



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

May 2022 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



The Platinum Jubilee

See pages 9-16 for
Potton's Jubilee
celebrations

Highlights of this edition

- Page 2 **Chairman's message**
- Page 8 **Town Councillor Vacancy**
- Page 17 **Christmas Competition**
- Page 22 **Youth Council**
- Page 24 **Party on Potton**

Picture Credit: Press Association,
Danny Lawson



Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the May 2022 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

Ukraine

Since our last newsletter, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to millions of refugees fleeing to safety. Many refugees have made it to the UK and Potton is preparing to welcome families to the town, where we can give them the support that they need in these terrible times. The council is coordinating preparation for welcoming Ukrainian families, working with relevant organisations and groups in Potton. Hopefully, we can provide a welcome and supportive refuge until they can return to Ukraine.

You can donate to the Disaster Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal by visiting their website at www.dec.org.uk



Some things to look forward to:

Preparations are well underway for Potton to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A four day festival of events are planned for 2nd - 5th June - there is a pull-out programme in the centre of this newsletter. A large marquee will be erected on St Mary's field, and the highlights will include a Jazz evening and 'Last Night of the Proms' performed by Potton's musical choirs and organisations.



Cricket



As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Potton Town Cricket Club will be holding a fun day of cricket on Friday 3rd June, starting with a junior's match, followed by a seniors 20-20 match between teams made up of present and past members and invited guests. It should be a great day out. There will be a BBQ and Bar as well as the Boundary Café providing refreshments. See page 16 for more details.

Party on Potton is back!!

Keep the August bank holiday weekend free (26th - 29th August). As always, an action-packed weekend of fun and entertainment has been planned. We will certainly be back to 'normal' at last. See page 24 for more details.



What's new?

The new tennis courts in Mill Lane have been completed, providing first-class facilities for the town. The tennis club has completed its move from The Hollow and the courts will be made available for hire in the summer. See page 15 for more details.



Work has begun on dredging the brook in Henry Smith Playing Fields and I'm looking forward to seeing wildlife returning to the area and water flowing freely. I know



Dredging work at Horsebrook

that the playing fields have been severely disrupted by this work, together with the destruction of some trees by the February gales, but everything will be returned to normal soon.

Thank you

The Spring litter pick took place in March in glorious sunshine. Although the number of volunteers was less than we normally see, the majority of the town's hotspots were covered, helped by the fact that the amount of rubbish collected was less than in the past. This has been a continuing trend over the last year or two and it is pleasing to see that there is greater awareness in keeping our town clean and tidy.

The Autumn litter pick will be in October. Keep an eye out for the date in your future newsletters and on social media.



'Nearly New' Clothes Sale



Charity Race Night

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Hearts for Moggerhanger group who held a 'nearly new' clothes sale at the Potton & District Club in aid of St John's Hospice. They raised an amazing £1,000 for St John's, and I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this event such a success.

Also, many congratulations to the organisers of a Charity Race Night in aid of the Above and Beyond Cancer Foundation

and the Hunts Community Cancer Network. This great evening raised at total of £2,000; £1,000 for each worthy organisation.

Many thanks to the Amici Singers and The Ensemble of Friends, who held a Concert for Ukraine in March. There was a retiring collection for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, run by the Disaster Emergency Committee. **You can still donate to this worthy cause by going to www.dec.org.uk**



Walkin Café on Snowhill

Welcome

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the Walkin Café on Snowhill, Deepdale.

This will be an ideal stopping off point, particularly for dog-walkers, although other walkers and cyclists are welcome. Another good reason to explore the footpaths around Potton.



Reverend Alex Wheatley

Happy anniversary

I'd like to celebrate the first anniversary of Reverend Alex Wheatley. He joined us on 27th March 2021, when we were still in the grips of the COVID pandemic, so it was not an easy introduction to Potton life. This summer he will certainly see what a fantastic town Potton is.

I wish all Pottonians a wonderful Spring!

