Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Winter 2012

Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.

At the last Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd October the Parish Council supported the application for change of use of Finningham Gospel Hall from a place of worship to a workshop/ storeroom

A request from the Good Neighbour Scheme for a grant of £50.00 was approved.

Due changes in funding by Mid Suffolk District Council the Village Hall Committee have asked for support to cover the cost of maintaining the village hall playing field. The committee hope to reach an agreement with Bacton F.C. over maintenance of the football pitch and the Parish Council have agreed to cover the cost of the contract to maintain the remaining area.

The Police have had no reported crimes in the village since the last report. The matter of speeding in the village was raised with PCSO Johnson who said that Suffolk Traffic Police had informed him that there is only one suitable site in Cotton to operate a radar speed gun. MSDC Councilor Stringer asked about the lack of response to his request to start a Speedwatch scheme in the village, PCSO Johnson said he would look into the matter.

Work is in progress on the design of a Jubilee Memorial Plaque for the planting of the Jubilee Trees at the village hall.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 28th November at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Approved minutes of Parish Council meetings, Councillor Stringer's and Police reports plus many other items can be found on the village web-site.

Colin Hall
Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

Cotton Parish has a NEW website!

www.cotton.onesuffolk.net

Village News, Events, Photos, Newsletters & more

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

email: cotton.parish@gmail.com

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chair Mrs Valerie Couldridge	01449 781047
Vice chair Mrs Sarah Wenban	01449 781095
Councillors	
Mrs Beryl Ellis	01449 780007
Mr Peter Gibbs	01449 781308
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 Spring issue 26 January

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Minutes of Bacton, Cotton & Wyverstone
Good Neighbour Scheme AGM

Held on 10th September 2012 in the Community Room St. Mary's Church Bacton

Hilary Smith opened the meeting at 7:30pm welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Members Present

Hilary Smith (Chair), Mike Hall (Secretary), Mark Rowbottom (Treasurer), Bernard Gant, Louise Goddard, Darrel Goddard, Sue Lawson, Roger Lawson, Pat Hall, Pat Last, Mary Bretherton, Diane Rowbottom, Peter Gibbs, Peter Wenban, Barry Woolsgrove, Karen Garton and Janet Helyar.

Apologies

Apologies were received from, Amanda Hagger, Jane De Beer, Janice Shea, Nolly Curwen, Jan and Tony Fowler.

Review of scheme since May 2012

Mike Hall reported that the scheme had received nineteen calls for assistance since starting. All the calls were from residents in Bacton, and we had not received any calls from Cotton or Wyverstone. Several residents had used the scheme on more than one occasion. The majority of the calls were for lifts and transport, which included lifts to Bury and Ipswich hospitals. In July Mark Rowbottom took over as Treasurer after the sad loss of Terry Spalding.

Matter Arising.

The verification of volunteers when they call on residents was discussed. The phone number on the volunteers I/D badge is the scheme's mobile phone number which the duty officer holds. The duty officer informs the resident requesting assistance of the name of the volunteer coming to their aid. The only phone number available for the resident to call to confirm identity is the scheme's mobile, which, due to coverage problems may not have reception. Hilary asked if a letter to Hazel Spalding could be written to express the scheme's thanks for all the work Terry did to help get the scheme started. Terry took on Treasurer's role and spent a great deal of time finding and setting up a bank account with no charges for the scheme. This was agreed unanimously and Mike was asked to write a letter on behalf of the scheme. Peter Gibb's raised the question of when best for the duty officer to call volunteers to ask if they could carry out the tasks. If the request is not urgent, ie for that day, the duty officer could call volunteers at a more opportune time, say in the evening when they are more likely to be at home.

Mobile Phone.
A discussion took place reference the scheme's mobile phone due to the reception being very poor or unavailable in Cotton, and several duty officers finding the phone difficult to use. The reception problem is a difficult one to overcome, and it was suggested that the duty officer could use their landline phone to call residents back, and be re-reimbursed by the scheme. It was decided that an email be sent to all the members asking if anyone had a spare mobile phone which, if found to be more user friendly, the current SIM card could be changed to maintaining our current number.

