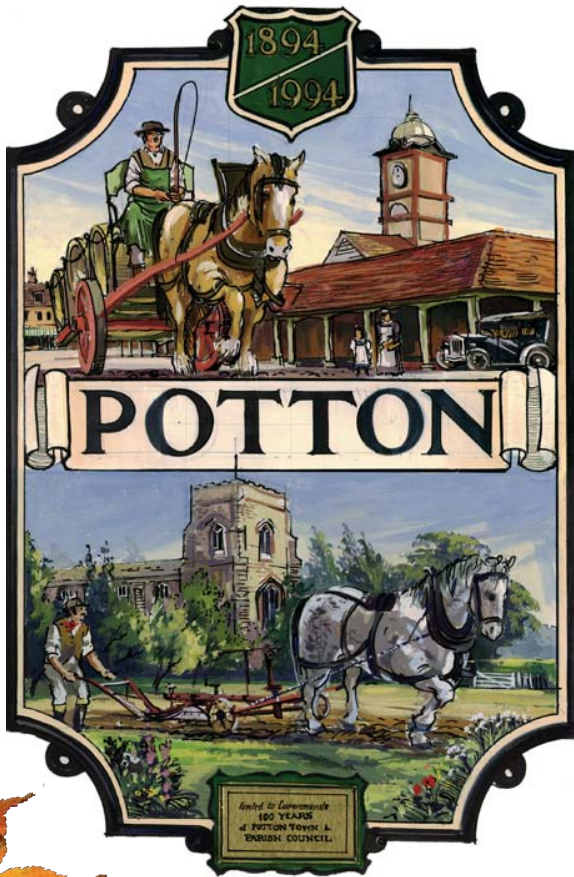
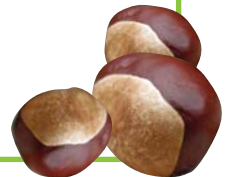


# Potton Town Council



Newsletter  
Autumn 2009



## Chairman's Letter

Doesn't time fly, it is coming into autumn already and time for another newsletter and a chance to update you all on what's what in and around Potton.

We have finally had some of the benches delivered in the town centre in time for people to enjoy the good weather we are experiencing in this Indian summer. These have been favourably received, but it just a shame that we have no news yet of the expected delivery date for the circular benches around the trees.

As it is autumn and the nights are drawing in as they say, we will be putting on lights around the house earlier in the evening, which is a good lead in to remind people that the Christmas lights in the town centre will soon be needed to be erected. As in past years this will be done in Potton by willing volunteers and any extra help is always welcome. Please look for the notices that will appear soon to advise when and how you can help or ring the clerk on 260086 and leave your name and number. These volunteers give of their time freely and produce the best display around so it would be good to continue to improve them.

We are still a vibrant community with many projects on the go with various groups. The town plan has been published and I hope every one has now received a brief synopsis of the completed document delivered to their houses. Copies of the full plan are available in the town council offices in Brook End and the town library in the square. The needs identified in the plan are now being actioned by the various sub-committees formed. I would personally like to thank all those people who had a part to play in the project up to now and wish the best to those who will be continuing the good work in the future.

The party on Potton committee seem to be very active in raising funds for next year's event and I wish them well.

I would like to welcome Adam Zerny to Potton Town Council. Adam was recently co-opted onto the council following the resignation of R.G. Baker B.E.M. I hope Adam's association with the council will be a long and as enjoyable as mine always has.

On a more sombre note, when you visit the doctor's or the bank you can see signs that advise about being abusive towards the staff. This equally applies to the employees of Potton Town Council. The council does all it can within its responsibilities to make life easier in the town. Situations such as the level of water in the brook and road repairs are the responsibility of other authorities. When we are advised of a problem all we can do is report it to the relevant body such as Central Beds or the Ivel Valley water board and request action. Aggressive attitudes towards the staff is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the public who has a complaint will be listened to sympathetically and helped and advised whenever possible. I would ask all those in the town to bear this in mind.

One last passing note just to remind people of the town guide. As I have said earlier there are many diverse groups within the community of Potton and the vast majority of these can be located in our town guide. Copies of the guide can be obtained from the council offices in Brook End or the library.

