



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

October 2021 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



Highlights of this edition

Page 2 **Remembrance Sunday**

Page 4 **Chairman's message**

Page 11 **Christmas Lights**

Page 15 **Light-Up Potton Competition**

Page 18 **Your Local Environment**

Page 23 **Potton Hall for All**



Remembrance Sunday 2021

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 14th November and the town will meet as usual on the Market Square at 10.15am for the Service led by the United Churches of Pottton, before forming a parade to march to the Cemetery and War Memorial along Sandy Road where the 11.00am silence will be held followed by the reading of the Roll of Honour.

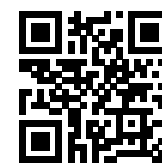
At our last parade in 2019, we were privileged and pleased to have two serving members of our armed forces

taking part in full dress uniform, a feature which helped to involve the more junior members of our community who took part. The parade is led by out in the following order - Salvation Army Band / Clergy and Church Leaders / Flag Bearer(s) / Deputy Lieutenant / Pottton Town Council / Ex-Service Men and Women / Guides, Brownies and Rainbows / Scouts, Cubs and Beavers / Schools and Pre-schools / Members of the Public / The Fire Service.



Everyone is welcome to join the parade and we would be especially pleased if there are any additional serving members of the armed services who would join the parade and form up around our ex-service men and women. Please contact the Town Council for further details or indeed just turn up on the day and make yourself known.

For those unable to travel to the cemetery there will be refreshments served and provided by the St Mary's Church congregation volunteers in the Community Centre where the 11.00am BBC service from Whitehall will be screened. Refreshments will also be served for those in the returning parade from the Cemetery.



This year in a step to reduce our carbon footprint wherever possible, the numbers of

orders of service printed will be limited so a copy will be available online. You can download the Order of Service by scanning the QR code above or visiting:
www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Remembrance-Sunday-Order-of-Service-2021.pdf



Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the October 2021 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

Firstly, I'd like to personally welcome Dan Norman to Potton Town Council. Dan is a valuable member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, where his vast knowledge of the building and construction business was a great benefit when we were writing our Design Guide. I know that he will be a great asset to the Council. You can read more about Cllr Norman on page 8.

September

After a long two-year wait, we were able to take our first steps to our 'new normal' at the long-awaited **47th Annual Potton Show** on a gloriously sunny Saturday. Over 1,500 people attended on **11th**

September, visiting the show tent to see the exhibits and prize-winning entries as well as the many stalls in St Mary's Church Field. I'd like to thank the Potton Show Committee, and everyone involved in making this such a successful event. See more on page 22.

Thanks also go to **Potton Hall for All** for organising a very enjoyable **quiz night** in the show tent, ably hosted by Justin Thomas. We all had a great evening, although my team didn't win.

The Potton Neighbourhood Plan identified issues of **shoppers finding it difficult to park in the Market Square** and proposed a solution of facilitating access to the Brook End car park by making the exit to Brook End two-way,

reverting to its former state prior to the Market Square renovation some years ago.



Following this trial, the town council was consulted, and at its meeting on **7th September** voted to support the proposals put forward by Central Bedfordshire Council.

As you will probably have seen, residents of Sutton Mill Road have converted the grass verges into the **Busy Bee Community Garden**, producing a colourful kerbside garden. Following this, on **9th September** we received a formal 'licence to plant' from CBC thus validating the good work.



Potton Hall for All Quiz Night

Cllr Carol Leggatt and her team of helpers did a wonderful job of weeding and generally maintaining the Meeting Lane Footpath Garden on **Sunday 12th September**. More than a dozen green-waste bags were filled, so no mean feat! May I thank you all on behalf of the Town. Read more on pages 18 to 20.



Cup Draw at Potton Bowls Club with Micah Richards & Harry Redknapp

Potton appears on national TV

On Wednesday **22nd September** Harry Redknapp and Micah Richards were with Sky TV at Potton Bowls Club to make the draw for the fourth round of the Carabao Cup. This was thanks to Gary Gunn, a member of the club, who won the competition to choose the location of the draw.

The annual Macmillan Nurse's coffee/tea fundraiser

May I thank everyone who supported this year's Potton Bowls Club charity

fundraiser. Carol Holdsworth and her hard-working team raised a further £1,174 for the Macmillan fund. A fantastic achievement!

