



VE Day 80

A shared moment of celebration Thursday 8th May 2025

‘On 8th May 2025, we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, and peace.’

Bruno Peek

Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster



See page 7
for details of
Potton's
event.





Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the April 2025 edition of the Town Council quarterly newsletter.

Welcome all Pottonians to Spring that has come, the days are longer and the weather kinder. Around town there have been a number of changes since last Spring. The Potton Hall for All has now been completed and is open for business, but more of that later.



The park has had an addition of semi-hard surfacing so in the future traffic through to the main playing field won't "chew up" the grass on the play area side of the sluice. The paths in the cemetery have also had a makeover and are much improved, along with the out of character non-native conifer trees, at Mill Lane Recreation Ground. Here, this will remove a long term maintenance expense, preserve the playing areas and ultimately improve the wildlife environment.

The removal of the Leylandii at Mill Lane will, in the long term, allow the re-introduction of native species of hedging and plants for wildlife. Whilst Leylandii may work as a hedge when they are maintained and trimmed to 6 feet, once they are "out of control" as a more than 20 foot high hedge/screen, they are totally inappropriate in a rural setting.

Potton Hall for All opening



The Potton Hall for All was formally opened on Friday 28th February by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, literally just one week

after the Town Council and Potton Hall for All Trustees accepted "delivery". Unfortunately, due to the nature of such events and the incredibly short time given to arrange everything, numbers were limited, but thanks must go to the Duke for "popping in to Potton" - along with the HM Lord-Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire amongst others - and officially opening the building. Photos of the event can be viewed at www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/hrh-the-duke-of-gloucester-opens-potton-hall-for-all. Public open days were held on 1st and 2nd March, and people had the opportunity to have a look at Potton's new facility.

Whatever your view, I am sure that it will be positive asset and remember it is owned by the town for the use of the town, so at last we have something substantive to show as a result of much housing development. At this time the site still looks a little "raw" as the landscaping is yet to be completed. February is not the best time to do that, but Spring and early Summer is, so you'll see some changes over the next few months, and any final snagging of the building should soon be completed.

Going forward, the Hall will be managed by representatives from community users and groups, Potton Hall for All Trustees, and the Town Council, so if you have an interest please do make contact through hall4allpotton@gmail.com. **More information can be found on page 11.** Thank you to all those who have been involved over the last 30 years from twinkle to completion, and more recently to the those involved over the last few years from tender to the finished building, and I wish it all success.



All photos on pages 2 & 3 ©June Essex

Events



We have much to look forward to over the coming year as a number of events have been arranged. First and foremost is **VE day on Thursday 8th May**; the Events Committee has arranged to celebrate the anniversary with the Nation, and I'm sure a few street parties will be had. Then, in the Summer on **Saturday 21st June is PottonFest**, a music festival that will be open to all and held in Henry Smith Playing Fields. So something to look forward to! **More on both events can be found on page 7.**

Hedgerow maintenance



Something that I have noticed on my perambulations around the town is that there are areas where hedges encroach onto the footpaths, and this is an issue that people complain about. In many cases this is the responsibility of the owner of the adjacent property

to maintain their boundary, so is not in the control or remit of either the town or unitary council. So a plea to those who have shrubs that overhang or encroach on to public paths; please cut them back and maintain them so those with pushchairs and the less able-bodied can actually use paths and pavements without having to resort to walking in the road or fight through the undergrowth. It will also make Potton look better kept and show that we all have pride in our town.

Council mourns the loss of Peter Langridge



Potton Town Council is saddened to hear of the death of former councillor, chairman and freeman Peter Langridge. Peter passed away in hospital on Thursday 20th March aged 74.

Peter served as a member of the Town Council for over 20 years and amassed a wealth of knowledge and experience. Even after his retirement as a councillor he was still on hand to advise and support and always took an interest in the Town Council activities and Civic events. He was Chairman of Potton Town Council for several years. In recognition of his years of service and dedication to the town Peter was made a Freeman of Potton at a Special meeting of Potton Town Council at the beginning of March.

Our thoughts are with his wife Maria, family and friends.