Treasurer Report
Mark Rowbottom gave a report on the scheme's accounts up to the 31st August 2012.
The income had been £474.78 and expenditure £382 giving us a current balance of £92.78.
There was a discussion on the grants received from Mid-Suffolk Council for £750.00 and Bacton Parish Council for £70.00. To date we have not received any funding from Cotton or Wyverstone Parish Councils. A copy of the accounts in full was available for all members to view. Should anyone wish to view the accounts they are most welcome please contact Mark to arrange a mutually agreeable time. Thanks' to Stephen Cardy for auditing the accounts at no cost to the scheme. Mark was thanked for producing the accounts, and it was proposed by Barry Woolsgrove, seconded by Peter Gibbs that the accounts be accepted, and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Scheme Name Continuity.
The name of the scheme appears differently on several important documents.
Continuity of the scheme name on all documents will alleviate a challenge should anything go wrong. This was looked at in detail with the most cost effective and least inconvenient route being to change all documentation to Bacton, Cotton & Wyverstone. The change was proposed by Peter Gibbs seconded by Darrel Goddard and carried unanimously by the meeting.

Election of officers for the year ending September 2013
It was proposed by Peter Gibbs seconded by Bernard Gant and unanimously agreed by the meeting that the current committee be re-elected en bloc.

Chair - Hilary Smith
Secretary - Mike Hall
Treasurer - Mark Rowbottom

The committee asked the meeting for two more committee members, and suggested that one from Cotton and one from Wyverstone would be ideal so all three villages were represented.Bernard Gant was proposed by Barry Woolsgrove seconded by Peter Gibbs andunanimously agreed by the meeting that he joins the committee. No other nominations were forthcoming.

M.A.Hall
GNS Secretary

BACTON COTTON & WYVERSTONE
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME
TELPHONE 07980 948641
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM TO 5PM

RING IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:
TRANSPORT, COLLECTIONS, MINOR REPAIRS, PETS
ONE OFF GARDEN TIDY
LETTER WRITING & FORM FILLING
BEFRIENDING, LIFTS

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

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483

Church Restoration.

The two projects that we have under way at the moment are progressing, albeit slowly. The bell tower gates are almost completed, we are now waiting for the foundry to make the new decorative roundels, and when they are installed the painting can be finished. The gates will then look splendid!

We are also going to suspend netting in the archway so that we keep out the pigeons. The bellringers will then be able to perform in relative comfort. I want to express our thanks to Paul Howlett for offering help in getting to the top of the arch. We couldn't do it without him.

Those of you who pass by the church will have noticed that the gates on the boundary fence have been removed. They are also being repaired at the moment, and when they are back in place, fingers crossed, they will open and close properly.

Future Attractions.

The Keeper's Daughter is putting on a play in the church that will appeal to all ages. You will see the advertisement in the latest issue of the parish and community news for **"Twas the Night Before Christmas"**. We are always grateful for the support we get for our fund raising ventures, and we are expecting a big turn-out for this one.

We will be putting the tree up and decorating the church in the week beginning 10th December, and our grateful thanks are extended again to Keith and Andrew Bullock for their generosity in providing us with the tree. The place should be very smart for the carol service on 16th December, and, of course, for the play.

Geoff Toole
Chairman F.C.C.

Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

As I write this in mid-October, the very last piece of the church restoration project is being put in place – the sophisticated roof protection system! So at last the final bills can be paid and what grant money remains can be claimed and VAT refunds sought; hopefully this will leave sufficient to repay the FCC the bridging finance they have so essentially provided. Obviously we are still unable to present final accounts, but that day will surely come!

