

Cotton Quarterly

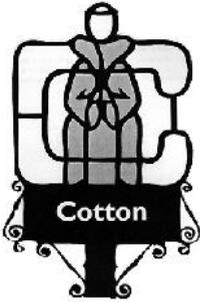
Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Autumn 2014



Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



The Parish Council have held the AGM and met on three other occasions since the last Cotton Quarterly.

At the AGM Councillor Couldridge was re-elected as the chairman of the Council and Councillor Wenban as the vice-chairman.

Progress is being made on the Vehicle Activated Sign scheme, hopefully once the finance has been sorted we will be able to proceed.

Three planning applications have been presented to the Council, an extension at Kirby Cottage, Brook House Road; conversion of an outbuilding to residential use at Jasmine Farm, Wickham Road; and construction of a ménage at Oak Tree Farm, Willow Lane were all supported by the Council.

During the next few weeks a list of all potholes in the roads of Cotton will be compiled highlighting the most serious cases, this will then be passed to the Highways department asking them to deal with the problem as a matter of urgency.

The condition of the "Common Land" in Scuffins Lane has been discussed and it is hoped that it can be restored to its original condition as soon as possible.

From time to time the Council receives consultation documents on a wide range of subjects, the majority of these are for public consultation. If you wish your opinion on any of these matters to be taken into account check the web-site from time to time, instructions on how to submit your opinions are given with each consultation.

Please check the village web-site and notice boards for Parish Council News.

Village web-site

www.cotton.onesuffolk.net

Colin Hall

Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

cottonparish.clerk@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.clerk@gmail.com

Parish web-site: www.cotton.onesuffolk.net

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

N.B. Copy deadline for Cotton Quarterly Winterissue 28 November

Cotton Parish has a NEW website!

www.cotton.onesuffolk.net

Village News, Events, Photos, Newsletters & more

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

email: cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com

Would you like to be the Local History Recorder for COTTON?



The Suffolk Local History Council runs a Local History Recorders Scheme throughout Suffolk. We administer a network of volunteers to ensure that the 'present' is adequately recorded at local level for the 'future'.

A Local History Recorder will note significant happenings in their area, especially changes going on around them and collect their local village magazines, leaflets, election pamphlets and newspaper cuttings. At the end of each year, they are asked to submit a short report summarising the activities of their parish. The reports are deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and available to future researchers together with the collected items.

If you are interested, please look at the Recorders Pack by visiting www.slhc.org.uk, click on Recorders, then click on Recorders Pack in the text on the left hand side to acquaint yourself with the guidelines of the scheme. You do not need to be an historian, you do not need any qualifications other than an interest in your parish. In return you will receive a copy of the SLHC Newsletter and be invited to the annual conference specifically for local history recorders. To volunteer, please contact Cotton Parish Council.

Rose Graham, Bacton's Local Recorder would be very happy to help you get started.

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



This year the Friends of Cotton Church are going to get on with some of the projects we haven't had time to get round to over the years, one of these ideas is a calendar using some of the stunning images created by our Artist in Residence Roy Rodgers, for those of you that did not know, for several years St Andrews Cotton has had an official artist in residence, Roy Rodgers unique talent has lovingly brought to life a whole collection of original images that highlight this rural architectural gem of a Church. We are now printing a selection of these pictures and sketches to make a limited edition calendar that we all can be proud of, these calendars will be available soon and cost £8.95 each and make an excellent Christmas Gift.

We have also nourished all external doors with linseed oil, this will help protect the wood from the worst of the elements, it has also had the effect of bringing out the true colour of the Antique Oak that these doors are made from, if you have the time come and have a look.

Andrew Stringer
Chairman F.C.C.
01449 780339

Christine Tester
Secretary
01449 782134



Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

The PCC is seeking a first stage approval for major grant application from the Heritage Lottery Fund; this is to assist with the urgent repairs highlighted in the Quinquennial Inspection Report. We also need to establish third party support as required by HLF, and to include community amenities with possibly kitchen and toilet facilities as well as heritage aspects such as permanent historical displays. This will all involve much work and responsibility for a few people, albeit over an extended period as with our last project. We should see late in the year whether our "in principle bid" is successful. We are still awaiting the structural engineer's report on the state of the medieval bell-frame, which has precluded bell ringing even for wedding parties.

