



POTTON
TOWN COUNCIL

News

April 2023 Edition

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk



The Coronation

See pages 2-5 for Potton's
Coronation celebrations



Highlights of this edition:

Page 7 **Local Elections**

Page 8 **Potton Hall for All**

Page 10 **Henry Smith Playing Fields**

Page 14 **Community Potton**



HM King Charles III Coronation 2023



The Town Council is organising an event to help Potton to celebrate the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023. Please look through the provisional programme presented on the following pages and we hope to see you at the event.

As the Royal Palace has still not confirmed timings, our programme is still not finalised at the time this publication is being printed, so please keep an eye on social media and the council website for updates as we get nearer the date.

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.

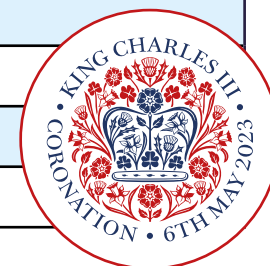


HM King Charles III Coronation – Saturday 6th May 2023

At Mill Lane Recreation Ground

9am	The big screen will be showing a presentation of previous celebration events in Potton. Potton Youth Council will be selling flags and windmills, plus there will be the opportunity for children to make crowns. All funds raised in aid of Cancer Research for Children at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
10am*	Screening of the live BBC coverage of 'The King's Procession' from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. POP Bar and BBQ open.
11am	The Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey.
12pm*	'The Coronation Procession'. The larger ceremonial procession returning to Buckingham Palace where The King and The Queen Consort, accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, will appear on the balcony to conclude the day's ceremonial events.
2pm	Posh Picnic with live music and 'Proms in the park'. Clayton's Hog Roast.
4pm	Screening of Encanto . As part of Potton's Coronation celebrations the Potton Federation Parent Teachers and Friends Association will be presenting a free family film screening of Encanto on the big screen. They will have snacks including popcorn and candy floss on sale during the screening, to raise money for the PTFA charity.
6pm	Music – live band to be confirmed.
7.30pm	Music - Drunk & Disorderly .
8pm	Beacon lighting.
10pm	Last orders! Help tidy up.
10.30pm	Event close.

* Timings to be confirmed.



Potton's celebration of the Coronation of HM King Charles III will be held at Mill Lane Recreation Ground. The town council has arranged a big screen to show the live BBC coverage of the Coronation. There will be food and drink available along with music and a posh picnic.



This is a free event provided by the Town Council.

Please bring your own picnic blankets, chairs and gazebos. There will be an area set aside for gazebos.

Please feel free to bring your own food for the Posh Picnic, though food and refreshments will be available to purchase.

Alcohol will be sold by Party on Potton. All bar and BBQ proceeds to Party on Potton.



All Hog Roast proceeds to Claytons Family Butchers.

Toilets provided in the Pavilion.



Dogs on leads are welcome. Please clear up after them.



No smoking or vaping at the event.



Limited parking available. Mill Lane Recreation Ground is accessible on foot from all areas of the town and we encourage you to walk.

Thank you to Potton Consolidated Charity for permitting the use of Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion for this event.

Thank you to Potton Flooring Company Ltd for your kind donation towards the event.



Party on Potton (PoP) are delighted to be joining the King's Coronation Celebrations on Saturday 6th May. We'll have our fully licensed bar along with our BBQ fired up and our fabulous kids committee will be selling sweet cones from 11am until 10pm.

Fully licensed and stocked bar, including:

- Draught beer
- Pimms
- Fizz and Wines
- Spirits
- Soft drinks etc.

And our famous all day BBQ with:

- Burgers
- Hot dogs
- Bacon rolls

POP is a not for profit organisation raising funds for our community, local good causes and our next 'Big Weekend' is 25th to 28th August 2024..



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.

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

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

Please be aware that the Town Council reserves the right not to include articles and images. Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS



Potton Community Agent

Supporting the over 60's in Potton
Tel Andrea 07590 359630 (working Weds & Thurs only)
Email 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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Local Elections

Nominations for the Elections for Cllrs for the town council and Central Bedfordshire Council taking place on the 4th May closed in early April.

For the town council the following were nominated

Name of Candidate

CRAIG Charles

DAY John

FOX Leane Nicola

GIBB Andy

GWILLIAM Vicki

HOBBS John Michael

INKERSOLE Andrew

LEGGATT Carol Marie

MACDONALD Angus

NORMAN Daniel Richard

PRICE WILLIAMS Jon

ZERNY Adam

NOTICE OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

Election of Parish Councillors for Potton Parish on 4th May 2023

Marcel Coiffait, being the Returning Officer at the above election has reported that the persons whose names appearing above were duly elected Parish Councillor for Potton.