At last **live music has returned to Potton**, with the **Berkeley Ensemble** performing at St Mary's Church. This was a splendid concert by a small group of professional musicians from London and I would like to thank Chris Miskelly and Judi Hobbs for organising this.

Locrian Chamber Choir will once again be performing their Christmas Concert in St Mary's church on **Tuesday 21st December** – well worth making a note in your diary.

The **10th Potton Apple Day** was a resounding success, with many helpers pressing apples to produce another supply of Potton Apple Juice and Cider. What with food and live music, this was a really splendid day. See more on page 22.



Potton Apple Day

October



L-R Cllr Dan Norman, Cllr John Hobbs and Richard Fuller MP.

On **1st October**, Richard Fuller MP held a surgery in the Community Centre. Although attendance was low, it gave me the chance to raise issues regarding the increased HGV traffic in the town and speeding, particularly on Wrestlingworth Road, Sandy Road, Gamlingay Road and Biggleswade Road. We also discussed snags that we have with the creation of the Potton Green Wheel and the Potton to Sandy cycleway. Richard was most helpful and will look into these issues. A very productive meeting. Richard is hoping to visit Potton again on **27th November** when we turn on the Christmas lights.

Again, many thanks to Cllr Carol Leggatt for organising and managing our **Autumn Litter Pick**. It is so good to see our community coming together to keep our Town clean and tidy.

Another event in our return to 'normal' was the **annual Civic Service** on **Sunday 17th October**. I'd like to personally thank Rev Alex Wheatley and my wife Judi, for

their invaluable contribution to what was a welcome celebration of that is good about Potton. We were delighted to welcome distinguished guests Deputy Lieutenant Major Simon Sadler TD DL, representing the HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire.

Potton Tennis Club

Hopefully, by the time that this newsletter goes out, work will have started on building the two new floodlit tennis courts at Mill Lane Recreation Ground. Thanks to the hard work of Potton Tennis Club, we will soon have a first-class facility in the Town. I'll give a further update in our next newsletter.

Future Events:

This year I have the honour of representing Potton Town Council at our **Remembrance Sunday Service** on **14th November**. I know that this is a special day in the Potton calendar, and I look forward to seeing you all in the Market Square for our combined churches service, followed by a service of remembrance at the cemetery. See pages 2 and 3 for more information.

Again, a welcome return of the switching on of our **Christmas lights** on **Saturday 27th November**. We really missed this last year and so I'm sure that there will be a very good turn-out for this very special occasion. This year **Father Christmas** will be making two trips to Potton before Christmas Eve – he will be doing a grand tour of the Town on **Sunday 28th November**, finishing in St Mary's Church field for Carols by Torchlight. Just a reminder to please drive safely through the Market Square on **Sunday 31st October** when the volunteers will be installing the Christmas Lights.

Potton Green Wheel

Following our work with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BedsRCC) CBC and Sutton Parish Council, we are close to finalising the Potton Green Wheel Masterplan. The Potton Green Wheel is a long-term vision for the linking of publicly accessible routes and green spaces around Potton to create a safe walking/cycling circuit around the perimeter of the Town and from the Town Centre. We will be working with landowners to make the Potton Green Wheel a reality. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Potton Town Council.



Finally

It is very sad that No 1 King Street was not able to survive the enforced restrictions of the successive COVID-19 lockdowns, which forced them to cease trading on 25th September. We all welcomed the opening in 2019 and who can forget the spirit-raising sound of Stevie Wonder's 'Happy Birthday to You' echoing around the town as Simon delivered a piece of birthday cake to celebrate a resident's special day. On behalf of the town, I'd like to thank Simon and his team for their contribution to Potton life over the last couple of years.

On a positive note, it really does feel like we are stepping cautiously into a 'new normal' and let's hope that 2022 will be a year where Potton is able to get back to the vibrant town that we love so much. So, although a little early, may I wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John

Cllr John Hobbs

Four Seasons Market

Sat 4th Dec 2021

9am – 1pm

For more information visit

pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market

Your newly co-opted Town Councillor

Councillor Dan Norman



I have lived in Potton with my wife Ruth since 1985. All three of our children attended Potton and Sandy schools and two of them went on to University. My wife is a regular volunteer at St. John's, Moggerhanger.

