



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

July 2022 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



**6-page
events guide
in the centre of
this newsletter**

THE BIG WEEKEND

In aid of

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Fri 26th Aug to Mon 29th Aug
Henry Smith Playing Fields, Potton SG19 2QS

Four fabulous nights
of ticketed entertainment

Three fun packed days
of FREE activities for all

Food & licensed bar

**Tickets
on sale
from the
Post Office &
Cameron's**



@PartyOnPotton Website: partyonpotton.org.uk





Chairman's message

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

In the last newsletter I reported that the Council were carrying out works at Henry Smith Playing Fields. I'm pleased to report that the Horse Brook has been dredged, however we now need plenty of rain to encourage the ducks and wildlife back! We have also built a permanent ford crossing over the sluice, enabling vehicles to access the whole of the playing fields. See page 26 for more information. We are now all set for Party on Potton in August.

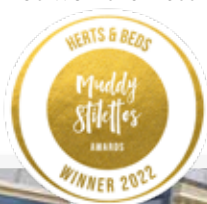


Congratulations!

Congratulations to two of our local businesses who have won a Muddy Stilettoes Award 2022. Elephant & Feather has won the Best Lifestyle Store in Beds and Herts 2022, and Lisa Hillier Fitness has won the Best Fitness Instructor in Beds and Herts 2022.



Elephant & Feather



Lisa Hillier



Ukraine Response Group

In April, the Council set up a Ukraine Response Group (URG), whose aims are to support residents who want to host refugees from Ukraine and provide help and support to our Ukrainian guests in Potton. We added a page to our website, providing links to both government and CBC websites. We also identified relevant Facebook sites that have been set up to aid the process of finding families to host.



www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/sponsoring-a-ukrainian-refugee-family/

The Ukraine Response Group is led by Cllr Lindsay Kitchener and is made up of our local hosts, volunteers, and other councillors. In the knowledge that there are also Ukrainian guests hosted locally, the URG has liaised with the councils of surrounding towns and parishes to coordinate actions and thus provide wider support.

We are also aware that some refugees are experiencing some financial difficulties, and so we have set up a JustGiving page to raise necessary funds to help relieve this situation www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/pottontc?utm_id=2&utm_term=bERkxbAWZ

Potton Town Council have made a donation and agreed that the £1,600 raised at the Platinum Jubilee Gala Concert is donated to this worthy cause.

If you want to get involved in helping the Ukraine Response Group, contact us at urgpotton@gmail.com

Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire visits Potton

On Friday 24th June Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Festus Akinbusoye came to Potton and visited Potton Federation, met with members of the Town Council and other members of the community.



L-R: Cllrs Andy Gibb, Charles Craig and Carol Leggatt with PCC Festus Akinbusoye



In the last newsletter I welcomed the new Walkin Café in Deepdale. I was therefore sad to hear that they had their outdoor furniture stolen recently. I hope this hasn't affected the café's business too much.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

What can I say? Potton did what Potton does best – a 4-day extravaganza of events and activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Thanks to the Town Council's Commemorations and Celebrations Committee, led by Denis Ellison and Cllr Carol Leggatt, we had an amazing programme to enjoy. Before I reflect on those four memorable days, I'd like to thank those many unseen helpers who ensured that everything worked seamlessly and that the marquee was always ready for the next activity or event. Special thanks goes to Alan Leggatt, Peter and Maria Langridge, Cllr Vicki Gwilliam and Paul Taylor, who appeared to be working 24/7 over the four days.



Thursday - Lighting of the Beacon

The formalities started on Thursday 2nd June with the Beacon lighting ceremony. Potton turned out in force, following the procession from the Market Square to St Mary's Church field, ably led by piper James Boyd. Town Crier Carlton Avison took control and ensured that we all arrived safely.

My thanks also go to New Voices of Potton for singing the Platinum Jubilee song 'A Life Lived With Grace'. This really added to the atmosphere.



New voices of Potton at the beacon lighting



The procession to light the beacon, led by Town Crier, Carlton Avison, and our guest piper James Boyd



PL



JS



JS

4-day Festival of Flowers and Arts in St Mary's Church

Throughout the four days we had events in the marquee, with some early starts (7am on Thursday!), and I'd like to thank everyone who ran these sessions. We certainly made full use of the marquee and field.



