

Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Spring 2012





ST ANDREWS CHURCH COTTON

Private View

Saturday 6th May 7.00pm

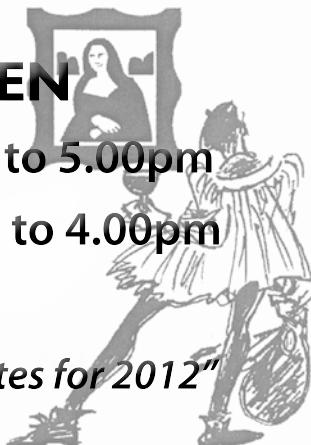
Tickets £7.50 from 781047 or 677444

refreshments served

SHOW OPEN

Sunday 7th May 10am to 5.00pm

Monday 8th May 10am to 4.00pm



"Please note change of dates for 2012"

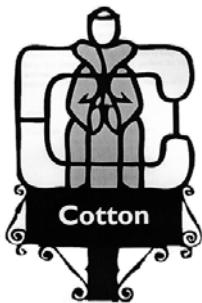
FRIENDS OF COTTON CHURCH

Registered Charity No 1053483

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cotton

Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



At the meeting of Cotton Parish Council held on the 18th January 2012 the Clerk reported that enough volunteers have come forward for the Speedwatch Scheme in the village, MSDC Councillor Stringer will co-ordinate the Scheme in conjunction with Wyverstone & Wickham Skeith. Keith Flynn a Cotton resident is to take over the management of the Cotton web-site from Keith Parsons, the Council expressed their thanks to Keith Parsons for his efforts especially over the last difficult 12 months. A date for "Meet Your MP" has not yet been fixed but it is hoped it will be in the near future.

There have been 4 reported crimes in the village in the last two months, 2 involving breaking into motor vehicles in Mendlesham Rd, theft of scrap metal from a farm in Mendlesham Rd and theft of metal sheets from a farm in Stonham Rd. Residents are reminded to secure all their property paying attention to sheds and heating oil tanks.

S.C.C./ M.S.D.C. Councillor Stringer reported that he had a very constructive meeting with the new Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council and looks forward to having a good working relationship with her. He said that S.C.C. and all relevant services are increasing their presence along the A12 & A14 to combat the problem of rocks being thrown from bridges at passing motorists. MSDC have launched a volunteer snow clearance scheme, volunteers need not worry about insurance liability provided they register their names with the Parish Council they will then be covered by MSDC's insurance policy.

A planning application for retention of a garden shed at Walnut Tree Cottage, Station Rd., was supported provided that the height was reduced and it is sited in a suitable position. The Annual Precept for 2012-2013 of £5400.00 was approved by the Council.

The Parish Plan has been updated and will be circulated to all households and appear on the village web-site.

Councillor Wenban reported that the Diamond Jubilee Committee is on target for raising funds for the celebrations to be held on the Jubilee Bank Holiday Monday, the Parish Council are donating £400.00 towards the cost and will also be purchasing

a variety of trees to plant alongside the village hall playing field to mark the occasion. Councillor Halliday reported that there have been 11 volunteers to provide help under the Good Neighbourhood Scheme and 3 people asking for assistance.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

I have been contacted by several residents concerned about the amount of "dog mess" on the village footpaths. It would be appreciated if dog walkers would clear up after their dogs enabling everyone to enjoy walking around the village.

The Council would still like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming the "Village Archivist". If you are interested please contact me.

