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Hall for All progress

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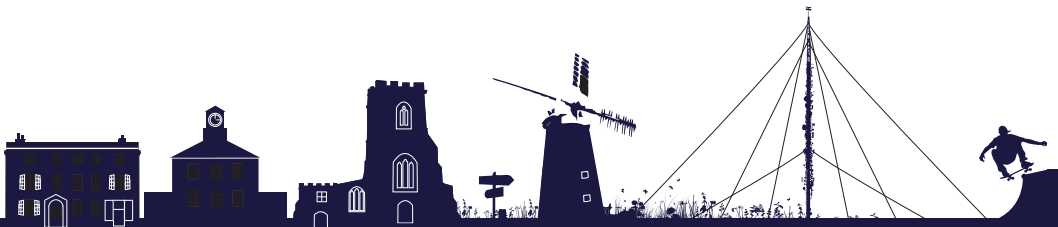
**Community Safety
pull out section**

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Christmas events

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Youth Council vacancies





Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the October 2024 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

Hello Autumn!

Summer has come to an end, and Autumn is here! Much has happened over the summer period, and there are things to look forward to during autumn in Pottton. First I would like to welcome Hannah Cairns who has joined the council as a co-opted councillor and thank her for volunteering. **Cllr Cairns has introduced herself on page 6.**

Now, if you go for a ramble around our green wheel you'll notice the trees coming in to their colour before the leaf drop and Winter. Look out for the spindles with their beautiful seed pods. Whilst you are on your walk take a minute to visit the Community Orchard, which is located at the bottom of Hutchinson Rise.



If you look across from the orchard, you can see how the Hall for All is coming along. So far it is going to schedule and if all continues as planned it should be functioning early next year. Here we have had some luck and we must thank Sandy Rotary Club for their kind donation towards a defibrillator to be installed at the Hall and to the electrical contractors who donated their time and materials to fit it free of charge. **For more on the Hall see page 17.**



Work continues on the Hall for All

Next, you could walk through Henry Smith Playing Fields, and appreciate our Millennium Footpath complete with its "show me the way home" lights.



Whilst in Henry Smith Playing Fields remember the truly superb event Party on Pottton (PoP) was on the August bank holiday. The weather was not kind all of the time,

but the party was excellent and enjoyed by many from both Pottton and the surrounding area, including our twin town of Langenlonsheim. A big thank you to the big band! As a small town we are so fortunate to have such an active group in PoP who organise and put on such an event every two years. So many thanks to the committee for all their hard work over the last two years to the benefit of all. We mustn't forget our Town Crier and his four legged supporters on Community Day.



Photo© Matthew Ayres



Party on Pottton was a great success again this year!



If you'd like to get involved with the next one then contact Cllr Vicki Gwilliam or Richard West I'm sure they'll be happy to hear from you. Email: committee@partyonpottton.org.uk

Potton Show and Apple Day

If we walk up towards St Mary's Church, we can all celebrate another successful Potton Show held on the weekend of 7th September in the Church field; a community event open to all with flower and vegetable show, craft fair and barn dance. **See page 22.**

Potton's very own car was being displayed at this year's show by Potton History Society; many would be unaware of the Potton Car and Potton Manor where it was conceived. If you're interested in this, then Potton History Society has much more to offer.



Potton History Society proudly displayed the Potton Car

The 12th Potton Apple Day, held on 29th September at the Church field, was the busiest ever and acknowledged all the fruits of Potton Community Orchard's labour. **Read more on page 23.**



Cemetery footpaths update

Works to replace and improve some of the Cemetery footpaths have been completed, and a second phase of path tarmacking is planned.



In Memoriam - Simon Kimber



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Simon Kimber on 10th September 2024, following a brave fight against cancer. We would like to convey our condolences to his wife Rosemary and his children Nick and Helen.

In the past, Simon served with distinction as a Town Councillor, and we would again like to record our thanks for his service to Potton.

Simon was also a keen golfer and was club captain of the John O'Gaunt Golf Club in 2007 and, more recently County President of Bedfordshire Golf.