**Best wishes**  
**Peter J. Langridge**



## EARLY MORNING CLEANER WANTED FOR THE BUS SHELTER IN POTTON MARKET SQUARE

### Are you an early riser?

Now that the Town Centre Enhancement is nearly completed Potton Town Council is looking for a self employed cleaner to clean and refresh the new bus shelter and look after the other items of furniture in the Market Square.

The work would take less than half an hour but would need to be done every morning or at least Monday to Saturday. It needs to be completed before the buses start running and passengers need to use the shelter.

If you are interested in this work or for further information please contact the Town Clerk, Valerie Moles 01767 260086 or [pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk](mailto:pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk) or call in at the Council Office in Brook End.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

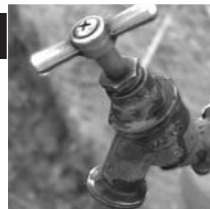
The Christmas Lights are being switched on  
**Friday 4th December by Father Christmas**

Before that can happen a great deal of work needs to be done by the team of volunteers to erect the lights around the Market Square. They need your help if you can spare some time for a few hours from 10am on a Sunday morning please just come along. They meet every Sunday in November except the 8th which is Remembrance Sunday.



## ALLOTMENTS

There has been a request for a second water tap at the allotments. To install this will be very expensive. The Town Council is asking Is there a plumber out there who would be willing to fit an extension and tap if the Council paid for the materials? Would any good Samaritan please contact the Clerk.



## CEMETERY SAFETY GRAVE STONE MEMORIAL SAFETY

At a recent inspection of the Cemetery it was found that the following memorials were deemed to be in need of remedial work to make them safe.

If you are the person responsible for the upkeep of one of the graves listed below please contact the Clerk to discuss your arrangements for repairs.  
Mrs V. Moles, Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS  
Telephone 01767 260086 [pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk](mailto:pottontowncouncil@freenet.co.uk)

- H1 Annie and Stanley Compton 1981,1982**
- H6 Keith Baker 1983**
- H12 Marguerite Anne Dudley-Moore 1984**
- H116 Thomas Honour 1984**
- H115 Edward and John Gilbert 1984,1997**

The Town Council has a duty to locate relatives to give them the opportunity to arrange for repairs and will make every effort to do so.

It is important that the Cemetery is safe for everyone and if relatives of the memorials concerned cannot be traced or do not contact the clerk within the next month then these gravestones may have to be laid flat or secured by some other means.



## TOWN PLAN

At the beginning of September every household received a brochure giving the highlights of the Town Plan 2009 – 2019 and explaining that the full Plan could be seen at the Library, in the Council offices in Brook End or on the Town Council Web site

[www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk) This is the result of two years work to find out what you the residents of Potton want for your Town over the next 5 to 10 years. Thank you for all those who have helped to achieve this milestone.

Now the Plan has been issued we are starting to implement the changes suggested through nine committees. A) Traffic, Parking & Transport, B) Housing & Development, C) Sports Leisure & Facilities, D) Young People, E) Shopping, F) Environment, G) Community Safety, H) Health, & I) Publicity. We are still looking for Volunteers to help with these committees. If you are interested please contact the Town Clerk on 01767 260086.

***To date we have made some progress with the following:-***

### **Shopping**

Plastic Bag Free Town – A free cloth bag will be issued to every household in November. The design will be from the winners of competitions at Burgoyne Middle School & Potton Lower School. The Shopkeepers have attended a meeting and agreed to back the initiative. Farmers Market – the first Market will be held in the Town Square on the morning of Saturday 5th December and quarterly thereafter.

Fairtrade Town – A presentation will be given to the Town Council at their November meeting requesting that we seek certification.

### **Young People**

We have met with our local Youth Worker to arrange for help in bringing the Rave Bus to Potton on a monthly basis. We are also hopeful of arranging a weekly meeting in the Square Café in addition to looking for a larger venue. In the meantime Sandy Youth Club will welcome any visitors from Potton.

### **Sports, Leisure & Facilities**

Work has started on looking at the possibility of a venue for drama, arts & sports functions. The Chairman of this group has met with young Mr Duffin to discuss his proposals for improving the Skate Park and with the Town Council representative regarding the two Playgrounds.