Colin Hall

Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

***Council meetings are open to the public
and all are welcome to attend.***

*Meeting dates are advertised on the village
notice boards and the Cotton Website*

Val Coulbridge

Chairman, Cotton Parish Council



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHAT'S ON IN COTTON

VIA OUR WEB SITE

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc

*News of forthcoming events, pictures and
contact details for local organisations*

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chair Mrs Valerie Coulbridge 01449 781047

Vice chair Mrs Jeannie Hutchinson 01449 781320

Councillors

Mrs Beryl Ellis 01449 780007

Mrs Beryl Halliday 01449 781682

Mr David Williams 01449 781645

Mrs Sarah Wenban 01449 781095

Mr Christopher Tester 01449 782134

Parish Clerk Colin Hall 01449 781400

Mid Suffolk District /Suffolk County Councillor

Andrew Stringer 01449 780339

Parish email address: cottonparish@talktalk.net

Parish web-site: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc

Keith Flynn (web-site manager) cottonwebsitemail@gmail.com

N.B. Copy deadline for Cotton Quarterly Summer issue 31 April

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



Christmas Concert

In the Winter edition of this quarterly we advertised the presentation of our first Christmas Concert for two years, St. Andrews having been 'dark' for the restoration project.

The Abbots Consort put on a harmonious and sophisticated performance, they are certainly a magnificent choir with many superb voices. Their organist took several solos, it's terrific to hear St. Andrew's organ in 'full voice'.

Considering we haven't put on this concert for a couple of years we had a pretty good turnout, the Mulled Wine flowing as is our wont and the Committee ladies put on their famous seasonal buffet.

However, there may be some criticism, we are aware of some reports that this choir may be too sophisticated. Their Director of Music put a programme together of such esoteric pieces that it left the audience somewhat baffled, after all we had requested a jolly concert yet many numbers were sung in an extremely sonorous manner whilst as for the carols designed to rouse the audience and remind them it was Christmas two of the six or so were not known either tunes or words, the audience did their best droning on and made up for it with gusto when a more popular carol turned up.

This does sound rather critical, but the event was judged a success helped by a good turnout and made all the more memorable with the Northern Lights organised by Andrew Stringer.

The Cotton Art Show

In the last Quarterly we informed the village that our Art Show dates were likely to be changed on the grounds that it would clash with the village's planned celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This is now confirmed and our organiser, Judith Hamp, has already started work on the project and Artists are currently being recruited.

The dates this year will be:

Private View	Saturday 5th May 2012
Open	Sunday 6th May 2012
Open	Monday 7th May 2012

Other Events

We cannot report on any further events although the Cotton Test Match has some planning in place. Peter Osborne has started approaching teams and several have already signed up. Some infrastructure is already in place.

However with the snow falling outside it seems rather early to be mentioning either the heat waves or the rains of summer.

The Stack of Sax concert last October was so well received that we hope to invite them back for a 'jazzy' evening. Music events go down very well at St. Andrews and the FCC Committee may well introduce more of these.

Alan Coulridge

Chairman FCC

Cotton Village Hall



We are starting this year with a freshly painted interior to the village hall and have already outlined a program of events starting Feb 11th with the welcome return by popular demand of **Rogue Traders**. Our next event is to be our spring **Quiz** 30th March 7-30, when we hope to encourage a team from Huston who laid down a challenge over Christmas to compete against our finest (*Put your team forward to represent Cotton*) with the other teams competing in the general confusion of the quiz.

On the 12th April **Wardrobe** of Stowmarket are again presenting a **Fashion Show**. The Cotton weekend has been brought forward to the spring bank holiday and we will be opening the hall as a tea room along with our usual Scarecrow competition. **All the above events help us to maintain the hall and your support is vital to its upkeep.**

Our playing field and hall will be the venue for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June; see details in the Jubilee Party.

WHAT'S ON

March

- 1st Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 3rd Private Party
- 5th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 6th Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
V/H Com Meeting 7-30pm
- 8th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 12th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 13th Circle Club 2-00pm
Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 15th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 17th Jumble sale PCC 9am - 4pm
- 19th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 20th Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 21st V. P.A. 7-30
- 22nd Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 26th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 27th Circle Club 2-00pm
Cotton Theatre Club 5pm