I retired from working with three of the major construction companies after 40 years in 2001.

Following my involvement with a Potton Town Council sub-committee developing the Neighbourhood Plan since 2016, I found it interesting that a small market town should produce such an important document so quickly and professionally. Involving the town's population in its production was a way to meet a

number of interested people, too.

I had some experience of council work when we lived in Shropshire, so I was happy to think that I could put some of my experience to help the people of Potton and I look forward to meeting more of them in my new role as a member of this Council.

What do Town Councillors do?

Town councillors have three main areas of work:

1. Decision-making: through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. Monitoring: councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. Getting involved locally: as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the

councillor wants to achieve and how much time they have available.

How much time does it take?

Councillors spend on average about three hours a week on council work. Obviously, there are some town councillors who spend more time than this – and some less, but in the main, being a town councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Do Potton Town Councillors get paid?

Working as a Town Councillor is a completely voluntary role.

Get to know your Town Councillors

Councillor Andy Gibb



I'm a newcomer to Potton having only lived here since 2001, but was born many years ago just over the border in Pirton, Hertfordshire. My interests include cycling, allotment gardening, the natural world and climbing mountains in Scotland whenever I can get away. I work for Anglian Water and live in Bull Street and have two children who went through both the Potton schools.

I am keen for the council to be interactive and responsive and to help Potton be as sustainable a community as possible. As a cyclist and living near the town square, I am acutely aware of the traffic issues in town and will work to make Potton a safer place for us

all. Potton has a great, active community and as a councillor I will work hard to help out and take part when I can.

I am particularly partial to properly made cider and help run the very enjoyable Potton Apple Day, which is held annually on the last Sunday of September.

Councillor Jonathan Lean



I have lived in Potton now for 28 years with my wife, Kassy. We have raised 3 children here although they have now flown the nest. They all started their education at Potton Lower School and Burgoyne Middle School before moving to Sandy Upper. All 3 of them got good Degrees and 2 of them have gone on to gain PhD's which is a testament to the standard of schooling in the town.

I retired in June 2015 from my job as International Sales Manager for a Pipe Fittings Manufacturer in Hitchin. During my working life I travelled the world extensively, principally in Asia but also as far afield as Australia and New Zealand.

In my spare time I enjoy Golf, Tennis and DIY and I am happy that my retirement now allows me more time for these activities. I am also keen to expand my interests and hope to join the Bowls Club in the Summer. I am a member of Potton Tennis Club and represent them in matches against other clubs in Bedfordshire. Kassy and I are also members of Potton Vineyard Church. Kassy keeps very busy running the Church's Good Neighbour Scheme which is designed to provide assistance to local residents with transportation or small jobs around the house which they are no longer able to manage by themselves. I was elected as Chairman of the Town Council in May 2020.

Christmas Lights Switch-On 2021



We are busy planning this year's Christmas Lights Switch-On event, which will be a variation on what we have done in the past.

This year we have obtained permission to close off the whole of the Market Square which will enable us to provide an enhanced layout with better visibility for the ever increasing numbers of people attending the event. The road closures and diversions will be managed by traffic management company MLP Ltd. See map on pages 12 to 13.



The Christmas Lights event will begin at 3.30pm with a Christmas Craft Fair, which will include the usual stalls from Potton groups and organisations, together with Henry Harris' fairground rides and other entertainment on the stage in the Market Square. **The Switch-On** will take place on **Saturday 27th November** (Time to be confirmed) and entertainment will continue until 7pm.

Father Christmas will be in his Post Office from **4.00pm - 5.00pm**, he will have his post box so if you would like to write to him, please remember to include your name and address.



Welcome Back Fund

Central Bedfordshire Council invited the town council to submit a bid for Welcome Back Funding. The grant money has been released by the UK Government as part of their roadmap out of lockdown specifically to support the revival of local town centre shopping areas post Covid-19 restrictions. Central Bedfordshire Council allocated the town council £6,000 and it is to be spent by 31st March 2022.