JS

Tractor rides around the town



DT

Friday – Cricket, Jazz

Friday saw our first ticketed event, with London-based Basin Street Brawlers treating us to an evening of jazz. A brilliant event, which also helped Hearts for Moggerhanger raised £1,948 for St John's Hospice.



JS



JS



JS



JS



JS

There were some excellent activities at Henry Smith Playing Fields – steam train rides and a skatefest sponsored by Potton Consolidated Charity. Something for Potton youngsters and teenagers.



GC

The inaugural President's Day challenge match at the Hutchinson Hollow

Saturday – Posh Picnic and Gala Concert



JS



JS



JS



JS



KE

Photo Credits:

GC - Giles Carter
KE - Kieran Evetts
PL - Peter Langridge
JS - Jo Sharman
DT - Dave Thompson



Sunday - Grand Lunch

Many thanks to St Mary's Church and Claytons for catering for nearly 250 diners at the Platinum Jubilee Sunday Lunch. An amazing feat.



Forthcoming events

Well, here we go again...

Party on Potton is back after a 4-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find all the information you need on pages 14 to 19.



The Potton Flower & Vegetable Show returns again this year on **Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September** at St Mary's Church field. See more information on page 20 and on the show's website www.pottonshow.org.uk

The next **Four Seasons Market** will be held from **9am to 1pm** on **Saturday 17th September**.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT There will be a **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on **Friday 23rd September** at Potton Bowls Club from **10am to 3pm** with homemade cakes, teas and coffees. Please join us.

Potton Apple Day is planned for **Sunday 25th September** at St Mary's Church hall and field from **12pm to 4pm**. Watch out for more information locally and on social media. Like Potton Apple Day Facebook page for details as they're confirmed.

The Autumn Litter Pick is scheduled for **Saturday 15th October** from **10am to 2pm**. Volunteers meet at the Community Centre in Brook End and will be given hi-vis vests, litter pickers and bags. Please bring your own gloves.

Have a great Summer!

John

Cllr John Hobbs

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 pottontowncouncil@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 [@pottontowncouncil](https://twitter.com/pottontowncouncil)

Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm. Visit www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/ for more information.
Tuesday 6th September 2022

Councillor Surgeries

Saturday 27th August, 12pm - 4pm
(at Henry Smith Playing Fields)
Cllr Gibb and Cllr Macdonald
Held from 10am - 12 noon outside the Library or inside the Library if bad weather.
Saturday 17th September
Cllr Gwilliam and Cllr Inkersole
Saturday 15th October
Cllr Fox and Cllr Price Williams

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

If you would like information to be included in our next newsletter, please email: pottontowncouncil@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



Wanted! Teenagers for newsletter delivery

Potton Town Council produces four Newsletters each year which are delivered to every household in Potton.

We are interested in hearing from 13-18 year olds who would like to deliver our newsletter. The rate of pay is **£20 for 300 delivered newsletters, pro-rata.**

A work permit is required from Central Bedfordshire Council; you can find out more information and download a Child Employment Application form by visiting https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/4/pupil_support/523/child_employment

Your Potton Town Councillors



Charles Craig
260047



John Day
07986 124440



Leane Fox
07806 593650



Andrew Gibb
260067



Vicki Gwilliam
07958 981602



John Hobbs
Chairman
07972 906040



Andrew Inkersole
261966



Lindsay Kitchener
260486



Jonathan Lean
262404



Carol Leggatt
260001



Angus Macdonald
262006



Dan Norman
260643



Jonathan Price Williams
Vice-Chairman
07981 350359



Adam Zerny
261319

There is currently a vacancy for one Potton Town Councillor. See page 12 for more details and how to apply.



For more details on each of the 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 Friday 5th August 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 September 2022.

Hearts for Moggerhanger

win the prestigious Team of the Year award from the Chartered Institute of Fundraising

Cllr John Hobbs



Potton-based Hearts for Moggerhanger won the Team of the Year award, for the East of England, at the Chartered Institute of Fundraising awards on 28th June. They were nominated by Sue Ryder, St John's Moggerhanger for their magnificent achievement of raising more than £20,000 since their formation in 2020. We regularly see Hearts for Moggerhanger raising funds at our market days and other Potton events. Most recently they organised two events as part of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations – the Jazz night and the Festival of Arts and Flowers.

