Dear Beatrix Potter Admirers,

A photo of the Tower Bank Arms in Near Sawrey to open with. Not the familiar view from the road, but the sign and the clock over the door are visible, still very much as they appeared in *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck*.

The usual variety of news, events and photos awaits, with a few glimpses of the Autumn Meeting in the Lakes. More on that in the next couple of issues, and in the January *Journal and Newsletter*. Of special interest, an old Yorkshire Television production that aired in the UK in the 1970s, including interviews with people who knew Beatrix. Be sure to set aside a little time for it.

To start off, here's a moment from the Autumn Meeting: Liz Hunter MacFarlane, House and Collections Manager, speaking to the Society group at the after-hours visit to Hill Top:

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**Society News**

*The October J&N* will have details of the recent changes in the running of the Society, including a switch to a different type of charitable status. At the Special General Meeting in Sawrey, earlier this month, Members present agreed to the change in status, and the Committee will be working with the Charity Commission to do this. The Society will still be called The Beatrix Potter Society and will continue to exist on more or less the same lines, still with charitable status.

*The Festive Gathering* at the Sloane Club in London, Saturday, December 2, is quickly approaching. More information and the ticket application will be in the October *J&N*. Don't delay in sending the

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**The Beatrix Potter Society**

Interested in learning more about Beatrix Potter?
Consider joining the Society. Meet others who are passionate about Beatrix Potter, her life and works. You will also receive the quarterly *Journal and Newsletter*, full of interesting articles about Miss Potter and the Society’s efforts and events.

Find more information about the Society [here](#), and the membership form and details [here](#).

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**Save the Date:**

**Saturday March 3, 2018:**
AGM and Linder Lecture, Sloane Club, London
Doors open at 12:30, tea and coffee served at 1:00, meeting and Lecture from 2:00

**March 24, 2018:**
San Diego, CA
"The Worlds of Beatrix Potter and Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Celebration of their art and writing, farms and gardens"
application if you hope to attend - this entertaining event often sells out. Doors will open at noon, lunch at 1:00.

In Other News:

The National Trust is embroiled in another Lake District upset with new measures to limit trail hunting (where a scent is dragged to create an artificial trail for the hounds to follow) on Trust lands. Locals argue this goes against Beatrix's wishes as she supported the hunt. For both sides, see the articles in the MailOnline and The Guardian, and the National Trust's position on trail hunting.

Following Up:

The River and Rowing Museum's exhibit, "Peter Rabbit: Mischief and Mayhem" is closing as we send this but Caroline Brown, an assistant curator at the museum, has written to say the exhibit will be going out on tour around the UK in the future. We'll post news on venues in the "Events" space when details become available. Caroline writes, "We've been amazed at how popular our Peter Rabbit exhibition has been. We have just had our busiest July ever, with lots of new visitors coming through the doors for the very first time. It has been lovely to see families enjoying the exhibition together and getting to know Peter Rabbit even better. He certainly is one popular little bunny!".

September 11 - 15, 2018:
Autumn Conference, Kendal, Cumbria
Accompanying Tour dates coming soon.

Quick Links

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Read the previous issue of "Pottering About" here.

Visit the Society's web page: The Beatrix Potter Society

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"Pottering About"

Editor:
**Benjamin Bunny**, The Royal Mint's final coin in the Beatrix Potter series was released recently. Not surprisingly, the colour version sold out rapidly, but the uncoloured version is still available on The Royal Mint's [website](http).

**Events:**

**In the UK:**

**September 26 - October 29, 2017**, Discovery Centre, [Clumber Park](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/clumber-park) (near Worksop)

"Beatrix Potter - Tale of Funguses", a small exhibit about Beatrix as an amateur mycologist. Of additional interest is the Festival of Fungi programme, October 3 - 18, with a variety of family activities including fungi forays, fungi photography and exhibitions of rare species found at Clumber Park.

**In the US:**

**September 27, 2017, 2:00 p.m.**, New Pond Farm, 101 Marchant Road, Redding, CT

Meredith McClung will give a talk on Beatrix Potter, followed by a tea. To reserve a seat, email Ann Taylor, [ann@newpondfarm.org](mailto:ann@newpondfarm.org).

**September 30, 2017, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**, Cheekwood Botanic Hall, Nashville, TN
The Herb Society of Nashville, "Through the Garden Gate: A Glimpse of Edwardian England". As part of the day's events, Marta McDowell will give a talk about Beatrix Potter. Fran Gray will be in attendance as Beatrix. More information can be found here.

**March 28, 2018,** Best Western Plus Island Palms, Shelter Island, San Diego, CA
"The Worlds of Beatrix Potter and Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Celebration of their art and writing, farms and gardens"
Marta McDowell will give a talk, "Pottering About in a Wilder Garden: Beatrix Potter and Laura Ingalls Wilder in Farm, Garden and Nature", and Connie Neumann will discuss "Rabbit Tales and Pioneer Trails: The Parallel Worlds of Beatrix Potter and Laura Ingalls Wilder".
More information and the registration form are available here.