Regarding the roof alarm, having just witnessed it in operation, we apologise to near neighbours if it is activated as it is certainly not to be ignored ! The device is also connected to a response system as well as very audible. We trust however that the mere fact of its known presence will be sufficient to deter thieves – any who chose to ignore the warning, very much do so at their own risk of apprehension!

Much interest is being shown in the building, with a number of recent visits by various specialists interested in differing parts of the history and structure of St Andrew's: we need to find a suitable way of tapping into this interest to financially benefit the church, perhaps with some kind of permanent exhibition, so any ideas will be welcomed by the PCC.

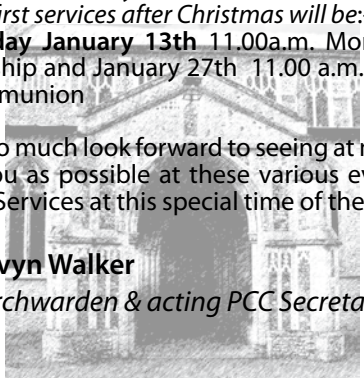
We are hoping to replace the very old wooden village school chairs, which are riddled with woodworm, in the near future; they will need to be burned because of their condition. If we are unable to persuade anyone to take them away for their own bonfires, we will have to have our own in the churchyard together with the results of all the ground clearance during the summer. Our last working party took place at the end of October, and we will resume in April 2013, with dates for the new season in the Parish News and local notice boards.

A special event listed below is our Crib Festival when we hope to display as wide a range of Nativity Sets as possible, and we invite everyone to loan us theirs for a couple of days, before they are displayed in your own homes at Christmas – please ring either Rev. Liz Varley (781108) or Rev. Julia Lall (774646). We'll be setting up the Cribs on Fri. 14th Dec. and open all weekend, finishing with Carols Round the Cribs at 2.30p.m. on Sun. Dec. 16th.There will be activities for all the family, a Christmas Raffle and a special Children's Raffle, refreshments, crafts and cakes! Your crib will be home in plenty of time for Christmas!

Particular future dates including the Advent Season at St Andrew's are:-
Sunday 11th November, Remembrance Service 2.30p.m.
Saturday 15th December, Crib Festival from 10.00a.m. *(also Community Café at Village Hall)*
Sunday 16th December, Crib Festival continues and ends with a Carol Service at 2.30 p.m.
Elsewhere the FCC will tell you about a very special event in the church on December 18th which they are promoting.
Christmas Period:-
(the PCC has agreed to provide services on three consecutive days this year due to an unusual series of day/dates – please support as many as you wish):-
Sunday 23rd December, 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve, 11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion
Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day, 10.30 a.m. Family Service
The first services after Christmas will be:-
Sunday January 13th 11.00a.m. Morning Worship and January 27th 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

We so much look forward to seeing at many of you as possible at these various events and Services at this special time of the year.

Mervyn Walker
Churchwarden & acting PCC Secretary



Cotton Village Hall

I am sorry to inform you that the Cotton Theatre Club has had to close due to lack of interest from the youngsters of this area. It had been an outstanding success to those few who continued to bring to the community their production after weeks of rehearsals. I would like to give big thanks Becca Gibbs for setting up and running the club for the past three years. I under stand that there is a possibility of a summer workshop at the hall for any children interested in drama and theatre, watch this space.

We are indebted to Mark Finbow and his company for yet another fantastic production of the classic "Hound of the Baskervilles" played to a packed hall. More next year please Mark.

We are expecting soon, a delivery of eighty cushioned chairs that I know will be welcome by the bottoms of Cotton.

We have booked by popular demand
The Rogue Traders for a dance on March 16th. Details to follow.

It is always our intention to utilise the hall as much as we can and are always looking for new groups that will enhance the village as a whole. We were delighted to help and encourage the Circle Club/ Café last year with their proposal to run an all inclusive club for the village, and last month they had the opportunity to have our local MP Dr Daniel Poulter attend the Café. After eating a local produce bacon roll, that he said was, "marvellous", he was pleased to visit as many of the tables as possible talking and listening to the concerns of residents, for our village and wider subjects. He was delighted by his welcome and found the morning informative as well as enjoyable and has expressed interest in returning at a later date.

