



## Potton says farewell to Queen Elizabeth II and welcomes King Charles III

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## Chairman's message

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

### Proclamation of King Charles III

#### God Save the King

Whilst we respectfully remember the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and feel sorrow at her passing, Potton Town Council sends its warmest wishes to King Charles III on his accession to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

On behalf of Potton Town Council, I wish to express our sadness at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Although I was on holiday at the time, I was in communication with the Town Clerk and was heartened by the Town's response to this sad news.

I would like to especially thank the Town Clerk and his team, together with Cllr Carol Leggatt and Cllr Vicki Gwilliam for ensuring that the Town was able to fully express its sorrow at the passing of our Queen followed by the accession of King Charles III. My thanks also go to Alan Leggatt and Town Crier Carlton Avison for declaring the Proclamation of King Charles III on my behalf. I would also like to thank Ortsbürgermeister Bernhard Wolf, from our twin town Langenlonsheim, for his message of condolence.



*It is with great sadness that we all received the news of the Queen's death here in Germany. In the last two days our thoughts have often been in England and therefore also with you in Potton. Please tell all our friends in Potton that we will all have fond memories of this wonderful Queen, who also did so much for the friendship between the United Kingdom and Germany, and are very grateful that she was there for us for so such a long time.*

*With deep sympathy*

*Bernhard Wolf  
Ortsbürgermeister*



All photos: Dave Thompson



### General news and information

#### The Ridgeway / Sutton Mill Road Development

Regrettably, the appeal against the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) refusal of planning permission on land off Sutton Mill Road was successful. This means that developers have been given the go-ahead to build 97 properties on this site, despite strong objections from CBC, Potton Town Council, our CBC Councillors and Richard Fuller MP. The Town Council believe that the basis on which the appeal decision was made is flawed, but we have no avenue to appeal against this decision. However, the Independent Assessor listed 28 conditions to be met for this development to proceed and Potton Town Council will take all possible measures to ensure that these conditions are met. We are in correspondence with CBC Planning Officers.



## Recent events

### Ukraine Independence Day - 24<sup>th</sup> August

The Ukraine Response Potton (URP) group held a picnic in St Mary's Church field to commemorate the Ukraine Independence Day. This was the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Ukraine's vote to break with Russia, a poignant occasion considering the current situation in Ukraine. The picnic was attended by our Ukrainian guests and their hosts, together with the URP group members. This provided our guests an important focus to remember the independence of Ukraine and the importance of supporting Ukraine during these troubled times.



### Party on Potton – back with a bang!

Party on Potton (POP) made a welcome post-COVID return, four years after our last Big Weekend in 2018. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> POP celebration, and what a weekend we had! The POP Committee excelled, providing an amazing selection of exciting activities and brilliant entertainment. Potton turned out in force and it was great to see Henry Smith Playing Fields full of families, young and old, enjoying the entertainment and refreshments on offer.

On behalf of the residents of Potton, I would like to thank the POP committee, ably led by Carlton Avison, for planning, organising, coordinating and managing this year's event, together with their army of volunteers over the weekend. Four years of planning and fund-raising culminated in an action-packed weekend, providing free daytime activities and great entertainment in the evenings. This is a truly unique event and reflects the tremendous community spirit of Potton.



All photos: Alan Leggatt



Sound Express



Vintage vehicles

Dear Carlton,

On behalf of the residents of Potton, the Town Council would like to thank you and your committee for planning, organising, co-ordinating and managing such an excellent weekend of Party on Potton. Everyone who attended the weekend had a fabulous time, which is a credit to both the committee and your band of volunteers. I know that in order to create a carefree event, there are numerous people working hard in the background, so again, I thank you.

Having waited four years since the last POP, residents from Potton and surrounding villages and towns turned out in record numbers to support the events. It really felt as though we were celebrating the end of the pandemic. New residents of Potton marvelled at what was on offer and you showcased just how special Potton is.

So will you please convey our thanks and gratitude to the POP committee, we really appreciate their hard work and dedication to putting on a such a unique weekend of fun and laughter.

Best regards,  
for Potton Town Council

*John*

John Hobbs  
Chairman



## Recent events cont'd

The **48<sup>th</sup> Annual Potton Show** on 10<sup>th</sup> September was a great success and well attended. The popular Barn Dance returned, together with a craft fair and quiz on Sunday. Although obviously the date of the show coincided with the sad news of the Queen's passing, the show had several categories featuring items and pictures associated with the 2022 Jubilee and Royalty in general.