A further meeting with the Chairmen of the remaining groups has been agreed but the outcome will be received after publication of this Newsletter. We will report to you further in the next edition or you can follow our progress through the Town Council Web site.

### **Geoff Emery**

Chairman of Potton Town Plan

## MY NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES



### PC Ross Paterson

I am the neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) for Potton and Rural Safer neighbourhood team. I have been a Police Officer for over 7 years and have been the NPO for Potton for around 4 years. During this time I have come to know the kind of issues and concerns that people of Potton face on a daily basis. I would urge however that if there are any issues that you would like some assistance with please get in contact or fill in one of the “my neighbourhood priorities” forms in and return it to us. We will try and assist with the issues as best we can, and if it is something that we cannot directly influence we will certainly try to find someone that can. As a safer neighbourhood team we are looking at what the community want and how best we can assist, but we can only do that with your help.



### MY NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES

Priority 1:

Location:  
Town/Village/Beat:  
When:

Priority 2:

Location:  
Town/Village/Beat:  
When:

Priority 3:

Location:  
Town/Village/Beat:  
When:

Name/Group/Event:

Address:

Post Code:

E-mail:

Age: Male  Female  Ethnicity:

IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN UPDATE ON THE ISSUES RAISED PLEASE TICK BOX

Your personal data will be held by Bedfordshire Police and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Information will only be used for the purposes of consultation and research in order to identify local priorities, improve local service and provide feedback to the community.

Officer No:

SNT:

Date:



### PCSO Roger Williams

I am the Police Community support Officer for Potton and Rural. I have been in this role for 3 months having served previously as a PCSO at Luton Airport. In my role as part of the Potton and Rural team, I will be looking to work with local people and groups on issues that cause concern. The majority of my time will be spent out and about on foot patrol so if you see me about please feel free to come and have a chat. If there is anything that I can help you with, I will do my very best.

## Councillor Profile - Mr Nigel Butlin Town Councillor



### Mr Nigel Butlin Town Councillor

Mr Butlin lives on the Sandy Road in Potton and has served as a Town Councillor for many years. He is on the Burials Committee and the Playing Fields Committee.

Mr Butlin has taken on the responsibility to make sure that the town flag is flying on the Clock House on Royal Birthday's and other commemorative events.

Nigel ensures that the flag on the Clock House is flying to celebrate Royal and National Events.

## LOW WATER IN THE BROOK

The Council has done everything it can to help the wildlife under threat because the water in the Brook has been so low. The Ivel Valley Drainage Board has investigated the problem as has the Environment Agency. Both have informed the Council that the problem is one of a very low water table at the source and only rain will remedy this. A resident contacted a Wildlife Trust Officer who visited the area with a representative of the drainage board and came to the same conclusion. The Wildlife Trust will survey in the spring to see if the water vole population, a protected species, is still living there.

The local Fire Brigade have been pumping water from the lower brook in an effort to help. The Brook has been "walked" to the source by the Environment Agency and no evidence of illegal pumping has been found. The area has been checked for leaks. The Council has been informed that a nearby resident has run water into the brook from his own supply and that another has been using a pump. Thank you so much. The drainage board have said that there is no possibility of diverting water from another culvert into the brook. The Council had requested that the drainage board arrange a temporary pump.

On Friday 23rd October the RSPCA arranged for the Environment Agency to catch the fish and remove them to deeper water. There will be a few fish left behind and presumably some eggs to restock. The Town Council will continue to strive for a long term solution.



## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

From Anita Lewis representing you the people of Potton

How quickly the weeks turn into months as the work of the new busy council unfolds.

Half a year has passed since its formation in April and we are beginning to think, feel and work as a single unit, hopefully to the benefit of us all. Jaki Salisbury our Chief Executive has now left us and Edwina Grant Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services is holding the reins until Richard Carr arrives at the end of the month.

One problem of which we were always aware is the one of suitable accommodation in Central Bedfordshire. The long term vision is to have all staff together, but until then we have teams in Bedford and Dunstable, at various sites, as well as at Chicksands, which is the administrative headquarters. The interim solution lies with the increased use of technology and a working group has been established to look for a long term solution.

