

Cotton Quarterly

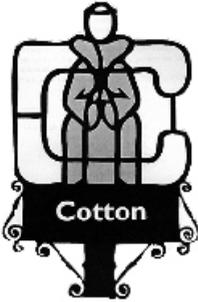
Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Spring 2015



Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



The Parish Council opposed a planning application to build four detached houses in Blacksmith Road. Mid Suffolk District have subsequently refused planning permission. When granting planning permission for an extension to "The Bungalow", Broad Road M.S.D.C. took into account the Parish Council's concerns over road safety issues.

The village War Memorial has been inspected, it was reported that the crack at the top of the Memorial was not in need of repair and that as there has been no movement of the foundations they do not require attention. The Memorial does however require cleaning which will be undertaken in due course.

Suffolk County Council will be surveying the proposed sites for placing the mobile Vehicle Activated Signs which indicate a vehicles speed. They will inform the Parish Council of their decision in due course.

A donation of £50.00 has been made to the Bacton, Cotton & Wyverstone Good Neighbour Scheme to help them with running costs.

The Council agreed a precept of £5500.00 for the financial year 2015-2016.

Elections for the UK Parliament, District Councils and Parish Councils will take place on Thursday 7th May 2015. If you are interested in standing as a candidate you must meet certain criteria. You will also need to complete a nomination paper which is signed by two electors from the parish. Nomination papers are available from the Electoral Services Team or from your parish clerk after the 9th February. The completed nominations must be delivered by hand to Mid Suffolk District Council offices, during normal office hours, from Monday 23rd March 2015 and no later than 4pm on Thursday 9th April. If you are considering standing as a candidate for the Parish Council and require further information please contact the parish clerk. The Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 13th May 2015.

Colin Hall

Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com

Village web-site

www.cotton.onesuffolk.net

N.B. Copy deadline for Summer 2015 end of April

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

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

Suffolk Walking Festival 9th - 31st May 2015

We are fast approaching that time of year again when the air will start warming up, the bluebells will be blooming and the Suffolk countryside will be enticing us to dig out our walking boots and start exploring. What better way to do this than to join in the annual Suffolk Walking Festival which takes place 9th - 31st May. The programme is packed with over 90 guided walks around medieval villages, market towns, along the coast and through gentle landscapes across the county.

The eclectic mix of walks includes Sketch Book Strolls for children (there's also one for adults) with a local artist around Brandon Country Park; a seven mile hike called Food Glorious Food through Thetford Forest to the award-winning restaurant at the Elvedon Hall Estate for lunch; A Scottish Visionary and His Fairytale Village, starting from Thorpeness along the coast as well as Beachcombing for Beginners on Felixstowe beach.

You can follow in Benjamin Britten's footsteps along 'Curlew River' and learn about the composer, his music and the wildlife that inspired him; walk the Horseshoe Trail and learn about horse racing in Newmarket; explore the Ponds of Helmingham Hall, walk in the footsteps of Thomas Gainsborough around Sudbury or learn about John Constable as you amble through 'Constable Country'.

There are far too many walks to list here, so please visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk to look at the programme and to book your tickets. You can also pick up a brochure from you local tourist information centre.

We hope you will be inspired to join in this fun and sociable festival to enjoy Suffolk at its very best.

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



Friday 19th December saw the Edmund Octet giving us another concert which included Christmas Carols and Festive readings. Despite the numbers of the Edmund Octet being depleted due to seasonal pestilence, the true spirit of show business shone through, the show had to go on. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the concert and variety of music chosen meant there was something for everyone.

We have a small number of our unique 2015 calendars, including images created by Roy Rodgers during his time as Artist in Residence at St Andrews Cotton. The remainder of the calendars are now available for £5.00. Lucy Art in Finbow's Yard has the remaining stock.

The F.C.C have also agreed to be a partner with the Parochial Church Council, to help with a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund; this funding bid is required to help raise funds to make St Andrews an easier place to hold community events, as well as secure the buildings future for future generations to admire.

