

Potton History Society



Newsletter Number 26 Spring 1999

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Potton History Society Committee:-

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Secretary	Jean McLennan
Treasurer	Anita Lewis
Programme/Publicity Secretary	Peter Ibbett
Committee Members	Boo Matthews
	John Kirkby
	Norman Parry
	Tony Crossley
	Ken Lawson
Newsletter Editors	Mr & Mrs Leigh

For access to the archives in our research rooms
just telephone the key-holders;

Mr G. Howe	Potton 260935
Mr K Lawson	Potton 261209
Mr N Parry	Potton 260728
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Acknowledgements:-

Our continued appreciation to Mr Witten for displaying and selling our publications in Tysoe's Hardware Store.

We also thank the following for their continued support by advertising our meetings;

Lindsay's Bakery,
Tysoe's Hardware Store,
Harper's Barber Shop.

Society News

As our 21st anniversary year was drawing towards its conclusion we broke with tradition and did not hold a formal meeting in **October**. Instead, a celebratory dinner was arranged, held at the John O' Gaunt Golf Club which was of course the former home of the Burgoyne family, one-time owners of much of Potton. A full report of the evening can be seen on page 4.

In **November** the A.G.M. preceded the final meeting of the anniversary year. Following the retirement of Mary Leigh as only the second secretary in the Society's 21 years, Jean McLennan was elected as the new secretary. Jack Hutchinson retired as committee member, but the remaining members were re-elected en bloc. For the remainder of the evening Peter Ibbett showed how Pottonians of the past have celebrated various local and national events. He concluded his presentation with pictures of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977, the event which resulted in the raising of funds used to set up the History of Potton Trust Fund and subsequently sowed the seed for the formation of Potton History Society.

The **December** meeting is traditionally a very informal evening and along with our festive refreshments this year we enjoyed another of Peter Ibbett's light-hearted local quizzes. This must be the easiest way ever invented to learn about the history of a town and the popularity of the event is demonstrated by the fact that we only barely managed to squeeze everyone in this time. This is one quiz where everybody is a winner.

In **January** Mr V Ibbett told us of the life and works of Sir Joseph Paxton who was born not far from Potton and despite coming from a very poor family with little or no education became a highly respected and wealthy engineer and designer. His best known achievement and the main subject of our talk was the Crystal Palace, built for the Great Exhibition in 1851. The story of the construction of this fantastic building and its subsequent removal to another site, all without the aid of modern day cranes and equipment, left us all wishing that we could have been there to see it in all its glory.

A last minute change to the programme in **February** resulted in an unexpected visit from Eric Lund of neighbouring Biggleswade History Society. His talk on the history of mapmaking began with the first known map, dating as far back as the 6th century BC, although the world that it represented was only a tiny fraction of what we see in our atlases today. He followed through the various advances in knowledge, skills and technical ability right up to the modern day use of satellites. Our thanks to Mr Lund for stepping into the breach at very short notice.

--ooOoo--

Ken Lawson has made a huge contribution to the recording of memorial stones at Potton Church and Cemeteries. He has also recorded all the burials in Potton Cemetery from the written records which began in 1882. This provides vital additional information as some stones are completely obliterated and some graves do not have a stone at all.

As well as taking on the duties of secretary, the responsibility for the photographic collection has now been taken over by Jean McLennan. Any photographs recording Potton old and new would be most welcome. If you do not wish to part with your originals but think you may have something of interest, please give us the opportunity to take copies. For the purpose of recording current changes and events, Potton has been divided into several segments and volunteers have come forward or been press-ganged into service. The majority of Potton is now covered by our 'official photographers'.

Anita Lewis keeps a scrapbook of Potton houses which are advertised for sale in the local papers and Patricia Yates keeps newspaper and magazine cuttings related to Potton. We are always grateful for copies of items which appear in national and local publications as these can otherwise very easily be missed.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY DINNER
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER 1998

The Burgoyne Suite at the John O'Gaunt Golf Club was the venue for one of the most memorable events of our Society - our 21st Anniversary Dinner.

