

Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Summer 2012





Friends of Cotton Church
Reg. Charity 1153443



The Cotton Test Match

**A day of knock-out cricket
with 9 village teams**

*** Beer Tent**

*** Lots of Tea & Cakes**

*** Huge BBQ**



*** Raffle * Childrens' Fun**

Village Fête atmosphere,
plus cut-throat Cricket!

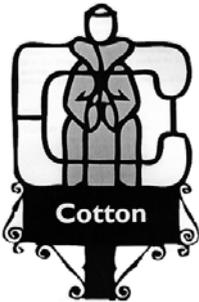
Sunday 24th June 2012



all day at
LIME TREE FARM, COTTON
10.30 am start

Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



The Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council AGM were held on Wednesday 16th May 2012. There were eight people present at the meeting which was chaired by Mrs. Couldridge Chairman of the Parish Council. It was reported that as a result of a request at last year's meeting the "Parish web-site" is being more widely advertised and has been re-designed by the new coordinator Keith Flynn. Councillor Couldridge presented the Council's annual report (*see below*).

The Village Hall Committee reported that both toilet windows have been replaced, the inside of the hall has received a fresh coat of paint and that income has been good this year due to increased use of the hall and a generous donation.

Carters Meadow Trust reported another successful year with a new Trustee, Judy Fearn, being appointed. The programme of tree planting has continued as has the battle against ragwort. The purchase of another picnic table brings the total number to three. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of the Trust over the past year.

The Police reported that the total number of crimes reported in the village over the last 12 months was eight. Sgt Nick Emerick has retired after 30 years service and is replaced by Sgt John Eaves who is currently based at Eye Police Station.

It was suggested that input to the web-site should be increased by including Police notices, Consultation documents, notice of road closures and any similar items of importance.

At the Council AGM Councillor Couldridge was re-elected Chairman and Councillor Wenban elected as Vice Chairman.

Councillor Wenban reported that the Jubilee Committee was distributing a book on Cotton's history and a flyer with details of the week end events to every household.

Councillor Halliday said that the Good Neighbourhood Scheme would be launched on 21st May 2012 with 30 volunteers. The contact number for people requiring assistance is 07980 948641. Planning applications for extensions at 0826/12 and 0910/12 were both supported.

The next schedule Council meeting is on Wednesday 11th July 2012 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Colin Hall

Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012

This has been a busy year for the parish with the completion of some objectives set up last year and the start of some new projects in the Village.

THE PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan was updated this year with information on progress to date, the updated plan was circulated to every household in the Parish in January.

Other than the normal business of the Parish contained in the Plan progress on two areas is worth highlighting,

1) Traffic Management

A speed watch group has been set up in co-operation with Wickham Skeith and Wyverstone to share the equipment and the cost. A group of five volunteers from Cotton will be trained in the use of the speed guns shortly.

2) Cotton has joined the Bacton and District Good Neighbours Scheme. This project has received some support from the Locality Fund to help with the cost of setting up. Councillor Beryl Halliday has volunteered to be the representative for Cotton.

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

In December 2011 as a result of a Parish Council initiative two representatives from each of the organisations in the village were invited to attend an informal meeting to discuss how the village might celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. As a result of this meeting a committee was formed with two representatives each from,

The Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, the Carters Meadow Trust ,the Friends of Cotton Church the Community Circle Club and the Parochial Church Council.

With financial support from the organisations involved and many kind donations from residents in the village this committee has organised a Jubilee Party on the 4th June at the Village Hall.

Many thanks to them for all their hard work in bringing this together.

THE JUBILEE TREES

In addition to supporting the Jubilee Party the Parish Council have planted a row of trees on the Village Hall field as a permanent record of the celebration.

There are six trees, one for each decade of the reign.

These are all flowering trees. Three 'Malus Royalty' and three 'Prunus Royalty Burgundy'. There will also be a memorial plaque at the Village Hall to commemorate the event.

Many thanks to James Collins for his advice and help.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

1) The Parish Council was pleased to provide a grant to allow the drama group to continue for another year.

2) The Parish Council welcomed the formation of the Community Circle Club with a small donation to help with the setting up cost.

GROUND MAINTENANCE

As usual the Parish Council provided a grant to the Village Hall to cover the cost of cutting the playing field and to St Andrews for maintenance of the churchyard.

THE WEBSITE

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Keith Flynn to the Village who has volunteered to manage the new updated website. Thank you Keith.

The Parish Council would like to thank Keith Parsons who has managed the website for the last year.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council was joined by two new councillors in 2011; Christopher Tester and Sarah Wenban. Welcome Sarah and Christopher.