The F.C.C have also unanimously agreed to pledge £20,000.00 towards a P.C.C grant application

for a one-off government grant aimed at protecting Churches and Historic Buildings. We will know if we are successful in the spring.

The end of last year saw Peter Wenbanstanddownasa committee member; we thank him for sterling work and encouragement over the years and look forward to putting into print his work on the emerging new St Andrews Church Guide Book.

Andrew Stringer
Chairman F.C.C.
01449 780339

Christine Tester
Secretary
01449 782134



Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

The Parish currently has no Rector following the departure of the previous incumbent of the Bacton Benefice, Rev'd Liz Varley, as indicated in the last issue. Progress is well in hand to find a new person to fulfil this role, but it is unlikely that this will be before mid-summer at the earliest given the procedures involved; until this happens our Rural Dean Rev'd Canon Barbara Bilston will be overall responsible for the affairs of the Parish in conjunction with the PCC. Any matters relating to arrangements for weddings, funerals and burials, baptisms etc. should initially be directed to her (tel 01449 781253), or to myself as churchwarden.

The new Diocesan Bishop will be Rev'd Canon Martin Seeley who is likely to be in post here in Suffolk in June; we look forward to welcoming him.

The bids for grants to finance the ever-continuing need to maintain the church fabric was complicated in late December by the announcement by the Treasury of a limited-time and budget provision for repairs to listed church roofs and drainage systems; as this was deadlined to 30th January the existing bid process had to be compromised and an urgent new application submitted which was no easy task! The PCC is very grateful to the FCC trustees who decided to support the bid by offering a generous funding commitment to demonstrate community involvement, which we hope will encourage the grant providers to take our bid for nearly £75,000 seriously, given the level of competition for grants. We shall learn the outcome by the end of March, but meanwhile we shall also continue to look for other sources of funds. We know that strengthening of the bell frame is likely to cost around further £5,000; decisions will need to be made as to whether the dampness issues are more urgent??

We look forward to working with newly arranged local assistance in maintaining the churchyard, and in addition the regular last-Saturday- in- the- month sessions will re-commence in March at 9.30 a.m. Further work on the trees will also be undertaken shortly.

The Lent Season commences with Ash Wednesday on 18th February; the Palm Sunday service on 29th March will be a joint benefice communion at Wickham Skeith at 10.a.m. Maundy Thursday (2nd April) will as usual be at Cotton at 7p.m. Easter Day service at Cotton will a Family Communion at 11 a.m. Please support these services led by our hard working lay ministry team under Barbara Bilston's unflinching leadership, despite her many other commitments across the Stowmarket deanery.

Enjoy a Happy and Peaceful Eastertide, with hopefully, some Spring sunshine!

Mervyn Walker
Churchwarden



Cotton Village Hall



News

Mid Suffolk District Council Building regulations signed off the work on the village hall, drawing to an end the technical details of the renovations. The committee was concerned with a proposal to build four dwellings on our boundary and have expressed their views to the relevant planning authority.

We have acquired a new water urn as the last one had let us down and it was not large enough for the Café's use.

Clear out your old fifties and sixties clothing and join the Party of true Rock & Roll, dancing to the music played by *Ed Gasket & the Rockers*. Always a great evening of nostalgia for us oldies and enlightenment for you youngsters, **28th March. Tickets £7-50 BYO Drinks (Collins of Cotton 781182)**

It is our intention to hold a **Pig Race Night** on **25th April** just waiting for the Lions Club to confirm with me, following on from a **Village garage sale** last year we hope to hold another one on **30th May** watch out for details We are receiving concerns regarding the slipperiness of the floor, we clean it regularly but the difficulty does not go away, does anyone in the village know of a simple remedy for us to use to solve the problem.