Upon entering the Golf Club guests were greeted by the Committee and handed a glass of sherry. On passing into the bar area there was a general chattering of people mingling with each other, which I am sure is one of the secrets of the continuing success of this Society.

It was obvious from the lovely table settings with their carefully arranged seating plans that many hours had been spent in preparation behind the scenes and Keith Lawrence had beautifully hand-written all the place name cards. The clusters of balloons gave the feeling of a festive occasion as did the superb cake made and decorated for us by Mrs Yvonne Hall.

After everyone was in place the Rev. Wyn Beynon said Grace with the following unusual words :-

*Whatever the weather there's nothing like leather,
Whatever the mood there's nothing like food.*

Delightful music was softly played by the Corybant Trio and as coffee was served George Howe, our Chairman paid tribute to all who had made the evening so successful. George then introduced Patricia Yates by saying that without her the Society would not be here as she was largely responsible for starting it all. Patricia spoke about the beginning of the History Society and then it was the turn of Peter Ibbett to say a few words. Peter said that our Members, by playing an active part in the running of the Society, had created a community spirit and he hoped it would continue for the next 21 years.

It was then time for the musicians to play their part which they did to the delight of all present, not an easy task above the hubbub of friendly chatter. All too soon it was time to leave and I am sure, like me everyone felt that the friendly community spirit mentioned by Peter, stayed with us all as we journeyed homeward.

A report of this memorable evening would not be complete without acknowledging Chris Miles, who spent a great deal of time during the celebrations, dashing around taking photographs of all present. He also created a commemorative book which was signed by all present, some 76 people.

There is one other thing - I felt, at the time, I would have liked to have given a vote of thanks to Patricia, George and our hardworking Committee on behalf of everyone present. But the opportunity came and went. So I would now like to say a big 'Thank-you' to them all for giving us so many years of enjoyment.

Jean McLennan

FOOTNOTES

The photographs taken by Chris Miles at the Dinner will be available for viewing at our meetings and copies can be ordered direct from Chris or from any Committee Member.

The photographs, commemorative book of signatures and various other items will be collated to create a complete record of this wonderful event and will become part of our archive collection. On this occasion at least we will have a name for every single face in every single picture! Ed.

After the Dinner

As the only person with twenty-one years of continuous service on the committee of the Society I felt it appropriate to say a few words at the 21st Anniversary Dinner. The following is taken from my notes and is not intended to be an accurate transcript of what was actually said!

I must first thank our chairman for his kind remarks concerning my 21 years as the Programme Secretary of the Society. I feel I must point out that the success of our monthly meetings lies more in the team work of the committee than the work of one person.

Mrs Yates mentioned the public meeting held on 13th October 1977 to consider the setting up of a Potton History Society. When a request for nominations for a committee was put to the meeting I felt a firm prod in my back and a voice declared that "this young man is happy to volunteer" and before I had time to respond someone else had seconded me and I was elected! The person responsible for my initial involvement with the Society was Mr Eric Mayston who acted as our first treasurer.

At the first committee meeting I listened to the discussion and eventually decided to make a contribution to the debate about the number of officers that the Society should have. I suggested that it would be sensible to have a programme and publicity secretary who would ensure that each meeting ran smoothly. I was pleased when my suggestion was accepted but rather taken aback when the committee decided that as I suggested the idea I should put it into practice! 21 years on I still await my successor!

When we started the Society we decided that it should be an active one rather than a passive armchair group. This decision has resulted in the wonderful archive of material which will fascinate future generations. We also decided that we wanted to educate our members about the history of our town. As we did so we revealed the personalities of the town and also the community spirit which had bound them together.

As the years went by we found that our members were playing a greater part in meetings. I believe that we made a transition from a society to a community group. Our coach trips were immensely enjoyable affairs and helped to develop this community spirit between our members.

Is there any other reason why this society has taken such firm root in the life of many of its members? I do not recollect if Mrs Yates ever said it but she certainly put into practice the maxim that "if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well". The committee members of your society have put this into practice under the ever vigilant eyes of our only two chairmen, Norman Parry and George Howe.

