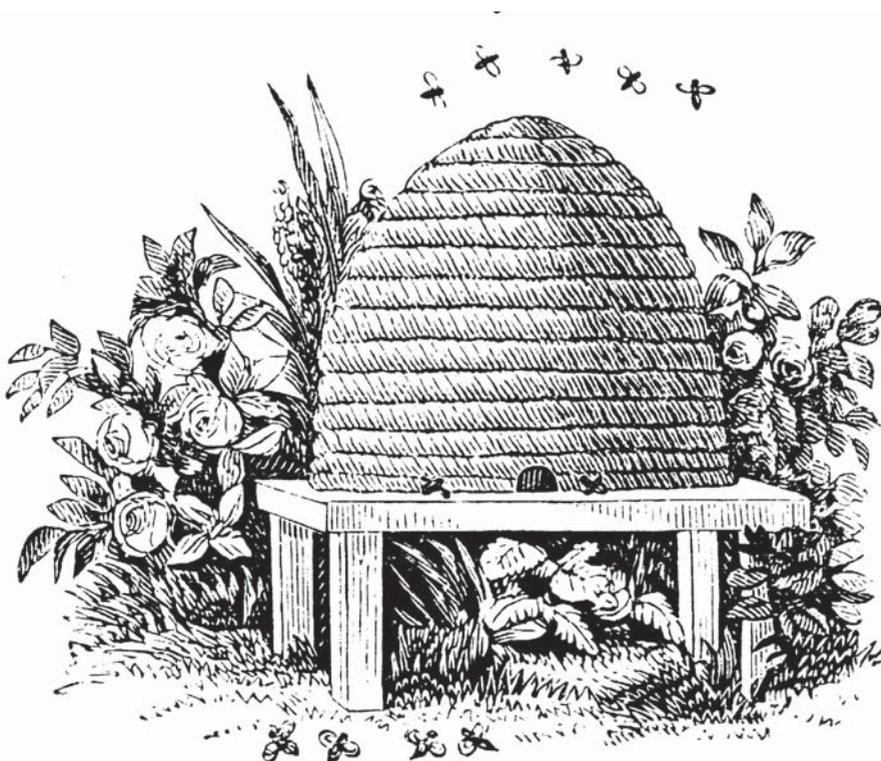


Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Summer 2014



Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



Cotton Parish Council met on the 20th March, the 1st April and the 24th April.

At the first meeting planning applications for repairs to the village hall, use of land at the Old Gospel Hall for a portacabin and shipping container and the creation of a new entrance drive at Leeacres, Church Road were all supported.

M.S.D.C. have granted permission for extensions at Menton Cottage, Church Road and Hempnalls Hall.

Meeting held on 1st April

An application for a grant of £400.00 to help towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard was received from St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council. The application was approved and a cheque will be sent in the near future. The Council agreed that the grant towards the repairs of the village hall should now be paid, a cheque for £1000.00 will be sent to the restoration committee.

The meeting held on the 24th April supported a planning application for a 2 storey extension at 2 Goodrich Close. The annual Parish accounts were approved by the Council and the Annual return will be submitted in due course.

Councillor Gibbs represented the Parish Council at a meeting in Bacton to discuss an event to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1. It has been decided that an event will take place in September in St. Mary's Church Bacton, details will be decided at a later meeting.

It is now possible for local authorities to purchase Vehicle Activated Signs (flashing speed indicators) a joint venture with a neighbouring Council has been suggested and this will be investigated.

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 Summer issue 28 July

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.

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



This year the Friends of Cotton Church are going through some changes, with a number of our usual events not happening this year. This gives us some time to bring forward a few ideas that we have been meaning to do for years, but just didn't have the time for.

One of these ideas is to make 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 paintings that highlight this rural architectural gem of a Church. We are now selecting some of these pictures to make a calendar that we all can be proud of.

This year, we also intend to investigate the rainwater drainage of the Church. A number of walls are damp, and according to our Architect we need to make sure the current drainage is working effectively, before we can attempt to re limewash any walls. We will also nourish the doors with linseed oil. If you fancy giving us a hand with any of this, please let any of us know. We have also welcomed a new member to the team. Lucy Boxhall Hunt from Broad Road is a welcome addition.

Despite predictions that this year we would not be busy, there is still plenty

going on and this year's Christmas Concert will be on Friday 19 December

Andrew Stringer

Chairman F.C.C.

01449 780339

Christine Tester

Secretary

01449 782134



Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

The work on the churchyard trees mentioned in the last issue is complete and there is a stack of (fairly large) logs at the west end beyond the bell-tower; these are available in return for appropriate donation to church funds (please contact our treasurer Jane deBeer on 781594); the profit from the harvest supper was used to fund much of this work. Unfortunately as this was done during the extended very wet weather there is still a good deal of mud around on the main path. It is also apparent that the path surfaces are deteriorating and will need attention when funds permit!

Monthly working parties are again scheduled for the last Saturday in every month from 9.30a.m.; do come along and help us keep God's acre as we wish to see it – a lovey rural churchyard, but not a jungle!