29th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
30th Quiz Night 7-30pm

April

- 2nd Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 7th Circle Café 10 to 12-30
Private party 2pm to 6pm
- 9th Gospel Meeting 12 to 6-00pm
- 10th Circle Club
- 12th Fashion Show
- 14th 9.30am Zumba Marathon for Breakthrough Breast Cancer
Fund raising stalls in afternoon
- 16th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 17th Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 18th V. P.A. 7-30
- 19th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 23rd Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 24th Circle Club 2-00pm
Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
V/H AGM 7-30
- 26th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 30th Line Dancing 7-00pm

May

- 1st Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 3rd Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 6th Cotton Weekend Tea Rooms & Scarecrows
- 8th Circle Club 2-00pm
Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 10th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 14th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 15th Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 17th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 19th Wedding 9am 12 midnight
- 21st Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 22nd Circle Club 2-00pm
Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 24th Zumba 10am and 7-30pm
- 28th Line Dancing 7-00pm
- 29th Cotton Theatre Club 5pm
- 31st Zumba 10am and 7-30pm

Dates correct at time of going to press

COMMUNITY CIRCLE CAFÉ AND CLUB

Since opening its doors to the residents of Cotton and its surrounding villages, the Café has grown in popularity with each event. Our Christmas Café was packed out and we had the best ever attendance by our local stallholders, who were selling their festive products and produce. As it was our Christmas Café we also had a raffle, which our stallholders all gave something to put into a Festive Hamper. This was won by Mr. George Stringer. The raffle raised £103.10 which was donated to 'Children in Need'.

Future Café's will be held on the Saturdays from 10am until 12.00 on 25th February/7th April/30th June. If you would like a stall at any of these future events, please call Julie Leverett.

The Community Circle Club is also increasing in size. We are open to all on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon from 2 until 4 pm. We encourage all who would like to come up for a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. You can play a game of scrabble, other types of board games or table tennis. We have a small knitting circle if you like knitting, or would like to learn or increase your knitting skills. Other hobbies are also being considered. We also hope in the future to arrange some coach trips out in the form of a day trip or evening out to the theatre. This is in the planning stage and will be advertised at a later date. If you would like to help arrange this or have any ideas as to what type of trips our local residents would like to go on, please call Julie Leverett. Future dates for the next few months are: 14th February/28th February/13th March/27 March/10 April/24th April. For all up to date news and dates of our future Café's and Clubs, please go to:

<http://communitycircle.onesuffolk.net> which is our new web site.

To speak to us regarding booking stalls or ideas for future activities, please call:
Julie Leverett on 01449 781761 or e-mail Julie.leverett@sky.com

Julie Leverett



COTTON OIL BUYERS

<http://cottonoilbuyersgroup.onesuffolk.net>

*To view all cut off dates for the year and the latest news from
Cotton Oil Buyers, please go to the above web site.*

Cotton Jubilee Party 2012

Monday June 4th 2012



The Committee is working hard to make this a great success, with the intention to hold a party on June 4th for all the residents of Cotton, starting at 3.30pm and going through to midnight, ideas being worked on are; afternoon games and stalls on the village playing field, tea and cake in the village hall, competitions for all to enter, a Hog Roast in early evening with a bar, music and dancing till late and lots more (*see back page*).

We are considering providing a memento for children in Cotton who will be 16 and under on the 4th June 2012, but we are unsure of the numbers involved and so if you have a child/children please register them with us by contacting:

**James at Collins of Cotton, opposite Finbows yard, 01449 781182 or
collinsofcotton@live.co.uk**

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

7.30 pm Bacton Village Hall

Members £ 2 Non-members £ 3

Tuesday, 20th March: "Suffolk man is Gunpowder Plot getaway driver"

Clive Paine in his inimitable style describes the Suffolk people involved in the Gunpowder Plot. Was Cotton Hall where the conspiritors met? Clive is not so sure.

Tuesday, 17th April: "Waterways and their part in local history"

Frances Hart, past CEO of the Inland Waterways Association illustrates with slides and stories the people involved in building the waterways, locks, bridges etc., and the part played by our River Gipping.