John Doherty
Chairman, Cotton Village Hall

What's on March

Zumba 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th

Café 7th (Dr Dan Poulter)

Private Party 8th

Circle club 10th 24th

African Drums 3rd 17th 31st

Dog Training 17th

V P A 18th

Parish Council 19th

Rock and Roll Dance 28th

April

Zumba 6th 13th 20th 27th

Circle club 14th 28th

African Drums 14th 28th

VPA 15th

Café 18th

Dog Training 21st

Possible Pig Race Night 25th

May

Camping on the field 2nd 3rd

Zumba 4th 11th 118th

Voting Day 7th

Circle Club 12th 26th

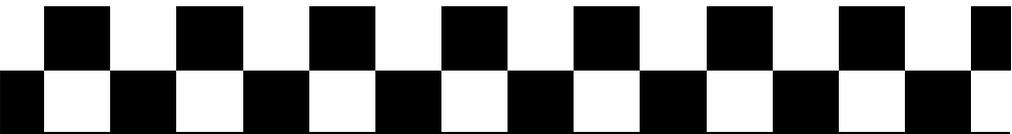
African Drums 12th 26th

Parish Council A G M 13th

Dog Training 19th

Village Hall A G M

Café with Garage Sale 30th



COTTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

**Ed
Gasket
& the Rockers**

28TH MARCH 7:30PM

TICKETS £7.50

**AVAILABLE FROM JAMES COLLINS GARDEN PLANTS
01449 781 182**

PRIZE RAFFLE

1950'S ROCK N' ROLL &

ROCKABILLY

BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS



Community Circle Club and Café dates for March - May 2015

Venue: Cotton Village Hall, Blacksmith Road, Cotton

Saturday 7 March 10am – 12noon

(with a visit from our MP, Dr Dan Poulter, subject to ministerial demands)

Community Circle Café



Tuesday 10 March 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Tuesday 24 March 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Tuesday 14 April 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Saturday 18 April 10am – 12noon

Community Circle Café



Tuesday 28 April 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Tuesday 12 May 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Tuesday 26 May 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Saturday 30 May 10am – 12noon

Community Circle Café



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 July, August, and 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 & District Village Produce Association

Spring Programme

18th March. SPRING INTO SUMMER Talk by Ben Potterton of Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery

15th April. ICKWORTH THROUGH THE SEASONS Lecture by Mr. Sean Reid, Outdoor Manager at Ickworth House (& ex Head Gardener at Abbey Gardens & Ickworth House)

20th May. GUIDED TOUR OF ABBOTS HALL GARDENS Meet 6pm at Museum of East Anglian Life

For further details please telephone: Jane de Beer - Chairman on 781594

Chris Marston. 781567





World War I Commemoration, 1915 – Cotton 2015

The meeting called for 13th January to plan for this WWI Centenary commemorative event was attended by eleven people.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather Cotton residents' ideas as to a suitable event for 2015 (1915) to hold in our village following the successful event in Bacton to mark 1914 last October. There emerged in discussion a concert theme echoing the play/film War Horse and the songs of the time that were sung by the troops and in the music halls. This could be accompanied by an exhibition of residents' memorabilia such as letters, photographs, medals etc., etc., Such events would be held in and around the village hall and/or St. Andrews church. Research has been done into the names on the Cotton War Memorial in St. Andrews churchyard and the citation for each one obtained from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

It was agreed that a further meeting would be held in a few weeks' time when hopefully many more people would attend to build on these ideas and to form a committee to help Cotton produce an event of which we could all be proud.

Peter Wenban / Chairman

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Unfortunately thieves have struck in Cotton over the Christmas period. The allotments in Scuffins Lane were the target and a quantity of gardening tools were stolen from one of the plots. On a neighbouring plot it appeared to the plot holder that a quantity of parsnips had been unlawfully removed from the ground. So they are about, opportunist villains who are on the lookout for a chance to deprive you or me of property. So advice is to look after it, don't leave your property where it could be unlawfully removed. Crops in the ground are difficult to secure and I can't think how you could prevent them from being taken. Be on your guard, if you use tools away from home, take them back to a secure location, you will have them for next time.