John

Cllr John Hobbs

Four Seasons Market

POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL



Sat 18th June 2022
9am - 1pm



For more information visit
pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market

Vacancy for a part time Committee Clerk

You will have an eye for detail and the ability to take accurate minutes. The Committee Clerk will attend council and committee meetings (usually on Tuesday evenings) to take minutes and support councillors and members of the public who may attend.

The role will include the creation of agenda packs and the publication of agendas and minutes using the Council's website. The successful candidate will also support the wider team flexibly as required.

The successful candidate would be expected to be computer literate with good communication skills. Friendly and positive outlooks are essential. This is an exciting,

challenging role in a council that works with its community partners to address local priorities and deliver a wide range of services.

Please note: CVs will not be accepted.

For an informal discussion and to access the recruitment pack please contact the Town Clerk.

Closing Date for Applications:
Monday 16th May 2022 at 9am.

Grade: SCP 4-6 (SLCC/NALC nationally agreed scale) 7.5 hours per week (£10.01-£10.42 per hour)

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 Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 3rd May 2022 - Annual Meeting of the Town Council
Tuesday 7th June 2022
Tuesday 5th July 2022

Councillor Surgeries

Held from 10am - 12 noon outside the Library or inside the Library if bad weather.

Saturday 21st May
Cllr Craig and Cllr Kitchener
Saturday 18th June
Cllr Gwilliam
Saturday 23rd July
Cllr Hobbs and Cllr Norman

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



Potton Community Agent

Supporting the over 60's in Potton
Tel Andrea 07590 359630 (working Weds & Thurs only)
Email andream@bedsrc.org.uk

Tablet Training on Wednesdays 10am to 12pm and Friendship Group on Thursdays 10am to 12pm both in the Community Centre, Brook End, Potton.

For more information on what Andrea can help you with visit <https://bedsrc.org.uk/what-we-do/health-wellbeing/village-community-agents/>

Kindly funded by Potton Consolidated Charity with support from Potton Town Council.

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



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Your Potton Town Councillors



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262006



Dan Norman
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Jonathan Price Williams
Vice-Chairman
07981 350359



Adam Zerny
261319



For more details on each of the fifteen councillors, please visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are

Vacancy for one Potton Town Councillor

An opportunity to be part of your community

A candidate for the Town Council is qualified if at the time of nomination, they are:

1. a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the EU
2. at least 18 years of age
3. meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - Is on the list of electors for the town or during the last twelve months you:
 - occupied land or property in Potton as owner or tenant.
 - had your principle place of work here.
 - lived in, or within three miles of Potton.



A Town Councillor is unpaid and gives their time for free to the community on a voluntary basis.

Any interested parties must make an application in writing to the Town Clerk, Mr Jonathan Whitehurst at Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire, SG19 2QS **by 9am on Monday 30th May 2022** and include the following information:

1. reason for wishing to be a Councillor;
2. previous Community/Council work;
3. other skills you can bring to the Council.

For further information please refer to the town council's Co-option procedure in the 'Our Council', 'Policies' section of the website.

Please note it is a condition of a Councillor that a means of contact by telephone and/or email will be public information.

If you require any additional information, please contact the Town Clerk either by email or phone.

Email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com
Phone: 01767 260086

Co-option will take place at the Town Council meeting in June 2022.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

A message from the Committee



At the end of 2021 the Town Council received a letter from Bruno Peek, the pageant master of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, inviting the town to partake in celebrating the Jubilee over the special bank holiday weekend of Thursday 2nd June through to Sunday 5th June. This letter was sent out to every town and village across the United Kingdom as well as across the Commonwealth.

Since this initial invitation, a growing list of specific events as well as a recommendation of an overall party atmosphere has been sent out from the pageant master, and we as your Town Council have in collaboration with clubs, groups and organisations in the town put together what we hope will be a splendid weekend of showcase and entertainment.