Spending the grant funds has already started and by the time you read this, we have ordered Christmas Lights for the town centre to support the festive season. In the August edition of the newsletter Potton Town Council encouraged you to shop local and support your local traders.

It is important for everyone to continue shopping locally and safely to get the best out of what our Town Centre offers residents. It isn't only a place to shop, it's a place to gather, meet with friends and family and enjoy leisure opportunities like eating out.



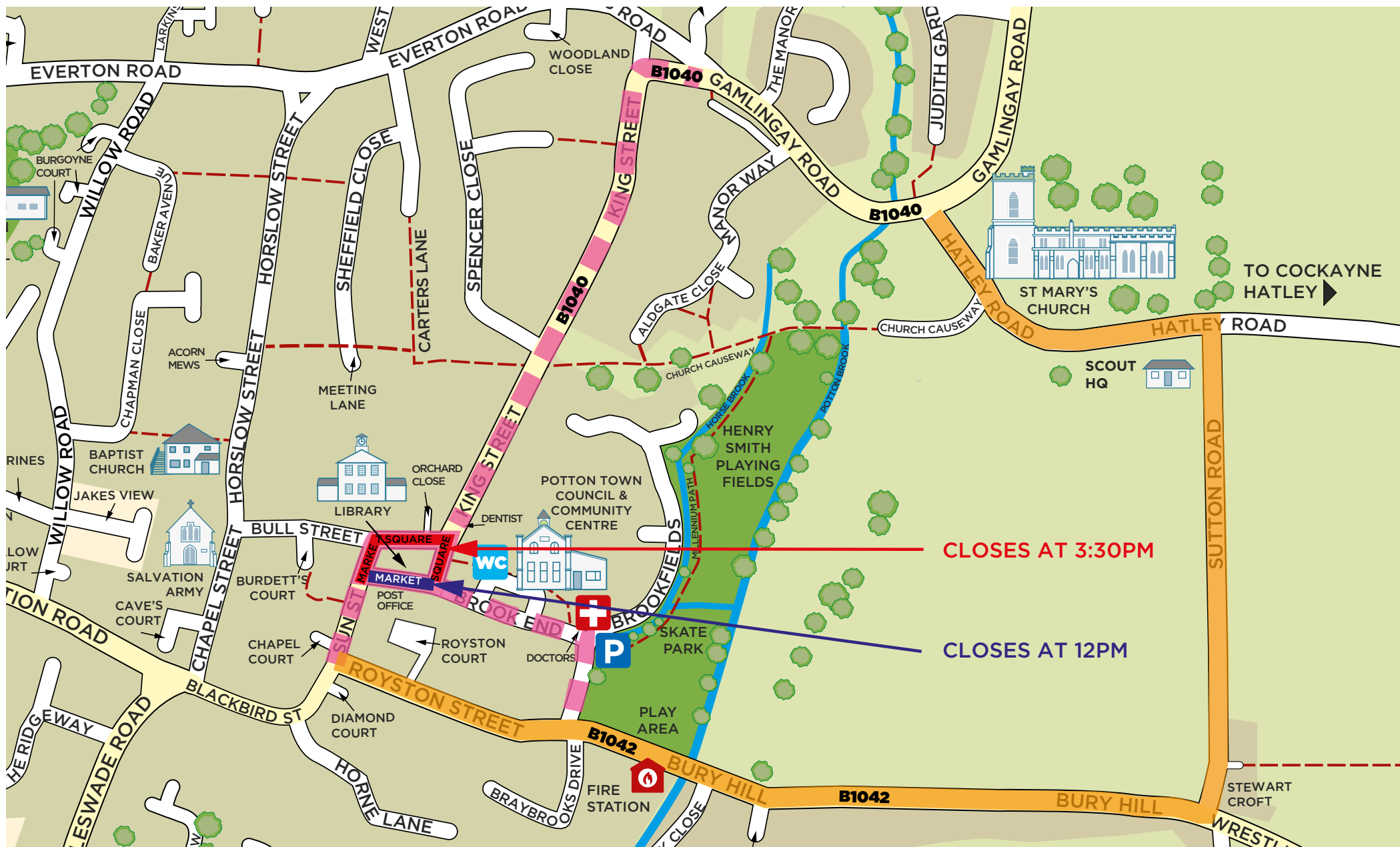
Christmas lights switch-on: road closures

Saturday 27th November 2021

-  = Road closes at 12pm
-  = Road closes at 3:30pm
-  = No entry except for access
-  = Diversion route

When the roads are closed vehicles will not be permitted to park or drive in or out of the Market Square.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused. **All roads will reopen from 8pm.**



Father Christmas Visit

Following the success last year of Father Christmas's tour around Potton because Covid restrictions prevented the switch-on event, we are delighted he has agreed to do it again this year. His Elves will have collection buckets for donations towards Potton's Christmas Lights.