I'd like to offer my huge congratulations to the Hearts for Moggerhanger team and wish them future success in their fundraising for such a worthy cause.

Joe Hinson

Joe Hinson, who display skated at the Potton Skatepark Jubilee celebrations has been selected to ride for the 2022 Skateboard GB Street Skateboarding Team Olympic team.

SkateboardGB

Joe recently clinched victory at the Skateboard GB X Habito National Championships this year, his second win at the competition after taking first place in 2019. **Congratulations Joe!**





THE BIG WEEKEND

In aid of
**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

August Bank Holiday Friday 26th – Monday 29th
Henry Smith Playing Fields

ITS POP TIME!

Time to celebrate, time to share and time to showcase how brilliant our town is. Some were born here, some chose to live here, and some just got lucky – and you are all invited.

The dredging is over, and Henry Smith Playing Fields has been restored to its usual glory. Believe you me, we are going to be totally and utterly ripping it up with the most amazing three days of fun, free events and four evenings of ticketed madness. There is something for everyone, every day, so POP that cork and let's start partying.

All you newbies need to keep the August bank holiday free because the POP committee have been champing at the bit for the past four years to bring you the most amazing, fun, community-minded Big Weekend there has ever been and show you what Potton is all about.

Despite rising costs, we have been able to keep the daytime events free of charge due to the generous support of Potton Town Council and our Sponsors and we cannot thank them enough. Their support has enabled us to organise the most ridiculous caboodle of events – there is something for everyone and each day is different. As always, the evening events are ticketed, but again due to the generosity of our sponsors and some serious fund raising, we have managed to keep ticket prices the same as in 2018 when petrol cost tuppence!

Tickets are selling fast, make sure you get yours early, or you could miss out! Buy from Cameron's Newsagents or Potton Post Office and keep an eye on our Facebook page for more info.

See you there!
Your POP Committee

Friday

Friday night is... Party Night!

Boogie the night away with DJ Coles from 3D Events. Kids disco 6–9pm. Over 16's disco until 12 midnight and the bar stays open until **1am**. Food on sale.

Tickets: Adults (16+) £10 (all night) Kids under 16 £5 ('til 9pm)

Or use your Golden Ticket



Saturday

Community Day

12pm Festival themed Carnival processes around the streets of Potton. Starts at Shannon Court and arrives at Henry Smith Playing Fields at 1pm

1pm Fancy Dress Competition

2pm The Great British 'Decorate' Off Bring your own home-baked biscuits & cakes to decorate, Prizes to be won!

3pm POP's Dog Show Bring your dog along for some fun!

All Day:

Kids Zone Plenty for the little ones. It's all FREE!

Run by Woodentops and Happy Hands

Dog Agility, Local Community Stalls raising awareness

Potton Playhouse Theatre Tent Kids Acting workshops

Human Football, Wipeout & Bungee Run

Live music to suit all tastes **Licensed Bar** and **BBQ**



Saturday night is...

Big Band Night with Sound Express from Germany

Back by popular demand and always a sell-out event. Dance to all your favourites from 7.30pm until midnight. Licensed bar and food on sale.

Tickets: Adults (18+) £15 Kids under 18 £6 Or use your Golden Ticket



Sunday

Arts, crafts & small businesses

- 9am – 1pm** Yard Sale around Potton – go and grab a bargain!
- 10am – 12pm** Car Treasure Hunt, **registration 9.45am** at the marquee. Park in the Henry Smith Car Park.
- 11am Churches Together Service** in the Marquee
- 11am Potton History Society Walk** around Potton starting in the Marquee
- 12pm Posh Picnic with Live Music.** Bring your own poshness and win some fizz!
- 1pm Art Session for 6yrs+** with Children's Illustrator Alicia Jennings

All Day:

- Kids Zone** Plenty for the little ones. It's all FREE!
- Live music** to suit all tastes
- Donkey Rides**
- Art and Craft stalls** from local businesses
- Hamster Balls, Climbing wall** and **more**
- Licensed Bar** and **BBQ**



Sunday night is...