This approach has enabled us to present Local History as a living experience and not just a study of the past. We have spent as much time recording the efforts of current Pottonians to resolve the problems of everyday living as uncovering the trials and tribulations of our ancestors! I feel that this society has not only absorbed the community spirit of past generation of Pottonians but has helped to keep it alive in an age when this often seems less valued than it should be.

If I have one wish for the next 21 years of this Society it is that it should continue to transmit this community spirit by maintaining its active approach to Local History.

Peter Ibbett

The Wrestlingworth Murder

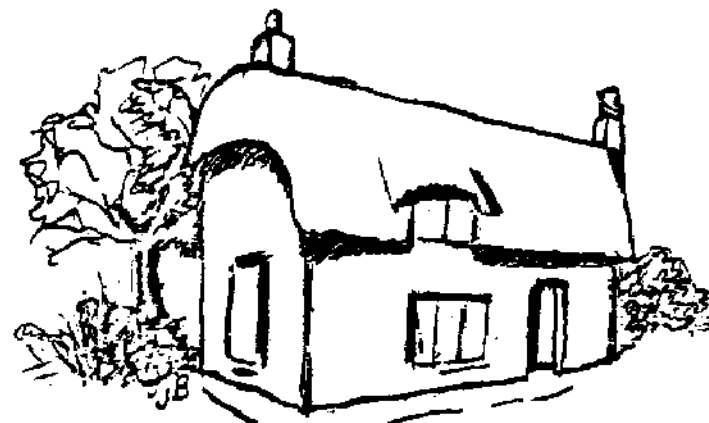
On the 5th August 1843, Sarah Dazeley of Wrestlingworth became the last woman in England to be publicly hanged. She was 22 years old.

At the age of 19 she had married a Mr Mead and bore him a daughter. This daughter suddenly and mysteriously died and in June 1840, Mr Mead was taken violently ill and died. Both father and child were buried at Tadlow.

Mead had scarcely been dead five months when his widow married William Dazeley, a farm labourer who lived in Wrestlingworth. On October 22nd 1842, William was seized with 'a serious and aggravated sickness' and a surgeon was called in who relieved the sufferer. However, after taking a pill given him by his wife, he was again seized with sickness and on going into the yard - which contained a pig - he again vomited. The animal appears to have devoured the substance as on the following morning it was found dead. Rashly William accepted another pill from his wife - which she represented as coming from the surgery - and died. He was buried at Wrestlingworth, his tombstone containing the following verse:-

"The strong may think their house a rock
Yet soon as Jesus calls
Some sickness brings a fatal shock
and down the building falls."

Soon after Dazeley's death, Waldock the Wrestlingworth village carpenter began courting Sarah and they became engaged. Village gossip however was spreading rumours of murder and Waldock was alarmed and broke off the engagement. The body of Dazeley was ordered to be disinterred and a post mortem examination made resulting in the discovery of a white powder in the intestines which was pronounced 'arsenic'.



Sarah's cottage, which still stands in Wrestlingworth

Sarah left for London but was arrested and brought back to Bedford where at the Summer Assizes she was indicted for the wilful murder of William Dazeley and further charged on a second indictment with the wilful murder of Mead.

The Court was crowded to suffocation and despite Sarah's continued plea that she was not guilty, there was evidence of the purchase of arsenic and she was sentenced to death.

A crowd of over 12,000 - mostly women and including practically every inhabitant of Wrestlingworth assembled around the scaffold outside Bedford Goal. Sarah was brought out at noon and her last words were "If I confess to the crime I shall die with a lie on my mouth. Pray be as quick as you can".

R.J.Cooper

Sarah was daughter to Phillip Reynolds, the village barber in Potton and she lived in the town until two years after her first marriage when she moved with her husband to Tadlow. Ed.

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA

A whistle stop tour of Europe via Potton

Having made the decision to visit Britain and Europe in 1998 we then had to decide what areas to visit. Our original itinerary was to visit a cousin in Old Sodbury then go on to Cromer where we had secured accommodation for one week at the Cromer Country Club. As we were going to be 13 days in Britain, we had 6 days to fill.