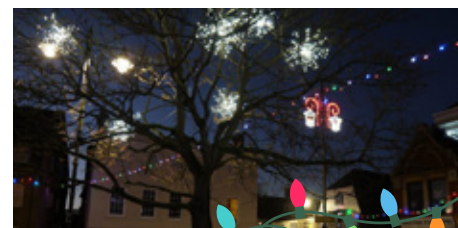
Upcoming events ...

So what have we to look forward to over the next few months? There is the Remembrance Sunday Service on 10th November and the Parade to the War Memorial at the Cemetery. The Service starts at 10.10am in the Market Square, and we will be joined by Tim Sills DL for this year's service.



2023 Remembrance Service with (L-R) Chris Kilroy MBE DL and Cllr Price Williams

Following Remembrance Sunday, we look forward to the Christmas Lights Switch-on event on Saturday 30th November, where all of the hard work of volunteers who put the lights up is revealed, and the Winter Four Seasons Market on 14th December. Father Christmas will be touring the town again on Sunday 15th December, and after the Christmas break the lights will be taken down again by the Events Committee volunteers. **Find out more on pages 20 and 21.** If you wish to volunteer, please contact Cllr Carol Leggatt.



Four Seasons Market



Saturday 14th December
9am - 1pm



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

One final point, we are still looking for two more town councillors, so if you're interested or know anyone who is, please contact the Town Clerk or speak to any of the town councillors. **Contact information is on page 7.**

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas!

Jonathan

Cllr Jonathan Price Williams

Your newly co-opted Town Councillor

Cllr Hannah Cairns was co-opted on to the town council at a meeting on Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

'I moved to Potton in April 2024, but have lived in Central Bedfordshire since 2017. Although I have not lived in Potton long, it already feels like a forever home. Potton is a wonderful town with a friendly, active, community feel.

Growing up in Stevenage, I then moved away and studied at Canterbury Christ Church University and completed a degree (BA and Bsc) in Physical Education and Sport & Exercise Science. After my degree, I moved into education and worked my way from a specialist learning support assistant, to an education coordinator. I then progressed in my career to become a Designated Safeguarding Lead and SEND manager at a further education provision in Hertfordshire. In 2023, I moved out of education into a Regional Business Development role for an education provider.

I am a successful professional, but hold a kindness and caring background. I feel I represent many different people in the community from a young carer background, working in specialist education, supporting parents and the community during my career and now a business development role to complement it all. I am a proud mum and animal lover too!



I am very much looking forward to representing a town such as Potton!

Hannah

Cllr Hannah Cairns



Vacancy for Potton Town Councillors

Visit: <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies/> to find out how you can apply to be a town councillor and have the opportunity to be a part of your community.

If you require any additional information, please contact the Town Clerk either by email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or phone **01767 260086**.

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, or if you wish to contact a member of staff please email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or call **01767 260086** and leave a message.

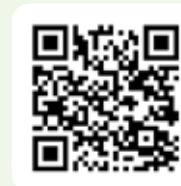
You can find lots of information on the Town Council website: www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk or [@PottonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PottonTownCouncil) or [@pottoncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/pottoncouncil)

Town Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 5th November 2024
Tuesday 7th January 2025

SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR MORE INFO



Town Councillors

Hannah Cairns	07720 910422	Robert Kett	261658
Charles Craig	260047	Carol Leggatt	260001
John Day	07986 124440	Angus Macdonald	262006
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602	Dan Norman	260643
John Hobbs	260710	Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Guy Horsfall	07957 319520	Adam Zerny	0300 300 8540
Andrew Inkersole	261966		

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

Councillor Surgeries

To be held inside the Community Centre with the Potton Youth Council
Fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th December 2024.

Cllrs John Hobbs and Dan Norman (10am-12pm)

Get your local news into the Town Council Newsletter

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

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



Please recycle this newsletter

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

Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tracey Wye

Potton Ward councillor at Central Bedfordshire Council and Executive Member for Sustainability and Climate Resilience



(L-R) Cllr Tracey Wye, Cllr Emily O'Brien and CES CEO Ollie Prendered

After a fantastic summer in Potton, with Party On Potton, the Potton Show and Potton Apple Day (a big thank you to all the hard-working volunteers who make them happen!) bringing joy and entertainment, my mind is now re-focused on rising to the challenges and opportunities posed by our changing climate.