John Doherty

What's on

December

1st	Private party
3rd	Line dancing
5th	V P A Dinner
6th	Zumba
10th	Line Dancing
11th	Circle Club
13th	Zumba
15th	Community Café
17th	Line Dancing
20th	Zumba
30th	Private party

January

7th	Line Dancing
8th	Circle club
10th	Zumba
14th	Line Dancing
17th	Zumba
21st	Line Dancing
22nd	Circle club
24th	Zumba
26th	Community Café
28th	Line Dancing
31st	Zumba

February

4th	**Line Dancing**
7th	**Zumba**
11th	**Line Dancing**
12th	Circle Club
14th	Zumba
18th	Line Dancing
21st	Zumba
25th	Line Dancing
26th	Circle Club
28th	Zumba

All bookings known by 31st October

Community Circle Christmas Café – Saturday, 15 December 2012
10 am – 12 noon
Cotton Village Hall, Blacksmith Road, Cotton

•Free Admission
•Delicious freshly cooked brunch, tea and coffee
•Produce and Craft Stalls
•Christmas Raffle

Come along and join in the build-up to the Festive Season at our popular Café. Pick up a Christmas bargain, meet up with friends old and new, and enjoy brunch with a delicious cup of tea or coffee. Contact Christine on 01449 780035 to book a stall. For more information about Community Circle Club meetings and Cafés, view our website on: http://communitycircle.onesuffolk.net

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Community Circle Club and Café dates for Nov 2012 - March 2013

Tuesday 13 November	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 27 November	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 11 December	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 15 December	10am – 12noon	Community Circle Christmas Café
Tuesday 8 January	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 22 January	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 26 January	10am – 12noon	Community Circle Café
Tuesday 12 February	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 26 February	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 9 March	10am – 12noon	Community Circle Café
Tuesday 12 March	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 26 March	2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

7.30 pm Bacton village hall.
Members £ 2 Non-members £ 3

Tuesday,15th January
Victorian School Houses in Suffolk
Sarah Doig, having grown up in a converted School House shares her passion for these unusual buildings and the vital role they played in our small communities.

Tuesday, 19th February
Suffolk Witches
We welcome back Pip Wright to look back through medieval to Victorian times at how superstition has haunted Suffolk and surrounding counties and the persecution to which it led.

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

The Club where gardening is fun

Winter Programme

Dec 5th Dinner.

All these meeetings are held in the Village Hall
New members are always welcome at our meetings or contact Joyce on 781529

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Theft of heating oil is still being committed in our area. This offence occurred recently in Bacton where the perpetrators siphoned a quantity of heating oil from a residential tank in Church Road. The offence occurred between 12th and 15th October and It maybe that the occupants were away at he time. It is very much recommended to have suitable security on your tanks. Various devices are available now to make it difficult for anyone to steal heating oil from your tank, so please take some precautions to prevent this type of offence. It must be worth spending money to protect a very valuable resource.

With the onset of dark nights and some working residents not getting home during daylight hours, there are extra opportunities for the criminal. If you haven't done so already, fit internal lights, on a timer so they come on before its dark. Fit outside security lights that come on when it gets dark and /or, are activated by movement. The criminal does like to operate out of sight, if your front door is screened by bushes or trees then so much the better for him or her.

In the Mid Suffolk area here have been a number of burglaries, criminal damage and cases of theft of heating oil, so the villains are about, so please make some effort to protect your property and make Cotton a safe place to live.

Don't forget that if you wish to speak to an officer from your Safer Neighbourhood Team, then the easiest option is to dial the number **101**. You will be told you are being put through to Suffolk Police HQ where you can speak to the operator and either ask to be put through to a particular officer or to the Safer Neighbourhood team. But if it's an emergency then obviously dial 999.

