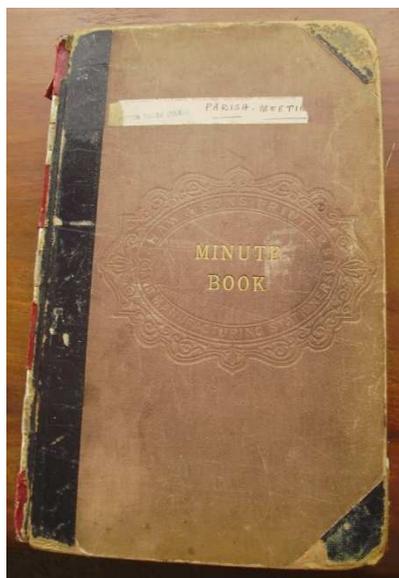


## New additions to the Archives

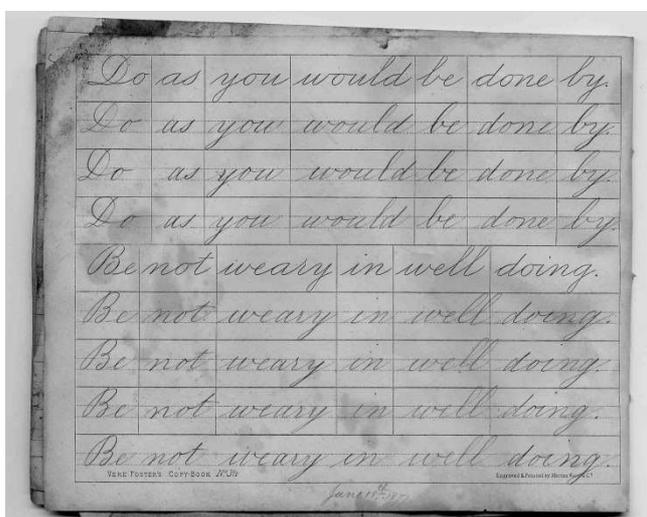
A constant flow of new material continues to appear in our Archive rooms and the ongoing indexing of our document files throws up items we have forgotten about. Here are some of the latest items to be added to our collection.

### 1. Potton Parish Council Minute Book 1894 to 2006



The Council lent us their minute book which we have copied for our archives. Its 242 pages cover annual parish meetings over the last 112 years (not the regular business meetings). Parish Councils began life in 1895 with two pages of the minute book listing the rules for the new councillors to absorb. The 1897 Jubilee is covered in detail as are the early elections for the Town Council but by 1906 entries began to take the form of:- 'the minutes of the last annual meeting were read. No business was transacted.' By the 1930's there were regular items to be discussed. The latest generation of Pottonians gain a comprehensive report from its councillors and are still of a mind to keep pointing out parts of the town that should be kept tidy! I hope to make the book the subject of a future Society meeting.

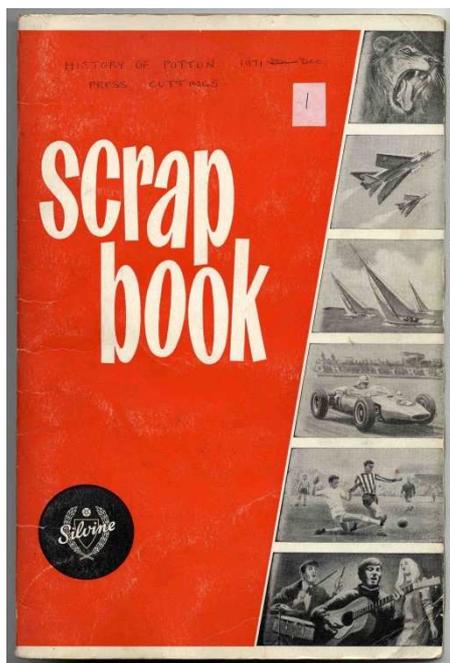
### 2. Bessie Brown's handwriting copybook.



The current owner of the Castle House in Station Road has uncovered material from the days of the tailor Parker Brown. They include his sister Bessie's handwriting copybook. The page from June 18<sup>th</sup> 1877 shows the style of the day as well as doing its bit to ensure that the upcoming generation became worthy members of the local community. Other items include a tailors catalogue and magazine. We hope to add them to the web site.

**Have YOU similar items we could copy and add to our education files?**

### 3. Janet Norman's 1971 & 1972 Scrapbooks



Scrapbooks are invaluable sources of information. Mrs Yates began a series of Potton scrapbooks in 1977 which Janet continues today maintaining an unbroken sequence. She has her own scrapbooks from the 70's which we are gradually copying. These are important in establishing dates for changes in the town. In April 1971 it was announced that the **Tanyard was to close** by the end of the year with 85 workers to be offered posts at an associated company at Hitchin. Changes in shop ownership can be established from small items of news such as '**Car hits shop window**' in August 1972. 'A Gamlingay man's car crashed into a shop window in Potton Market Square early on Thursday last week. The driver was slightly injured. The car went into the plate glass window of Howard's clothes shop, which is up for sale.

**Have YOU any memories of these events or any news items from before 1970?**

### 4. Philip Westmoreland's Weather records for 2010.

Philip has been logging weather data in Potton since the 1970's and his continuous record makes fascinating reading. How did 2010 match up to previous years and did the great freeze of December 2010 match up to its ancestors? The **maximum** temperatures in degrees centigrade and rainfall (inches) for 2010 in Philips garden were :-

January	03	1.56	Dull & very cold. Hard frosts. 19 frosts
February	05	3.08	Cold, dull & wet. 18 frosts.
March	10	1.17	Turning milder. Showery. 8 frosts
April	16	0.65	Dry & sunny. 2 frosts
May	18	1.72	Fair with variable cloud & sun
June	23	1.05	Warm & dry
July	25	1.23	Very warm & humid. Unsettled at end of month
August	21	4.98	Unsettled & very wet
September	19	1.68	Cooling off after a warm start
October	14	1.88	Changeable. 3 frosts
November	07	1.06	Mild start then very cold. 10 frosts
December	01	0.68	Very cold with snow. 25 frosts.

Philip records December as the coldest since 1981. (Others reckoned it was the coldest since the last ice-age!) Overall the year had an average maximum of 13.5 Centigrade which was slightly cooler than 2009 but still overall an average year! Total rainfall was 20.74 inches ... one of the lowest since Philip started recording in the early 1970's. The full daily data can be found on the web site.

**Have you any weather memories, documents or photographs from 2010 ?**