One of the key things we can all do is to reduce the amount of energy we use in the home through so-called “powering down” measures such as, adding insulation or reducing drafts, or choosing energy efficient appliances.

For more ideas go to <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk>

Central Bedfordshire Council is helping give power to the people by providing support to three community energy groups in the area, with partners Community Energy South (CES).



I went to visit the CES office in Lewes, Sussex, where I met CEO Ollie Prendered and Cllr Emily O'Brien, Lewes Cabinet Member for climate, nature and food systems.

It was really interesting to catch up with progress in Bedfordshire, and I was delighted to see Central Bedfordshire's three community energy groups represented on their map, especially our local group River Ivel Community Energy (RICE).

Community energy groups enable people to invest in, own and generate renewable energy on a local scale, such as installing solar panels on a warehouse or school, or reduce energy use by advising people on how to insulate their homes, or even demystify the heat source air pump options. The emphasis is on equality, reducing energy poverty and helping the move to a low carbon future.

To find out more about RICE contact: centralbeds@communityenergysouth.org

In September, I was delighted to visit Sue Ryder St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, and its new Chelsea gold-award winning garden.



The Grief Kind Garden was installed at the hospice after the show and is not only beautiful in its own right but it also borrows some spectacular views across the Bedfordshire countryside for visitors to enjoy. Designer Katherine Holland set out to create a “green hug” and I feel she has achieved that.

St Johns provides an incredible service to patients and their families, and this garden is a wonderful addition to the hospice, allowing visitors to connect with nature.



To find out more about the Grief Kind service, which provides support to those who are facing bereavement, go to: www.sueryder.org

Tracey Wye
Independent Central Bedfordshire councillor for Potton
Tel: **0300 300 8528**
tracey.wye@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Adam Zerny
Independent Central Bedfordshire councillor for Potton
Tel: **0300 300 8540**
adam.zerny@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Who is responsible for what?



Potton Town Council
The Community Centre
Brook End
Potton SG19 2QS
01767 260086

www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk
pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

Potton Town Council is responsible for:

- Allotments
- Brook End Car Park
- Brook End Public Toilets
- Cemetery and burials
- Cemetery Chapel
- Christmas lights
- Community Centre
- Community grants
- Henry Smith Playing Fields
- Highways grass cutting
- Horse Brook*
- Mill Lane Pavilion
- Mill Lane Recreation Ground
- Planters and Wine Press
- Potton planning application responses
- St Mary's Churchyard
- War Memorial

Areas of mixed responsibility:

- Street furniture
- Streetlights
- Trees

Bedfordshire Police responsibility:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Crime
- Dangerous dogs

Rivers:

- *Owners whose land includes riverbanks are responsible for clearing debris etc. from the part of the river as far as the centre line.
- *Horse Brook dredging was carried out by Potton Town Council.
- Other river dredging is carried out by the Internal Drainage Board or Environment Agency.



Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
SG17 5TQ
0300 300 8000

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC is responsible for:

- Bus shelters
- Business rates
- Clearing fly tipping
- Conservation areas, listed and historic buildings
- Council tax
- Council housing (via Grand Union Housing)
- Dog bin provision and emptying
- Dog control enforcement
- Education including adult and further education
- Emergency planning and flood prevention
- Environmental health (including noise nuisance and pest control)
- Gritting
- Household waste and recycling centres
- Household waste and recycling collection (bin provision)
- Licensing (alcohol, taxis, public entertainment)
- Maintenance of pavements, roads and drainage
- On street parking and parking enforcement
- Parking restrictions, speed limits and road closures
- Planning application decisions
- Planning enforcement
- Public transport including school buses
- Rights of way, public footpaths, bridleways and cycleways
- Road signage
- Road sweeping and town centre litter picking
- Social Services, including care of children and the elderly
- Strategic planning
- Town centre litter bin emptying
- Tree protection orders
- Youth services

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The importance of reporting crimes/
potential crimes/suspicious activity

SPECIAL PULL-OUT AND KEEP SECTION



Author: Cllr Charles Craig

We often get asked – what is the point of reporting crimes to the police?