Comedy Night

Headlined by Zoe Lyons (Mock the Week, QI, Live at the Apollo). **Compere: Stephen Bailey** (Host of Channel 5's Celebs on the Farm).

Arranged by Custard Comedy and also featuring **Scott Bennett** (Live at the Apollo and support for Rob Brydon and Michael Macintyre) plus Edinburgh Festival favourites **Brian Damage** and **Krysstal**. From 7.30pm until midnight. Licensed bar and food on sale.

Tickets: Adults over 18 only £15 Or use your Golden Ticket

Monday

Sports Day

- 9am** Race Registration at the Marquee for:
- 10am 5k-ish Run and 5k-ish Family Fun Run**
- 10am 5k-ish Dog walk** Come and meet some fellow dog walkers!
- 10am Road Bike Ride**

All Day:

Come and meet your local sports clubs – you might find a new one to join!

Biggleswade Rugby Club, Triumph Fitness, John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Potton Bowls Club, Potton Karate Club, Potton Town FC and many more.

Fun for all the family from **Plank Walking** to **Hungry Hippos**

Plus, new this year, **Laser Clay Pigeon** & **Rodeo Ride**.

Live music to suit all tastes

Licensed Bar and **BBQ**



Monday night is...

The Big Fat Quiz of Everything Night NEW FOR '22

Gather a team of up to 8 people and pit your wits against Potton's finest brains. Expect the unexpected. There will be cash prizes! Arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Licensed bar and food on sale.

Team Ticket of up to 8 people:
£50 per team

Not a Golden Ticket event





As part of

In aid of
**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

THE BIG WEEKEND

we present the evening entertainment...

Golden Ticket £35!

**Tickets
on sale
from the
Post Office &
Cameron's**

**Food &
licensed
bar every
night**

Fri 26th Aug Party Night Disco

Kids 6-9pm
16yrs+ til midnight
Bar til 1am
Adult £10, under 16yrs £5



Sat 27th Aug Big Band Night

with **Sound Express** from Germany

7.30pm 'til midnight
Adult £15, under 18yrs £6



Sun 28th Aug Comedy Night

with Zoe Lyons, Stephen Bailey & more

7.30pm 'til midnight.
Over 18s only. Adult £15



Mon 29th Aug Big Fat Quiz of Everything

7pm for 7.30pm start
Teams of up to 8 people £50



Annual Potton Flower & Vegetable show



Library and Tysoes, or online at www.pottonshow.org.uk

The Show day sees the return of our popular Fun Dog Show, kindly run by Top Dog Training School, as well as refreshments, barbecue, beer tent, Morris dancers, raptor display, model boats and many stalls, all on St Mary's Field in Potton.



The show opens at 2pm and entry costs just £2, which gives the opportunity to view exhibits and prize-winners and to bid for produce at our fun auction which is held after prize presentations at 4.30pm.

We are also pleased to once again be able to hold our popular Barn Dance in the marquee on Saturday evening – tickets are £15 for this event which includes a Chicken and Chip supper and are available from Tysoe's, the Post Office and Cameron's or by calling our box office number on 07734 297868.

On Sunday 11th September is our wonderful Craft Fair from 12pm to 5pm, followed by a Potton Hall for All Quiz which starts at 7.30pm.

We hope you can join us!



There are classes for young and old in many areas – including baking, fruit, vegetables and flowers, photography, art, as well as handicrafts of all types. Whether you are a regular entrant or new to the Show, you will be warmly welcomed to help us keep the tradition going!

The closing date for entries is Thursday 8th September – all details can be found in the show schedule or the website. Entries are invited for the wide variety of classes as detailed in the Schedule, which is now available from Potton Post Office, the

Potton Apple Day



Potton's annual Apple Day celebrations are on Sunday 25th September this year. Come along to St Mary's Church field and hall from 12pm to 4pm to enjoy the



fun. There are lots of apple-orientated activities, music, food and drink. Check out the **Potton Apple Day Facebook page** for details closer to the time.



Potton Hall for All

Registered Charity number 1158751

We are still working hard to find funding for the full design, but at the same time we are working on new designs which deliver what we need at a lower cost.

We have been at the Jubilee Celebrations and at the June Seasonal Market both of which were great fun.