This weekend is not and does not intend to be another Party On Potton (POP). That's later on at the end of August. We cannot and do not want to be seen to

be competing with POP indeed we have pulled in their knowledge, expertise and help in putting this weekend together and we thank them for their support.

Please look through the initial programme of events presented on the following pages and we hope to see you at some of the events across the town.

With the difficulties of meeting up over the past months due to Covid, our programme is still not finalised and therefore please look out on social media and the council website for updates as we get nearer the dates.

If your group or organisation would like to get involved, it's not too late. Please contact the town council to discuss how and where you can be involved.

To make this event happen we need the help and support of many volunteers, if you feel you are able to offer your support in any way you would be most welcome. Again, please contact the town council on **01767 260086** or email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com** if you would like to volunteer.





Jubilee Festival of Arts and Flowers

Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June – St Mary's Church, Potton

A display in the Church celebrating the 70 years of Potton and HM The Queen.

There will be more than 30 different displays presented by various groups including Churches, Schools, Clubs, Choir groups, Scouts and Guides and many other organisations and individuals.

This is an open door free to enter event. There will be donation buckets at the door should you wish to contribute towards costs, any additional monies collected will be donated to charity. Additional to the festival please cross over the road to the Church Hall where teas, coffee and cakes will be served.



Start your day with an exercise class

Every morning of the bank holiday weekend there will be a selection of exercise classes in the church field run by the various exercise, yoga, pilates, bootcamp and circuit training organisations around the town.

These classes have been pulled together to give a wide variation of opportunity to suit all ages and levels of fitness. Pick out the class that suits you and get down to the marquee for a morning workout.

This is an open door free to enter event.

There will be donation buckets at the door should you wish to contribute towards costs, any additional monies collected will be donated to charity.

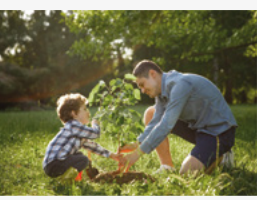
Potton and District Club and Institute

Potton Club on Sandy Road have a full programme of events over the Jubilee weekend. Whilst the clubs activities are outside of the Council's programme we wish them success with their weekend of functions and recommend that you visit their website for further information. <https://potton.club/entertainment/>

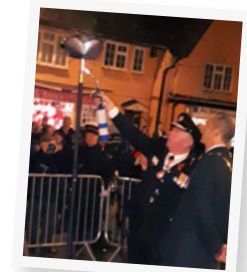
Plant a tree for the Jubilee

As part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>, Potton Town Council is planning a Treebilee later in 2022.

Please keep an eye out for news on this event in future newsletters, the town council noticeboards, website and social media.



Thursday 2 nd June	
In the Church Field and Marquee	
7 – 7.45am	Rise and Shine Circuit Training with Barns Fitness
From 9.30am	Tea, coffee and cake served from the Church Hall
10 – 10.45am	Gentle Yoga with Lindsay Kitchener
From 1pm	Cream Teas served from the Church Hall
1pm	Widdershins Children's Puppet Storytime - TICKETED EVENT
2pm	Town Crier calls out a proclamation for the Queen
3pm	School Disco Potton Federation PTA - Pupils and Families
8 - 9.15pm	"Drunk and Disorderly" Band performance
9.30pm	Procession from the Market Square arrives
9.30-9.35pm	St Mary's Church Bells will ring out
9.35pm	Piper Boyd plays 'Diu Regnare' on the bagpipes - A tune especially composed to be played across the commonwealth at this time
9.45pm	Potton's Beacon is lit by Ruth Bell MBE JP DL to coincide with beacons across the UK and Commonwealth
9.45pm	"New Voices of Potton" singing 'A Life Lived with Grace'
9.50pm	"Drunk and Disorderly" return to the stage to play out the evening
Around the Town	
All Day	Potton Tennis Club – Free Access to Mill Lane Courts - booking via their on line system (see page 15)
10.30am - 4.30pm	Festival of Arts and Flowers within St Mary's Church
8.30pm	Procession forms on the Market Square with our own Town Crier, Potton Federation Children, music and songs
8.45pm	Procession is led by the bagpipes of Piper Boyd with Ruth Bell MBE JP DL, all of our uniformed groups, and everyone would like to join the parade through Henry Smith Playing Fields and The Causeway to the Church field