Councillor David Williams has become the Parish Councils representative on the Cotton Land Charity Committee.

Cotton Parish Council is an active and accessible Council which has good relations with other village organisations, three of whom have Council representatives on their committees.

The Council has bi-monthly meetings in the Village Hall. Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting dates are advertised on the Village notice boards and the website.

The Chairman

Valerie Couldridge

LATE NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the last Parish Council meeting Jeannie Hutchinson announced her retirement as a Councillor. Jeannie has served as a Councillor for seventeen years, four of those as Chairman from 2002 to 2006. During this time Jeannie has been very involved in Village affairs and her time as a Councillor saw the completion of the affordable housing at Garden Meadow View and the establishing of the wild life recreation area at Carters Meadow, a project to which she has given a great deal of time and to which she remains deeply committed. The Parish Council would like to thank Jeannie for serving her community so well for the last seventeen years and wish her well in her retirement.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chair Mrs Valerie Couldridge 01449 781047
Vice chair Mrs Sarah Wenban 01449 781095

Councillors

Mrs Beryl Ellis 01449 780007
Mrs Beryl Halliday 01449 781682
Mr Christopher Tester 01449 782134
Mr David Williams 01449 781645
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.cotton.onesuffolk.net
Keith Flynn (web-site manager) cotton.parish@gmail.com

N.B. Copy deadline for Cotton Quarterly Autumn issue 31 July

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL HAS A DOG WARDEN SERVICE

Dealing with dog fouling

It is every dog owner's duty to clean up after their dog.

It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions.

Failure to clean up after your dog can mean anything from a fixed penalty ticket of £50 to a prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

You can complain about owners allowing their dogs to foul and not clearing up by contacting us. If you know who the owner is, that will help, but if not, we will investigate and try to establish who is responsible if a serious problem is occurring.

You can get in touch with the Dog Warden Service by calling Customer Service Direct 0845 606 6067.

Cotton Parish has a
NEW website!

www.cotton.onesuffolk.net

Village News, Events, Photos,
Parish Newsletters & more...



If there is something you would
like to see on the website
please contact us

email: cotton.parish@gmail.com

BACTON, COTTON & WYVERSTONE
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

STARTS ON MONDAY 21st MAY 2012

If you need help with transport, collections
minor repairs, pets, one-off garden tidy
letter writing & form filling, befriending, lifts

Tel: 07980 948641 Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

*ALL VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN CRB CHECKED AND
ARE COVERED BY PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE*

From the New Chairman

After 18 years of hard work Alan and Val Couldridge have decided to step aside from their roles as Chairman and Secretary of the Friends of Cotton Church executive committee and take a well-earned rest.

Of course, they were far more involved than that. Most of the general administration that attaches to fund raising projects, staging the renowned Cotton Test Match, organising concerts, art shows..... the list could go on. So not only has St Andrew's church benefited from their efforts but the social and cultural life of the village has too.

It goes without saying that the success of the ventures of such public-spirited people rely on us all being mindful of the importance of our historic buildings and being prepared to offer support in all efforts to maintain them. Alan and Val have received a great deal of support over the years, and a further tribute to the success of their efforts is in the large number of Friends of Cotton Church members who continue to support fund raising and restoration.

There are probably many people in our local community who deserve our thanks for the effort they make.
For me, I would like to thank Alan & Valerie.

Geoff Toole F.C.C.

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



The 2012 Cotton Art Show

On account of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee we moved the 2012 Art Show to the first May bank holiday. The Private View party was very well attended; however art sales were well down even though the quality of the exhibition was thought to be better than ever. The pink thatched cottages have virtually disappeared and paintings and mixed media offerings now have drama, craftsmanship with attitude and atmosphere. We believe Judith Hamp has contributed to this state of affairs. Judith is retiring this year and the Committee marked the occasion with flowers.

Reg Siger was our featured artist, Roy Rodgers, our artist in residence, showed his dramatic Suffolk scenes, whilst Peter Wenban organised a John Bonny series. Bonny was an East Anglian artist of some repute who is buried in St Andrews.

Committee Membership Changes

That's enough of this year's events, now for the politics. Various members of the FCC Committee have announced their retirement. You should all have had a note informing Friends that there are now two positions on the Committee to be filled as well as some officer's roles. Alan and Val Couldridge wish to step down as Chairman and Secretary but stay on the Committee as trustees. Colin Hall our Treasurer has also resigned, and Mervyn Walker our PCC rep and the member who saw through the restoration project, for which we thank him, has also retired. Colin has looked after our financial affairs for many years, we express our gratitude for all his hard work over these last few years.