We shall be part of the Party on Potton weekend and Potton Apple Day in September. Do not miss our famous Quiz Night in Potton Show Marquee on Sunday 11th September.



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

Four Seasons Market



Sat 17th September

9am - 1pm



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

Christmas Lights 2022

Christmas Lights installation will commence on Sunday 30th October from 10am.

Please be mindful of volunteers who may be in the road and take care when driving through the Market Square. Thank you.



Join the Potton Autumn Litter Pick



Be part of the pick

Sat 15th October 2022 from 10am - 2pm

The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS

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

- The library has increased its stock of popular fiction for all ages.
- Book requests are now free.
- A great selection of jigsaws for loan - 1000 / 500 pieces and for children.
- There is a new automatic overdue notification service.



Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

For Children

The Summer Reading Challenge started on Friday 22nd July. The Gadgeteers Reading Challenge runs throughout the school holiday, with a full programme of free activities, crafts and competitions. Programmes are available from the beginning of July.

Related science events are 'The Michael Faraday Story' on Thursday 28th July at 3.15pm, and 'A Sublime Science Workshop' on Thursday 18th August at 2pm. Tickets £3 per child and £1 for siblings.



The Library Online & APP

Users can browse, request and renew via the Bedfordshire Libraries APP.

E Books, audio books and magazines are free from Libby and Borrowbox with a valid library card.

I.T. free PC use, printing and photocopying.

Working with the Community

The library offers a book sale, participates in local events, including Party on Potton 2022.

A light walking group meets at the library every Tuesday at 10am.

The library accepts donated wool and squares for various knitting projects and has a regular knitting group.

Details of groups, meeting dates and other events are on the noticeboard.



Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Adam Zerny

Concerns raised over Luton Airport low flying flights

I have complained to the company who manage operations at Luton Airport about low flying flights over Potton.

The proposals to fly planes over our area was agreed last year despite a public consultation which was highly critical of the plans. These flights began in February of this year. Since then I have received a number of complaints about noise and low altitude, given the jets are supposed to be at least 6,000ft high when they come over us.

London Luton Airport Operations Limited (LLAOL), which runs services at the airport, has since agreed to provide noise monitoring equipment (running costs not included!) and a number of local residents have volunteered.

And in addition, LLAOL visited Potton to run a surgery where it met residents.

In recent weeks, I have asked a number of questions of LLAOL and have provided examples of low level flights which LLAOL disputes! The company insisted it could not tell me how many planes (landing in Luton) were currently flying on the new flight path over the Potton/Gamlingay/Wrestlingworth area. Neither could it tell me how many of these flights were currently passing our homes at below the agreed heights.

It did, however, reveal that the total number of passengers arriving at the airport in the last 3 months of 2021 was 1.8 million as compared to 4.2 million in the last 3 months of 2019 suggesting that

when flight levels return to the pre-covid numbers we are likely to see a significant increase in the volume of air traffic heading right over us.

In trying to explain its failure to provide more detailed information, LLAOL has told me *"We collect and monitor the arrival and departure tracks for all aircraft operating at LLA, this includes altitude data. In order to provide exact numbers of aircraft at each altitude level for a specific place it is a very complex task and is usually something we only do as part of the community noise monitoring report."*

In short, to provide such data they need lots of complaints or results from people hosting noise recording equipment.

LLAOL added *"However, from generic track data I can see that the majority of aircraft are above 7,000ft nearby Potton."* It provided no evidence of this.

If you spot any flights passing Potton at under 6,000ft and can get a screenshot from Flightradar or other websites, drop me a line – adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk

Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Tracey Wye - Independent	261319
Adam Zerny - Independent	261319



Potton Community Agent News Supporting the over 60s in Potton



Tablet training group – if you would like to learn how to use a Samsung tablet and can commit to attending drop in sessions on Wednesday mornings 10am until midday, then please get in touch for further details. We have five tablets ready for the September intake of new learners.

Thursday Friendship Group – is held at the Community Centre, Brook End, 10am until 12 noon. The Friendship Group welcomes all for a coffee, cake, a game of cards or dominoes and a chat every Thursday morning. We really look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces. £3 for unlimited coffee and cake. Outings and events scheduled throughout the year.

If you have any issues you need advice or help with, please contact Andrea in confidence. Kindly funded by Potton Consolidated Charity and Potton Town Council.