Friday 3rd June

In the Church Field and Marquee

8 - 8.45am	Early Morning Pilates with Laura Collins
9 - 9.45am	Core Tone and Fitness with Barns Fitness
From 10.30am	Tea, coffee and cake served from the Church Hall
11 - 11.45am	Family Friendly Beat Fitness session with Lisa Hillier
2 - 4pm	Showcase of Potton Clubs, Groups and associations. Come and see what goes on in and around our town and how you can get involved.
8 - 11pm	"Basin Street Brawlers" - London's Top Jazz ensemble stomp and swing through a programme of jazz favourites - TICKETED EVENT . Proceeds to St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger

Around the Town

All Day	Potton Tennis Club - Free Access to Mill Lane Courts - booking via their on line system (see page 15)
10.30am - 4.30pm	Festival of Arts and Flowers within St Mary's Church
11am	Junior Cricket at the Hollow - Juniors v Adults
11am - End of Seniors	BBQ, Bar and Café at the Hollow
1.30pm	Seniors Cricket at the Hollow - Chairman's 11 v President's 11
2 - 3pm	Children's Sports Activities Barns Fitness and Triumph Fitness at Henry Smith Playing Fields
2 - 4.30pm	Henry Smith Playing Fields - Steam Train rides with Woolsey Miniature Railway. £1.00 per ride
2 - 4.30pm	Skatefest at Potton Skatepark. Music, displays, opportunities to try new kit. Guidance and advice for all levels of skateboarders, BMX and scooter riders. Come and have a go, come and watch, come and show off your skills!
2 - 4.30pm	Henry Smith Playing Fields - Party on Potton BBQ

Saturday 4th June

In The Church Field and Marquee

8 - 8.45am	Circuit Training with Barns Fitness
9 - 9.45am	Pure Stretch with Barns Fitness
From 10.30am	Tea, coffee and cake served from the Church Hall
10 - 10.45am	Gentle Yoga with Lindsay Kitchener
11 - 11.45am	Triumph Fitness - All the family Boot Camp in the Church Field
12 - 2pm	Potton Playhouse - Youth workshop
2 - 4pm	Posh Picnic in the Church Field with musical accompaniment. Bring your own picnic, but not alcohol as POP's bar will be open and serving drinks
7 - 10.30pm	A Gala Concert of Choral & Brass Highlights - TICKETED EVENT

Around the Town

10.30am - 4.30pm	Festival of Arts and Flowers within St Mary's Church
All Day	Potton Tennis Club - Free Access to Mill Lane Courts - booking via their on line system (see page 15)



Ticketed Events

Thursday

Theatre of Widdershins Puppet Story Time	Adult/Child £2.50
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Friday

Basin Street Brawlers Jazz Band	Adult/Child £12
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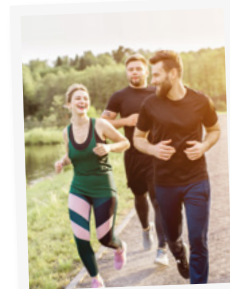
Saturday

Last Night of the Potton Choir Proms	Adult/Child £10
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Sunday

Platinum Jubilee Sunday Lunch	Adult £12.50, Child under 16 £8.50
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- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Only drink purchased on the premises can be consumed.
- Tickets will be available from Cameron's, Tysoe's and the Post Office.
- Limited ticket numbers.



