

Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Summer 2015



Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



The election for Parish Councillors was uncontested with only five candidates standing. Councillor Couldridge decided that after nine and a half years on the Council, eight of which as Chairman, she would not stand for re-election. My thanks go to her for all her help and support that she has given me and the Council during that time. A new Chairman and Vice Chairman will be elected at the Annual Parish meeting and a decision on seconding two more Councillors will be made.

Temporary details of all Councillors will be posted on notice boards in the village along with update on Mid Suffolk District Council representative. At the meeting held on the 19th March a planning application to convert a garage into living accommodation and to demolish and replace an outbuilding at Red Rooster Barn was supported. An appeal has been lodged to Mid Suffolk District Council over their refusal of planning permission to build four houses in Blacksmith Road. The Parish Council have written to confirm their opposition to the proposal and to support the decision made by M.S.D.C.

A grant of £400.00 has been made to St. Andrew's Church PCC to help with the cost of up-keeping the churchyard.

Colin Hall *Clerk to Cotton Parish Council*

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mrs Beryl Ellis	Tel:- 01449 780007
Mr. Peter Gibbs	Tel:- 01449 781308
Mr. Christopher Tester	Tel:- 01449 782134
Mrs. Sarah Wenban	Tel:- 01449 781095
Mr. David Williams	Tel:- 01449 781645

Parish Clerk

Colin Hall	Tel:- 01449 781400
Parish email address	cotton.parish.clerk@gmail.com
Parish web-site	www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc

Mid Suffolk District Councillor

Andrew Stringer	01449 780339
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N.B. Copy deadline for Summer 2015 end of June

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL / CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2015

It has been a routine year for the PC, there being no extraordinary issues arising during the year the work of the PC being largely concerned with normal management of Parish affairs.

SOCIAL and CULTURAL

Access to information continues to be provided by the Cotton Quarterly and the Parish Magazine. The Website continues to be managed by Keith Flynn; thank you Keith.

The Welcome Pack has been updated during the year and new covers have been printed. The Good Neighbours Scheme is now well established and the PC were pleased to make a donation of £50 towards running costs during the year.

The Village Hall continues to be the focus for social life in the village with several events during the year, the Circle Cafe proving to be very popular with village residents.

The extensive repairs to the hall were commenced in May and completed in September with a celebratory party. The PC were pleased to donate a further £1,275 towards the completion of the work.

MAINTENANCE

The contractors employed by the PC to maintain the Village Hall field and hedges continue to be satisfactory.

The PC as usual provided a grant of £400 to the PCC towards maintenance of the churchyard. Caners Meadow is maintained by the Carters Meadow Trustees and an enthusiastic group of volunteers, thank you to them for turning out in all weathers during the year.

The Village sign has been cleaned but still awaiting repainting when weather permits. The War Memorial

There was concern expressed during the year about the structural stability of the War Memorial; after being inspected it was decided that what was needed was a general clean up. Thank you to Councillors Sarah Wen ban and Peter Gibbs for doing the spring clean.

ROADS and TRAFFIC

The vehicle activated signs are not in place due to Suffolk County Council not having as yet identified suitable locations. County Councillor Andrew Stringer will pursue the matter. Many of the potholes in the village have now been repaired due to pressure on Highways from the PC and Councillor Andrew Stringer. Thank you to Councillor Peter Gibbs for completing an extensive survey of all the potholes in the village and submitting a report to forward to Highways.

COUNCIL NEWS

During the year Councillor Beryl Halliday resigned after serving on the PC since 2009. By the time this report is published I myself will have retired from the PC having joined in 2005 and acting as Chairman since 2007. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as a Councillor for the last ten years.

Valerie Couldridge, *Chairman*

COULD YOU BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The last Parish Council election was uncontested as there were only five candidates, who were elected unopposed.

The Council now need to co-opt two village residents to fill the vacancies. The Council meets bi-monthly, usually on a Wednesday evening, in the village hall.

There are occasionally other meetings to deal with planning applications etc.

If you feel that you are able to spare a few hours over a year and would like to be considered for co-option to the Council please contact the clerk or a councillor for further information.

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



Earlier this year the FCC decided to pledge £20,000 for church roof repairs as part of a Grant bid submitted by the PCC to a pot of money government had set aside for protecting Historic buildings and Churches. We were delighted when we were told that this bid had been successful. The success of this bid for roofing repairs prepared by the PCC is a great landmark for the FCC and when complete will finish yet another major improvement to the building made possible by all the fundraising.

The St Edmund Octet has been booked for 11th December at 7.00 pm. They will be hosting another concert that will include Christmas Carols and seasonal music. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the concert last year; the variety of music chosen meant there was something for everyone. We look forward to this year's event.