Dredging work of the **Horse Brook at Henry Smith Playing Fields** recommenced in September and although this caused disruption, the brook will now be able to flow unrestricted and the vegetation will soon return to the banks. This work has been well overdue and we intend to regularly maintain the brook to avoid the need for such extreme measures in future.



A successful **Macmillan Coffee Morning** was held at Potton Bowls Club on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, raising an amazing £1,105 for Macmillan Cancer Support. I'd like to thank all involved in raising much needed funds for this worthy cause.



The **11<sup>th</sup> Potton Apple Day** was held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, with Potton's young people pressing apples to produce our renowned apple juice. Locally produced cider was also on sale, together with displays and stalls from local organisations. We were also treated to the musical delights of local band, Drunk and Disorderly – thankfully, they were well behaved.

The **Autumn Litter Pick** took place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. This was a great opportunity to contribute to keeping Potton clean and tidy and thank you to all who took part. The next litter pick will take place as a part of the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## Future events



**Remembrance Sunday** falls on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and the town will meet as usual on the Market Square at 10.15am for the Service led by the United Churches of Potton, before forming a parade to march to the Cemetery and War Memorial along Sandy Road where the 11am silence will be held followed by the reading of the Roll of Honour.

The switch-on of our **Christmas Lights** will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and the lights will be switched on by Father Christmas. See page 10 for details.



## Four Seasons Market

### Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December

9am – 1pm

For more information visit  
[pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market](http://pottontowncouncil.co.uk/four-seasons-market)

**Father Christmas** will also be visiting Potton on two further occasions in December (as well as on Christmas Eve).

On 10<sup>th</sup> December he will be in his Grotto in the Community Centre, between 10am and 3pm. An ideal opportunity for children to get their Christmas lists in early. All proceeds to Keech Cottage Hospice. See page 12 for details.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, Santa will be touring Potton with his elves and helpers. So, watch out and give him a cheer. See page 11 for details.

Best wishes

*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 [pottoncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto: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](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk) or [@PottonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PottonTownCouncil) or [@pottoncouncil](https://twitter.com/pottoncouncil)

## Town Council Meetings

Dates of Town Council meetings starting at 7pm. Visit [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/agendaminutes/) for more information.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

## Councillor Surgeries

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

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Cllr Hobbs and Cllr Lean

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Cllr Craig and Cllr Inkersole

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Cllr Leggatt and Cllr Zerny

## 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](mailto: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



## Potton Community Agent

Supporting the over 60's in Potton  
Tel Andrea 07590 359630 (working Weds & Thurs only)  
Email [andream@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:andream@bedsrcc.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://bedsrcc.org.uk/what-we-do/health-wellbeing/village-community-agents/>

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



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# Your Potton Town Councillors



**Charles Craig**  
260047



**John Day**  
07986 124440



**Leane Fox**  
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**Andrew Gibb**  
260067



**Vicki Gwilliam**  
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**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



For more details on each of the councillors, please visit [www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are](http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/who-we-are)



# Christmas Light Design Competition

We are getting to that time of year again when we are planning for our Christmas lights. We had a competition earlier in the year for two new lights. From the entries two were selected by the Tablet Group who meet on a Wednesday morning at the Community Centre. The lights are now on order and will be seen for the first time when we switch on the lights on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**.

The two winning designs are below:

Emilia, age 7



Saoirse, age 9



## Volunteers Needed!

The Christmas Lights in Potton are installed and taken down by Volunteers. More volunteers are always required and if you can help please contact the Town Council office.

The dates to install the Christmas Lights in 2022 are Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November and they will be taken down on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Potton's Christmas Lights are funded by Potton Town Council and from fundraising.

# Father Christmas Visit

The Father Christmas tour will take place on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 from 4.30pm**. Father Christmas has asked us to advise that vehicles should pass his Elves at no more than 15mph as they are easily scared and one of the Elves was very nearly run over at last year's event!

His journey will terminate in the Market Square where Carols will be sung by Torchlight. Facilities will be open in the hall for comfort breaks.

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



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

\*Subject to change.

## Friends of Keech Children's Hospice Care Potton - Santa's Grotto



Santa is looking forward to welcoming children with their parents to his busy Workshop and Grotto on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 3pm at the Community Centre, Brook End.

In return for a small entrance fee children will meet Santa, receive a gift, and spend time in his workshop.

All profits made will go directly to Keech Children's Hospice, who provide free specialist care for children with life

limiting illness and specialist support for family and friends across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes.

Look out for more details of the event on public notice boards and media sites nearer the time.