Arriving at Heathrow at 8 o'clock on Monday 11th May, we picked up our hire car and proceeded to Southsea where accommodation had been booked for that night. We arrived at about 11.30, thank goodness the room was available, as after having left our home in the north of Johannesburg at 18.00hrs the night before it can be imagined that we were extremely travel weary. Having had a short sleep, we decided to go and see what Southsea and Portsmouth had to offer. After this we decided to spend another night in the area.

The next day we visited the Navy Dockyard where we saw HMS Victory also HMS Warrior launched in 1860. At the time she was the biggest, fastest and most heavily armed warship afloat, she was also the world's first iron-hulled armoured battleship powered by steam as well as sail. We also visited the Fort, The Royal Garrison Church which was founded in 1212 by Peter de Rubis, the Crusader Bishop of Winchester as a hospice, in 1868 restoration of the Church was completed, in 1941 the Nave was destroyed by fire through enemy action. This damage is still visible. We also visited Portsmouth Cathedral which was built and dedicated to Thomas Becket in 1170. In 1930 work began to enlarge the church but this was stopped in 1939 and a temporary wall erected, this was demolished in 1990 and the nave completed in 1991. We visited other historical sites in the area, far too many to detail here.

From Portsmouth we travelled to Southampton and visited numerous historical sites. From there on to Winchester, a beautiful

town we did a tour of the Cathedral which we found awe inspiring, then on to Bournemouth to spend the night. On this of all nights, the area experienced a violent thunderstorm accompanied by very heavy rain, the only time in our stay that rain was experienced. By local standards it was a very severe storm, however we are used to thunder and rain very much worse living in Johannesburg where thunderstorms are the norm most summer afternoons or evenings.

The next day Poole was on our visiting list, and then Salisbury. We travelled by country roads and stopped for lunch at a picturesque pub in a village named Damerham. Suitably refreshed, we made our way to Salisbury where we toured the town on foot and included a visit to the Cathedral. By then it was about 16.00hrs and we headed for Stonehenge, where we took the tour. It was getting on to early evening and we travelled on to Bath where we found hotel accommodation.

Bath is a fascinating city, we took a guided bus tour which was most enlightening although we could not possibly absorb all the information which our knowledgeable guide passed on. Next on to Bristol, another fascinating town. Here we fell victim to a computer breakdown. Having parked on about the 8th level of a parking garage, the machine would not accept our ticket, along with everyone else who had parked in the garage - it seemed like the whole of Bristol!. It took about an hour to exit the garage which made us late for our next destination, Old Sodbury, where we stayed the night at Bodkin House Hotel, a 17th century coaching inn. The oldest part of the building dates back to a 12th century Monastery, there are said to be six Ghosts which are occasionally sensed or seen by guests. We are unable to claim to have been bothered by them!

We now come to our visit to Potton. We have a book named "Foxes Book of Martyrs" which traditionally is handed down to the eldest son in the Bumberry family, the second entry in this book is the name of Thomas Bumberry Potton 1816 there is also an impression of what appears to be a business card with the name James Seamer.

Add to this the fact that my late father told me that he believed there to be a "Bumberry Row" in Potton, I was prompted to write to the town Clerk for information, Mrs Mayne kindly replied to my enquiry and put me in touch with Norman Parry who as the local historian obtained a mine of information dating back to 1552 about the family, a great big THANK YOU to Norman, it is at his suggestion that I have written this. We also met Mrs. Ann Barker who is distantly related through marriage to our family. We soon found that time was running out as we had to get to our next stop Cromer, however we did spend some time at St. Mary's Church Yard in an unsuccessful effort to spot the graves of some of the Bumberrys who are buried there.

We hope to visit Potton sometime later in the year to continue our search but with the South African/Sterling exchange rates currently applicable, this may prove impracticable.

We arrived at Cromer at about 19.00hrs and decided that next day we would drive down to London. Being a Sunday it was thought that the traffic would not be too bad, mistake!. It appeared to us no lighter than on a weekday, perhaps the fact that it was the day after the Cup Final had a bearing on it. However we visited Winchmore Hill, the area I grew up in during the war, primarily to see the house in which I lived, then drove into London and eventually back to Cromer. Whilst in Cromer we visited Sandringham and Norwich amongst other places.