Voter ID for elections from May 2023

From May 2023 Electors will be required to show an accepted form of photographic identification in order to receive their ballot paper(s) to cast their vote in a polling station.

The Electoral Commission

You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID
Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280

The Electoral Commission

No ID?
Apply For Free
voter ID by
25 April!

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Potton Hall for All

Registered Charity number 1158751

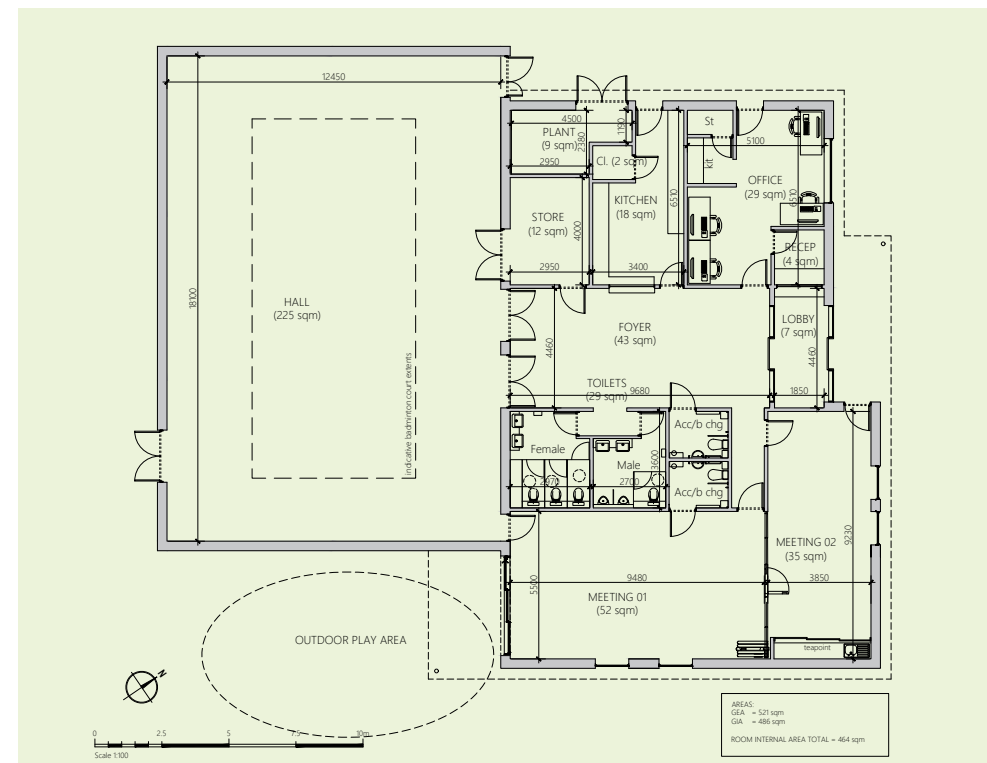
Thank you to everyone who attended the Community Information Event on the 4th March 2023.

Potton Hall for All will be located beside the Tall Trees housing development, accessible from Hutchinson Rise (off Biggleswade Road), on serviced land owned by Potton Town Council granted as part of the Tall Trees Section 106 agreement.



Following the Community Information event the plans for the building developed by Waymans Architects are now ready, and supporting documentation was commenced in readiness for submission of the planning application.

Below are the plans and elevations. It is hoped that planning permission will have been granted by the next edition (Summer) of this newsletter.



- Translucent polycarbonate paneling to hall
- Anthractive horizontal micro-rib cladding
- Powder coated aluminium fascia, colour Anthracite
- Multi-red Facing Brickwork
- Aluminium framed doors, colour Anthracite
- Aluminium framed double glazed windows, colour Anthracite

Henry Smith Playing Fields

We have kept you informed, both before and after, about the various works undertaken in the playing fields in 2022 through articles in the February, July and October 2022 editions of the newsletter. For many years residents have wanted to see Horse Brook dredged and a local contractor was finally able to carry out the work in 2022. Construction vehicles clearly had to access the playing fields to undertake the work. So far this is what has been accomplished in 2022:

Spring

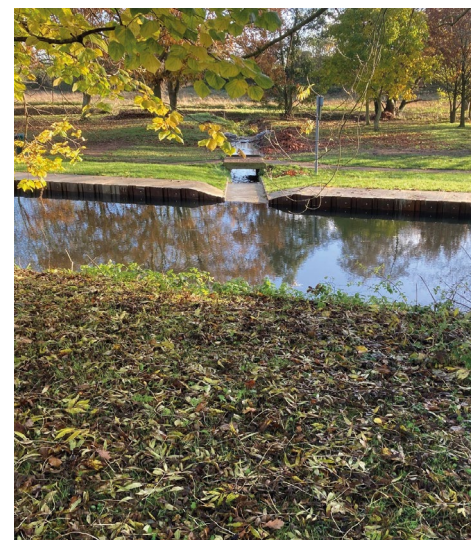
1. Initial dredging of Horse Brook
2. Construction of a ford style crossing to allow vehicular access from the South Field to the North Field

Autumn

3. Further dredging of Horse Brook
4. Replacement Headwall and reconstruct sluice bed
5. Screening of topsoil
6. Reprofilng of Potton Brook
7. Reprofilng next to Millennium Path

The Spring work had to be completed in advance of the Platinum Jubilee, and to undertake Items 3, 4 and 5 the Horse Brook needed to have very little or no water in it. Also to avoid clashing with the

Party on Potton Weekend, making the whole North field available for community use, work recommenced in the Autumn.



Since the completion of this work we have received feedback, both positive about the brook and negative about the condition of the playing fields. Whilst we generally agree that work will be required to improve the field it was not possible to dredge without temporary damage to the field and we do ask people to not verbally abuse the town council staff or councillors when expressing their views on this.

As well as the brook the town council has received many requests about levelling and resurfacing the Millennium Path, with residents commenting that the existing path is uneven. We advised on page 26 of the July 2022 newsletter *'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.' Also in that edition, we asked for your opinion on the installation of surface level lighting on the Millennium Path and all responses received were in favour of such lighting.

So the town council wants to gauge your opinion about the replacement of the Millennium Path. The proposal is that the whole existing path is removed and replaced; the height of the path between the car park and the bridge is raised, and soil is added next to the path to allow easy access from the path to the field. However as this is a major project we would like your input on the following:



Which do you believe we should do (tick):

Millennium Path

Replace and level the Path?		
Patch/repair the existing path as necessary as/when required?		
Main Playing Field	Yes	No
Should we cordon off areas for levelling/grassing?		

Name:

Address:

Responses by 4th May 2023 to Potton Town Council, Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Beds. SG19 2QS

News from the Benefice

Our main activity was a marvellous Civic Service on 12th March, dedicated to the good people of Potton who do so much within the community. We had representatives from a whole host of local charities and organisations together with representatives from the Town Council, Mayoral representatives from other local towns, our MP and a representative of our Lord Lieutenant. One of the highlights was a choir from the Potton Federation. They performed beautifully.

St Mary's Open the Book Team have been back to Potton Federation to read and perform to the children and we are thrilled that our monthly Family and Friends service continues to provide such a wide variety of activities.

Our brilliant Events Team have great plans for the rest of the year and these are posted regularly on 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.

Thank you to everybody who supported our stall at the Spring Four Seasons Market on Saturday 18th March.

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

We ask that you continue to keep the people of Ukraine and members of the Refugee Response Potton Group, of which the Benefice are members, in your prayers.



Four Seasons Market





Sat 17th June
9am – 1pm

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

Potton Library

Opening Times:

Mon Closed
Tue 9am-1pm
Wed 2-6pm
Thu 9am-1pm
Fri 9am-1pm & 2-6pm
Sat 9am-4pm

Tel: 0300 3008 063
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
- There is a new automatic email overdue notification service



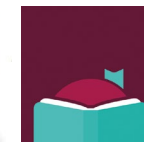
For Children

Our Peppa Pig reading incentive scheme continues at Potton Library until 1st July 2023 – this is suitable for preschool children who collect a stamp on each visit to the library



The Summer Reading Challenge starts Friday 21st July –The **Ready, Set, Read!** 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.

- Regular crafts and colouring are available.
- Lego Club is every Saturday afternoon
- We are hoping to introduce a rhyme time event regularly on a Saturday in the near future



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, and participates in local events.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us in the summer school holidays – contact the library for more information.

A light walking group meets at the library every Tuesday at 10am. Other regular groups include a monthly poetry group and a knitting group which meets every 2 weeks.