Sunday 5 th June	
In the Church Field and Marquee	
10 - 11.00am	Combined Churches of Potton Joint Service
1 - 2.30pm	Platinum Jubilee Sunday Lunch. Another timed event to coincide with towns and villages across the UK and Commonwealth where the Queen has asked that as many as possible sit down at the same time to join her in a celebration lunch. Ticketed event with very limited numbers. - Sunday lunches to be provided by Friends of St Mary's Church with vegetarian option. Hog Roast by Clayton's Butchers - TICKETED EVENT
Around the Town	
10.00am	Fun Run events organised by Potton Plodders
10.30am Start	Starting in Henry Smith Playing Fields a 5-kilometre fun run out around Pegnut wood and back
10.40am Start	1 or 2 laps of Henry Smith Playing Field Fun Run for all the family
11am - 5pm	Festival of Arts and Flowers within St Mary's Church
All Day	Potton Tennis Club - Coaching and Fastest Serve Competition - Refreshments available



Street Parties, Bunting and you

We would love to hear from you if you are looking to organise a party in your street. If you are decorating your homes or street let us know.

Bunting has been ordered to decorate the Market Square and this will be installed by our valiant Christmas lights volunteer group, St Mary's Church are going to decorate the approach to the church and Scouts and Guides are looking at The Causeway.

Let's decorate our town and show anyone passing by what a wonderful place Potton is.

St Mary's Church

The majority of the events will be held in St Mary's Church field and we look forward to welcoming you.

St Mary's, Potton is here for your spiritual and emotional support and you don't need to be a church goer to ask for help. For support, please contact alex.wheatley.rector@gmail.com or **01767 764062**.

We continue to provide an increasing number of services and activities in Potton we welcome the return of our monthly Friends and Family service.

It has been a particular pleasure to hear our choir lead our singing and be welcomed by our bell ringers. Their contributions are so important to our worship, but like so many like-minded groups, they are always looking to boost their numbers; please contact Revd. Alex for more details.

We always try to keep you up to date via our website
<https://www.pottonparishchurch.org.uk/copy-of-diary>
<https://twitter.com/stmaryspotton>

and our free weekly newsletter The Link. You can be added to the list of Link readers by contacting sundaylink@blunham.com.

Please keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers.



Potton Tennis Club

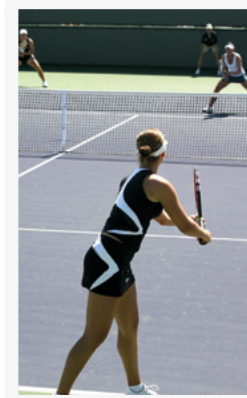
Potton Tennis Club looks forward to welcoming new members of all ages and abilities to the new facilities at Mill Lane Recreation Ground, which will also be suitable for disabled players, who will be warmly welcomed.

The courts will also be available for non-members to use on a pay-per-play basis. We have installed a state-of-the-art access system, which when in operation will allow players to book a court via the LTA's online system and even get the floodlights to turn on and off automatically if required.

The club will be holding an open day on Sunday 5th June to coincide with the Town's Jubilee celebrations, and this will also be the official opening day for the new courts. All are very welcome and among other activities we will be running a fastest serve competition.

For more information about the club please visit our Facebook page or our website with details below.

<https://www.facebook.com/pottontennisclub>
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PottonTennisClub>





New Voices of Potton

Our mixed voice adult choir under the baton of Musical Director Anne Wright are delighted to be singing "A Life Lived with Grace" (music by Vincent Atueyi Chinemelu/Lyrics by Lucy Kiely) especially commissioned and composed to be sung as Beacons are lit at 9.45pm on Thursday 2nd June across the United Kingdom and The Commonwealth to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We hope to see some of you over the Jubilee weekend and encourage you to get in touch if you'd like to come along and try out singing with us. Please get in touch via Facebook at www.facebook.com/newvoicesofpotton



Potton Town Cricket Club

Potton Town Cricket Club welcome you to attend our fun day of cricket on Friday 3rd June. We are starting with a juniors v adults match at 11am, followed by a seniors 20-20 challenge match at 1.30pm, between a Chairman's 11 v a President's 11. Both of these matches will be played in the spirit of celebrating our Queen's platinum jubilee.