For more information about the charity, go to [www.keech.org.uk](http://www.keech.org.uk)



## Please help Wimpole For Everyone to grow



**National Trust**

You will probably have heard about Wimpole for Everyone? It is aimed at people who might benefit from a visit to Wimpole but who may not be able to afford NT membership or the admission charges.

It is now up and running and we have been issuing free admission passes to Community Groups. However, we do want more local groups to apply for passes. This is where you, the staff and volunteers, may be able to help.

If you love Wimpole, and all it has to offer, you now have a chance to share it! The NT's Inclusion and Diversity Policy 2021 aims to remove financial barriers to access. The NT motto is FOR EVERYONE FOR EVER! Please encourage community groups that you may know about to email [wimpoleforeveryone@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:wimpoleforeveryone@nationaltrust.org.uk) Our response will briefly explain the scheme and include the application form that can be easily completed and returned on line.

The admission pass welcomes groups of up to 16 people. So it would be suitable for a minibus outing. It is also intended for individuals or families, provided they are connected to a community group that caters for people who can't readily afford our admission charges.

## Advent and Christmas 2022

### Parish Churches in Potton, Sutton & Cockayne Hatley

#### Christingles

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 3pm:** All Saints Sutton with Sutton Lower School

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 4.30pm:** St. Mary's Potton

#### 18<sup>th</sup> December - Carols

**3pm:** St. John's Cockayne Hatley & Zoom - Carol Service

**4.30pm:** All Saints Sutton, Carol Service

**6pm:** St. Mary's Potton, Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

#### Christmas Eve

**3pm:** Crib Service, All Saints Sutton

**4pm:** Crib Service, St. Mary's Potton

**6pm:** Carol Singing on Old Rectory Lawn Sutton (next door to All Saints)

**11.30pm:** Midnight Mass St. Mary's Potton & Zoom

#### Christmas Day

**9am:** Holy Communion (Traditional Language), St. John's Cockayne Hatley & Zoom

**10:30am:** Holy Communion, All Saints Sutton

**10:30am:** Christmas Day Prayers, St. Mary's Potton Potton & Zoom

#### Please note

We anticipate our services being quite busy. It is possible St John's & All Saints may be cold so do wrap up warm! Those with Covid symptoms are asked to refrain from attending.

#### Joining us via Zoom

As you can see, some of our services will be available via Zoom. To access these please use this meeting ID **825 8561 0043**

**We look forward to welcoming you!**

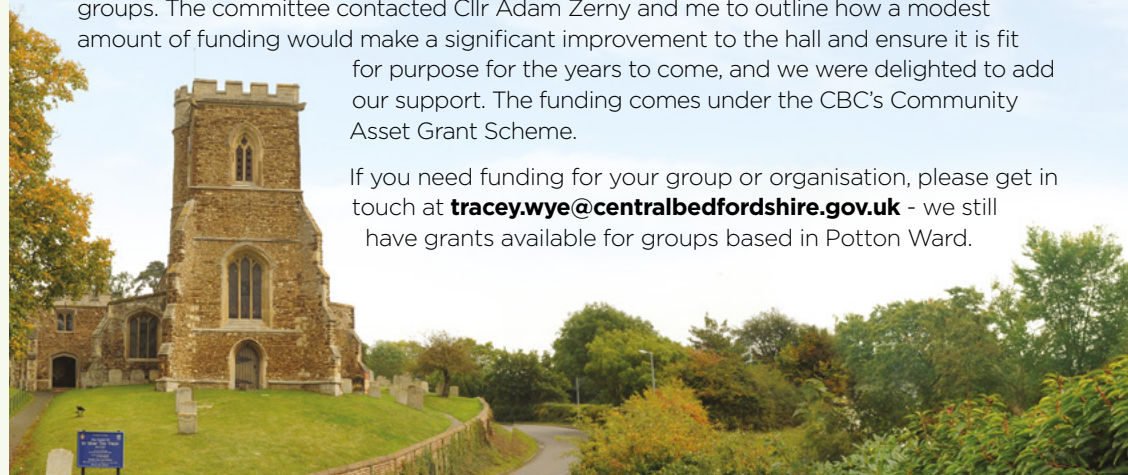
### Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tracey Wye

I am delighted to announce St Mary's Church, Potton, has been awarded a £6,693 grant to repair the hall roof by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC).

St Mary's Church Hall is an extremely valuable asset to Potton and is well used by local groups. The committee contacted Cllr Adam Zerny and me to outline how a modest amount of funding would make a significant improvement to the hall and ensure it is fit

for purpose for the years to come, and we were delighted to add our support. The funding comes under the CBC's Community Asset Grant Scheme.