At the annual meeting in April, all existing council members and officers were re-elected. We were also pleased to welcome back Mr Geoff Lowndes-Toole, who is now undertaking the brunt of the grant bid referred to above.

Unfortunately the churchyard remains a significant problem (as with the bats inside the church, but they continue to have their own way and no amount of expenditure will rid us of them).

For this year the PCC has funded significant extra moneys to supplement the PC grant of £400, but it is simply insufficient. A regular number of devoted volunteers do their bit, but our monthly "working parties" attract little support (how many times have I said this!). We had hoped to have a small income from the sale of logs from expensively cut trees, but this has not worked as anticipated. We hope that our Gift Day may also encourage gifts of labour, in many ways, to enhance or parish church.

Our first car boot sale was surprisingly successful despite our inexperience and the weather; no doubt will be repeated in future when we can also have use of the village hall. We made £364, but much stuff remained unsold!

Autumn dates are centred around the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on 3rd October at 7p.m. (tickets £10 adults and £2.50 children). Tickets from Jane (781594) or Christine (781567). (Last year all proceeds went towards the tree surgery work). Harvest Festival service will be on the 5th. October.

Enjoy the rest of our marvellous summer!

Mervyn Walker

Churchwarden & acting PCC Secretary



Cotton Village Hall



The Restoration

The Village Hall Committee wishes to thank the entire village for their financial contributions, support and time, in the restoration of the hall over the past twelve months. The hall built in 1922 should now last the village for many a generation to come.

We had to undertake the task with little or no expertise in major fund raising, planning, surveying, building regulations, construction and design, so when I approached **Bert Bertoloni** of the village, and he offered to assist us with his background knowledge, of all these issues, for the duration of the project, we were delighted.

Along with Jenny Hanlon and myself he has undertaken every aspect of the work and has been fundamental in the progress that has enabled us to complete the whole task from fund raising to decoration, it is true to say without Bert we would not be anywhere near the stage we are at now.

Others we are indebted too are all mentioned in the conclusion article by Bert.

Finally to James, Christine and Ann who would have been excused for thinking that C. V. H. had stolen their respective partners this past 12 months.

On behalf of the Village hall Committee we give you all our gratitude and heartfelt thanks.

*John Doherty
Chairman, Cotton Village Hall*

What's on September

Line dancing 7-30pm
1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th
Zumba 10-00am
1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th
Village Hall meeting 7-30pm
3rd
Village produce association show
6th (All day)
African Drums 7-30pm

9th 16th
Circle Club 2-4-00pm
9th 23rd
Village Tea Party 2-4pm
13th
Bokwa 6-00pm
10th 17th 24th
Café 10-12
20th
Dog Training 9am - 4pm
16th

October

Line dancing 7-30pm
6th 13th 20th 27th
Zumba 10-00am
6th 13th 20th 27th
Bokwa 6-00pm
1st 8th 15th 22nd 30th
African Drums 7-30pm
14th
Circle Club 2-4-00pm
14th 28th
Dog Training 9am - 4pm
21st
Spinning wheel Theatre production
22nd
Cotton Music Museum
Using field as Car Park
5th

November

Café
1st
Line dancing 7-30pm
3rd 10th 17th 24th
Zumba 10-00am
3rd 10th 17th 24th
Bokwa 6-00pm
5th 12th 19th 26th
African Drums 7-30pm
11th 18th
Circle Club 2-4-00pm
11th 25th
Dog Training 9am - 4pm
18th
Charity Concert
29th

Community Circle Club and Café dates for Sept - Oct 2014

Venue: Cotton Village Hall, Blacksmith Road, Cotton

Tuesday 9 Sept 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Saturday 20 Sept 10am – 12noon Community Circle Café

Tuesday 23 Sept 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club



Tuesday 14 Oct 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club
and AGM (all welcome)

Tuesday 28 Oct 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Saturday 1 Nov 10am – 12noon Community Circle Café

Tuesday 11 Nov 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Tuesday 25 Nov 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club



Saturday 13 Dec 10am – 12noon Community Circle
Christmas Café



Tuesday 16 Dec 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

(NB: *New date - previously 9.12.14*)

cotton Community Circle Tuesday Afternoon Club

We are a social group and we meet at Cotton Village Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays of most months from 2pm until 4pm. (NB: No meetings during August, and just one meeting in December.)