There will be a BBQ and licensed bar available, and the Boundary Café will be open to provide refreshments. Come along, enjoy the day and meet members of the cricket club. We are always looking for new members of all ages and will be happy to welcome you and show you around our excellent facilities.

If you are unable to attend, but are interested in becoming a member of Potton Town Cricket Club (senior or junior), please contact our club captain, Sean Stevens, at onthetherun168@hotmail.com



We Need You!

We are looking for volunteers from the Potton Community to help us with the Jubilee events.

If you are available and would like to offer your support in anyway, please get in touch by emailing pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com

DESIGN A CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION

Design a Christmas light, the two winners will literally see their work UP IN LIGHTS!

Potton Town Council's 'Design a Christmas Light' competition is back this year. The winning designs will be turned into an actual light and installed ready for the 2022 Switch On.



Design no.1

The first design is a semi-circle

These lights will be positioned above The Potton Flooring Co Ltd showroom



Design no.2

The second design is freestyle

These lights will be positioned above Tysoe & Son

The rules are:

1. You can enter a maximum of one design for each of the two lights
2. The design(s) must be on A4 paper
3. The competition closes on 31st May 2022
4. Children of all ages can enter, if they live in or attend a school in Potton
5. Entries to be submitted to the town council office at the Community Centre, Brook End, or pottoncouncilbookings@btconnect.com



Community Safety

Since 2011, the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has been working with other groups (including police, fire and rescue, probation and social services) on improving community safety.



Central Bedfordshire

A recent email received by Potton Town Council from police highlighted the importance of reporting issues around community safety: 'matters **do need to be reported** by calling 101 or via the webchat system so that we capture crime and **have a true picture of the scale of the issue**, as well as ensuring that offences and crimes have been reported accordingly'.

What to report:

If you witness something you think could be a criminal offence (e.g. burglary, drug dealing), something related to on-going issues (e.g. anti-social behaviour) or suspicious activity; other community safety issues (e.g. dog fouling, fly tipping).

Recording a crime with police will generate a reference (CAD) number. The complainant should keep a copy of the reference so that, if they wish to get back to the police concerning the crime, the record can be found quickly and an update given.

Our Police and Crime Commissioner has undertaken to ensure that reports are followed up diligently with residents, so it is important to ensure the report includes accurate contact details. Wrong contact details will delay police progress and feedback. The council followed up with police on some claims that feedback was not received by complainants. However, police records showed that attempts to provide feedback had been made, but the complainant was not contactable. Indeed, there are open crime reports at advance stages requiring input as a result.



Dog Fouling

In an effort to encourage more of Potton's dog owners to pick up after their pets during their walks around the town, the Town Council has put up new signage in Henry Smith Playing Fields (HSPF), which has been designed by children in Central Bedfordshire, and a 'poo bag' dispenser on the green fencing at the car park entrance to HSPF.

A map of all dog waste bins is available online, kindly provided by Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Councillor Tracey Wye. You can find the map by visiting www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/map/



Potton Hall for All

Registered Charity number 1158751

Down but not out – Potton Hall for All Community Building Project Update

As reported in the flier that accompanied the February newsletter, materials and service costs for the Hall building have escalated directly as result of global increase driven by Covid and supply chain issues. As a result, the Joint Steering Group of Potton Town Council and Potton Hall for All charity are working hard on several alternative options to deliver a useable, accessible community space that Pottonians can use and enjoy for sports, arts and community activities.

We are:

- asking our Architects to consider a building redesign which can be achieved with the money already secured (c.£1,800,000)
- consulting with representatives of the major users of the building to find a viable solution if we must change our original design
- continuing to seek major funding through grants/trusts including a resubmission via CBC UK Gov Levelling Up Fund
- running community events to raise money for the project and the design preparation stage to continue the dialogue with residents on the need for a bigger community building
- asking Central Bedfordshire Council for a little more time to revise our plans and for an opportunity to discuss potential changes with the Planning Department



Potton seasonal market stall

Since the last newsletter we have run a stall on the Potton Seasonal Market and the Easter Bunny Trail. If you would like to get involved in the project we are always looking for new volunteers to help – get in touch by messaging us on Facebook or by email to hall4allpotton@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook to keep up with news and further details of forthcoming events!



Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tracey Wye

It's been three years since I was elected to Central Bedfordshire Council and I am so glad I have this opportunity to represent our ward. Every day brings something new to my desk, from the day-to-day stuff such as potholes, flytipping or helping residents get a meaningful response from the council, to the less obvious such as influencing policies and planning, and sitting on committees.

One more satisfying parts of the job, which brings immediate benefits to our community, is helping groups access the Ward Councillors' Grant scheme and I am pleased to say that all last year's money was allocated to some great projects across the ward. Applications for this year's funding are now being taken for a share of £4,000 in grants - that's £2,000 per councillor. So if you have a group, or project, in mind which works to benefit the community please get in touch. The money can only be spent on capital expenses i.e. buying things rather than time or services, and some grants can be given without match funding.

For bigger projects to restore/repair/improve community buildings there is the Community Asset Grant. Please get in touch to discuss your application.

The invasion of Ukraine has been terrible to witness and many people in Potton have wanted to help those fleeing the war zone. I have helped establish Ukraine Response: Potton, an online resource for people who are hoping to host Ukrainian refugees, or can offer practical help and support. The group is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/ukraineresponsepotton. We ask only

people who intend to host or get actively involved sign up to this closed group.

Lastly, I carried out an unofficial survey to measure the local appetite for creating separate cycle paths from Potton to our neighbouring towns and villages. The route from Potton to Sandy is moving on nicely with support from Central Bedfordshire Council and other agencies, and is in a good position to become reality. Linking this to Biggleswade through the RSPB bridleway should be fairly straightforward, and I am working on routes between Potton-Sutton-Biggleswade.



My survey was to see how people would feel about a cycle path to Gamlingay. There were 146 responses; 90 per cent said they would cycle on a dedicated path with others requesting it be usable by pedestrians and horses. The main reasons given for cycling to Gamlingay were leisure/exercise, visiting the farm shop and going to the Eco Hub. While this was a very basic survey, and by no means scientific, it does show there is a healthy appetite for safe cycling which I can use to lobby the council.

Please contact me at tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk if you would like to apply for a grant. For more information go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/grants

Potton Library

Opening Times:

**Tues 9-1,
Wed 2-6,
Thurs 9-1,
Fri 9-1 & 2-6,
Sat 9-4**

Tel: 0300 300 8063

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Central Bedfordshire Libraries

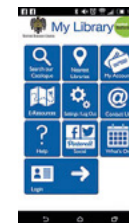


Borrowing

We have recently introduced automatic email overdue notifications as part of our service to our customers - make sure the library has your email address to receive an email just prior to your loans going overdue.

The Library Online & APP

The Bedfordshire Libraries APP is free to download from your App store. Free E-Books, audio books and magazines are available from the App with a valid library card.



For Children

With the kind assistance of Potton Consolidated Charity, we have launched a reading incentive scheme for preschool children - this year's theme is Peppa Pig - children collect stickers, stamps and activity sheets on visiting the library, and there are rewards and a prize draw for those taking part.



Volunteers

We are looking to recruit young volunteers to help with our summer reading challenge - please contact us if you are interested in helping out at the library.

Potton Bowls Club

Potton Bowls Club would like to invite anyone interested in taking up bowls to come along to a free taster roll up on Saturday 28th May from 10.30am onwards.

If you are interested just roll up and say hello - this friendly group of players will welcome you in, explain the basics and show you how to play.

The bowls club will also be represented at the Potton Showcase inside the Marquee on the Church field on Friday 3rd June from 2pm to 4pm to encourage new players to join the club or use the facilities.