Tel: Andrea mobile: 07590 359 630 (working Weds & Thurs only)

Or email: andream@bedsrcc.org.uk

Are you struggling with the cost of living? – the rising cost of living is affecting us all, however, if you are genuinely having to make choices about feeding yourself or your family then please get in touch in confidence. Andrea can make a referral to the Needs Project for a food parcel to be delivered.

Benefit forms assistance – don't be put off trying to fill in complicated forms such as Attendance Allowance, Blue Disabled Parking Badge, Carer's Allowance, Pension Credit or Council Tax Reduction/Housing Benefit. Andrea can home visit to assist you.



Henry Smith Playing Fields



Brooks

The installation of the ford to allow vehicular access to the Northern Field is complete. In September after the bird nesting season, dredging of the Horse Brook channel will be continued and the two soil piles will be spread in several places within the fields.

After a protracted negotiation with the Internal Drainage Board (IDB), the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BedsRCC) have finally been given permission by IDB to undertake remedial habitat creation to improve the bank profile of Potton Brook in the park, for Water Voles. This is part of on-going work and an aspiration of the Potton Green

Infrastructure Plan to provide habitat along the brook for these rare and threatened mammals which Potton is lucky to have. No date has yet been set for this work but once known, notices will be placed in the park to inform users of the work.



Millennium Path

The town council is investigating resurfacing of the Millennium path with either tarmac or a rubber and stone aggregate, which is bound with polyurethane binder. The suppliers advise that the binder locks the aggregates together to provide a tough and hard-wearing path which is both flexible and incredibly strong.

Lighting

The town council has had discussions about lighting the Millennium path and the skatepark and they will contact the Bat Conservation Trust to gain their opinion and we would like to gain your opinion.

With regards to lighting the Millennium path the town council is investigating surface level lighting to allow people to walk along the path when it is dark.



JS



JS



JS

Skatepark

The current skatepark was installed in 2017 and is very popular. Users of the skatepark have previously requested that the skatepark is lit to allow longer use during the darker months of the year. England is fortunate to enjoy long daylight hours in the summer for the pursuit of sport and leisure activities. However, in the winter the daylight can be as little as 7 hours per day and can significantly reduce the opportunity for outdoor sport and recreation.

The town council would like to know if you would or wouldn't like lighting along the Millennium path and skatepark.



Lighting	Yes	No
Millennium Path		
Skatepark		
Name:		
Address:		

Responses by 29th August 2022 to Potton Town Council, Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Beds. SG19 2QS

Potton Gardens

The Potton Gardens continue to take shape and residents have recently been out in all five undertaking some routine maintenance. They also had a stand at the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Early this summer Sutton Mill Road had a vibrant display of poppies on show and by the time you read this, Meeting Lane and Baker Avenue will have been donated some bulbs and sunflowers for their gardens. The Pegnuts continue to top the nettles along the bank of the brook in Sheepwalk and Yew Tree Close allowing more space for wildflowers to flourish.



Swifts clock in

After several years trying, Swifts seem finally to have adopted at least two of the nest boxes beneath the town's clock tower. This bird has recently been declared a Red Listed Bird of Conservation Concern, its population having declined by 60% in the past 25 years and 39% in the last 10 years. While the decline is not fully understood, it is known loss of nest sites is due to older buildings in which they nest being renovated or demolished is one major factor. Therefore it's really good that young birds from the local colony, are now mature enough to return and breed.



Potton Library



News from the Benefice

If your group or organisation wants to use St Mary's as a venue, please contact David Tall 01767 261713. Most recently The Locrian Choir concert and the Panther Cub Pack visit to St Mary's were great successes, as was the Sutton Plant Sale, Duck Race and Cream Tea party.

Other highlights since the last newsletter centred around the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in which St Mary's played a major part providing cream teams, the Big Lunch and the wonderfully successful Flower and Arts Festival, which saw 795 visitors to St Mary's, who generously donated £426 each to St John's Hospice and the Church. We are particularly grateful to Chris Boxall for all her hard work to coordinate the festival. There were 32 displays from across the town and showed Potton's renowned community spirit at its best.