Farewell Jane and Peter



Photo credit: Matthew Ayres

So after more than 26 years, there have been changes at the Post Office, and we've had to say goodbye to Jane and Peter Singleton, as they retire to Lincolnshire. As a town I think we would all like to thank them for their many years of service to the community; not just postal, but acting as a lost property office and a font of knowledge on "whose address is this?". We wish them all the best and hope they don't become strangers to Potton. We'll see you at PottonFest! I would also like to welcome Sarah and wish her well as our new postmistress.

Council feedback

Nowadays many people use social media as a communication method much as they would chat to each other, and the assumption is that everyone does so, but this is not the case. Whilst some councillors may be on the various platforms and pass on things they see, for example questions or complaints about public facilities, it is not the best or even a reliable way of communicating with the town council. If you want an answer to a question or to raise something, the council's contact details can be found in this publication (which is distributed to all households in Potton)

or on the town council web page. So ring the council or a councillor, come along to a council surgery, write to or email us.

Become a town councillor

Finally, a plea! We need three more town councillors to make sure everything can be run properly. If you or anyone else you know is interested please contact the Town Clerk.

Best wishes

Jonathan

Cllr Jonathan Price Williams

Four Seasons Market






Saturday 21st June
9am - 1pm

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

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://twitter.com/pottoncouncil)

Town Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 6th May 2025

SCAN THE QR CODE
 FOR MORE INFO



Town Councillors

Charles Craig	260047	Andrew Inkersole	261966
John Day	07986 124440	Carol Leggatt	260001
Vicki Gwilliam	07958 981602	Angus Macdonald	262006
John Hobbs	260710	Dan Norman	260643
Emma Horsfall	07957 534688	Jonathan Price Williams	07981 350359
Guy Horsfall	07957 319520	Adam Zerny	0300 300 8540

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



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**.



Please recycle this newsletter when you've finished reading it by putting it in your green recycling bin.

VE Day remembered

In 2025, the Nation will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

Potton will play its part in the celebrating the VE Day 80 Anniversary on Thursday 8th May 2025, as follows:

- **9am The VE Day 80 Proclamation by the Town Crier** in the Market Square
- **6.30pm ringing out in celebration** at St Mary's Church
- **9pm The VE Day 80 Proclamation by the Town Crier** in the Market Square
- **9.30pm Beacon Lighting, VE Day Tribute** and the **town's choirs** will come together to sing *I vow to thee my country* in the Market Square



The Town Council would welcome as many active and ex-service personnel to take part in Potton's VE Day 80 celebrations, both morning and evening events.



PottonFest

Author: **Denis Ellison - Events Committee Vice Chairman**

Something new and exciting for the Summer of 2025.

Potton Town Council is organising our very own festival-style day of live music in the park. Indeed Henry Smith Playing Fields. With **five** live bands already booked, the stage is set for a full day of free to enter entertainment, and that date is **Saturday 21st June - Midsummer's Day**.

This is not a sequel to Party on Potton or any attempt to compete with their glorious event, although the POP team will certainly be there with their bar and BBQ, along with a host of other food vendors to slake the thirst and tempt the palate.

Music will come from a wide genre of local bands and performers, all sure to get your toes tapping, your feet dancing or maybe later on your heads banging! Watch the town council website, social media and noticeboards for further information as the event draws closer. This event aims to appeal to all ages and tastes in popular music within our community.

If you would like to be involved in the day either as a volunteer helper or as a potential vendor, please contact Potton Town Council for further information.

Your Community

Author: Cllr Charles Craig



Image by upkyak on Freepik

Volunteering: I'm in awe of everyone who makes this town tick. My fellow Potton town councillors (all volunteers) unflinchingly attend to the more formal aspects of town life (Planning, Environment, Management) and more fun aspects (Events) while councillors and residents drive the regular events (like Remembrance Sunday, Christmas lights) special events (e.g. VE Day and the up-coming PottonFest) and more resident-based activities (notably Party on Potton – the envy of the area!) and bringing together local knowledge to develop documents shaping future town life - the Neighbourhood Plan and the Green Wheel teams. We are also very lucky to have an active and productive Youth Council.