Our next stop was to be the Costa del Sol in Spain, but as our flight out of Gatwick was at 19.15hrs on Saturday we decided it was prudent to drive to Gatwick the day before which we did, going via Colchester, Holland-on-Sea and Clacton.

Come Saturday morning 23rd May we joined the crowds at Gatwick Airport to connect with our flight to Madrid where we arrived at 13.00hrs local time. We picked up a car to drive through to our destination near Fuengirola, 50Km from Malaga, where we spent a week, this is about a five and a half hour drive from Madrid.

Whilst there we visited Malaga, Gibraltar and Marabella where there is a yacht marina said to be only second to the yacht harbour at Monte Carlo. It was soon time to move on to our last destination, Albufeira near Faro in Portugal, this part of our journey was undertaken by coach which we joined in Huelva about 350Kms from Malaga, we drove to Huelva and connected with the coach at 18.00hrs.

It is about a 2 hour drive by coach to Faro where we collected our next car arriving at our accommodation at about 19.30hrs local time (Portugal is one hour behind Spain). We spent most of our time here exploring on foot and taking meals at some of the large number of restaurants in the area, after a week it was finally time to return to Johannesburg, so we headed for Lisbon to connect with our flight back to London from where we joined an aircraft to arrive at a cold and windy Johannesburg International Airport at 09.00hrs Sunday 7th June.

C V T Bumberry

Into the Bumberry archives

The Bumberry name first appears in the Potton registers in 1618 and continues until 1880. The trades of joiner and turner are common amongst the men and in the early 1700s there were frequent investments in land and property. John Bumberry's will of 1725 mentions land in Potton, Morden and Shepreth. In 1738 properties in Horselow Street were owned by Thomas and his sons.

A marriage in 1809 into another family of carpenters, the Seamers resulted in cooperative projects between the two which culminated in the building of the public house now known as the Bricklayers Arms, two cottages later to become one which many will remember as associated with Bert Sharman's farm shop and a former row of cottages in Newtown known as Bumberry's Row. Only the Bricklayer's Arms and a few documents now remain to remind us of this enterprising family.

Norman Parry

The John of Gaunt Connection

The following well known verse is recorded in 'Magna Britannia' by William Camden (1551 - 1623);

*I, John of Gaunt,
Do give and do grant,
Unto Roger Burgoyne
and the heirs of his loin,
Both Potton and Sutton,
Until the world's rotten.* (other versions, 'Thomas Burgoyne')

Similar Elizabethan rhymes are not confined to Bedfordshire. John of Gaunt, who lived from 1340 - 1399, had the reputation of taking and giving land at will.

In 1315 Alice le Latimer vested the right of Sutton Manor to the House of Lancaster if Nicholas Latimer died without an heir. By 1381, the Manor was held by John Neville in right of his wife, Elizabeth le Latimer. As a direct male line had not been followed, Henry, Earl of Derby, successfully claimed Sutton Manor in 1392. He was the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

Thomas Burgoyne, auditor to the Duchy of Lancaster, received a perpetual grant of Sutton Manor for himself and his heirs in 1544. The Manor or Potton Regis followed the same line of descent from the Latimers.

By linking ownership of land by the House of Lancaster in the 14th century to an auditor, Thomas Burgoyne, in the 16th century an incorrect belief that John of Gaunt gave Potton and Sutton land to the Burgoynes has endured.

But, one must admit, in spite of being incorrect, the verse gives one a sense of history. Perhaps that is why it has survived!

Patricia R Yates

The Burgoyne Connection

Members of the Burgoyne family had owned land in Potton from 1507 to 1757, so it was fitting that the Society celebrated its 21st birthday in the Sutton home of the late Sir John Burgoyne, 10th Baronet.

Thomas Fisher's pencil sketch shows a view of an earlier 'Sutton House'. The 9th Baronet, also named John, made a dramatic first entry in his diary of 1825 -:

March 3rd: Received an express to say that Sutton House was burnt to the ground. Went down there immediately, and found it totally destroyed. It had only last year been new roofed and thoroughly repaired.

It is believed that many documents relating to the family's history were lost.