In recent times, police responses to reported crimes have been improving notably. Indeed, Bedfordshire police are helping to lead the way with new technology including data handling. However, it's still the case that, if people don't report crime or suspicious activity, the police have nothing to warrant improved policing in our area.

In this issue, we provide a pull-out section including information on the best and most convenient ways to report criminal activity directly to police, through intermediaries or anonymously (*see page 14*).

Police try to attend the most urgent 999 calls within 15 minutes. However, the importance of also reporting non-emergency incidents is not just so that there is a record for insurance purposes or there might be an arrest. Reporting allows police to look for patterns that can be used to prevent

similar or related crimes in the future. Similarly, reporting suspicious activity might help prevent crime, protect others from becoming victims and even save individuals from a life of crime. This requires feedback from residents so that resource can be assigned most effectively.

Don't leave reporting a crime you have witnessed to others. Multiple reports of the same crime can readily be cross-referenced using today's computer technology.

Clearly, the best agency to report to is the police. They have now installed a communication technology (*BedsConnected – see below*)

so that issues arising locally can be reported directly to individual residents. It's a good idea to sign up!

You can use the QR

code here or visit <https://www.bedsconnected.co.uk/>



DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING AND REFRESHER TRAINING

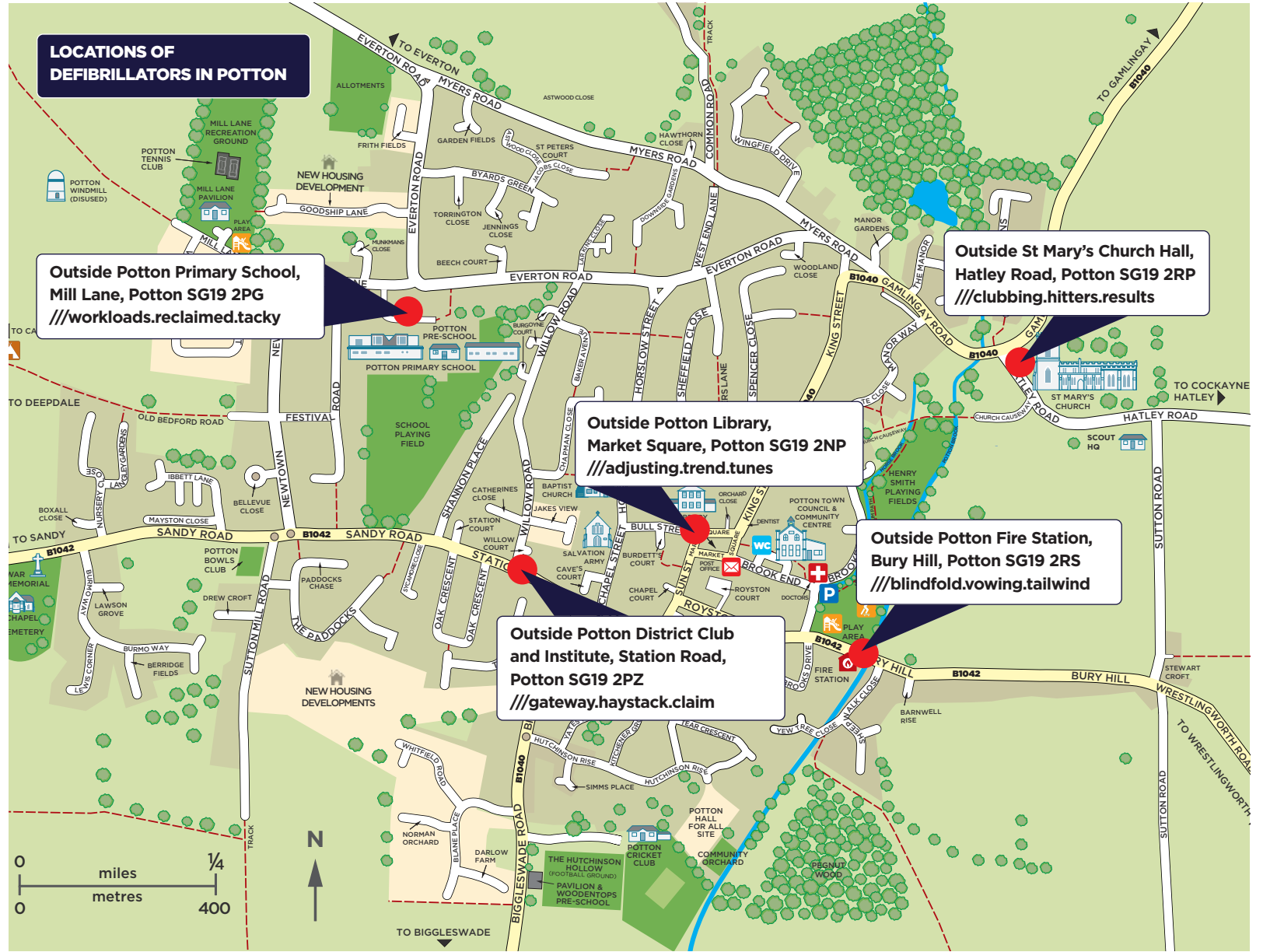


Last year we held our first training for the use of defibrillators in the event of a medical emergency.

It was well attended and there was excellent feedback. Thankfully, it's very rare for people to need to use these pieces of equipment, but it's a bit late to undergo training at the time of an emergency. It's also useful to have a reminder of all that surrounds the use of a defibrillator. With that in mind, we have asked Carlton Avison to provide a training session for both those who attended last year as well as those who are new to this.

Defibrillator training session will be held in the Community Centre on Monday 11th November at 7pm.