The tour will take place on **Sunday 28th November from 4.30pm**. Father Christmas has asked us to advise that vehicles should pass his Elves at no more than 15 mph as they are easily scared and one of the Elves was very nearly run over at last year's event!

His journey will be finishing at 6.30pm at St. Mary's Church field where Carols will be sung by Torchlight. Facilities will be open in the hall for comfort breaks.

We hope these revised ways of starting off the Christmas season work well and we very much look forward to your support.

Look out for further detailed information as it appears on the council website, social media and notice boards.



Start 4:30pm	Blackbird Street
	Biggleswade Road
	Hutchinson Rise / Tear Crescent / Kitchener Grove
	Biggleswade Road
	Station Road
	Oak Crescent
5pm	Sandy Road
	Nursery Close
	Newtown
	Mill Lane
	Everton Road
5:30pm	Willow Road
	Working Men's Club
	Chapel Street
	Horslow Street
	Rising Sun
	Everton Road
6pm	King Street
	Market Square
	Sun Street
	Royston Street
	Brook End
	King Street
6:30pm Finish	Gamlingay Road
	Church Field

*Subject to change.

Light-Up Potton Competition 2021



Following the success of last year's competition and in conjunction with Potton Town Council and the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee, Party On Potton are pleased to bring you, Light-Up Potton 2021! An opportunity for the community to get into the Christmas spirit and make Potton truly festive and beautiful!

The three categories are detailed below and the most festive and best decorated will each win a fabulous Christmas Hamper!

- Best Dressed Window
- Best Dressed Home
- Best Dressed Shop, Pub or Business

The Rules:

- All entries need to be ready by 6pm on Sunday 5th December 2021 for judging to take place.
- All properties taking part must be in Potton.
- Judging will take place from 5th to 12th December.
- Winners will be announced by 23rd December and each winning entry will receive their hamper in time for Christmas!

How to enter

Email: committee@partyonpotton.org.uk for an entry form.

Keep an eye on social media and the town council website for more information and to download the trail map of all the properties taking part.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022



2022 marks the 70th Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen acceding to the throne. Potton Town Council together with every town and village in the country have been invited by Buckingham Palace to organise commemorative celebrations to mark the event.

An extended Bank Holiday has been put in place from Thursday 2nd June through to Sunday 5th June to accommodate these celebrations. And so how do we in Potton commemorate and celebrate this wonderful occasion?

The town council has secured funding to facilitate some of the foundation blocks of the weekend including looking to provide a Marquee over the bank holiday for use by any groups, clubs or organisations who might want to stage events and would look to support any such events wherever possible. If your club, society, group or organisation would like to be involved please contact Potton Town Council by emailing pottoncouncil@btconnect.com and we will get back to you. Likewise, if as an individual you would like to be involved or have a suggestion of anything you would like to see over the holiday weekend please do contact us.



Along with community wide events and activities, there are certain to be roads, streets, avenues and estates that would like to pull together street parties to celebrate. If you and your neighbours are considering this, please let us know so that we can offer assistance and support.

There is also the potential to put in place a more permanent feature to mark the occasion. **Potton has previously marked various events, these include:**

- Plaque on the wall of the library building to commemorate 100 years of the town council.
- Potton Town signs in the Market Square to commemorate 1951 Festival of Britain.
- Laid the millennium path alongside the Horse Brook in Henry Smith Playing Fields.

Town Council Information

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.