A Serious Donation

We must also thank Quentin Bretherton for his generous personal donation to the FCC.

Quentin hopes his employer, BP, will match his donation, according to the charitable donation scheme they operate.

Many of our events will be featured on the Cotton web site:

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc

The AGM

Our AGM was on Thursday 17th May 2012, this time in St. Andrews.

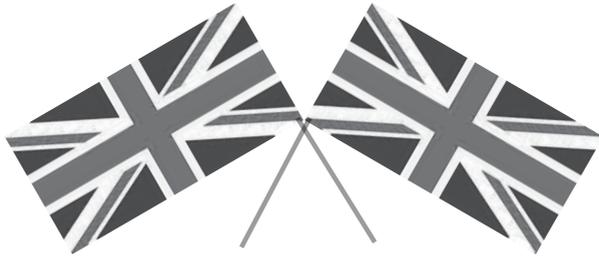
We had three requests to join the Committee, Jane Lowndes Toole, Sarah Stringer and Christine Marsden.

Jane and Sarah were duly voted on and thus become FCC Committee members and Trustees whilst Christine, following Mervyn's resignation, will become the PCC representative should they appoint her. All of the Officers roles had candidates who were duly elected, Geoff Lowndes Toole as Chairman, Christine Tester as Secretary and Tony Hutchinson as Treasurer.

Alan Couldridge

Chairman FCC





*On behalf of the village the Parish Council would like to
thank the Jubilee Committee and the
Trowel & Hammer for organising such a
splendid Jubilee Celebration on
Monday 4th June.*

*The Committee, their band of helpers and the
Trowel & Hammer all put a lot of hard work into
the event which was a great success.*

Cotton was even luckier than most with the weather!!!

Once again

Thank You

to all who were involved.

“The Cotton Jubilee Event Committee wants to thank everyone who attended the afternoon and evening events on 4th June and contributed to such a memorable celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. In particular our grateful thanks go to all those villagers who spared the time, expertise, muscle, equipment and money to make it such a success.”

Cotton Village Hall



The Village Hall A G M

The committee was re elected with the addition of Ines Flynn. Unfortunately we lost the service of Mavis and Mark Hewitt who have moved, also Mary Bretherton who has resigned after 25 years on the committee we thank all three for the work they have done for the village.

Anyone who feels they would like to be more involved with village activities by joining our committee please contact Ann Doherty 781083

Scarecrows

The entries this year are down on the usual numbers; maybe it's the Olympic Theme that has halted the usual creativity. However the Aunt Sally's tea Room and Art Show are up to there regular standards

What's On

June

- 1st to 5th the Jubilee Party
- 11th Line Dancing
- 12th Circle Club
Cotton Theatre Club
- 14th Zumba am
- 15th 17th Caravan & Camping Club
- 18th Line Dancing
- 19th Cotton Theatre Club
- 21st Zumba am
- 23rd 24th Tables & Chairs out on Hire
- 25th Line Dancing
- 26th Circle Club
Cotton Theatre Club
- 28th Zumba
- 30th Community Circle Café



July

- 2nd Line Dancing
- 3rd Cotton Theatre Club
Village hall meeting
- 5th Zumba am
- 9th Line Dancing
- 10th Circle Club
Cotton Theatre Club
- 12th Zumba am

- 14th Cotton Theatre Club Production
- 16th Line Dancing
- 19th Zumba am
- 21st Private Party
- 23rd Line Dancing
- 24th Circle Club
- 26th Zumba am
- 28th Private Party
- 30th Line Dancing

August

- 2nd Zumba am
- 4th Private party
- 6th Line Dancing
- 9th Zumba am
- 11th Community Circle Café
- 13th Line Dancing
- 16th Zumba am
- 18th Private Party
- 20th Line Dancing
- 23rd Zumba am

Dates correct at time of going to press

Cotton Jubilee Party 2012

The organisation is nearly complete, all bookings and orders are in place, and the weather is disposing of all the rain early so all things considered we are ready for a party that, we hope, will enable us all in the village to have a memorable day.

For the day to work and be a success will all the villagers who have committed themselves to **volunteer** (young and strong please as well as mature males and females) and those who still wish to help with the erection of the Marquees and decoration of the Playing field and Streets of Cotton please meet at the village hall on Saturday the 2nd and Sunday the 3rd of June at 10am where tasks will be delegated to all. Many thanks to you all and remember it's your Party.