If you need funding for your group or organisation, please get in touch at [tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) - we still have grants available for groups based in Potton Ward.



## Potton Town Council Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Current Assets	31 Mar '21	31 Mar '22
Trade Debtors	1,810	2,424
VAT Control Account	4,365	12,022
Prepayments	0	2,270
Current Account	29,316	12,139
30 Day Account	240,107	369,452
Petty Cash	222	261
Nationwide Instant Saver	190,000	190,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>465,820</b>	<b>588,568</b>

Current Liabilities	31 Mar '21	31 Mar '22
Creditors	1,500	4,019
Community Orchard Fund	665	665
Potton Food Garden	148	835
Accruals	3,880	2,342
Receipts in Advance	0	206
Party Deposits	400	500
Long Term Deposits	750	950
Youth Council Fund raising	0	270
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,343</b>	<b>9,787</b>

<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>458,477</b>	<b>578,781</b>
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Represented By	31 Mar '21	31 Mar '22
General Reserves	138,620	137,532
EMR Community Centre	659	4,450
EMR Potton Hall for All	125,000	93,575
EMR Brook	21,911	19,471
EMR Cemetery	19,113	20,674
EMR Cemetery Extension	6,273	10,388
EMR Churchyard	3,449	3,449
EMR Christmas Lights	5,185	5,185
EMR Neighbourhood Plan	8,696	14,393
EMR Town Plan	2,084	0
EMR Green Wheel	1,000	4,084
EMR Youth Budget	13,282	13,282
EMR Youth Council	255	255
EMR Grants	23,324	0
EMR Mill Lane Play Area	6,587	10,223
EMR HSPF Play Equipment	7,606	12,226
EMR Carpark	15,276	15,880
EMR Skatepark Replacement	9,780	19,634
EMR Public Conveniences	1,775	3,001
EMR Website	2,050	2,172

EMR Office Movement	15,772	15,772
EMR Training	2,479	3,919
EMR Legal Fees	12,130	15,220
EMR Elections	4,130	4,630
EMR Trees	9,543	9,543
EMR 3G Pitch	0	3,324
EMR Millennium Path	0	95,000
EMR Building Loan Repayment	0	39,000
EMR Rural Match Fund	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>319,045</b>	<b>306,836</b>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

## Potton Hall for All Update



The Trustees of the Hall for All and Potton Town Council recently informed the community that unfortunately, it is not possible to build the current design of the Hall. Rapid increases in inflation, the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Supply Chain issues have forced costs up and even with Value Engineering, a reduction in the size and design of the building is needed to bring the Hall for All to fruition within the budget that is available.

Work is going on to provide an alternative design, that will still be the biggest community space in Potton and provide opportunities for indoor sport, art and social activities. The new plans will need to be submitted for planning and the Joint Steering Committee will unveil the new plans when they are available.

## Wild West Murder Mystery Dinner 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November



Potton Playhouse in association with Potton Scouts and Potton Hall for All present "Shoot Out at the Shady Lady" a murder mystery dinner event! Set in the Wild West (aka The Scout Hut, Hatley Road, SG19 2EH), you will be treated to a three course western-style dinner whilst trying to solve a fun and thrilling murder mystery. Veggie option available. Tickets - priced £15 per person - are available at Cameron's and Tysoe's in Potton Market Square. Doors open 6.45pm. Drinks to purchase at the

Saloon - please do not bring your own. All profits to be split between Potton Hall for All and Potton Scouts. Join in the fun and come dressed for the occasion, with your best wild west outfits - yeehaw!



# Potton Youth Council

So far this year Potton Youth Council has done a number of things in the town. We are investigating the purchase of a new gazebo for Henry Smith Playing Fields and helping to select play equipment.

Earlier this year, we ran a competition to design an energy saving poster for the town and can announce that Nancy (aged 5) has won.



We had a bake sale stall at the Spring Four Seasons Market where we raised £270. At the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June we had a stall selling biscuits and crown decorating and we raised a total of £43.55 and at the Autumn Four Seasons Market we sold windmills and seed bombs and raised £152.44 – all for our chosen charity, MND (Motor Neurone Disease).



Photo: Alan Leggatt

At our October meeting we presented a cheque for the total of £476 to Vanessa Eggerdon from MND Research.

We will be meeting again in November and hope to come up with and deliver some more ideas to help improve the town for young people and raise more money for our new chosen charity. If you would like to join us, please contact the town council office by emailing [pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com)