Community Potton

Volunteering

Monday 8th May has been designated the Big Help Out Day as part of the Coronation celebrations. To encourage Potton (and other) residents to try volunteering and support our local area, our Coronation-day celebrations will include opportunity for local organisations to promote themselves and recruit help. Potton is already a great community for people looking out for one-another, but often opportunities and availability of help can pass us by. A great starting point for seeing what you can do for others (and what others can do for you) is on the Potton Town Council web site (<https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk>). 'Our Community' lists organisations, many of which would be pleased to welcome you, while 'What's on' lists events where you could get involved. Please note that the **Refugee Response Potton** group wants to recruit additional potential hosts and volunteers to help during the difficult initial settling in of refugees. The **Potton Youth Council** are also recruiting. If any of the volunteering opportunities appeal to you, please contact pottoncouncil@btconnect.com



Life Saving

The town now sports four outdoor defibrillators with the possibility of more being installed over the next year. Nobody likes the idea of needing to use one, never mind needing one used on them – but should the need arise, it's best to be prepared. The town council has therefore arranged for **defibrillator training at the Community Centre at 5pm on Wednesday 17th May**. The timing is to help (and encourage) local business employees attend after work. Training is being organised by Carlton Avison.



**Bedfordshire
Fire and Rescue Service**

Community Safety

The town council has been discussing with Bedfordshire Police to examine how best to address local problems of antisocial behaviour, bullying as well as more wide-spread crime (speeding, catalytic converter theft, county lines drug dealing), which unfortunately is becoming more pervasive in Potton. We are looking for volunteers from our community to join the police **Watch Schemes**. For **Speed Watch**, volunteers monitor the speeds of travelling vehicles. Local locations are selected when highlighted by residents

as speeding hotspots and these are included for monitoring subject to a police risk assessment. **Street Watch** provides an opportunity for you to help keep Potton safe while walking around your neighbourhood by engaging with residents and encouraging people to report suspicious or anti-social behaviour.

Dog and Horse Watch schemes can operate in a similar way. Scheme members are asked to provide at least 2 hours 'watching' activity per month. For further detail, please contact WatchSchemes@beds.police.uk or see a councillor at one of the monthly surgeries in the Market Square. In addition, police have informed the council that they are keen to recruit **special constables** and that these can now be dedicated to particular areas (i.e. Pottonian SCs for Potton). More information is available at <https://www.beds.police.uk/search?q=special+constable>.



Community Energy

The council has recently formed a Community Energy Working Group. We aim to set up sustainable energy projects in and around Potton. Our objectives are for residents to benefit from cheaper energy, reduced energy needs and to contribute to the UK NetZero programme. The working group would welcome help and advice from residents who are expert in solar/wind/hydro/other (non-nuclear, obviously) sustainable energy generation, heat pumps, improvement of house insulation or accessing government and other funds.

Community Gardening



Various verges and public borders across Potton are being maintained by community groups, please contact the town council if you want to join one of our groups to make Potton a more colourful place.

Happy volunteering day and don't be backward in coming forward!!

Potton Tennis Club

We are Potton Tennis Club. We have recently relocated to Mill Lane Recreation Ground after many years at The Hollow and have two hard courts. We would welcome new members.

We have an active Facebook account which you can follow and we run junior coaching throughout the year, adult social club sessions on a Tuesday and Adult coaching on a Thursday. We also play team tennis in the Bedfordshire County Leagues. If you want to come along to a club session as a taster prior to joining, it's 7pm at Mill Lane on Tuesdays. We pride ourselves on being a friendly club and welcoming to new members. **Non-members can book courts by paying the pay-and-play court booking charge.**



Further details, including membership information, can be found on our website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PottonTennisClub>. To contact us please email: pottontc@hotmail.co.uk



Potton Community Orchard

Bring a picnic blanket and your flask and sarnies to enjoy the first **Potton Orchard Blossom Day**

on **Bank Holiday Monday 8th May from**

2pm to 4pm. This low key event is an opportunity to enjoy quiet time in this wildlife and family-friendly part of Potton. A small team of volunteers have been planting and looking after the Orchard for four years and it is now safely accessible on foot. Orchard Blossom Day is a lovely way to open the orchard and welcome visitors.

The volunteers will be on hand during the picnic to chat about the trees and what they have been doing. It is also National Volunteering Day and if you fancy getting involved, it's good opportunity to chat and see if it's for you. Potton Apple Juice will be on sale and there'll be puzzle sheets for young children.

Access is currently on foot from the Tall Trees estate or the Cricket Pavilion, The Hollow, Biggleswade Road. Keep in touch on the Potton Apple day Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PottonAppleDay>.