

# Potton History Society 'Annexe' Community Archive C-19 Update Number 2



**Annex to Mill Lane Pavilion completed 2017**



The Society has suspended its monthly programmes and its archive meetings. The room at the Mill Lane Pavilion is normally a hive of activity on Monday mornings but will need to remain closed until the C-19 Virus outbreak subsides. We intend to keep members and others in touch with 'at-home' work we are carrying out and also suggest ways in which you can help add to our archives.

## **1. Our 2020 Photographic Project**

Our research group is working from home to index and 'tag' our 11000 in tray of scanned and digital photographs! We are making good progress and have got around 50% of the way.

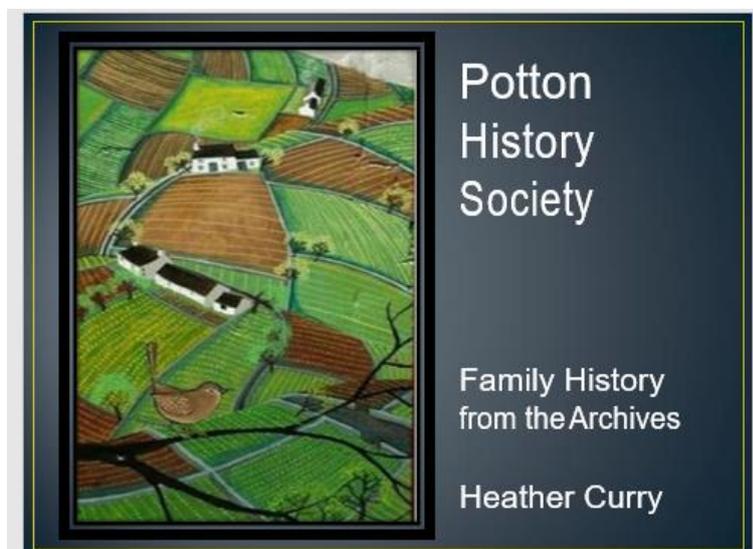
## **2. Our latest 'old-timer' newcomer to our archives.**

Jeremy Surtees has contacted us with a treasure trove of photographic items relating to the Surtees family who used to live in Potton. It included this photograph which shows 28 King Street. The field in the foreground is now Spencer Close and the Causeway runs along the right-hand side. The Church can be seen centre background. We do not know the date. Can YOU help with any information about the house or the Surtees family?



### 3. Our April meeting

This members meeting has had to be cancelled. Committee member Heather Curry was due to present an evening about the family research she has been doing using our archives. Available on our web site will be the material she would have used in her talk. It includes (by coincidence) information about the Surtees family and 28 King Street! Do feed back to us any more information you may have about any material in Heather's presentation or anything else you can add about Potton families.



#### 4. Written or Typed copies of oral histories

Miss Frances Agnes Surtees in Conversation with Rex Whitfield in 1978.



28 King Street the home of Miss Frances Agnes Surtees

Born 14<sup>th</sup> July 1894 in [Croxtan Cambs](#). She died in 1983 at 28 King Street

Daughter of John Leonard Surtees and Elizabeth nee Hill (Surname Surtees: place name By River Tees)

Her father started his life in [Renhold](#) but in 1891 was in Croxtan as a [farm manager](#) living with his Aunt Jane who was a house keeper at the Spread Eagle.

1911 the family is at King Street, Frances and Three brothers - Richard Barron, Leonard [Goodliffe](#) and Arthur John.

Her Father was Farm Bailiff for Home Farm and Spencer Farm owned by William Smith, brother of Henry Smith.

In the 1939 register Miss Surtees was at home with her father now retired and was keeping house. Her mother had died in 1934. Her brother Leonard was recorded as a poultry farmer.

#### 4. Past Potton History Society meetings

Peter Ibbett has presented a range of topics over the last four decades (!) and will be looking back and putting a number of his presentations onto the society web site. The first will be his armchair walk from 2009 around the parish boundary to highlight some of the history of the town. Things have changed so you might be able to update some of the information!

### Where Is The Potton Parish Boundary?



OS Map 1989

We are all parish dwellers.  
Yet how many of us could accurately visualise our own parish boundary?

Our ancestors "Beat The Parish Bounds" to assert their rights.  
They knew the whole parish not just the centre.

It is at the boundaries that we hold back or cross over to pastures anew.

It is at the boundaries that one can pause and contemplate the direction to take.

Peter Ibbett

PERAMBULATION OF THE BOUNDS.

It was the custom in Ascension week to walk and redefine the boundaries of the parish. The ceremony was carried out by the Incumbent, Churchwardens and parishioners. The custom is known to date from the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

TIMELINE 1999 Queen Elizabeth II

Local Historians Encyclopedia, John Richardson 1974.

We hope to provide some information about VE Day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW in Potton using material we would have used at the May day celebration on our web site.

**Today's life is tomorrow's archive.** Involve children (or even yourself) in recording their 2020 environment. Get them (or you) to keep a diary of how events have changed their life in Potton. It will make fascinating reading in 50 or 100 years time. **OUR ARCHIVE RECORDS TODAY AS WELL AS PRESERVING THE PAST.** Some of the most interesting material we have is about people and how they dealt with life.

Potton History Society [www.pottonhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.pottonhistorysociety.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/pottonhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/groups/pottonhistorysociety)