So why not come along? You choose - board games, darts, table tennis, plus a collection of books and DVDs to swap. And there's always friendly, lively conversation! Coffee or tea, biscuits (and sometimes cake) are available. What's not to like? Bring your friends!

All this for only £1.00 per person.

For more information, ring: 01449 781083

Cotton Village Hall Restoration Project

Cotton can feel proud!

By the time you read this, the Hall restoration should be pretty-well completed. At least the constructional work will be. We still have to complete post-project reports for the main funding bodies, but we can afford to take a step back admire what has been achieved.

It is worth reminding ourselves of where we started from. When Douglas Gale very kindly prepared 'Specification 1', almost a year ago, we knew we would need to replace the front wall of the Hall and that we would have to carry out remedial work to parts of the rear wall. It was on that basis that Doug estimated a total cost of the order of £30,000. We then realised that the three wooden external fire doors were simply no longer fit for purpose and their replacement would need to be included in the project. So we started with an estimated project cost of £35,000 (which would include a small contingency).

You may recall that we started our major fund raising exercise with this as a target.

As we went through the formalities of Building Regulations Consent and Planning agreement a number of things came to light, not least being the need to totally replace the foundations across the front wall and 'lean to', with 0.9m of concrete.

Once work got under way we found, perhaps inevitably, that the condition of the rear wall was worse than we expected and the rainwater system had effectively collapsed.

The fund raising was proceeding well and we came to the view that the flat roof over the Annex had been in situ for longer than the normal expected life for this kind of construction. So re-covering of the flat roof was added to the project specification.

Much later during the project and with fund raising progressing well, we decided that the Annex walls would best be finished in the same cladding (HardiePlank) as the front and rear walls. The Council's Buildings inspectors had recommended HardiePlank as a very suitable finish for our kind of building and, of course, its application removes the on-going risk of cracked rendering and associated maintenance. The additional cost of using this for the Annex would stretch, but not break, the budget based on secured funds.

We would always have had to re-paint the main Hall itself, but we felt it was time to give both Hall and Annex a bit of an upgrade.

So, the project outturn is a cost of £48,500, which is covered by the funds secured.

We have called down the complete grants from Mid Suffolk District Council (a total of £18,888.24) and all other grants and pledges have been paid.

We believe that Mr Richard Roper, as the main contractor, and his two stalwarts (Kevin and Lee) have delivered good quality work and excellent value for money. Craig Rice and Karl carried out the internal decoration and Peter Nichols of Aceflate Roofing re-covered the flat roof. We are also indebted to Michael Runcieman, who has carried out the plumbing work on a voluntary basis and Gavin Brock, who has completed the electrical work, also on a voluntary basis. Of course Doug Gale's initial Specification proved invaluable and Doug has remained in touch with the project, advising and supporting as appropriate.

Whilst the restoration project has effectively come to conclusion, we have to remember that the on-going task of maintaining the Hall, the sports field and the children's play area will continue to require effort and financial support from the Village Hall Committee. This cannot be seen as the end of fund raising for the Village Hall!

The project would not have been possible without the very substantial financial support received from a number of quarters and we readily acknowledge the generosity of all involved.

In particular:

Mid Suffolk District Council	£18,888.24
Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund)	£10,000
Cotton Village fund raising & donations	£7,796
Garfield Weston Foundation	£5,000
The Suffolk Fund	£2,000
Cotton Parish Council	£1,000
Cotton Village Hall Committee	£1,000
Alfred Williams Charitable Trust	£1,000
Lord Belstead Charitable Trust	£1,000
HMRC Gift Aid (2013/14)	£887.50
Total	£48,571.74

Of course the 'big' grants are fantastic, but every donation has helped and we should be very proud that a village of our size was able to raise nearly £8,000 from individual and small group donations.

Hopefully this project should mean that the Village Hall can confidently continue to host a widening variety of activities for many years to come. It's your Village Hall, so now it's up to you to make the most of it.