Other crime committed close to Cotton was an attempted burglary at Wyverstone earlier this month where an attempt was made to enter a garage via a window, but no entry was made. A burglary was also committed at Mendlesham and costume jewellery was stolen.

Heating oil thefts have also been reported in our area, so ensure you have good quality locks on your tanks, be especially guarded just after you have had a refill of oil. Not quite so precious now but worth it to the thief if the oil is easy to get at. If you have been a victim of crime, no matter how minor, please inform the police, they want to know what's going on in our village.

Get connected to Police Connect. Unless you have already done so, don't forget to subscribe to the new Suffolk Police messaging service. It replaces the old Police Direct service.

To find out more and to register on Police Connect ring 01473 613997 and speak to the Police Connect team.

It's pretty windy out there!

Do you need extra support during a power cut or do you know someone else that would need extra support? If so, sign up to the UK Power Networks register.

Who can apply

- Customers who are dependent on medical equipment
- Customers who are chronically ill
- Customers with a disability
- Customers who are visually impaired or blind
- Customers who are hearing impaired or deaf
- Elderly customers
- A nursing or residential home
- Customers with young babies in household
- Any other case that you would like us to consider

cont.



(Neighbourhood Watch cont.)

By joining the register, you will receive:

- ☒ A priority phone number that you can call 24 hours a day
- ☒ A welcome pack with useful advice about preparing for a power cut
- ☒ Regular text message or phone updates during a power cut
- ☒ Extra support from the British Red Cross

To get on the register phone, 0800 31 63 105. Or go online to the Priority Services Register website.

Well the dark nights are with us for a while yet, good cover for the thief. So lock your vehicles up, even on the drive and don't leave any property in the vehicle. If you do see persons acting suspiciously or vehicles cruising round the village, then ring police on 999, take the index number if you can. You may prevent a crime.

Let's keep Cotton Safe.

Tony Craighill

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 01449 781917.

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

Meetings 7.30 pm at Bacton village hall.

Members £ 2 Non-members £ 3

17th March

"A year in the wildlife of Minsmere". This amazing RSPB sanctuary is host to a diversity of resident and visiting birds and wildlife. Alec Bass, a wildlife tour guide and tutor will look at the history of Minsmere and neighbouring sites and a typical year's life there.

21st April

"The Paston Family". The Paston Family are integral to East Anglian history members staying in Cotton's Hempnalls Hall. Susan Curran has written books on the family and their famous Paston Papers of important historical record.

19th May, A Major Event !!

"The History of Spoken English" We are delighted to welcome the great entertainer Charlie Haylock known to one and all in East Anglia for his hilarious but informative legendary talks about language. Do not miss what will be a very popular evening !



CARTERS M E A D O W

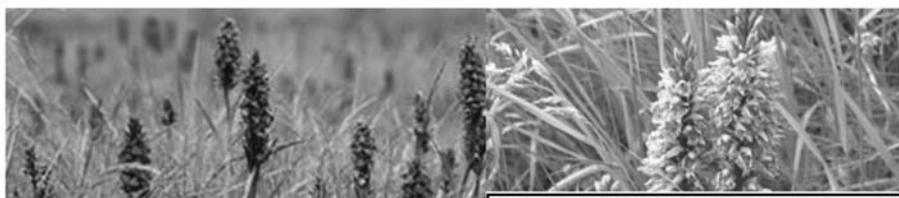


Reg. Charity no: 1080734

Spring Has Arrived at the Meadow

The lighter nights are upon us, and the Meadow is breaking out of its winter slumber, now is a great time to visit Carters Meadow and have a look at all the buds and blossom coming through.

Last years grazing of the wildflowers by local sheep, should result in an even greater variety of Species of plant this year. Last year we had a marvellous display of Orchids, see if you can be the first to spot one this year, don't forget to write it in the book if you discover one.



Southern Marsh, Common Spotted & Pyramidal Orchids ,



Spring Work Parties

Sunday March 1st
Sunday April 5th
Sunday May 3rd

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

All Welcome