**At the Theatre:**

**In the UK:**

The Old Laundry Theatre, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria
"The Christmas Gift", December 19 - 21, 2017
Four famous Christmas stories are bound together with music, storyte readings and a visit from Santa Claus with gifts and surprises for the children in the audience. BPS Member Patricia Barnicott is part of the and will be reading The Tailor of Gloucester.
Tickets can be purchased through the Old Laundry Theatre's website.

**Videos:**

Our intrepid BP sleuth, David Pepper, outdid himself when he unearthed this video link to a Yorkshire Television programme, "The Strange Life of Beatrix Potter - A Story of Rabbits and Mushrooms", from the early 1970s. There are a number of interviews with people who knew Beatrix, including two of the Moore daughters, Mary Rogerson (the housekeeper at Castle Cottage), Tom Storey (Beatrix's farm manager at Hill Top), and Winifred Warne (the niece Norman Warne built "the" doll's house for).
Also of note, Leslie Linder appears at the beginning of the program.
Andrew Wiltshire, author of Beatrix Potter's Secret Code Breaker, about Linder, says "It was spooky being taken back to watching Leslie in the garden of his home and in his study, where I saw him working".
At a shade under 45 minutes, this is definitely worth setting aside the time to enjoy. Thanks, David!

It seems almost sacrilegious to follow with this clip, but here's the trailer for the new Peter Rabbit movie. Due out in early 2018, it uses a combination of live-action and animation (that part of it looks quite well done), and stars James Corden, Domhnall Gleeson, and Margot Robbie. In emails to "Pottering About" it has been described as "terrible", "awful", "garbage" and "an abomination". It could be argued that BP Society Members are biased, but this comment in "Collider" is equally scathing. (Thanks to Connie Neumann for sending the review.) No doubt it will be better received by younger viewers. What do you think?

To end this segment on a better note, here's one for our Japanese-speaking readers. In early September, an episode of a Japanese TV program, Sekai-Fushigi Hakken (Discovery of the World's Mysteries), featured Beatrix Potter. The footage in the first half was filmed in the
UK (a few familiar faces and places may be spotted), but the Hill Top in the second half, starting at 26:30, is the recreation at the Daito Bunka University near Tokyo. A minute on, Yoshihide Kawano, our BPS Liaison Officer for Japan, meets the host, Barby Higa, and shows her around the university's Potter reference library and collection.

Tidbits:

Those attending the Society's Autumn Meeting in Sawrey were pleased to meet new Members Sven and Pamela Hammarling. Sven is the son of Beatrix Moore and grandson of Annie (Carter) Moore. For those not familiar with the names, Annie Carter was Beatrix Potter's governess when Beatrix was in her late teens and Annie only three years older. They remained good friends and Beatrix Moore, Annie's youngest child, was Beatrix's goddaughter. Sven is writing an article for the January J&N and we look forward to learning more about the friendship and family memories. The connection makes Beatrix feel closer, just a wee bit beyond our reach, and not so far from our time, doesn't it?
Sven and Pam are shown in the doorway of the old Moore family home (now under different ownership) in the photo, above. There's also a photo of Annie Moore and two of her daughters, believed to be Hilda and Beatrix, at 17:03 in the Yorkshire Television video. The interview that follows that photo is with one of the Moore daughters, though it isn't clear which one.

Photos: J. Sullivan

With the advent of safer lighting for artefacts, such as LED, the National Trust is experimenting with increased lighting at Hill Top, starting with the doll’s house. The interior has been transformed from near darkness to a cozy home.

Several of you sent reviews for Bruce Handy’s book, *Wild Things: The Joy of Reading Children’s Literature as an Adult* (Bruce Handy is a contributing editor for Vanity Fair). Authors mentioned in the book include Beatrix Potter, Maurice Sendak, Dr Seuss, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and C.S. Lewis. Here are the reviews from *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*. Thanks to all who sent the links.

Shoo Rayner, (British author/illustrator) tries to teach you (and himself!) how to paint like Beatrix Potter in this video on his website where he recreates one of the illustrations of Jeremy Fisher. As a bonus, he includes a second video in which he reads the Tale from his own childhood copy (after whisking aside a first edition!).

It's Scarecrow Festival time in the UK, and a favourite Potter character has won the Mayor's Award for Best Scarecrow in Hickling.
(near Melton Mowbray), where this year’s theme was nursery rhymes and fairytales. The full article appears in the *Melton Times*.

![Photo: Tim Williams, Melton Times](image)

**The Law Society Gazette (UK)** was looking for law firms with literary connections and noted W Heelis & Son Solicitors, established around 1820 and still in practice as Temple Heelis. "Once upon a time William Heelis worked as a respected country solicitor at his modest offices in Hawkshead, Cumbria. The building was cold by all accounts, gloomy too, but when a certain Beatrix Potter walked through the door looking for help buying a farm, history was in the making." The short article goes on to make it sound as though Beatrix was creating her little books while William toiled at the office - yes, not quite the case during the marriage, but lovely to see some attention for William!

**In Closing:**

Thank you for reading, and for all the contributions. Please continue to send news of upcoming events, stories, photos and items of interest on all things Potter-related (in 100 to 150 words). Expect the next issue of "Pottering About" at the end of October. Send submissions by **October 25**.

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