Bert Bertoloni and John Doherty

On behalf of Cotton Village Hall Committee

Cotton Village hall

Presents

Spinning Wheel Theatre Company

With their

Production of Anthony Horowitz

MindGame

7-30 October 22 - 2014

Do not Miss

After the success of their 2013 production of Jim Cartwright's 'Two', Spinning Wheel Theatre present their latest show 'Mindgame' by Anthony Horowitz (Foyle's War, Alex Rider)

Mark Styler, a 'true crime' author, arrives at an experimental hospital for the criminally insane in deepest rural Suffolk with the hope of interviewing notorious serial killer, Easterman. However, when he meets Dr Farquhar, the hospital director, it becomes apparent that things are not as they first appear..... We guarantee you'll be looking over your shoulder all the way home

Tickets are £9.50 and £7.50 and will be available from James Collins Plant Centre and www.spinningwheeltheatre.com from September 1st.

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

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

September 16th The dissolution of the Monasteries

We welcome back noted local historian, Pip Wright. The monasteries of East Anglia had great power. Henry VIII decided, with his advisor Oliver Cromwell, to end this by seizing monastic lands, buildings and wealth. Our large abbey in Bury St. Edmunds was among the many affected.

October 21st Boudica and the Iceni revolution

Boudica was queen of the Iceni people of Eastern England. She led a major uprising against occupying Roman forces sweeping down through East Anglia to destroy London. Dr. Nick Sign separates myth from probability about these terrible events

November 18th The Hoxne treasure

This famous local treasure was found by a cousin of our speaker Stephen Govier. He has written two books and owns some of the coins so should give us a fascinating inside story of this amazing find. *As this is the last meeting before Christmas we will be ending with our traditional tea, coffee and mince pies!*

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

The Club where gardening is fun

Autumn Programme

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 6th September | The VPA Annual Show in Village Hall - 2.30 - 4 pm viewing |
| 15th October | The Role of The Communities Countryside Team
Talk and slides by Mr. David Hughes |
| 19th November | AGM followed by a talk by Mr. James Collins of Collins
Garden Centre |
| 3rd December | Christmas dinner at Cotton Village Hall |

For further details please telephone: Jane de Beer - Chairman on 781594
Chris Marston. 781567



Neighbourhood Watch Report

Dare I say that according to recent police reports and a chat I had recently with a couple of our local officers, we have had a relatively quiet few weeks. Unless of course you know different.

A bit further afield several offences have been reported. Burglaries from outbuildings, a theft from an insecure vehicle of an iPad and charger and the theft of a mountain bike left insecure near a bus shelter. Some of these offences could perhaps have been prevented. An insecure vehicle with valuable items on show must be a gift to the opportunist thief. So please, please take valuable items from your vehicle before leaving it locked. Most satnavs and other electronic devices can be removed, if built in they are still a risk but more difficult, and are often damaged, if removed by the thief. Don't leave anything of yours of whatever value, in the garden, or in the street if you wish to keep it. There is often someone around who is just waiting for the opportunity to relieve you of it. Outbuildings should be secured by a good quality padlock or other device. Please protect your valuables.

Don't forget, if you are going away at the end of the summer or any time, take some basic measures to reduce your vulnerability to property crime.

Cancel regular deliveries, newspapers or milk.

Cut the lawn and trim the garden before leaving.

Lock all doors and windows.

Place lights and even radios or TV on auto timers.

Use /install movement activated external lighting.

Activate any alarms you may have.

Let your neighbours know where you are going, give them contact details.

Arrange for someone to pick up your mail, or use Royal Mails 'Keepsafe' service. Mail can be held for up to 2 months.

Don't leave garden tools or ladders outside your house; these could be used to gain entry.

Consider putting bicycles and other valuables inside the house while you are away, not in view from the outside.

So please take some precautions to protect your property and belongings while you are away from home.

Ring 101 if you see anything suspicious or anybody acting in an odd way. Or if you see or suspect a crime being committed ring 999.



Tony Craighill

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 01449 781917.



Reg. Charity no: 1080734

CARTERS MEADOW



A New Flower at the Meadow

Carters Meadow hosted its first ever Wedding reception on the 2nd of August, At first glance this may seem a strange venue to hold a wedding reception, but In 2004 the Bride Alice Schülen nee Stringer helped plant the trees that are now flourishing in our Community Woodland.

Among the Carters Meadow trustees is Judy Fearn who is a Botanist, and has been keeping a record of the Flora that have inhabited the Meadow, We are delighted to report that we have achieved the 80 species mark, including Sulphur Clover, and four different varieties of Orchid. A comprehensive list is on the Carters Meadow page of the Cotton Parish website.



Autumn Work Parties

Sunday September 7th
Sunday October 5th
Sunday November 2nd

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