We have provided a map showing where the available defibrillators are situated around Potton. Sandy Rotary Club have kindly provided funds for a defibrillator for the Hall for All and the contractor's electrician (Wady's) has agreed to include fitting free of charge. The map will be updated once the Hall for All defibrillator is available to use.



COMMUNITY SAFETY:

PULL OUT AND KEEP FOR REFERENCE



REPORT CRIME TO IMPROVE POLICE EFFECTIVENESS

Police: No report = No action

In emergency phone 999!

If not an emergency or if the emergency situation has passed:

Phone 101

OR

Online:

<https://www.beds.police.uk>

('report' tab)

You can also speak with police, who now schedule 'on-the-beat' visits

OR USE

CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555111 or on-line:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

(Fully anonymous;
Independent of police).

OR

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)

<https://safercentral.org/#reportaproblem>

OR

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL

email:

pottoncouncil@btconnect.com

OR

Mail to:

**The Community Centre, Brook End,
Potton, Beds, SG19 2QS**

OR

SPEAK WITH A TOWN COUNCILLOR

FACEBOOK ENTRIES DO NOT ADD TO POLICE STATISTICS

What to report:

If you experience or witness:

- Something you think might be a criminal offence (e.g. burglary, car theft, drug dealing; antisocial behaviour; damage to property, traffic violations/accidents)
- Other community issues (e.g. dog fouling, fly-tipping)
- Information on crime in your area
- You can also report on behalf of others.
- Don't assume others will report incidents you witness.

Please provide as much detail as possible – at least some of the following:

- What has occurred (what suspicious or criminal activity)?
- Where did it occur (place; or what3words location)?
- When did it occur (date/time)?
- Who/what was involved? (e.g. description of person or car)
- Your contact details

NOTE: Partial information can be checked against other reports.

Potton Community Agent News

Supporting the over 60s in Potton

Are you new to the community?

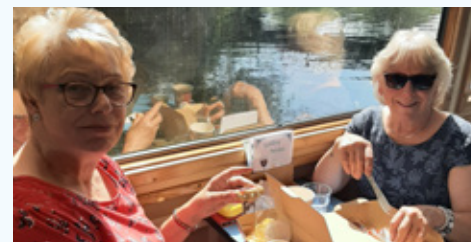
If you're looking for groups and activities to get involved in but not sure what's available then contact Andrea who can help you find something suitable.

Tablet Training Group

If you would like to learn how to use emails and the internet and can commit to attending drop in sessions on Wednesday mornings at the Community Centre (10am to midday), then we can provide you with a Samsung tablet and teach you how to do it. Please get in touch for further details.