A copy of 'The seat of Sir Montague Burgoyne at Sutton' by Thomas Fisher (undated - circa 1812-1822)

Copy by Keith Lawrence for Potton History Society

Although the Potton Estate had been sold to Admiral John Byng in 1757, an interest in the Church was continued by the Burgoyne family. Thomas presented an organ in 1826, and he authorised an investment to be made to promote psalmody. In 1845, his executors donated £21 to the Church School Building Fund, and Sir John, 9th Baronet, gave a similar amount.

I hope those who attended the celebrations on October 22nd 1998 noticed a sketch of the last Sir John on display in the Reception Area. A larger version can be seen in Sutton School as a reminder that he was instrumental in providing the village with a new building in 1870.

Following family traditions, Sir John had a military career, serving as Lieutenant Colonel in the Grenadier Guards and Colonel in the 3rd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. He published the history of the Bedfordshire Militia, 1759-1884, in which he served as Lieutenant Colonel. Sir John's public duties included being JP for Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire and Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff for Bedfordshire.

Sir John had purchased a small house on the Isle of Wight, and from there, spent part of the year making visits to foreign parts and cruising along the English coast. During these times, Sutton House was usually occupied by tenants.

In the last week of August, 1870, Sir John left Ryde and sailed in his cutter yacht 'Gazelle' for the French coast. His destination was the small port of Deauville, where he was to meet his wife, who had been on holiday in Switzerland.

France was not a safe place for travel at that time as Emperor Napoleon III's attack on the Prussians had been unsuccessful. As Sir John waited, reports were received that the Emperor had been taken prisoner. It was ten days before Lady Burgoyne arrived, as all the French railways were dislocated. A revolution was now under way in Paris, and even in Deauville, foreigners were being treated with hostility.

Just a few hours before he was due to sail, Sir John was approached by a stranger who said he had been in the employ of the Emperor. Empress Eugenie was, at that moment, sheltering in rooms in the Town and was anxious to leave the country. With some reluctance, and after consulting his wife, Sir John agreed to take her to England. During the latter part of the journey they encountered a fierce gale. After landing at Ryde, the Empress travelled by steamer to Portsmouth and then on to Hastings to join her son.

The press made much of Sir John's heroic deed. Lady Burgoyne was rewarded with the gift of a costly locket containing a photograph of the Empress, who became a frequent guest of the Burgoynes during their yachting holidays at Cowes.

Although twice married, Sir John died in 1921 without issue. His widow was well known in the district, being involved in many organisations. In 1953, whilst I was visiting a school for Cree Indians in Moosonee (on the edge of James Bay in Ontario, Canada), an English staff member, on hearing that I came from Bedfordshire, recalled meeting Lady Burgoyne in connection with the Red Cross. She was often seen cycling around the Town, with gifts for the needy. On her death in 1938, the unentailed estate was inherited by her nephew, and then sold.

When Potton Middle School was opened in 1976 it was named "Burgoyne" after Dame Constance who gave £50 to the parish 'the interest of which to be applied towards teaching poor children to read and write'. Her legacy of 1711 is included in the Consolidated Charities of the Town.

So the name lives on in bricks and mortar.

Patricia R Yates

Personal Memories:1975-1985

In 1975, my husband, Ralph, was employed at Sandye Place School as Head of Department for the Education of Children with Special Needs. Whilst taking a lunch time music group on the first day of the Summer Term, he suffered a serious haemorrhage in both eyes. The resulting condition was diagnosed as Diabetic Retinopathy. It was the end of his teaching career.

During the next four terms he managed to occupy himself at home. Fortunately, music was a great joy to him. Much time was spent in composing four part arrangements for the Gamlingay Choral Group which he had conducted for many years. We also obtained books recorded on tape from the National Institute for the Blind.

At that time, no rehabilitation or retraining was available for people of mature years. A publication, "In Touch", issued by the BBC in connection with the Radio Programme for visually handicapped people, provided us with useful guidelines. I continued working as Head teacher of Sutton School. As the eye condition deteriorated, the insulin dependent diabetes became more difficult to control so I resigned from my post at the end of the Summer Term, 1976.