On the school front, Central Bedfordshire has held a series of meetings with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to consult on the way forward in our schools. We are not proposing a move from three tier to two tier education as in a neighbouring authority. Instead we are looking at options especially where there are surplus places. There is a trend for pyramids of schools to be talking together about federating or joining in trusts and working together in the ways they feel best suit their communities. "One glove will not fit all" and we may well have mixed systems depending on local circumstances and need.

It is an exciting time in education as we, Headteachers, Governors and Central Bedfordshire all work together for the benefit of our children. We aim to make Central Bedfordshire a good place in which children can grow up, be able to achieve, flourish and be safe.

### **Anita M Lewis**

Portfolio Holder for Children's Services Representing the Potton Ward

Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ  
Customer Services 0300 3008000  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

## Town Council Information

Web site – [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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 | Peter Langridge | 260362 |
| Jeremy Armond     | 260521 | 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 | Adam Zerny      | 261319 |

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 F.W. Jakes MBE is Chairman of the Burials Committee

Mr M. Allen is Chairman of the Playing Fields and Allotment Committee

Mr J. Burke is Chairman of Buildings and Facilities 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

### Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Doreen Gurney 680395 [doreen.gurney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:doreen.gurney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Anita Lewis 260726 [anita.lewis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:anita.lewis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

## SUMMARY OF TOWN COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

|                             | PREVIOUS YEAR<br>1.4.08 - 31.3.09 | CURRENT YEAR<br>1.4.09 - 31.7.09 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>               |                                   |                                  |
| Precept                     | 105000                            | 52500                            |
| Bank Interest               | 2848                              | 24                               |
| Charity Interest            | 57                                | 12                               |
| Grants/Donations            | 55                                | 65                               |
| Grass Cutting Grant         | 1517                              | 0                                |
| Christmas Lights            | 2234                              | 0                                |
| Insurance                   |                                   | 0                                |
| VAT refunded                | 8446                              | 2248                             |
| Cemetery                    | 3441                              | 2098                             |
| Allotments                  | 682                               | 133                              |
| Hire of Council Grounds     | 1512                              | 150                              |
| Hire of Community Centre    | 9125                              | 2706                             |
| Hire of Pavilion            | 14961                             | 5253                             |
| Legal / Insurance           | 1084                              | 0                                |
| Sculpture                   | 2133                              | 0                                |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>         | <b>153095</b>                     | <b>65189</b>                     |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>          |                                   |                                  |
| Public Conveniences         | 6672                              | 1128                             |
| **Administration            | 68418                             | 27445                            |
| Grass Cutting verges        | 2406                              | 1694                             |
| Community Centre            | 11594                             | 4264                             |
| Office Running Costs        | 1349                              | 588                              |
| Street Light Running Costs  | 428                               | 215                              |
| Pavillion                   | 15766                             | 7544                             |
| Cemetery                    | 26533                             | 9360                             |
| Clock House and Bus Shelter | 14391                             | 972                              |
| Allotments                  | 564                               | 45                               |
| Car Park                    | 2444                              | 1079                             |
| Mill Lane Recreation Area   | 5369                              | 4223                             |
| Henry Smith Recreation Area | 4847                              | 3177                             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>    | <b>160781</b>                     | <b>61734</b>                     |

\*\*Also includes Salaries for Clerk and Clerical Assistant, training for staff and Councillors, Grants, Town Plan and Christmas Lights

### Hourly Charges for Use of Town Council Facilities Community Centre, Brook End, Potton as at 1st September 09

|                   | Up to 5pm<br>Weekdays | 5pm to 10.30pm<br>Weekdays | Weekends/<br>Bank Holidays |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Main Hall</b>  | £6.70                 | £7.80                      | £9.30                      |
| <b>Upper Hall</b> | £4.20                 | £5.20                      | £6.20                      |
| <b>Both Rooms</b> | £9.80                 | £12.00                     | £14.00                     |

#### Mill Lane Pavilion, Mill Lane, Potton

|                 | Up to 5pm<br>Weekdays | 5pm to 10.30pm<br>Weekdays | Weekends/<br>Bank Holidays |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Pavilion</b> | £7.30                 | £10.30                     | £14.50                     |

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