If you wish to contact a member of staff, please email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or call **01767 260086** and leave a message. You can find lots of information on the Town Council website www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk or [@PottonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PottonTownCouncil) or [@pottoncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/pottoncouncil)

Town Councillors

Charles Craig	260047
John Day	07986 124440
Andrew Gibb	260067
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602
John Hobbs	260710
Andrew Inkersole	261966
Lindsay Kitchener	260486
Jonathan Lean	262404
Carol Leggatt	260001
Angus Macdonald	262006
Dan Norman	260643
Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Mark Williams	07540 198205
Adam Zerny	261319

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319

Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm. Visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/ for more information.

Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Tuesday 1st February 2022

Councillor Surgeries

Venue and times to be advised.

Saturday 6th November

Cllr Lean and Cllr Macdonald

Saturday 4th December

Cllr Craig and Cllr Williams

Saturday 8th January 2022

Cllr Inkersole and Cllr Leggatt

Saturday 12th February 2022

Cllr Kitchener and Cllr Lean

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

If you would like information to be included in our next newsletter, please email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

Please be aware that the Town Council reserves the right not to include articles and images.

Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS



Please recycle this newsletter

when you've finished reading it by putting it in your green recycling bin.

This publication has been compiled and published by Potton Town Council who are the owners of the copyright. No reproduction is permitted without the express permission of the Council. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the various entries within this publication. In no circumstances can Potton Town Council accept any liability for any loss or damage of any kind which may arise as a result from any error in, or omission of, any entry, artwork or telephone number. The editorial content is not necessarily the views of the Council.



Your Local Environment

Author: Cllr John Day

In this edition of updates about your local environment, while we continue to chase the mowing contractor who still neglects areas of the town, we have also received complaints of a mystery contractor applying herbicide this summer. Whilst we try to go herbicide free, in this edition we update you on our dialogue with CBC who seem unaware of awarding such a contract. We also announce the formation of new community group to the Potton Paths Garden groups and report on the recent work of the Busy Bees and Meeting Lane groups.

Potton Paths Garden Groups

Busy Bees

While the plants become established and look increasingly impressive there was a scare for the group when Kier/Tilia Homes surreptitiously asked CBC Highways to order removal of the plants to build a lay-by that aids vehicle access for the refused Ridgeway development. Quick action from CBC Cllr Adam Zerny was able to avert disaster. A retrospective application to CBC for permission to plant the verge was quickly approved and highways asked to be aware of any similar future attempts.



The group will be carrying out more planting over the coming months leading up to Christmas and this will help bulk the bed up to suppress any weeds that might grow.

Meeting Lane



Lime Hawkmoth Caterpillar

In September, a small group of residents continued tidying and selectively removing unwanted plants from the stretch between King Street and the junction of Carters Lane. It was a lovely sunny morning for a pleasurable few hours getting stuck in and the groups young wildlife and litter picking champion also managed to find a lime hawkmoth caterpillar looking to find somewhere to pupate.

As with the Busy Bees, more planting is planned for the Meeting Lane later in the year.

The Pegnuts

Author: Cllr Lindsay Kitchener

A working group from Sheepwalk Close and Yew Tree Close – calling themselves The Pegnuts - tackled the nettles and brambles on the banks of Potton Brook over two weekends this September. It required a team effort to cut through thick briars and clear debris from the brook.

The intention is to maintain a healthy habitat for water voles and other riverside mammals and gradually reduce nettle cover over the next couple of years to make way instead for native wildflowers and lush tussocky grasses to flourish.

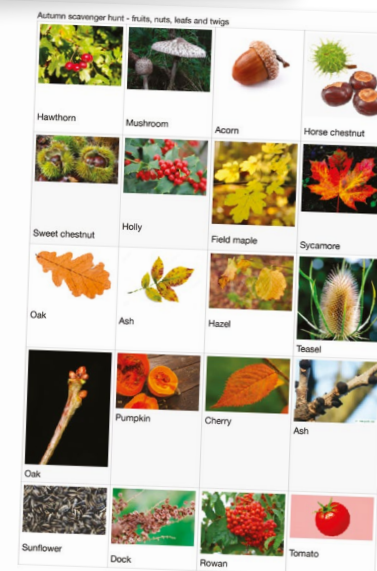


Something for the Half Term holiday

Looking for something for younger children to do? Try our Autumn Scavenger Hunt. It's really easy to take part and will get them looking for what is in their surroundings and the local green grocers in and around Potton.