Potton Youth Council



Carly

I really like being part of Potton Youth Council and I am helping with fundraising. I have lived in Potton all my life and go to school locally. In my spare time I love cooking, cycling and paddleboarding.



Sam

I go to school in Potton and I am in year 6. I enjoy playing basketball and going swimming. I really like animals. I joined the Youth Council because I want to make Potton a nicer place for animals to live. Some weekends I go litter picking around town.



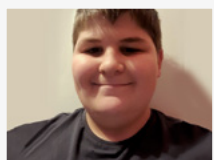
Milly

I am in year 6 and I love pandas and the colour purple. I enjoy helping people and that's why I'm on the Potton Youth Council. I have lived in Potton since I was 1 year old. My role is Vice Chair.



Imogen

I joined youth Council because I want to make a difference and help our town become more environmentally friendly. In my spare time I like to play netball, run, cycle and be with my friends! My role on the Youth Council is note taking which means I keep track of all our important conversations and ideas!



Matty

I am the Potton Youth Council (PYC) Chairman, and I am interested in helping the young people of Potton. PYC is raising money for MND this year and our next fundraiser is at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3rd June. We'll be in the marquee, so see you there!

Max

I have lived in Potton my entire life. I became a youth councillor to improve the wellbeing of every child living here, as much as I am able. I am honoured to be a youth councillor and will do everything I can to make Potton not only fun for children but also safe.

Energy Saving Poster Competition

Potton Youth Council is holding a competition and would like to invite children to design a poster promoting energy saving tips and suggestions - from **"how to save energy"** to **"how wasting energy is bad for the environment"**.

The rules are:

1. **The design must be on A4 paper**
2. **The competition closes on 31st May 2022**
3. **Children of all ages can enter, if they live in or attend a school in Potton**
4. **Entries to be submitted to the town council office at the Community Centre, Brook End, or to pottoncouncilbookings@btconnect.com**

All entries will be displayed at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community afternoon which will be held in the marquee at St Mary's Church field on Friday 3rd June and we will be asking members of the public to choose their favourite poster. Winners will be announced in the next edition of the newsletter and the winning designer will have their poster printed and displayed around the town.



Fundraising by Max

One of the things Potton Youth Council hopes to achieve this year is to support a charity and we have chosen Motor Neurone Disease (MND). We will be carrying out fund raising activities over the coming months, and already made a great start selling cakes and windmills at the Four Seasons Market in March.

Please look out for our events later this year, including at the Queen's Jubilee on Friday 3rd June, where we plan to sell paper crowns to be decorated with sparkles and glitter, and cookies that can be decorated on the day. We hope you will join us in supporting this worthy cause.



Party On Potton – 20th Anniversary

Partnering with Macmillan Cancer Support



The Big Weekend - August Bank Holiday

Friday 26th – Monday 29th August 2022

Since the last Big Weekend in 2018, Potton has grown a lot so we thought we would drop everyone a note telling you all a little about POP and The Big Weekend 2022.

In 2000, a group of residents organised a Millennium celebration consisting of 10 days of non-stop activities for all ages in and around a large marquee on the Henry Smith playing field. The celebration was truly that and ever since a party has been organised by a group of volunteers every other August bank holiday. Committee members have changed over the years and at some point we became 'Party on Potton' commonly referred to as POP.

As a committee we have every intention of making The Big Weekend 2022 the best ever. It will be our 20th

birthday and with all the difficulties of the past 2 years I think we would all agree that it is needed more than ever. The event is free to attend during the day and we have 4 amazing ticketed evenings in the planning.

Potton is fab because of the people in it. The time and effort that many people give make our community what it is. Without the numerous volunteers Potton would not be what it is today. Be you new to Potton or not please get involved in any of the numerous local groups. We need volunteers to help out during the Big Weekend – please email **committee@partyonpotton.org.uk** if you can spare a few hours. You get out of life what you put in!