John Doherty
Cotton Jubilee Committee

The Cotton Quiz

The Tables were set, the quiz is under lock and key, the teams arrive, Cotton, Hunston and Wyverstone, More tables and chairs are needed as they still keep coming in, B teams, C teams, and plain onlookers making up teams. The booming voice of the quizmaster announces that his word is final and he reads the first question out, "a deep sigh" goes around the room then a bell in someone's head dings and debating in the teams starts. The second, third, fourth questions, "repeat what year you just said" comes from Hunston. Sport is finished now History, a Picture round, a mobile phone rings the team is disqualified, allowed back in after appeal. The bonus round is causing concern, and hatred is starting to show towards the quizmaster, who stands firm with his resolve.

After two hours of questioning eating and much drinking a result is known, Hunston with an extra team member who according to them "knows nothing" and came only as the designated driver came **Third**; Wyverstone with a much deleted team as the rest got lost trying to find Cotton, came **Second**. The winning team, playing on home turf and led by Chris Tester was **Cotton**; they were cheered to the roof on their victory. "When is the rematch?" came the cry from the losing teams.

Watch this space

Chris Tester has agreed to host the next Quiz in the autumn

A date to be announced

Spinning Wheel Theatre Presents.....

COTTON THEATRE EXPLORERS



Weekly theatre classes for 8-12 year olds every Tuesday evening
from 5-6pm during term time.

The group offers the opportunity for children to try their hand at drama, dance, singing, puppetry, props, costume and special effects make-up, and work towards a variety of bespoke performances throughout the year.

To get involved or to find out more information, please contact Becca Gibbs at
becca@spinningwheeltheatre.com or 07812 130064

Cotton Theatre Club presents.....



ROMEO AND JULIET

Cotton Village Hall becomes
Shakespeare's Verona for
one night only!

Saturday July 14th at
6.30pm

Tickets: adults £5, under 16s £3

To book visit www.spinningwheeltheatre.com or call
Becca on 07812130064

Cotton Theatre Club (Cotton Theatre Explorers) is run by Spinning Wheel Theatre. Classes are Tuesdays during term-time 5pm and 6pm and are 8- 12 and 13 - 16 year olds. Classes are now also available in Rickingham and summer holiday activities are currently being planned. For more information visit our website: www.spinningwheeltheatre.com, email becca@spinningwheeltheatre.com or call 07812130064.

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

Tuesday, 19th June, 7.30 pm Bacton Village Hall

From Haughly to the Coast by cross country train

The fascinating story of the Mid Suffolk Light Railway described as - going from nowhere to the middle of a field. Keith Froome describes how it carried fare paying passengers and served communities for nearly 50 years.

Members £ 2 Non-members £ 3

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

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

The Club where gardening is fun

Spring Programme

June 20th Bays Farm, Forward Green
Meet at Village Hall 7.00 pm

Non Members very welcome, details 780102



Neighbourhood Watch Report

We haven't done too bad lately as regards crime in Cotton, although a caravan parked on a drive in Station Road suffered some criminal damage, a series of small dents appeared after the caravan was left over a few days. There was a burglary at Mendlesham in Old Station Row, the community centre was entered by force and a quantity of bottles of alcohol were stolen. At old Newton the door of three garden sheds at the local allotments were forced open, only one shed had property stolen, this was a garden fork, which was then used to force open the other two sheds. No other property appeared to have been stolen.

Beware Bogus Callers Suffolk Police have issued the following advice regarding bogus callers. We do get a few door to door callers in Cotton, and the good weather may see a few more about. Bogus callers aim to get inside your home to steal from you, or in the case of traders, to overcharge you for the work they may do.

Doorstep protocol recommended by Suffolk Police is to help protect against distraction burglaries and bogus callers.

Lock: Is your back door locked?

Stop: Do not open the door until you have looked through a window or used a door viewer.

Chain: If you feel you need to speak to the caller, use a door chain.

Check: Check their identity. If they say they are from a utility company they will have photo identity.

Beware of phone calls: If the phone rings while you are speaking to a doorstep caller, close the door first and lock it, before answering the phone.

Water Board, Gas Board and Electricity Boards do not exist anymore.

No utility company has any right to enter your home without a warrant from a court. In a real emergency involving gas, electricity, or water, they will not knock on your door unless accompanied by a police officer.

So there you have it, good advice for all. Don't be a victim of crime.

Don't forget to **dial 101** for non-urgent matters, or of course 999 for urgent police matters.

Tony Craighill. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917.



Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

Regrettably due to production and other time constraints the contents of our page for this edition will be somewhat limited.

