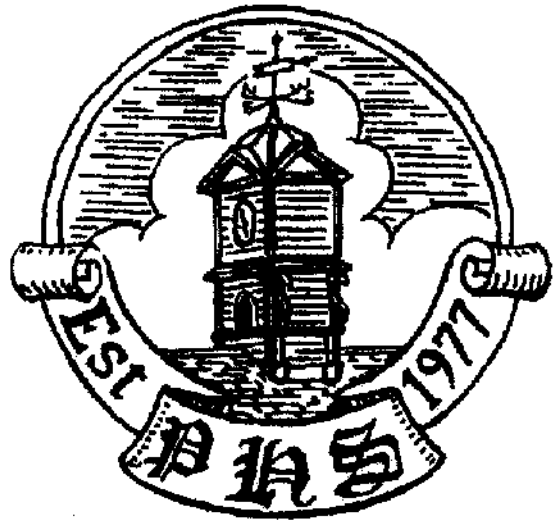
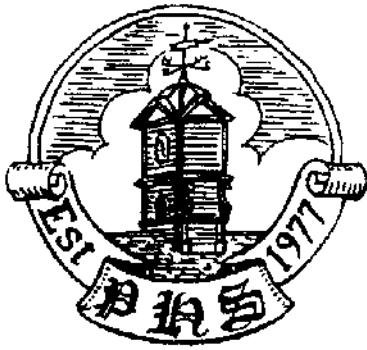


# Dotton History Society



NEWSLETTER NO.20 SPRING 1996



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Reg Charity Nos 290895

## Society News

Firstly can I apologize for the briefness of this newsletter, due entirely to the house move recently occurring in the Leigh family and thereby affecting both your secretary and co-editors. Any future communication should be addressed to 8 Station Road, Biggleswade. SG18 8AL. Tel. 01767 314024

The Society's AGM, which preceded the November '95 meeting, saw no changes in the existing committee, all members being willing to stand for a further year.

Those of you who are familiar with the history of Potton Manor will recall that during its closing years the owner was Otto Von Smekal, a gentleman engaged in experimental work in the motor car industry. It is hoped that one of the remnants of his work, in the shape of the Champion car, will shortly be returning to Potton in the care of Potton History Society. During the winter months much correspondence has taken place with Beaulieu Motor Museum, the current custodians of the vehicle, and it is hoped that the final arrangements will be completed shortly.

At our May meeting members will again be visiting the Sandy Road Cemetery to continue the gravestone recording project. We now have a good supply of the official recording cards, together with the numbered map, and would hope to see considerable progress being made this summer. If any members would like to take a batch of 10 cards to work on in their own time, please contact George Howe on 260935. It is simply a matter of recording the inscriptions and I can guarantee that if you choose a warm sunny afternoon you will have a most pleasant and peaceful hour.

On completion of our 1945 project last year, an appeal was made for memorabilia from the year 1946 to carry the project forward. If anyone has items relating to this period please bring them along to any of our meetings, as we always have a display area, or contact Peter Ibbett on 01480 812731.

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## Bedfordshire Local History Association

Since its inception 3 years ago, Mr Norman Parry has represented Potton on the committee of the Association. This has entailed trekking to all the far corners of Bedfordshire to attend meetings, and we are most grateful to him for his commitment. Norman will be standing down at the Association's AGM on 11th May and unfortunately we have not found an alternative candidate to put forward, although East Bedfordshire will still be represented by Rex Skinner from Biggleswade.

## Coach Trip 1996

Bookings are now being taken for our 4th annual coach trip. This year we shall be heading towards North Bedfordshire, a region that is still unknown even to many who have lived in the county most of their lives.

This day trip will leave Potton at 10am and will explore the parishes that lie to the north of the Ouse. The cost will include a full commentary as well as a ploughman's lunch and tea. The trip will include a variety of activities and return to Potton by 6pm. The cost will not be greater than £12.

Contact Peter Ibbett on 01480 812731 if you would like to join us.

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### **Forthcoming Programme**

Jun 27th	The Villages of North Bedfordshire	Chris Pickford
Jul 25th	Potton Wills	Norman Parry
Aug 22nd	Local Evening	
Sep 26th	Antique Maps of Beds and Hunts	David Bushby
Oct 24th	Richardson Family History	Peter Ibbett
Nov 28th	AGM	Note 7.30 pm start
	Bedfordshire Museums	Jason Doherty

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### **New Publication**

Tracing Ancestors in Bedfordshire by Colin R Chapman

New 60 page guide for people interested in their Bedfordshire ancestors. Contains a wealth of information about the available sources. Copies on sale at the County Record Office and available from retail outlets and family history bookstalls. Cost £4.50 (plus 50p for postage and packing)

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### **Jazz on the Lawn**

This year the Patronal Festival of St John the Baptist Church, Cockayne Hatley will include a **Lunchtime Jazz Concert** in the gardens of the Old Rectory, Cockayne Hatley, on Sunday 23rd June, in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. The Old Rectory was built in 1854 by the Hon. & Rev. Henry Cockayne Cust - who owned the estate at the time. The coat of arms of Cockayne Cust can be seen on the front of the house, and the initials "H.C.C.". The present building replaced an older Rectory which was nearer the village road. It should be an ideal venue for a lunchtime picnic.

Music will be provided by the Cambridge Riverside Jazz Band. The event will take place from 12 noon to 4.00pm. A licensed bar will be available (including "real ale"), with hot and cold snacks for sale or you may bring your own picnic. Entrance is £5 - free to accompanied children. All are welcome. Tickets may be obtained from Tony Crossley at the History Society, from Quinces in the Market Square or by phone (Potton 631718).

On Saturday 22nd June, the church will be decorated with flowers and will be open from 10am to 5pm, with tea and scones served in the afternoon.