonathan Whitehurst is the “proper officer” and the responsible financial officer who manages the staff team

and is responsible for implementation of the council’s policies and decisions.

The Town Clerk is supported by a part-time Assistant, Mrs Sarah Williamson who looks after services such as the allotments and hall hire. We also employ a part-time caretaker Simon Desborough who maintains our properties and a part-time relief caretaker John Ellary.

The Town Council office is open for drop-in visitors

For enquiries regarding the following: Cemetery, Allotments, Henry Smith Playground, Mill Lane Playground, Recreation Fields, Public Conveniences, Brook End Car Park, Mill Lane Pavilion and Community Centre.

Monday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Friday	9.30am – 12.30pm

If you want to see a specific member of the team please ring ahead to make an appointment.

Tel: 01767 260086
E: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com
W: www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk

Councillor contact details:

Denis Ellison	261925	Jonathan Lean	262404
Geoff Emery	261710	Alan Leggatt	260001
Andrew Gibb	260067	John Lewis	260726
Richard Harris	262596	Angus Macdonald	262006
John Hobbs	260710	Chris Temple	262535
Les Ivall	261559	Rex Whitfield	262246
Roger Jordan	261143	Adam Zerny	261319
Peter Langridge	260362		

Town Council Meetings

Held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre starting at 7pm.

Tuesday 6th September
Tuesday 2nd November

Tuesday 4th October
Tuesday 6th December

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Public Conveniences

We provide public toilets at the Cemetery, Sandy Road and Brook End, Potton. The ladies and gents in Brook End are automatically open Monday to Saturday 7am to 4pm. Like many town councils, Potton uses the Radar National (Toilet) Key Scheme for the disabled toilet at Brook End, because we have to lock our toilets to counter vandalism and in order to reduce costs. Having a locked disabled toilet ensures it is not misused.

Chairman’s Message



Hello and welcome to the autumn edition of the newsletter.

We have been improving **our play area in Mill Lane** throughout the year and continue to replace some

of our older equipment here and at **Henry Smith Playing Fields** so it can be well used during the holidays.

Our **skate park** is shortly coming to the end of its life as it consists mainly of metal equipment and the life span is limited. We’d love to hear from our skate park users, especially if you want to be involved in replacement plans. Call Jonathan on 260086.

There are a number of great events coming up. **Party on Potton** (www.partyonpotton.org.uk) takes place during August Bank Holiday Weekend and we will be there on Community Day. **Potton Show** (www.pottonshow.org.uk) will soon be here, including the annual **Barn Dance** and **Craft Fair** as well as **Potton Apple Day**. All are well worth a visit.

Our **Clean for the Queen** litter picking was very successful earlier this year. The volunteers made a real difference, collecting discarded rubbish and improving the appearance of streets,

parks and verges. A similar event is proposed for October.

I should also mention the good work being done by Potton’s **Responsible Dog Owners** in keeping the town looking and smelling better, cleaning up after those less responsible members of the public and their dogs.

A big thanks to all of our volunteers!

Finally some congratulations and thanks. Congratulations to **Potton Lower School** on a great Ofsted report. The school continues to thrive under the leadership of Cathy Smart and her team – well done!

Secondly, thanks and best wishes to Marg Smith who is retiring after 40 years of teaching and providing education to numerous children in Potton. I’m sure you’ll join me in wishing Marg well and would agree that pupils and parents will miss her.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Best wishes

Angus

Cllr Angus Macdonald

Grass Cutting - When & Where?

The town council has received various comments/queries/complaints about grass cutting this year. The weather this spring and early summer has been ideal growing conditions with rain and sunshine.



We arrange for the grass cutting of over 90 thousand square meters of grass - equivalent to over 18 football pitches or over 350 tennis courts!

Area cut	Budgeted Cost
Allotments	£500
Potton Cemetery	£3,400
St Mary's Churchyard	£ 1,700
Henry Smith Playing Fields	£3,000
Mill Lane Recreation Ground	£2,500
Central Bedfordshire Council - Adopted Highway Verges (within the 30mph and 20mph speed limit)	£2,500
Nature Reserve (Hatley Road)	£195
Total £13,795	

We have not budgeted for any weed spraying of fence lines and other obstacles in grass areas, as vegetation encourages wildlife.