Hall: As a result in part of the increased Potton population, we at last have a community hall and we are looking for volunteers to help run and maintain it. The talents and experience needed for the various tasks is vast – and I'm sure there is a place for everyone wanting to get involved. In that regard, I was very pleasantly rewarded during the Hall's

open days in early March, when several people signed up to helping with hedge planting – a very time limited opportunity given the onset of spring. Thank you!

Responsibility: Every resident clearly has a certain responsibility to the community. Some of this is communal – support local events and fund raising. Some is not so obvious – report crime and suspicious activity to police (www.beds.police.uk or **Phone 101** if not an emergency) or CrimeStoppers (<https://crimestoppers-uk.org> or phone **0800 555111**). The reports inform the police resource and priorities on a three-monthly timescale. Finally, we should show respect for each other and our communal amenities including car parking (you know who you are, NO?).

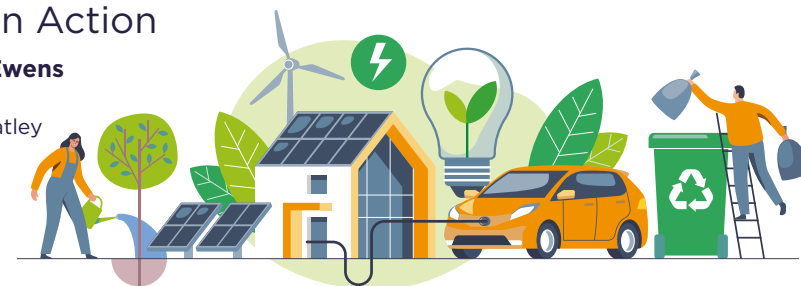
If you are interested in getting involved with your community, please drop a note to the Town Clerk: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or call **01767 260086**.

Community Energy

Shedding Light on Hidden Heat: Thermal Imaging Cameras in Action

Author: **Andy Ewens**

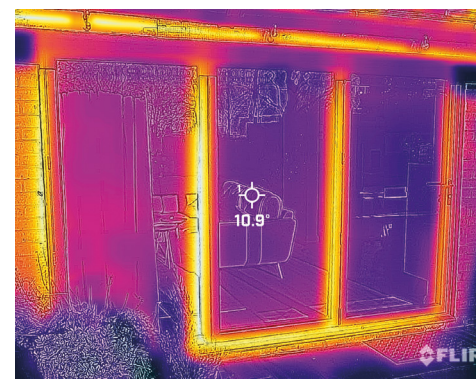
Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Sustainability Champion



This February, Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council had the fantastic opportunity to borrow two thermal imaging cameras from Potton Town Council. These nifty gadgets helped villagers assess their home insulation, and uncover a few unexpected surprises!

For over two weeks, with the cold weather playing along, residents took turns using the cameras overnight. Setup was a breeze—just plug into a smartphone, download an app, and start snapping. Since images were stored directly on the user's phone, privacy was ensured.

The results? Eye-opening! Below is a photo of my house. From the outside I discovered my five-year-old patio doors were well-insulated, but heat was escaping around the frame, and some photos taken from the inside showed some older double-glazed windows letting the cold seep in.



Homes of all ages—from new builds to charming 18th-century cottages—revealed their hidden heating (or cooling) secrets. But the cameras weren't just for checking insulation. Creative users found them handy for:

- Tracing hidden heating and water pipes—great for decorators!
- Pinpointing the source of mysterious drafts.
- Evaluating renovations in progress to spot weak points.

Overall, this was a brilliant community initiative that gave residents valuable insights into improving their homes and cutting energy waste. A big thank you to Potton Town Council for making this possible!

There are two thermal image cameras (iOS and Android with lightning adaptors) available to residents. There is no charge, you just need to pay a £200 deposit which is refundable after the camera has been returned and you are requested to make a suggested donation of £5 to allow for maintenance and/or additional cameras to be purchased.

Potton Primary School

Celebrates 'GOOD' Ofsted rating in all areas.

A "happy and friendly place in which to learn" is what OFSTED have recently said about Potton Primary, who also rated the school as good in all areas.