Tony Craighill
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917.

Lets keep Cotton crime free, with your help we can.

CARTERS MEADOW

Reg. Charity no: 1080734

All is Safely Gathered In

This years Hay Raking session was a great success, with all of the Wild Flower Meadow cut, and the Hay moved stacked and covered at the north west end of the meadow. The clippings are covered up to create habitat for wintering Creatures, This years efforts were greatly eased by the efforts of Peter Gibbs and his trusty Tractor (not sure of its name) and the supply of Tea from the neighbours. Many thanks to all the raked, forked and drank and made the tea.

This winters work party projects will be to continue the Pond clearing, and we also plan to build a shed to hold our wheelbarrows and equipment. If you want to give us a hand you would be most welcome.

Winter Work Parties 2012 / 2013

Sunday December 2nd

Sunday January 6th

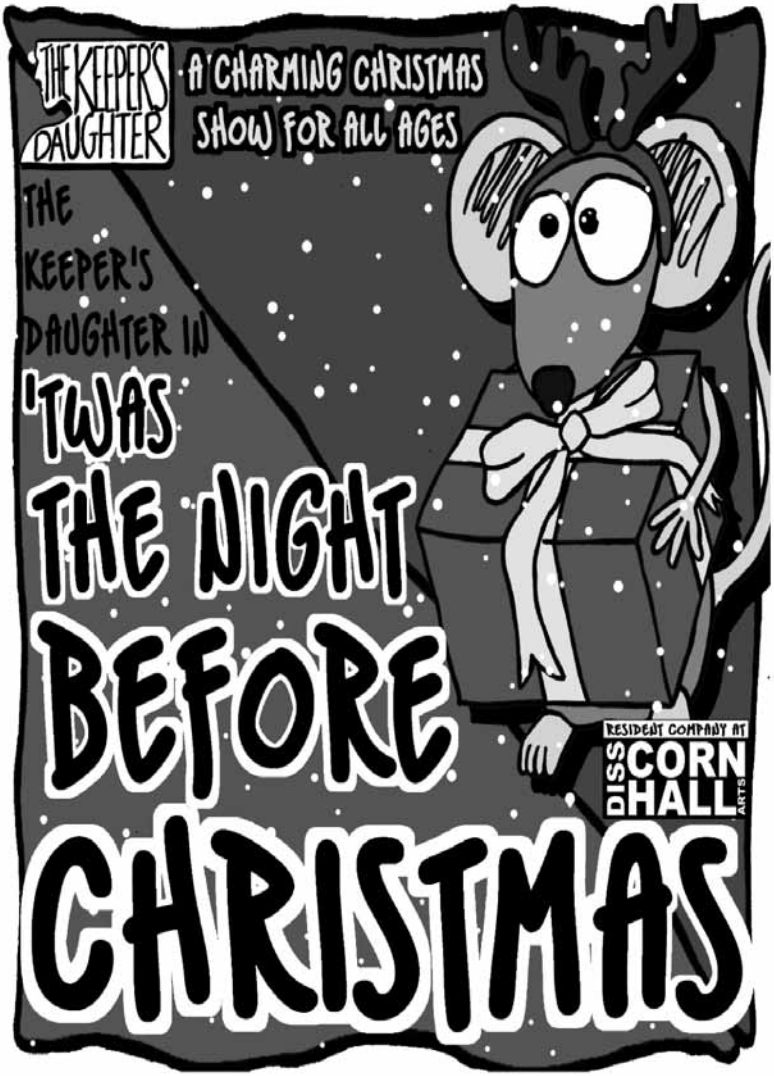
Sunday February 3rd

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

All Welcome

01449 782134

The FCC Present



at St Andrew's Church, Cotton

Tuesday 18 December at 7.00pm

Tickets: Adults £7.50, children £3.50

(to include seasonal refreshment)

Contact: 01449 677500 or 781702

Tickets also available at Collins of Cotton