All you have to do is print off the sheet from the Potton Town Council website and away you go!

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Autumn-Scavenger-Hunt.png





Pesticides in Potton



Readers may recall an article last spring asking if Potton can go pesticide free. This coincided with the town council taking the decision to ban the use of herbicides in the town, informing CBC that contractors use alternative methods.

Glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide by commercial landscapers. There is increasing concern over its effects on people and the environment. The Pesticide Action Network UK (PANUK) website www.pan-uk.org explains in detail the health and environmental risks. The organisation runs several campaigns, one in particular is against use of glyphosate in towns. However, as found that sends an email to our ward councillors who already fully support a ban in the town. The organisation Wild Justice are also attempting to tackle the problem, challenging local authorities on their often illegal use of glyphosate: <https://wildjustice.org.uk/general/glyphosate-use-by-local-authorities/>

CBC continue sending contractors to apply glyphosate, despite our request alternatives be used. They

justify its use as being an approved substance, used by fully trained operatives and is harmless to people, pets and wildlife. Observant residents have reported seeing operatives and expressed concerns directly to the town council and CBC. Each time the town council or a resident receives a response from CBC its content is quite worrying, ranging from they were 'cleaning the play area paths' to it was 'Potton Town Council contractors carrying out the work'. Despite on-going enquiries, CBC are unable to tell us who is undertaking the work and if it's under one of their contracts. It is a requirement for a contractor to record and submit to their employer (in this case CBC) who has sprayed what, where, when, why and at what dose. CBC should be able to refer to those records and identify who the contractor is. Regardless, they should know what contracts they award to which company to do what, where and when, whether its painting lines in the road or spraying herbicide.

This summer, residents have reported a quad bike rider applying herbicide, spraying more parked cars than anything else. According to Health and Safety Executive, driving a quad bike while spraying is not permitted. Our experiences have been shared with Wild Justice as we continue trying to establish who the *Phantom Sprayer of Old Potton Town* is. When CBC finally decide to admit they have awarded contracts to apply herbicide in Potton, we will again ask that they respect our request for the use of alternative methods.

Potton Speedwatch

Potton Speedwatch resumed their activities following the easing of Covid restrictions and have been out and about around the hotspots of the town again this Summer and Autumn.

The group is totally manned by volunteers who give an hour or so typically once a month to go out with their speed monitoring device. After Covid the numbers of volunteers has dropped and once again they are looking for like-minded volunteers who would consider getting involved.

The team is also now looking for a new coordinator to liaise with the police, organise sessions and manage the volunteers. If you feel you could help, please do not hesitate to contact Potton Town Council by emailing pottoncouncil@btconnect.com and we will get back to you.

Speedwatch is a community activity coordinated by Bedfordshire Police and supported by Potton Town Council. For more information see <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Get-involved/Watch-Schemes/Speed-watch#5ed8ea82>

Results during our last series of sessions:

Gamlingay Road - from a total of 190 cars passing in a one hour period, 36 were reported for travelling 5 mph or more over the 30 mph speed limit. These included a large articulated lorry travelling at 46 mph, 14 cars travelling in excess of 40 mph and one car at 56 mph. All of these vehicles had clear sight of the device and hi-vis clad volunteers. If they were only paying attention to the road ahead.

The above results are typical of traffic on the main arterial roads into and out of town and unfortunately the other roads are not very much better.



47th Potton Flower & Vegetable Show

We had a wonderful day for the show on Saturday 11th September. We had amazing support with many entries submitted by Potton residents as well as from further afield.

The committee would like to express their thanks to everyone for their support, especially the local traders who assisted with handing out schedules and collecting entry forms.



Potton Apple Day

Visitors to Potton's 10th Apple Day enjoyed another blissfully sunny afternoon at St Mary's Church field. Lots of eager coring and scratting had the apples chopped up fine, so they could be pressed to make fresh apple juice. Juice tastes so much better when so many small hands have got messy and had fun making it.

For the first time this year Potton Community Orchard bottled apple juice was available and went down well with our visitors. Bottles and boxes will be for sale at the Christmas market in December, but to avoid disappointment, (you never know what we'll run out of by then!) it can be delivered locally by calling 07872 041493.