Our vibrant and imaginative Events Team have great plans for the rest of the year and we shall also be holding a Songs of Praise Service with our sister churches in the marquee during Party on Potton. We



always try to keep you up to date through our website pottonparishchurch.org.uk (Calendar) **Twitter@StMarysPotton** and our Benefice - wide, free, weekly newsletter The Link. You can be added to the list of Link readers by contacting: sundaylink@blunham.com

Always remember, we are here for you. If you need any support, please contact alex.wheatley.rector@gmail.com or call **01767 764062**. Please also remember you do not need to be a church goer to ask for any help.

We ask that you continue to keep the people of Ukraine and members of the Ukraine Support Group, Potton, of which the Benefice are members, in your prayers, whilst keeping your eyes open for various ways to help host families and their guests.



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

As we creep out of the pandemic stage of COVID into blue skies and summer heat, so people are rightly seeking to get out and about and to meet and greet friends. The key to doing this without the risk of harm is for everyone to be sympathetic to the needs of others, the environment and of their own and others' safety.

Dangerous driving around Potton is a major concern. When speed is kept low, stopping times and distances are short – and lives are demonstrably saved. Unfortunately, some individuals don't seem to care and won't until they are facing bereaved relatives in court.

Another harmful activity is the parking of vehicles on footpaths. This creates an obstruction for pedestrians and in some instances might require them to walk in the road. In addition, inappropriate parking in our Market Square can obstruct larger vehicles like buses and bin-lorries, preventing them from getting through and leading to traffic build-up.

Other antisocial behaviours include the juvenile (and some not-so-juvenile) gatherings where damage to people, property and the environment might occur. As requested in the previous newsletters, please ensure any such incidents are reported to the police and/or the council either directly or anonymously (Police: 999 or 101 or CrimeStoppers). As said before, no report, no action!



On the plus side, dog owners can now avail themselves of dog poo bags at either end of Henry Smith Playing Fields and at Mill Lane Recreation Ground, so picnics should be possible without dog poo ruining things. Many thanks to CBC Community Safety and to Potton Town Council. However, a word of warning about picnic fires including disposable BBQ's (which are **not** permitted anywhere on town council land) – lighting fires without precautions to prevent its spread and without fire-extinguishing capability is very hazardous at all times, especially during the periods of dry weather we increasingly experience.

Potton Town Council Hall Hire

The halls at the Community Centre, Brook End and the Pavilion, Mill Lane can be hired by private individuals, community groups and commercial hirers.

You can call the office on **01767 260086** or email us at **pottoncouncilbookings@btconnect.com** to check availability and make a booking.



The Pavilion, Mill Lane

How does someone go about volunteering in Potton?

Calling all community groups!

At the Annual Town Meeting a member of the public raised 'How does someone go about volunteering in Potton.'

The town council would like to hear from any community groups that are looking for volunteers. The town council will then include this information in a future edition of the newsletter. Please email **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**



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Potton Youth Council Update

by Imogen and Max



Some know her as our Wonderful Monarch, The Pride of Britain, The People's Monarch. Whatever she is to you, our amazing and unique Queen celebrated a remarkable 70 years on the throne this year! Three members of the Youth Council attended Potton's Platinum Jubilee community afternoon on Friday 3rd June. We had home-made biscuits ready to be decorated with icing and toppings such as marshmallows and sweets. We also had paper crowns to decorate ready to wear. One of our members, Carly, had also made windmills to sell. We raised £43.55 toward our chosen charity for the year – Motor Neurone Disease (MND). MND is a horrible neurological disorder which causes full-body paralysis and 100% of all profits of the money we raise will go to the charity.



We have been running our Energy Saving Poster Competition to raise awareness for the Climate Emergency we currently face ourselves in. We challenge any children in Potton to make a poster promoting saving energy. Any winners of this competition shall have their poster displayed around the Town, for everyone to see. The winner will be announced shortly!

The Youth Council is currently looking into obtaining a gazebo for Henry Smith Playing Fields, which will hopefully serve as a place to socialise, eat, drink, and generally have fun. Watch out for more information on this in future editions of the newsletter and on social media.

The Youth Council will be at the Party on Potton Big Weekend Community Day on Saturday 27th August and at the Autumn Four Seasons Market on Saturday 17th September. We will again be raising money for MND. Be sure to come and say hello!