A very useful joint meeting between PCC and FCC members was held in February when our surveyor highlighted matters arising from his five-yearly inspection of the church building; there are a variety of matters requiring attention some great and others less so, but all problematic to some degree. It seems that the most urgent item is re-tiling of at least one slope of the chancel roof (perhaps £40,000 or so); but since this item was identified at least as long ago as the early-nineties, remedial action seems inevitable during the current review period. The PCC will consider what spending can be afforded and grants to be applied for at its meeting in May. However as the Archbishop of Canterbury reminded us on his visit to the cathedral in March (and I paraphrase), "Church" should not be pre-occupied with its buildings; good "Church" will find that the means are there, whereas a church which has its main focus on them will be a "poor" one!

St. Andrew's Annual Meetings will have

taken place (at the end of April) by the time this is read and we pray that existing members and officers will be available for further service, although new faces will be especially welcome.

On Sunday 6th July we shall organise a car boot sale for our funds on the village hall field; please book your space with Jane deBeer or myself; we look forward to a successful morning's trading! The hall will be open for refreshments.

As 2014 is the centenary year of the formation of the diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich (for which read most of Suffolk), many celebrations are organised including a huge Flower Festival in the cathedral between 24th-27th July, there will be a charge of £10 for admission, but the event promises to be spectacular (advance online booking is available on the cathedral website www.steds cathedral.org)

On a local level it is planned that the Stowmarket deanery, which includes all the churches in the Bacton Benefice, will organise a mini pilgrimage, being a walk, or otherwise travelling, between all the churches in the deanery (from the Finboroughs in the south, to us in the north), converging, probably on Old Newton, as a central destination point, with short prayers and services along the way. More information in the Parish news in due course.

We hope you are all able to enjoy a good Summer (but just in case I am off to enjoy visiting my daughter and family in Southern California for a couple of weeks!)

Mervyn Walker

Churchwarden & acting PCC Secretary

Cotton Village Hall



What's on

June

Private parties

1st 15th

Zumba

2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th

Line Dancing

2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th

Dog Training

3rd 17th

Bokwa

4th 11th 18th 25th

African Drum & Dance

10th 17th

Club

10th 20th

Hire of Tables

20th 21st

July

Dog Training

1st 16th

Bokwa

2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th

Car boot / Jumble sale

6th

Private Party

19th

Zumba

7th 14th 21st 28th

Line dancing

7th 14th 21st 28th

African Dancing & Drums

8th 15th 29th

Café

12th

Club

8th 22nd

August

Zumba

11th 18th 25th

Line Dancing

11th 18th 25th

Dog Training

5th 19th

Bokwa

6th 13th 20th 27th

African Drum & Dance

12th 19th

Private Party

22nd 23rd 24th

The Club/Café have a summer Break

All bookings known by 28th May

Mrs Pat Fallon, the daughter of the late R Watkins MBE who was choir master at St Andrews, has presented to the village of Cotton her father's piano and placed in the village hall for safe keeping. The family wish it to be played and enjoyed, as their father had done for many years, if you are a pianist or practicing or require the piano for use at the hall contact Ann on 781083.

John Doherty

Chairman, Cotton Village Hall

Community Circle Club and Café dates for May - July 2014

Tuesday 27 May 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Saturday 31 May 10am – 12noon Community Circle Café 

Tuesday 10 June 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Tuesday 24 June 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Tuesday 8 July 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Saturday 12 July 10am – 12noon Community Circle Café 

Tuesday 22 July 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

August the Club & Café have a summer break

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
& AGM (*all welcome*)

Tuesday 28 Oct 2pm – 4pm Community Circle Club

Cotton Village Hall – an Update

Those of you who came to the public meeting on 10th December last year may recall I said we would keep you updated on progress. In the spring edition of the Cotton Quarterly we told you that we were progressing very well with the necessary fund raising and that we had reached just over £26,000 in pledges, grants and cash. We also said that we could not sit back and relax because there was still so much more to be done. We weren't wrong about that because we have since established that the footings across most of the front of the building need to be completely replaced. The flat roof to the rear of the building is rapidly approaching the end of its useful life and some of you may have noticed a few tell-tale marks on the ceiling in that area.

So fund raising has continued apace.

Well, I think this wonderful village can congratulate itself on a tremendous show of support for what so many of you have said is a fundamental part of our village – Cotton Village Hall.

To meet the requirements of some of our key funders I have broken the overall works into some smaller, fairly self-contained projects. So we have the replacement/repair of the front and rear walls, including new footings at the front; replacement of three external fire doors; re-covering of the complete flat roof; making good and redecorating the remaining external walls; and, finally, a deep internal clean and complete internal re-decoration.

The great thing is that we have secured sufficient funds to complete this work and so we have commissioned Mr Richard Roper (himself a resident of Cotton) to carry out the main building works, starting 6th May. So, by the time you read this, you should have already seen evidence of work under way. Separate contractors will carry out the flat roof work and fire door replacement – all local firms. Our intention is that all the work will be completed by August.

