

POTTON HISTORY SOCIETY

43rd Programme 2020

- Jan 23rd** **Potton Expands Again**
Material and photographs from our archives shows how Potton has expanded in the past from 1000 in 1801 to over 5000 today.
- Feb 27th** **Wings Over Thurleigh** **Barry Tomlinson**
The story of RAE Bedford and its military and Civil engineering work from a man who worked there during the last half of the 20th century
- Mar 26th** **Royal Observer Corps** **John Shere & Edwina Holden MBE**
The ROC was formed in 1925 and gained a valuable role as the “eyes and ears of the RAF” and later had a role in the ‘Cold War’
- Apr 23rd** **Potton Family Stories** **Heather Curry**
Heather has been working through our rich seam of family files in our archives and has uncovered some fascinating tales of parish life. Bring your own family stories.
- May 28th** **Salvation Army 130th June 7-9**
The Salvation Army opened its Bull Street Barracks on June 7th 1890. This evening looks at how the group has contributed to the life of the town as it celebrates its 130th birthday
- Jun 25th** **Potton Churchyard Walk** *** 7.30 at the Churchyard***
The memorial stones of Potton Churchyard have many stories to tell as well as examples of the stonemason’s art.
- Jul 23rd** **The Emily Shore Archive**
Emily (1819 – 1839) lived for a-while in Potton & at Woodbury. Her diaries and sketches and also research by Anne Harvey are now in our archives.
- Aug 27th** **Potton Posters**
A display of posters held in the society archive provides a history of businesses and events in the town over the last 140 years.
- Sep 24th** **Dramatic Potton Past & Present** **Marcia Jackson**
Potton Playhouse look back at a century of dramatic evenings in Potton as well as providing video clips and live entertainment!
- Oct 22nd** **Musical Life in Edwardian Potton** **Dr Ross Purves**
This talk (with musical examples) features the contributions of the Robarts & Stapley families to the musical life of our town as well as their involvement with British & South African variety theatre and music making in rural Ontario.
- Nov 26th** **Potton In 1920** ***7.30 start for the AGM of the Society*** **Peter Ibbett**
Our archives and the Biggleswade Chronicle help provide a picture of our parish coping with peacetime after four years of the ‘Great War.’
- Dec 10th** **Pictorial Entertainment.**
Finish the year with Christmas refreshments and enjoy a dip into our photographic & video archives of past & present Potton.

Membership Fees 2020:- Single £8; Joint £14; Concessions £6 /£12; Visitors £3. All meetings (except visits & walks) will take place in the Community Centre in Brook End and will normally start at 8pm. Any changes will be announced in the local press, www.pottonhistorysociety.org.uk and our Facebook page.

44th Annual Programme 2021 Draft Ideas

**Dates:- Jan 28th; Feb 25th; Mar 25th; (Easter Mon Apr 5th) Ap 22nd; May 27th;
June 24th; Jul 22nd; Aug 26th; Sept 23rd; Oct 28th; Nov 25th; Dec 9th.**

1. Overall structure. Party On Potton. Events in Annexe
2. Ideas for discussion

Society Evenings

Rex Whitfield Family / Charities

1921 Census / Potton in 1921

War memorial Unveiling ... Stories of men involved. Henry Tysoe