We considered the frequency and specification for the grass-cutting contract during 2105. A number of companies quoted for a 1, 2 and 3-year contract and after careful consideration, we awarded a 3-year contract to Reynolds Landscaping Services, a local company specialising in landscape maintenance. The new contract started in the spring and is monitored by the town council staff. It is worth saying that having a contractor is cheaper than employing someone and keeps council tax lower.

The town council has received various comments that the grass isn't cut frequently enough and also the opposite comment that the grass is cut too frequently. We decided that the majority of the grass is to be cut 17 times a year (once every 2 weeks from March to early November) with the exception of the following:

- Allotments
- Churchyard (areas 2 and 3)
- CBC Highways Flail areas
- Carrot Wash
- Nature Reserve Hatley Road.

Protecting Wildlife

Some grassy areas in the town are home to rare species of wildlife and it is important we protect these species whilst also keeping our town tidy.

Hatley Road by St Mary's Church - A Roadside Nature Reserve

The verge contains the only remaining strong British population of a rare snail (*Truncatellina cyclindrica*) and is also a County Wildlife Site. This verge is only cut once in late summer.



Henry Smith Playing Field - Protecting Water Voles

During the 1800's water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) were common along riverbanks throughout mainland Britain but since then they have undergone a dramatic decline due to destruction of their habitats. Water Vole populations are now scarce but The Wildlife Trust has confirmed that they are present near Potton Brook. The Potton Environment Group is working to improve this habitat to sustain its suitability for water voles and encourage their population on the site.

The Carrot Wash is currently the area used most by the water voles as the tall wetland vegetation provides a good source of food and cover from predators. A strip of grass approximately 2 metres wide either side of the channel has been left uncut to provide more foraging opportunities for the water voles.

Churchyard

The Diocese of St Albans has a **Living Churchyard Project** which aims to help churches manage their churchyards in a wildlife-friendly way, while being sensitive to the users and paying heed to the primary function as a resting place for the dead and a contemplative place for friends and relatives of those buried there.

We met with representatives of the church in Autumn 2015 to find ways for the churchyard to encourage more wildlife. It was agreed that some grass areas in the churchyard would be cut every two weeks, some every four weeks and some areas cut only once in late summer.



To report comments/queries/complaints about the grass cutting works, please contact the Town Council.

Potton Town Council
Unaudited Balance Sheet as at 31st March'16

Current Assets	31 Mar '16	31 Mar '15
Debtors	1,668	966
VAT Control Account	2,841	7,648
Current Account	12,284	16,401
30 Day Account	217,915	166,990
Petty Cash	160	154
Petrol Petty Cash	25	25
Total Assets	234,893	192,184

Current Liabilities	31 Mar '16	31 Mar '15
Receipts in Advance	1,573	0
Party Deposits	250	500
Long Term Deposits	600	0
Total Liabilities	2,423	500

Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	232,471	191,684
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Represented By	31 Mar '16	31 Mar '15
General Reserves	71,839	137,312
EMR Community Centre	9,921	10,736
EMR Cemetery	2,928	1,500
EMR Christmas Lights	5,777	5,224
EMR Town Plan	2,084	2,414
EMR Youth Budget	10,921	8,712
EMR Grants	20,786	25,786
EMR Mill Lane Play Area	7,216	0
EMR Carpark	50,000	0
EMR Skatepark	50,000	0
EMR Website	1,000	0
Total Reserves	232,471	191,684

The BIG weekend starts here!



your 4-page pullout guide to the events at Party on Potton

CHECK OUT THE MAP ON THE BACK PAGE

FRIDAY - 26th Aug

Evening

8pm – til late

Club Night at the Marquee

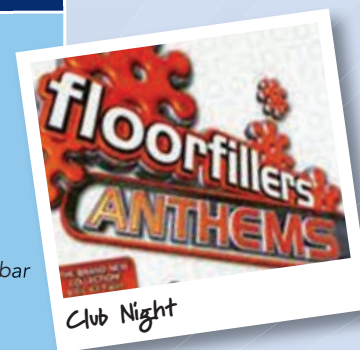
Sounds from DJ Gavin Seggon
 Club Classic Anthems, Ultimate FloorFillers

Happy Hour 8pm – 9pm

POP Licensed Bar & Food Catered by Potton Scouts and Claytons

(Strictly no drink other than that purchased at the bar will be allowed into the Marquee)

Adults £5, Children under 16 £3. (Golden Ticket can be used)



SATURDAY - 27th Aug - Community Day

12noon **Carnival Parade & Car Rally** - 'It's Party Time' (See route map on the back cover)
Accompanied by **Biggleswade Sea Cadets, Arco Iris** and **Sound Express**.