Staff and children at Potton Primary School are delighted by the results of their recent OFSTED inspection - their first as a primary school. The inspection report describes how the staff "want the best for pupils" and how "they set high expectations."

The report recognises the school has been on a challenging journey over the last few years with the amalgamation of Potton Lower and Potton Middle Schools in August 2023. Miss Watts, Headteacher, couldn't be more proud of all of the achievements the school has made so far and looks forward to the continued journey ahead.

Potton Primary has been rated as 'Good' in the following areas: The Quality of Education; Behaviour and Attitudes; Personal Development and Leadership and Management.

The report praises how the children 'enjoy contributing to school life' and how 'everyone is "unique" and that all should be seen as an individual.'

The school's arrangements for safeguarding are effective and "the school's fine work to improve attendance is paying dividends."

Miss Watts concludes "The report recognises the sense of community here at Potton Primary. I feel very privileged to be the Headteacher of a school where staff want the best for all children, children feel happy and learn well and the school is supported by parents/carers and the governing body."



Potton Hall for All We are open!

Registered Charity number 1158751

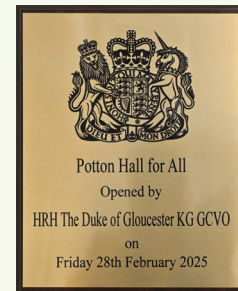
Potton Hall for All was handed over by the builders to Potton Town Council on Friday 21st February 2025 and a week later on Friday 28th February the hall was formally opened by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO.

It was a brilliant day! His Royal Highness toured the hall, met lots of the people who have worked to make this happen and saw examples of some of the activities which may take place there. This was followed by open days on 1st and 2nd March, when over 200 people came to look at what the hall offers.

The hall will be leased to Potton Hall for All Charity by Potton Town Council, who will own the hall and the land it sits on. This will maximise the opportunities for attracting funding to improve the hall now that it is open. The two parties will work together using a Management Committee which will also include users and other members of the community in Potton. If you are interested in being part of the Committee, please let us know - you can get in touch via the Potton Hall for All email hall4allpotton@gmail.com or through Potton Town Council.

The hall is now taking bookings. Prices, floor plan and booking forms can be found on the Potton Hall for All website www.pottonhallforall.org.uk or you can mail us at the above email address for more information.

We will be delighted to welcome you to Potton Hall for All!



Potton Hall for All Trustees meet HRH The Duke of Gloucester. L-R Craig Gant, Phill Banks, Kim Gutteridge, The Duke of Gloucester and Liz Smith.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester

All photos above ©June Essex



Update from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tracey Wye

Central Bedfordshire

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

It has been a busy time at the council and there is much to tell you about.

We've passed a budget for the year ahead. This may not sound like such a big deal, but it means all the key services are protected. Roads will still get mended, bins will still be collected, but also crucial services such as adult social care and children's services will still run as before, despite the tough financial circumstances which affect all local authorities. We've also protected libraries and bus subsidies which we know are really important in our area.

As a group of 16 Independent councillors out of 63, we have to ensure we work with other councillors even if we don't agree with other political groups about everything they stand for. I believe differences of opinion should be explored in a respectful and constructive way, allowing us to create plans that improve our community. Council Tax will go up by 5% for Central Bedfordshire which was the minimum that meant the council could keep running key services.

This is important to me as I work with people in Potton and the villages on many issues such as homelessness, funding opportunities and maintaining the pavements and roads.

My specific responsibilities at the council relate to the council's work on climate and environment. I am seeking to make a real difference; to ensure we reduce our environmental impact and protect our valuable natural resources. Progress may not be as fast as I'd like, but we are moving in the right direction, helping residents use less energy, switch to electric cars and still looking to improve regional transport: I am still lobbying the government to help us establish a bus to Cambridge!

As one of your ward councillors, assisting you in getting the best from the council is an essential part of my daily work. Always feel you can get in touch whether your questions relate to roads, buses, social housing, trees, leisure, education or funding. I learn something with every enquiry I make of the council and I'm pleased to help.