Potton Fire Station talk



Friendship Group volunteers on the John Bunyan boat trip during the Summer

Thursday Friendship Group

Held at the Community Centre, Brook End, SG19 2QS from 10am until midday. The Friendship Group welcomes all for tea/coffee/soup, cake, a game of cards or dominoes and a chat every Thursday morning. Entry is £3.

Benefits Guidance

You may be entitled to Pension Credit if your weekly income is below £218.15 if you are single, or £332.95 if you are a couple. You must both be over State Pension age if you live as a couple.

Many people with an illness or disability may be entitled to claim Attendance Allowance. This is a non-means tested benefit that helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you. You do not have to have someone caring for you in order to claim. There are two rates, £72.65 for help during the day and £108.55 for help or supervision both day and night. Contact Andrea for further information.

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

Community Payback Team

Author: **Jacqui Layne**

Placement Coordinator - Bedfordshire Community Payback Team

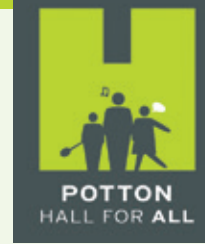
This collaboration between Potton Town Council and the Community Payback Team in Bedfordshire commenced around two years ago when Central Bedfordshire Council signposted them to us.



The initial work was to clear the footpaths around Potton to enhance the town and make it nicer for the local community. The work was completed, and it was agreed the team would keep attending for 'maintenance visits.'

The Town Council and the Community Payback Team have worked successfully to date and the team enjoys completing the work, especially the positive feedback from members of the public.

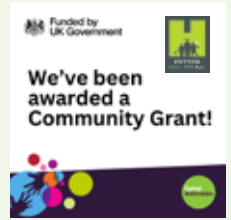
This project is visible, and the engagements from the public has been great whilst those carrying out the work have been able to 'payback' for the crimes they committed in a positive way. The staff have also been welcoming and special thanks to the Town Clerk who is always on hand to assist us by ensuring we have the necessary materials we need to carry out the work.



Potton Hall for All progresses!

Registered Charity number 1158751

Author: **Kim Gutteridge**



Great progress is being made on the build of Potton Hall for All! The cladding and superstructure masonry on the main part of the Hall is almost complete. The flat roof structure to the rest of the building has been started and the floor screed and underfloor heating pipework is being installed.

Whilst we have a little way to go before it's ready to open to the public, we'd like to take this moment to say a big thank you to the charitable and grant organisations that have helped us financially in order to get this far. They are the Garfield Weston Foundation; The John Apthorp Charity; The Wixhamtree Trust and Mrs B L Robinson's Charitable Trust. This project has also received funding from the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund administered by Central Bedfordshire Council. We'd also like to thank CBC for their support

from last year's Community Assets Grant Scheme. Other funds have come from Potton Town Council, the Public Works Loan Board, Section 106 funding contributions and finally many, many individuals through their support of our local fundraising and some very generous private (gift-aided) donations.

Potton Hall for All charity is continuing to raise the funds needed to help kit out the Hall which includes tables, chairs, kitchenware and much more! If you'd like to volunteer and get more involved just email us hall4allpotton@gmail.com to find out more or to donate towards the fit out phase, just click on the QR code.

Thank you.





Potton Recycling

Potton Recycling is a joint Town Council and Potton Hall for All initiative to raise awareness of recycling and recycle items which are not accepted in the council's household waste collections.

Author: **Jill White**



Since launching in 2019, the scheme has raised £2,500 for the Hall for All and sent nearly 2 tonnes of waste off to be recycled.

Dedicated bins to collect the waste can be found by the town council office on Brook End (opposite the public toilets) and we run volunteer packing events on the first Monday of each month from 6-8pm at the community centre to sort and pack the items we receive. We are a friendly bunch and always welcome new pairs of hands to help pack!

All the schemes we collect for are run by a company called Terracycle and sponsored by different manufacturers. As a result, what we accept can sometime change at quite short notice, so please always check the bin labels before depositing items to make sure that it's still accepted.