Carnival

NEW **Scarecrow Hunt**
Grab a Trail Map and Entry Form from the Ticket Booth, draw for prizes at 4pm on Monday.

1.10pm^ **Fancy Dress** Competition in the Arena – open to all.

NEW **1.30pm*** **Teddy Bear Picnic in the Marquee**
Little ones bring your packed lunch and teddy and come and have some fun.



Teddy Bear Picnic

NEW **1.30pm^** **Biggleswade Sea Cadets** performance in the arena.

2pm^ **Arco Iris** - Cambridge Community Samba Band playing the very loudest & hottest of Brazilian carnival rhythms.

2.30pm **Widdershins Story Tent** – fabulous local puppet theatre with 3 stories a day. Check times at Story Tent.

NEW **3pm^** **Human Hungry Hippo!** – grab a partner and meet us at the arena.

4pm^ **The Biggest Dog Show in Town**
See poster on page 18 for more details.

1 – 5pm **Community Stalls** Find out what goes on in Potton.

1 – 5pm **Wrayfield Dog Agility Club** Take your dog round their agility course, and if you don't have a dog you can always borrow one of theirs.



Scarecrow Hunt

NEW **1 – 5pm** **Kid Zone** Loads of free activities for the children, varying daily.

NEW **1 – 5pm** **Activities for all** Cardboard City, Giant Maze, Graffiti Wall, Giant sized Games, High Ropes, Sand Pit.



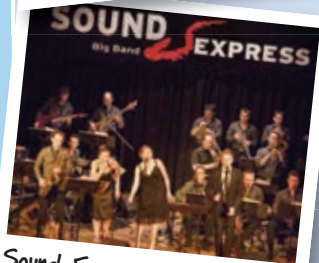
Wrayfield Dog Agility

Evening
7.30pm til late **Sound Express Swing Band – Achtung!**
Dance the night away to their fabulous sound.

This night is always a sell out – get your tickets early to avoid disappointment! NO TICKET NO ENTRY

POP Licensed Bar and Food Catered by Claytons
(Strictly no drink other than that purchased at the bar will be allowed into the Marquee)

Adults £15, Children under 16 £6
Golden Ticket can be used



Sound Express

SUNDAY - 28th Aug - Arts & Crafts Day

10am* **Churches Together**
A combined service with St Mary's Church, Potton Vineyard, the Salvation Army and Potton Baptist Church.

NEW **10am – 12pm** **Car Boot** - £5 a pitch, sellers to arrive at 9am
On the field near the car park, no need to book, just turn up.



Car Boot

11.30am **History Walk** - Organised by the Potton History Society. Come and learn about where you live.

12noon onwards **Posh Picnic – Prize for the poshest!**
Bring your hampers and buy your Champers. Accompanied by various music inc Jazz Works and Dan Arnold



Posh Picnic

NEW **1pm^** **Jodie Robertson School of Dance**
Performance in the Arena.

2.30pm **Widdershins Story Tent** – fabulous local puppet theatre with 3 stories a day. Check times at Story Tent.

1-5pm **Arts and Craft Stalls**
Come and meet local crafts people, purchase their wares and maybe learn a new skill.

NEW **1 – 5pm** **Kids Zone Marquee** – Loads of free activities for the children, varying daily. High wires, Giant Sand Pit, Giant Sized Games, Giant Maze, Graffiti Wall, Cardboard City.



High Ropes

NEW **1 – 5pm** **Activities for all** – Pillow Bashing, The Gladiator, Sumo Suits, Space Hoppers plus Cardboard City, Giant Maze, Graffiti Wall, Giant sized Games, High Ropes, Sand Pit.