My optimism regarding completion of the restoration project in the last edition was just that, as although most work is completed, there are important aspects still outstanding concerning security and the bills are still piling up - watch this space.

Thanks to all who supported our recent Jumble Sale, which raised over £300.

We will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 16th June at 2 Miles Paddock between 10am and 12 noon – do come along and enjoy our garden – and support the various stalls as well!

We need to restart the successful churchyard working parties if we are to keep on top of the vegetation now springing up everywhere: it is going to be another busy summer what with the Jubilee, the Olympics, the last FCC Test Match and everything else, but **I have picked some Saturday mornings during the summer so that if anyone just feels like a break from other activities you could come along and lend a hand for as much or as little time as you wish. We will be there from 9.30a.m. and finish a couple of hours later.** Many thanks to all of you who have kept your adopted grave plots cherished even through the winter – it does make a difference.

The dates are Saturdays: 26th May, 28th July, 22nd September and 27th October. Bring some basic garden tools although there will some on site too.

The annual parish meeting took place at the end of March when the following parishioners were elected to the PCC and other offices; Mrs M Hales, Mrs D.Stevenson, Mrs C Marston and Mrs J deBeer.

Mrs Stevenson has retired as our Treasurer, a role she has fulfilled since 1996 and this service is acknowledged by all past and present members of the PCC with gratitude; we are very pleased that Mrs deBeer has volunteered to take over this vital role, and that Mrs Stevenson will continue to serve on the PCC. Although I have been asked to continue as Churchwarden I will cease to have an appointed role as secretary. The PCC still needs new members to support the work of St. Andrews, and anyone interested will be very welcome to sit-in on our meetings to learn more; just contact any member or myself (780272) for more information.

For the Jubilee weekend the church will be open each day. On the Saturday local bellringers will attend St Andrew's and other churches in the benefice so that Cotton's splendid bells may join in the celebration. On Sunday 3rd there will be an ecumenical service in our church, supported by Cotton Methodist Chapel, and everyone is very welcome to join us. On Monday there is of course the Cotton village Jubilee party at the Village Hall which you will read about elsewhere in this issue.

Mervyn Walker
PCC Secretary





CARTERS MEADOW



Reg. Charity no: 1080734

New Neighbours Move In At The Meadow

Recent visitors to the meadow will have seen a fantastic new addition to our biodiversity, with the introduction of two Bee Hives that now have new residents. Bee colonies over the last few years have taken a knock with various diseases etc, affecting some Bee colonies. also having a knock on effect with the good work that Bees do with pollination etc. The hives are situated at the northern end of the site between the two mature oak trees.



Some of us wondered if the indigenous Bumble bee population would feel put out, judging by the picture below, we think the new neighbours are have settled in beautifully.

Work Parties 2012

Sunday July 1st

Sunday August 5th

Sunday September 2nd

Sunday October 7th

All work parties start at 10.00am until 1p.m.

All Welcome

01449 782134

Carters Meadow Trust



Reg. Charity 1080734

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The trustees have overseen a busy and productive 12 months. Some enjoyable events have taken place in the meadow, the number of people, both villagers and visitors who come to the meadow has continued to grow. These are some of the highlight of the year:

Judy Fearn has become a Trustee.

We have purchased an additional picnic bench for the meadow.

We discovered that the Trust was not covered by the Parish Council Public Liability Insurance and we now have our own policy.

Our programme of tree planting has continued, all the trees that we planted this year were donated by friends and supporters of the trust.

The wildflower meadow put on a wonderful display for visitors last summer and some new species were identified.

Our annual battle with Ragwort took place, we pulled many thousands of plants but eventually had to resort to cutting. What we can say is that no Ragwort in Carters Meadow was allowed to seed.

We had two barbeques at the meadow one in the summer and one at Halloween. Because of the issues of cost around insurance for a ticketed "public event" it was decided that for the time being we would only have private events.

Once again Carters Meadow has been helped by many people who have volunteered their time, expertise and equipment to enable us to function at very little cost to the community.

I would like to make particular mention of some of these volunteers, most notably, Peter Gibbs, Alan Couldridge, Peter Smith and Tony Hutchinson who have all contributed so much to the trust.

Future Plans

Carters Meadow has become part of the fabric of the village; it is enjoyed by a wide cross section of our community both as a place to visit and an opportunity to participate. Our ongoing programmes of maintenance will continue and as always we will continue to look for opportunities to broaden our appeal to the people of Cotton. Judy Fearn has carried out a summer long survey of our wildflowers and we look forward to seeing the results.

Chris Tester
Chairman