When, in the Autumn of that year, it was announced that a meeting would be held to discuss the possibility of celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, we decided to attend. To our surprise, it was proposed that we serve on the Jubilee Committee as joint Vice Chairmen under the Chairmanship of Douglas Coombes. We were now involved with the life and activities within the Town.

On researching previous celebrations, many exciting and interesting factors were revealed, dating from the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838. As the Jubilee brochure shows, a varied programme of events was arranged. People were brought together in a very special way as there was something for everyone to enjoy. At a public meeting, the resulting profits were offered to the Town to provide a lasting memento, but as no suitable suggestions were forthcoming, it was decided that the money be allocated to the formation of a Trust Fund to support the publication of a History of Potton. As an interest in Potton's past had been aroused during the celebrations, a History Society came into being on October 13th 1977. (Details of H.P.T.F. and P.H.S. appear in the Society's Newsletter No.17, issued in 1994).

Over a period of two years, I taught my husband touch typing (from a manual). He was then able to type reports of Committee & Members' Meetings, transcribe taped memories of Pottonians, and, from dictation, the captions for Picture Books 1 and 2 and the complete script for Research Project No.3, Potton Consolidated Charities. By 1980, after five unsuccessful eye operations, Ralph was entirely without sight. Fortunately, our joint interest in local history, and the many discoveries made, brought much satisfaction to him during his years of darkness.

Sadly, Picture's of Potton Book 2 and Potton Consolidated Charities were not published until after his death in April 1985.

It is ironic to think that had my husband not developed Diabetic Retinopathy in 1975, we would both have been too busy with our careers to have become involved with either the Town's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, or with the subsequent recording of Potton's History.

Such is Fate!

Patricia R Yates

Forthcoming Programme

May 27th	Cambridge Photographers 1844-1900	Mr M Petty
Jun 24th	Swiss garden visit	See below
Jul 22nd	At the Parish Boundary	Mr P Ibbett
Aug 26th	Local evening	
Sep 23rd	History beneath our feet	Mr B Oxley
Oct 28th	Churches of Beds and Herts	Mr P Lepper

1999 Trips

One aspect of your **active society** is the inclusion of trips in our annual programme. After our 21st year we return to **normal service!** We plan a trip to the **Swiss Garden** at Old Warden on Thursday June 24th, starting at 7pm at the garden. We will be hiring two guides and providing a choice of long or short walk. Members will need to organise their own transport. Booking for this evening will open at the April meeting when the final cost per person will be known.

We plan our 6th Day Trip on Sunday 25th July. This will be to **Buckden** to visit its historic **Towers**. We hope to visit St Neots and its museum in the morning and to return via Grafham Water and the byways of North Bedfordshire. The trip will include the usual commentary from the organisers! Further details at the April meeting.

In both cases a firm place can only be provided on payment of the fee which is not usually returnable. Contact Peter Ibbett for further details.

NOTICE BOARD

Dates for your diary

Cockayne Hatley - the End of an Era

The Hall at Cockayne Hatley is currently vacant, and it seems likely that, after several centuries, the village will have lost its centre and meeting place. We are therefore holding a "final" event at the Hall on **Saturday April 24th**. This will consist of a display of many pictures and artefacts recalling the history of the village - particularly in the time of the apple orchards. The display will be held in the Hall between 10am and 2.00 pm. There is a small admission fee of 50p in aid of church restoration (children free).

There will also be a sale of cakes and plants. Coffee and scones will be available. Please join us for this historic (and sad) event.

While you are at Cockayne Hatley you should not miss seeing the recently installed, superb monument in the churchyard to the crew of the Liberator bomber which crashed in Potton Wood in 1945.

Antony Crossley

--oo0oo--

Come to the fair

Volunteers are needed to man our stand at the Potton Cricket Club Fete at The Hollow on **Monday 3rd May** and at the Potton Show in St. Mary's Field on **Saturday 11th September**.

--oo0oo--

Newsletter no 27

Your articles, letters, comments and memories are always most welcome. Please pass items to Mary Leigh or any other committee member. The deadline for copy to be included in the next issue will be 1st September 1999.