7.30pm til late **Casino and Cabaret**
Hosted by the glamorous **Regina Dwight** (back by popular demand)

From the Britain's Got Talent Stage, music by **Eva Iglesias**

Casino Tables (buy fun money & have a go)

Professional Photographer - capturing your night
POP Licensed Bar and Food Catered by Claytons
(Strictly no drink other than that purchased at the bar will be allowed into the Marquee)

Adults £15 – Over 18's only
Golden Ticket can be used



Casino and Cabaret



Eva Iglesias

*In the marquee ^In the arena

NEW 10am Starting at The Marquee
5k run
Off Road Bike Ride
Road Bike Ride



Off Road Bike Ride

12noon **Activity Sessions from local Clubs for all Ages**
 Barns **Fitness**, Limited Edition Sport, Triumph Wellbeing **Bootcamp**, **Tag & Play Rugby** with Biggleswade Rugby Club, **Golf** with John O'Gaunt Golf Club, **Archery** and **Bowls** with Potton Bowls Club.

12noon **Skate Park Competition**

1-5pm **Kids Zone Marquee** – Loads of free activities for the children, varying daily. Climbing Wall, Giant Sand Pit, Giant Sized Games, Giant Maze, Graffiti Wall, Cardboard City.

1-5pm **Football Tournament & Beat the Goalie**

NEW 1-5pm **Donkey Rides**



Donkey Rides

NEW 1pm in The Marquee **Guinness World Record Registration**

NEW 1.45pm & 3.30pm **Punch & Judy**



Punch and Judy

NEW 3pm onwards **Team Games**
 Tug of War, Wheelbarrow Races, Egg Throwing, Sack Races, and more..

4pm ^ **Prize Giving for all competitions**

NEW Evening

7.30 – 11pm **Pantomime**
 Potton Players present **"Wizard of Potton"**
 For one night only, not too be missed, come and see this fabulous rendition of the Wizard of Oz. Written and performed by the very talented people of Potton.

POP Licensed Bar and Food Catered by Wellingborough Scouts

(Strictly no drink other than that purchased at the bar will be allowed into the Marquee)

Adults £10, Children £6
Family Panto Ticket £30 (2 adults & 3 children)
Golden Ticket can be used



Potton's Got Talent

*In the marquee ^In the arena

Potton Community Agent News

- Supporting the over 60s in Potton



■ **We held a Queen's 90th Birthday indoor 'street party'**. Great fun was had by all. Many thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who organised the event.

■ **New Music Therapy Group** - Thanks to a generous grant from the Potton Consolidated Charity, a new community music therapy group for people with dementia will be commencing on Wednesday September 21st at the Community Centre facilitated by Potton resident and music therapist Alice Ream. It will initially run for 6 weeks, with the view to continue long term. We are looking for a team of volunteers; please contact Alice on 07934 375602 if you would like to find out more.

■ **Potton Indoor Carpet Bowls & Town Teas** takes place every Thursday from 10-12, now renamed 'Potton Friendship

Group', at the Community Centre. Have a game of carpet bowls, Scrabble or cards or simply sit and chat over tea and homemade cakes. All welcome. £1.50 entry.

■ **Samsung Tablet Project** - Further generous funding from Potton Consolidated Charity means we can continue with a new programme in September. Anyone over 60 who does not already own a tablet and has little or no experience of touch screen technology is welcome to apply. Places are limited.

■ **Don't forget**, if you have any forms that you need help filling in such as Attendance Allowance, Blue Badges or Council Tax Reduction/Housing Benefit or any other issue, then please call Andrea, Potton Community Agent, in confidence on 0300 555 5949.

Potton Neighbourhood Plan

Have your say on Potton's future!

Over the next few months we will be compiling a vision of how Potton should develop over the next 15 – 20 years. Issues that we will be considering include:

- What future housing development over the next 15 – 20 years should look like
- What business development is required / sought
- How we can improve our social infrastructure
- How we should protect and enhance our green infrastructure for people and wildlife.