Tuesday, 15th May: A visit to Mendlesham Church and Armoury

A day time tour of the very interesting Anglo Catholic St. Mary's Church, founded in 1086 and its extraordinary Armoury. *Details to be announced.*

WANTED

for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations - any photographs or memorabilia you may have of past Cotton village events, celebrations, parties etc., to mark any royal, national or local occasions. The older the better. We will copy and return them to you so that the Local History Society can produce an interesting display for the village Jubilee event.

Please contact: Peter Wenban at 01449 781095 or peterwenban@hotmail.com

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

The Club where gardening is fun

Spring Programme

March 21st Mr Simon White, Peter Beale's Roses A-Z of Roses

April 18th Mr Michael Perry T&M New Unusual & Different Plants

March & April Cotton Village Hall 7.30 pm

May 16th Mr & Mrs A Smith, Market House, Hoxne

June 20th Bays Farm, Forward Green

May & June meet at Village Hall 7.00 pm

Non Members very welcome, details 780102



Neighbourhood Watch Report

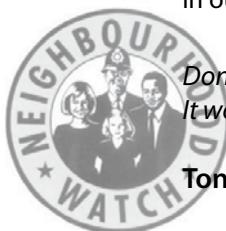
Well, 2012 has started off well for some villains, with thefts of lead from Bacton and other metal from Cotton. We all read about these thefts but perhaps it strikes a different note when it occurs nearer home. Over the Christmas period about 54 feet of lead flashing was removed from the roof of Bacton village school, and in Cotton, 60 steel plates, one and a half feet by four feet, were unlawfully removed from a farm in Cotton.

More metal thefts in our area. In Westhorpe Road, Farningham, thieves took a number of metal gardening tools, two lawn mowers and a tumble dryer, left lying in a skip on a residential driveway. At Mendlesham, in Old Station Road, a quantity of lead was removed from the local, community centre. I'm sure anyone seeing persons striping lead from a roof would immediately call police on the 999 system. But often these offences are being committed during the hours of darkness, so not easy to spot. However, their vehicles being used to carry away the goods may be easier to spot. So please if you do see a vehicle, any sort of vehicle, hovering close to public buildings, or unoccupied houses, or just being driven slowly around the village, then let the police know, the drivers could be involved in crime or looking for the opportunity to commit crime. The police will welcome your call.

Several thefts of and from motor vehicles recently reported in the area, and an attempt to steal a vehicle in Cotton in the early hours was thwarted by a vigilant householder who alerted police. So do make an effort to deter these villains, report any suspicious vehicles in our village.

Don't leave valuables in your vehicle, on display, even just for few minutes. Someone in Gislingham recently left their Ford Transit van, AB59 ONP, with keys in the ignition, just for a few minutes while they went inside their house, when coming outside they saw the vehicle being driven off at a fast speed. So be warned!

Let's make things difficult for the villains, look after your own property and keep an eye out for anything that appears to be unusual or not quite right in our village.



*Don't forget, if you want to contact police on a non-urgent matter dial 101.
It works, I tried it today.*

Tony Craighill. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917.

Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

By the time this edition reaches your letterbox I sincerely hope that the English Heritage repair and restoration project will well and truly be concluded and all the bills paid, even though I suspect that some VAT refunds may still be languishing on a desk in Cardiff (yes, the government website for these things states that its part of the Welsh site!).

As I write the repairs to the porch stonework are due to commence, together with the additional CCTV security system for the roof. Already the cleaned and gently restored porch doorway carvings are showing the medieval polychrome colours to advantage, and the walls have a new patina from re-plastering and lime-wash; do come up and take a look! As ever, the FCC are assisting our cash-flow for which we are most grateful. They are also funding separate works to provide gutter guards to part of the chancel roof which is deteriorating and causing shaling of the tiles, which then fall on those using the chancel door! The complete repair of this roof is probably the next major project!

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS for the election of churchwardens to hold office for 2012/2013, will be held in the church on Tuesday 27th March at 2p.m. Nominations must be submitted to the Rector prior to the meeting (if unsure of the procedure please speak to either the Rector (781108) or the secretary (780272). A following meeting will then receive reports and appoint members of the PCC. Formal notice of these meetings will be posted on the church notice boards in due course.