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



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 for us. The rate of pay is **£20 for 300 delivered newsletters, pro-rata.**

The Town Council – as the employer – applies for the work permit and is required to provide:

- A signed letter from a parent/guardian confirming they're happy with the employment.
- Child's details e.g. name, address, telephone etc.
- Parents details e.g. name, contact information.
- School details e.g. name, contact information.

Please contact the Town Clerk either by email: pottoncouncil@btconnect.com or phone **01767 260086**.

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.

Grass cutting in Potton

A contractor cuts the grass on council (Potton Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council) owned land between March and November according to our schedule.



The contractor is not responsible for cutting the grass on privately-owned land (including land owned by housing associations such as Grand Union), or housing developments where Central Bedfordshire Council hasn't adopted the highway verges. Please report grass cutting issues on private land direct to the owners.

How often we cut grass

Grass is cut at various frequencies depending on the nature and use of the site, for example, wildflower areas are usually cut less often than grass verges.

Grass growth is dependent on weather conditions and there are times when it will grow quicker than others. Schedules may vary in extreme weather conditions.

Reasons the grass has not been cut

A number of factors are taken into account when developing the grass maintenance schedules and it is reviewed regularly. Some people

prefer grass to be cut frequently whilst others would prefer it is left longer to enhance the environment and support biodiversity.

Sometimes the contractor isn't able to cut grass on a verge due to:

- parked vehicles or wheelie bins
- daffodils which cannot be cut until June
- dedicated wildlife/flower verge

The contractor does not collect cut grass but they do clear it from footpaths using leaf blowers.

If the contractor has missed an area of grass on Council-owned land

If you notice grass on land owned by either Council hasn't been cut for a while, it's likely they are due to cut it soon. However, if you think that it may have been missed, please report it on **01767 260086** or **pottoncouncil@btconnect.com**.

Potton Library

A community hub and resource offering a local and sustainable way of learning and reading.

Borrowing

- A great selection of books for children and adults.
- Free requests.
- 500 / 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles.
- Automatic email reminders.
- No fines on children's tickets.

The Library Online and APP

- The Bedfordshire Libraries APP is free to download. Browse, request & renew, and operates as a digital form of your library card.
- Free E Books, audio books, magazines and newspapers from Libby, Borrowbox, and PressReader.
- Ancestry Library edition now includes 1921 Census.

For Children

- Crafts and Lego both available Saturdays 10am-3.30pm.
- Crafts, activities and competitions in holidays.
- Story and Rhyme time Saturday mornings on selected dates and Baby Rhyme Time for babies and toddlers on selected Tuesdays 9.15am-9.45am.
- Story collection for dyslexic children.

IT

- Free computer use.
- Facilities to print onto A4 and photocopying.
- WIFI printing from your device also available.
- WIFI - search for 'CBC_PUBLIC'.

Working within the Community

- The library welcomes new members to all its groups .
- A light walking group Tuesdays at 10am.

- Knitting group meets fortnightly on Tuesday mornings - bring your own project, or knit squares for community projects.
- A monthly poetry group.
- The library hosts Carolyne of Potton Gardeners for organised monthly meetings on Wednesdays.
- Further details of our events, activities and news is on our noticeboard.
- We accept small numbers of donations of good quality, new books, puzzles and wool, but due to our small size, please discuss with staff beforehand.
- A community book sale is usually available.

Volunteers

The library welcomes volunteers to its team of regular helpers. We recruit Duke of Edinburgh and young volunteers in the summer holidays to assist with our Summer Reading Challenge.

Opening Times

Tues: 9am-1pm, **Wed:** 2pm-6pm, **Thurs:** 9am-1pm, **Fri:** 9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm, **Sat:** 9am-4pm.

T: 0300 300 8063

W: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Online registration. Please scan the QR Code.



Proposed new play equipment

Author: **Sam, Youth Councillor**

As some people may know, the equipment at Mill Lane Recreation Ground is approaching the end of its life. The current equipment has been in use for over a decade now and it's time to replace it. As a part of the replacements, the idea of an assault course has been mentioned. Some of you may remember that there used to be a wooden course at the recreation ground and Potton Town Council has suggested adding a new version.



We would like to hear any opinions or questions regarding this proposal, please send any feedback to pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

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!