If you are interested in seeing how it will evolve and having your say on the Neighbourhood Plan Committee of the Town Council will be manning the following events:

August 27th – 1pm to 5pm at the **Party on Potton Community** afternoon in Henry Smith Playing Field

September 10th – **Potton Show** in St. Mary's Church field

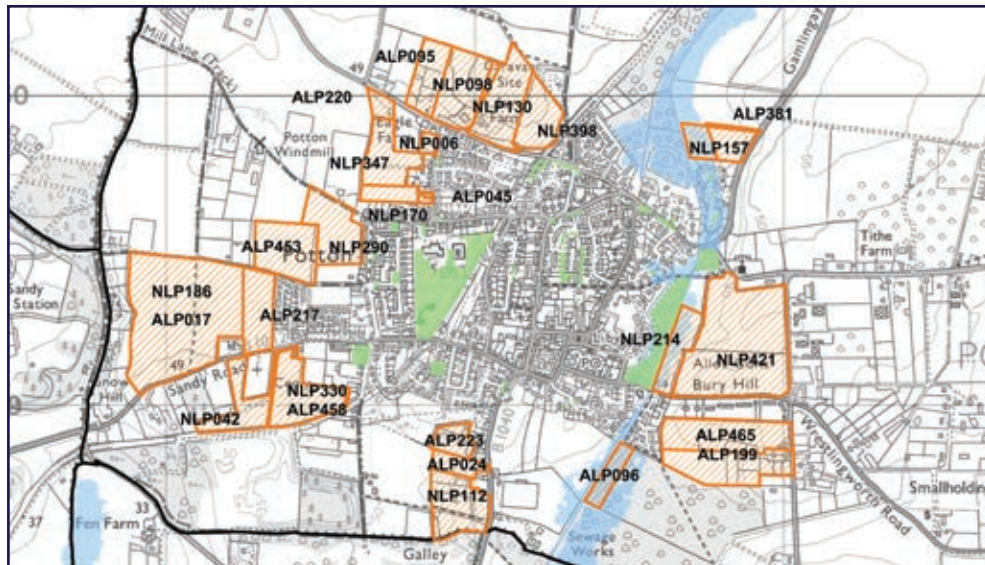
September 17th – **Seasonal Market** in the Market Square

You can also complete a questionnaire on-line: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6SF9LTR

We have now received details of all applications made for building new houses under the Central Bedfordshire Call for Sites. See the map below. You will need to refer to this map to answer one of the questions on the questionnaire.

It should be emphasized that this map represents all sites submitted and it is estimated that only 4-6% of all sites will be taken up.

Map showing the submitted sites in and around Potton



We need your input as to what are the best sites to have developed over the next 15 to 20 years.

Further details can be obtained from Jonathan Whitehurst on 260086 or by email to pottoncouncil@btinternet.com

We are aware that there are not enough smaller houses for starter homes or for our older generation who need to downsize. But do we have enough facilities for this expansion? Are there enough schools, doctors and buses etc? Do we need more social facilities such as the Hall for All and new Tennis Courts? Do we need more Jobs or more parking etc.?

We will also be holding our next drop-in Workshop in the Community Centre on **Saturday October 1st** from 10am – 4pm.

At this workshop you will be able to give your views on the vision for Potton that will be the heart of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Dates for the Diary

September

Sat 10 th	Potton Show – St. Mary's Church field	
Sat 17 th	Councillor Surgery – Library (Cllrs Jordan and Macdonald)	10am – 12 noon
Sat 17 th	Seasonal Market – Potton Market Square	9am to 1pm
Sun 25 th	Potton Apple Day St. Mary's Church Hall	12 noon – 4pm

October

Sat 1 st	Neighbourhood Plan workshop – Community Centre	10am – 4pm
Sat 15 th	Councillor Surgery – Library (Cllrs Cllrs Emery and Lean)	10am – 12 noon
Sun 16 th	Potton Town Council Civic Service – St Mary's Church	3pm

November

Sat 12 th	Councillor Surgery – Library (Cllrs Ivall and Whitfield)	10am – 12 noon
Sun 13 th	Remembrance Sunday – Potton Market Square	10.30am

December

Fri 2 nd	Christmas Lights switch-on – Potton Market Square	6pm onwards
Sat 10 th	Councillor Surgery – Library (Cllrs Gibb and Lewis)	10am – 12 noon
Sat 10 th	Seasonal Market – Potton Market Square	9am to 1pm

Town Council Hall Hire – Availability

Halls (Community Centre and Mill Lane Pavilion) can be hired by private individuals, community groups and commercial hirers. There are a number of vacant sessions during the day time, evening and at weekends at the Community Centre and Mill Lane Pavilion.