There will be a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall for church funds on Saturday 17th March between 10.00a.m. and 12 noon.

We propose to organise another "Egg Hunt" on Easter Saturday, 7th April, between 10.a.m. and 12 noon, following very successful events in the last two years; bring the children along to search for the tokens to exchange for chocolate eggs and other goodies! We might even start from the Village Hall as there is a Community Circle Café that day too!

Other Cotton church dates for your diary:-

Mothering Sunday, 18th March,

Service at 11.00a.m.

Start of BST(!), Sunday 25th March,

Holy Communion at 11.00a.m.

Palm Sunday 1st April,

Family Service at 11.00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday 5th April, Benefice

Holy Communion at 7.00p.m.

Easter Day, Sunday 8th April,

Holy Communion 11.00a.m.

Mervyn Walker

PCC Secretary



Carters Meadow

Reg Charity 1080734



Cones Hotline Comes On Stream

February's Sunday work party was a very cold affair this year, with not much to do but look at the Christmas card like views. One notable newcomer however, was the first cones have made an appearance on one of our Scots Pines, which is great news as sometimes Britain's native conifer can prove difficult to thrive in Suffolk's heavy clay soil, it being used to the rugged highlands of Scotland. It just goes to prove that even in arctic conditions there is still something new to discover hidden in the woods.

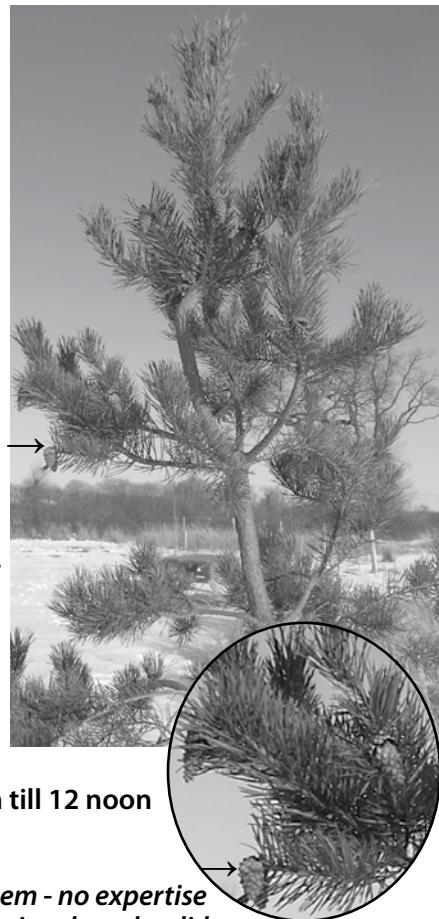
If you fancy coming along on one of our Sunday morning get togethers, the next work parties are:

Sunday March 4th

Sunday April 1st

Sunday May 6th

All work parties start at 10am till 12 noon



Bring gloves & secateurs if you have them - no expertise required, just willingness to help and enjoy the splendid amenity here in the village.



You are invited to —

Cotton's Jubilee Celebrations



Monday June 4th

Come along with your family and friends for an afternoon and evening of FREE fun and enjoyment at the Village Hall

Starting at 3.30pm

Games for the children: Sack race, egg and spoon race, three legged race, a fancy-dress competition and many, many more fun things to do.



Cream teas in the Village Hall

Songs by Gill Nicholls

A Pay Bar
with drinks for all tastes



At 7.30pm

the well-known band The Curve will swing into action.

There will also be a tempting hog and lamb roast,
but you can bring your own food and drink for your friends
and family if you wish.

As darkness falls dance the night away and make the most
of this great celebration.

We plan to make a video/ photographic record of this great day

*N.B. Helpers wanted for setting up and dismantling marquee.
Contact the Jubilee Committee through John Doherty 01449 781083*