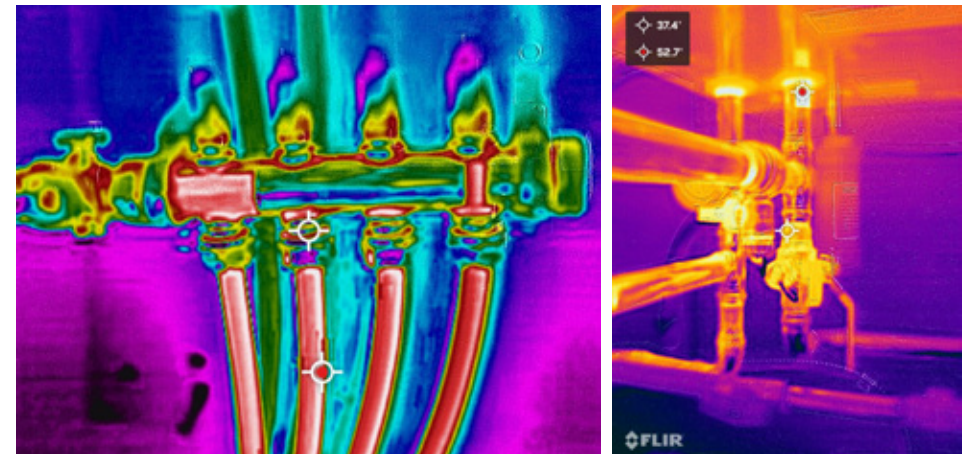
An up to date list can also be found on the town council website and on our Facebook page (search 'Potton Recycling'). Better still, join our mailing list to receive regular updates - please email pottoncouncil@btconnect.com if you would like to be added.

We currently accept:

- Crisp and snack packets
- Pringles tubes
- Biscuit, cake & cracker wrappers
- Ferrero boxes & gold trays
- Toothbrushes & electric toothbrush heads
- Floss sticks, interdental brushes & electric flosser nozzles
- Floss containers
- Domestic rubber gloves
- Rigid plastic food containers
- Reusable plastic drinking bottles

Bins are located near the Community Centre on Brook End

Thermal Image Cameras



With Winter approaching, do you want to find out where your home is leaking heat?

Potton Town Council has two thermal image cameras (one iOS and one Android with lightning adaptors) which can plug into your smartphone for loan to Potton residents. There is no charge to borrow a camera; you just need to pay a £200 deposit, which is refundable after the camera has been returned, and you might consider making a donation to allow for maintenance of the cameras and/or additional cameras to be purchased. Suggested donation of £5.

You can find out more information and download the loan agreement from the town council website <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/thermal-image-cameras/>.

Funding kindly received by the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme.

Christmas Events

Several Christmas events are planned for this year's festive season. Please see the town council website and social media for the latest information. Father Christmas looks forwards to seeing you on his visits to Potton!

Christmas Lights – The Big Switch-On!

The 2024 Christmas Lights Big Switch-On event will be on **Saturday 30th November** with a Christmas Craft Fair in Brook End, the Community Centre and the Market Square, which will include the usual stalls from Potton groups and organisations, together with Henry Harris' fairground rides and other entertainment on the stage in the Market Square.

The Big Switch-On is at 5pm.



Christmas Lights Installation 2024

Potton's Christmas lights installation will commence on **Sunday 3rd November at 10am** and will continue on **Sunday 17th November at 10am** if required.

Christmas Lights Dismantling 2025

Potton's Christmas lights dismantling will commence on **Sunday 5th January at 10am**.

Special Thanks

The town council gives its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to **Deepdale Trees** for donating the Christmas tree again for the 2024 season!

Father Christmas Visit

Father Christmas will be visiting Potton on **Sunday 15th December** and his journey will terminate in the Market Square at approximately 6pm.

Father Christmas has advised that he will try to visit as many roads as possible, although he can't promise to visit every road. Please listen out and look out for Father Christmas and his elves. To keep everyone safe, Father Christmas has requested that all vehicles kindly pass his sleigh and elves at no more than 5mph.



I'm on my way soon kids!

Friends of Keech Children's Hospice Care, Potton

Author: **Jane Leonard**

HO HO HO! Santa will be welcoming children again to his busy Workshop and Grotto on Saturday 7th December, from 10am to 3pm, at the Community Centre, Brook End, Potton SG19 2QS.