Please contact Mrs Sarah Williamson to check on availability and make a booking Email: pottontowncouncilbookings@btconnect.com or Tel: 260086.

Potton's Responsible Dog Owners

Helping to Keep Potton Clean.

Some of you may have noticed the patches of fluorescent colours beginning to appear on the streets of Potton. No, this is not some attempt at recreating a Banksy, but members of our group highlighting the levels of dog fouling left behind by those less responsible.



Potton's Responsible Dog Owners was originally formed when the use of Mill Lane Recreation Ground was under threat for dog walkers, and we wanted to show that dogs and footballers could co-exist.

Recreation Ground Clean Up

Our first event was a complete clean and tidy of dog waste, litter and car tyres etc, from the Recreation Ground. This was soon followed by a commitment that responsible dog owners would pick up other people's dog waste when they saw it, in order to ensure that this facility remained open to all users. A result of this was the installation of extra waste bins provided on the field by the town council.

A sub-committee was then formed at the request of the Town Council comprising representatives from football and dog walking communities together with the Town Council, and our facebook page now has over 200 members.

Fluorescent colours

So, why the fluorescent colours you may be asking? This is an initiative that has been used across the UK and shown to be effective in highlighting the impact of dog fouling on irresponsible owners. We have now undertaken 3 campaigns across the town, and fouling in these areas has dramatically decreased by

the end of the campaign, with a marked improvement continuing months afterwards.

The idea is that in week 1 an area is completely cleared of dog waste. Week 2 sees the first spray of new waste to give an accurate weekly baseline figure. Week 3 sees week 2's waste being collected and spraying of new deposits in a different colour, and Week 4, yet another colour etc., over a number of weeks. The results have been very impressive with levels of fouling reduced to 10% or less over the course of 5 weeks. The spray paint is chalk and water based and so washes away in time.

Keep an eye out for further activities and campaigns. We will see you during the Party On Potton Activities in August. Why not join us on our Facebook page to keep up with what's going on?

Potton is a wonderful place to live. By being responsible and taking care of our little town, we can keep it that way.

Why not come and see what your local Gardening Club can offer you?

GAMLINGAY DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Gamlingay & District Gardening Club are offering you the opportunity to come along to one of our monthly meetings during 2016 for free (normally visitors pay £2.50). Members come from local villages around the Gamlingay area including Potton and Hatley.

Perhaps you have never heard of us or you'd like to learn a little more about gardening. We have been running since 1983 and are affiliated to Royal Horticultural Society and have recently moved our venue to the new Kier Suite at The Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay.

We meet at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of most months to listen to an invited guest speaker. Throughout the year our talks cover many different aspects of gardening and during the remainder of 2016 we have a very interesting programme lined up for you.



September	Simon Ward	Climbing and rambling roses
October	Michael Brown	The language of flowers
November	Mary Barton	Foraging in the hedgerows

You're most welcome to attend. Just remember to bring along this article to gain free entry. We look forward to meeting you but should you require any further information phone **01767 651867** or **01767 650794**. Happy gardening!

Sponsored Cycle Ride

On Sunday 12th June three town councillors joined the Charity Cycle ride organised by Christine Williams to raise money for the Primrose Cancer Unit at Bedford. The ride started and finished at the Community Centre in Brook End. Tea & Cakes were served to the finishers who survived the 17 mile journey through Abbotsley, the Gransdens and home through Gamlingay. The Event raised over £270 for the charity this year.



Free, fruity and fun!

Potton Apple Day will take place this year on **Sunday 25th September**. The focus of the day will be apple juice and cider so bring any spare apples along and try a taste of one or both. Juicing from 12 - 4pm in St Mary's Field, Hatley Road, Potton. Get the latest on Potton Community Orchard with stalls, exhibitions, teas and apple cakes next door in St Mary's Church Hall.

Phone Sally on **262258** for more information.



Party on Potton - Henry Smith Playing Fields