Local band *Drunk and Disorderly* kept young, and not so young, on their feet during the afternoon with tunes we all know and love. The fine selection of ciders from our local CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) team went down predictably well. On offer this year were bottles of Potton Community Orchard's 'Lockdown'. Watch out for this year's brew in pubs around Christmas.'



Are we nearly there?

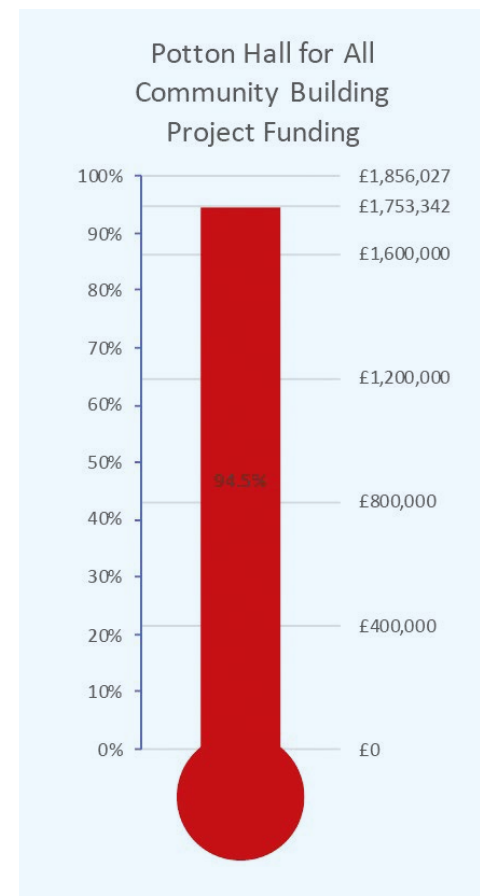


A phrase that many of us will have heard on car journeys this summer with the family! Residents of Potton might ask the same question of Potton Hall for All community building. It seems to have been a long time coming – and that's because it takes time to get land with planning permission and raise the necessary funds for a larger more accessible multi-use building that you've all told us you want.

Well we are nearly there – recent funding applications to charitable trusts has meant that funds raised or pledged total just over 94% of the total project cost and we only need just over £100,000 to reach our target! But the clock is ticking very loud and we need your help for the final push. We must demonstrate to CBC by early 2022 that we have the proposed plan 100% funded.

We are grateful for your support of our local events and community fundraising since lockdown eased but these alone won't close the gap. Can you help? Do you work for or own a local business that could sponsor or contribute to the project or do you belong to a local group that could help run an event in aid of the Hall. Or could you as an individual make a contribution or do a sponsorship event? We'd love to hear from you to discuss how we might work together to achieve this much needed facility for Potton's residents.

You told us you need a bigger more accessible multi-use community building. We have worked hard with you all to define those needs and make it a reality – please help us on the final push! To join our Friends group or to get in touch email hall4allpotton@gmail.com or visit our website www.pottonhallforall.org.uk for more details about the project. Look out for our next event – a Murder Mystery Dinner in association with St Mary's Church and performed by Potton Playhouse – 19th & 20th November 2021 – more details to follow.



Potton Youth Council (PYC)

Author: Cllr Carol Leggatt

Potton Youth Council had its inaugural meeting on Monday 4th October and will meet again in November. We are still looking for more young people to join the Youth Council. You can find out more information and how to apply by visiting www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/potton-youth-council



Government
Counter Fraud
Function



Beware of COVID Pass FRAUD

Criminals are using the NHS COVID Pass as a way to target the public by convincing them to hand over money, financial details and personal information. They are sending imitation text messages, emails and making phone calls pretending to be from the NHS, and offering fake vaccine certificates for sale online and through social media.



The NHS App is FREE



The NHS COVID Pass is FREE



The NHS will NEVER ask for payment or any financial details



Do not respond to requests for money or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.



Be alert to links and attachments in unexpected text messages or emails.

The NHS COVID Pass is available to demonstrate your COVID-19 status either in a digital or paper format via the NHS App, the NHS website or by calling 119.

For information on how to get your FREE NHS COVID Pass visit

www.nhs.uk/nhscovidpass