In return for a small entrance fee children will get a chance to 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 this event on public notice boards and media sites nearer the time.



For more information about this charity please go to **keech.org.uk**.

THE POTTON SHOW



Potton Flower and Vegetable Show 2024

Author: **Gillian Massey**

Potton Show celebrated their 51st year on 7th and 8th September!



Another successful show at St Mary's Church field was enjoyed by many, who either came to enter or as a visitor to the afternoon event. The marquee looked splendid filled with many exhibits. A scarecrow competition was a new addition to the schedule for this year. We only had four entries, but hope to have many more entered in our next show. The showground was buzzing with visitors of all ages. Many enjoyed the live music, traditional Morris dancing

and many stalls. We had lots of children taking part in the Bug Hunt, which was also new for this year. The Barn Dance was well attended ... for those with plenty of energy. On Sunday 8th September, the Craft Fair was a roaring success. We thank each and every one of you who entered the competitions or visited during the afternoon, evening or Sunday events. Potton Show couldn't continue without your support.

Potton Apple Day goes from strength to strength



Author: **Sally Wileman**



The Bishop of Bedford being shown the pressing process by Denis Ellison



The crowds enjoying the day

Visitors to Potton's 12th Apple Day enjoyed a lovely autumnal afternoon at St Mary's Church field. This was the busiest event yet and thanks are due to the Scouts for opening their car park for the day. Many other local events were cancelled due to wet ground conditions so we were hugely glad of a dry day.

St Mary's Church held an Apple Trail during the afternoon and lots of visitors took the opportunity to explore the church, decorated with apples and fruity Treasure Hunt clues. The Bishop of Bedford called in and was shown the pressing process by our Apple Day volunteers.

Throughout the day, we had lots of young helpers who made light work of the scratting and pressing so we soon had buckets of fresh apple juice. For the first time this year, visitors could taste and buy apples picked from Potton Community Orchard.

Thank you to the Jubilee Project for picking them with such care. Our juice will be for sale at the Christmas market in December, and if you can't wait, boxes can be delivered locally (**call 07872 041493**).



Our cider competition was won by Potton Cider's 'Trip Hazard'. Dr John Weeks was presented with the winner's trophy by Tim Naisbitt, Cider Officer of East Beds CAMRA. Tim and his team of volunteers had sourced ciders from small and not so small local suppliers. Bottles of Potton Apple Day's Core cider sold out and juice from the event is destined to begin the process all over again.

Vacancies for Potton Youth Councillors

We believe that young people are the future of our communities and we feel it is important that we as a town council invest in them. Potton Town Council supports Potton Youth Council in achieving the following objectives:

- To develop a culture of participation in the democratic process and to develop an awareness of citizenship.
- Be empowered to take decisions and actions to improve the community they live in.
- Form partnerships with local and national organisations.
- Promote respect for each other and the community.
- Encourage all young people to have a voice and believe their views are valued.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting adventure you must fulfil the following criteria:

- Potton resident and/or attend a school and/or organisation in Potton.
- School Year 5-13.
- Have consent from a parent or guardian.
- Commit to attending meetings.

If you can satisfy all of the criteria and are interested, please complete the application form along with the parent/guardian consent form, which you can download from: <https://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/vacancies/>

Please send the completed form to:

Mrs Claire Massey, Clerical Assistant, Potton Town Council, The Community Centre, Brook End, Potton, Bedfordshire SG19 2QS

or email to: pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



New Youth Councillor, Cara

What's it like being a New Youth Councillor?

Cara's story...

I joined the Youth Council to get a better understanding of local government and how decisions are made for our area. I hope to be a voice for the community and to help improve it in any way that I can, and I look forward to advocating for all our residents - young and old.

Fundraiser Coffee Morning

Potton Youth Council will be holding a fundraiser coffee morning in the Community Centre on **Saturday 14th December 2024 from 9.30am**.

We will be selling tea, coffee, and cakes, with gluten free options available.

We are raising money for a basketball hoop in Henry Smith Playing Fields.

Come in for a chat and a drink, and to support our community!