The stance John Doherty and I have taken is that the Hall should continue to be used throughout the work programme – and our contractors understand that. There will be a protective screen installed internally to enable work to progress with the minimum of disruption to user groups. But let's please be realistic. This is a major piece of work and building work of any size tends to be a bit noisy and a bit mucky! Our contractors will do their very best to enable the Hall to continue, but I must ask everyone involved to try to be as understanding as possible. It's important to us that we don't let down our regular Hall users – but it's also important that the work is able to be completed properly and in the shortest sensible time.

My final point is again about finance. We have done well to raise the substantial funds needed to complete this project. But in any building of this age and construction you can never be sure of what you'll find when you start digging (literally!). Of course we've built in what I hope will prove an adequate contingency into the budget but, heaven forbid, if we were to find something substantial that we hadn't allowed for, we may have to seek additional funding. Even when this project is completed, the Hall will continue to need your support so that the Committee can gradually tackle further improvements. So, if you haven't yet been able to contribute to the Hall restoration, please don't feel it is too late. John Doherty and the Committee will always warmly welcome donations, however small or large.

Thanks again for your support.

**Bert Bertoloni – Project Manager – Cotton Village Hall Restoration
(01449 780035; bertoloni@btinternet.com)**

Wanted

A Good, Caring Home for a Pig



If you attended the Pig Racing Night you are aware that a lovely Pink wooden pig was auctioned off, achieving the grand total of £40-00. However, the pig has upset the resident cat at the home of its purchaser and havoc has broken out, so the pig is now back in the hall.

Anyone who would wish to give this “Pink Wooden Pig” (approx. 24” x 14”x 9”) a home join us at the next Community Café were we will offer it once again to the highest bidder.

Garden Party 13th September

Look out for more information about joining the Village Hall Committee for a Tea Party at the Village Hall on 13th September to see the finished hall in all its new splendour.

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

Tuesday, 17th June 7.30 pm Bacton village hall

"Traditional East Anglian songs." These songs have been handed down through the generations. Ian Pretyman will sing some of them to his melodeon and talk about the words and their origins and of the lives of the farmers, fishermen, sailors and soldiers that inspired them.

Members

£2

Non-members

£3

We do not meet during the holiday months of July and August so look out for our interesting new 2014/2015 programme on your village web site or leaflets in the rack by Bacton village shop post office and our first meeting of this new season on Tuesday 17th September.

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

The Club where gardening is fun

Summer Programme

18th June. Evening visit to Bays Farm, Earl Stonham, meet at the Village Hall 6.10 pm

16th July. Summer outing to Cambridge botanical Gardens with coffee at Scotdale Garden Centre in the morning.

We do not meet during August while we prepare produce and flowers etc. for our annual show on 6th September.

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



Neighbourhood Watch Report

Several local crimes to report. Burglary at Old Newton at the end of last month where jewellery, household items and a grey Nissan Juke was stolen; also at Finningham where an offender attempted to open a locked door and departed. Two burglaries at Cotton at the end of March. One in Mill Road where an offender entered a house and searched, but departed without taking anything, and the other in Station Road where offender entered a shed and stole a child's toy ride-on tractor. The most recent burglary in our area was at Westhorpe, middle of April, the house was entered and the house was very untidily searched. No report of anything stolen.

Daylight burglaries are just as frequent as night-time burglaries, so be aware. Always lock your doors and windows even if you leave the house vacant for a short period. Remove all tools and objects from your garden that could be used by an offender to break into your home. Set your alarm if you have one, if you don't have one consider getting a good intruder alarm for your home and other outbuildings.

Please remember to store all important valuables including jewellery and cash out of sight and if possible in a hidden wall or floor safe. The first place an offender will look is in the top drawer of your dresser unit or in the back of a wardrobe. Don't make it easy for them and don't hang car keys just near the back door. Many vehicles have been stolen because occupants leave their key conveniently on a hook near the back door.

Did you know that you can register your property for free. Bikes, computers, cameras, mobilephones, almost any item that could be stolen. Just register it on www.immobilise.com. If then your items are stolen and recovered, the Police or Immobilise will contact you and let you know where it is so you can collect it. This is a Home Office approved service and information is shared between all UK forces. To find out more just enter www.immobilise.com. And fill in the form.

Don't forget, ring 101 if you see anything suspicious or anybody acting in an odd way, looking at houses or driving slowly around the village. Or if you see what could be a crime being committed, then ring 999. Let's try and keep Cotton a crime free zone. We can with your help.

Tony Craighill

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 01449 781917.





Reg Charity no. 1080734

CARTERS M E A D O W



A Bit of Spring Cleaning

This year's Winter work parties have seen the Carters Meadow team, doing a little painting and decorating, as well as the usual maintenance jobs. The visitor shelter and the gate and posts have all had a good wire brushing, and a couple of coats of paint. The Meadow does look surprisingly good, considering the flooding and winds thrown at us.

Carters Meadow has a couple of ideas for some events this year; included in these is a proposed "Moth" evening with experts on hand to capture and identify some of the 2400 species of moths found in this country, keep your eyes peeled for dates and times etc.



Summer Work Parties

Sunday June 1st
Sunday July 6th
Sunday August 3rd

All work parties start at 10.00am until 1pm

All Welcome