The FCC Calendar featuring images from Roy Rodgers stint as Artist in residence at St Andrews Cotton, has generated profit of approximately £155 so far. The success of the calendar is twofold, not only have we made a profit to help with the ongoing fundraising, we have also inspired other Churches to commission their own versions.

This year's AGM has been booked for Thursday 16th July 2015, starting at 7.30pm, and is being held at Cotton Village Hall. This is everyone's annual

opportunity to come along and see the reports and accounts for the year. The FCC would like to thank those that have made donations this year however large or small, these are very gratefully received.

Andrew Stringer

Chairman F.C.C.

01449 780339

Christine Tester

Secretary

01449 782134



Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

It is disappointing to report that at the time of writing there have been no applications for the post of Priest in Charge of the Bacton Benefice to which group Cotton belongs (and the first closing date is now past). This inevitably means that the vacancy will continue until someone suitable comes forward. The arrangements described in the last issue will be maintained.

On a more positive note I am happy to report that the Grant application for repairs to the church chancel roof and some drainage issues also recorded in the last issue, was successful and a net sum of £40,900 has been awarded (this grosses up to the bid figure of £73,100 when recoverable VAT and the generous FCC pledge of £20,000 are added). We are currently applying for the necessary diocesan Faculty to permit the works to proceed as soon as possible. Hopefully scaffolding will be seen around the building in the early summer. The success of this bid will require re-assessment of where we stand regarding progress with a major bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which may prove beyond village resources given the level of ongoing community support expected by HLF.

No doubt some specific issues can be addressed through the FCC and Suffolk Historic Churches, but further work is required to develop suitable schemes to justify new grant applications.

However, in amongst concerns over maintaining a Grade 1 Listed building and churchyard, are real and continuing concerns about the costs of our actual day to day congregational existence for which there is no grant. Just like everyday living expenses they grow and depend on our ability to generate income. Unfortunately there is simply insufficient regular income to make ends meet, which is not a happy prospect

for a new Minister to face! We are required to pay an annual sum amounting to the equivalent of nearly £200 each week simply to maintain the provision of services at church. With an average congregation of say a dozen people at most, it is easy to see there is a shortfall! Whilst the building needs maintaining, if its primary purpose is not supported financially the result may well prove to be the same as neglect of the fabric. We ALL need to be aware of this situation, however the optimistic Christian spirit among us will try to see this as a "glass half full" and not vice-versa, but positive responses are the only way forward!

Our flower Festival will be held over the weekend of then 13/14th June and the theme will be "Poetry"; please contact Christine Marston (781567) to reserve your display place. A great opportunity to support St Andrew's! There will be a "Songs of Praise" service to conclude at 6p.m. on the Sunday.

Mervyn Walker
Churchwarden



Cotton Village Hall



News

The Ed Gasket & the Rockers dance made us a profit of £160-00 many thanks to the band and David Vincent, who can sell a raffle ticket to a statue, plus all who attended and danced the night away, even K F “who never ever dances” he says!

The Pig Racing evening was an outstanding success raising around £763-00 for repairs to the playing field equipment and a new baby changing facility.

We have had to change the date of the **Garage Sale to June 20th** we hope this does not inconvenience you too much.

I suppose it is part of life now days, but some idiot has decided that our new seat from the Olympic Park would look better with obscene graffiti scratched into it. But they have left us a clue! Do you know who call themselves “**The Cotton Krew**” as we would like to offer him/her work at the Village Hall for idle hands.

John Doherty

Chairman, Cotton Village Hall

What's on

June

Zumba - 1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th
African drums - 9th 23rd
Circle Club - 9th 23rd
Dog Training - 16th
Café and Garage sale - 20th
Caravan & Camping - 25th 26th
27th 28th 29th
Quiz - 26th

July

Zumba - 6th 13th 20th 27th
African Drums - 7th 21st
Dog Training - 21st

August

Zumba - 3rd 10th 17th 24th
African Drums - 4th 18th
Blue Cross Dog show - 9th
Dog Training - 18th
Private Party - 21st

At this time we do not yet know the outcome of the Village hall AGM Look out for a notice on the Halls Notice Board.

Cotton Village Hall

Sat 20th June 9 Noon

Grand Garage Sale

Along with the

Community Café

Contact David Vincent for a £5-00
pitch

01449 781529

Friday 26th June 7-30

The Cotton Quiz

Quiz master John Doherty

Teams of up to six persons

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

Community Circle Club and Café

May - September 2015

Venue: Cotton Village Hall, Blacksmith Road, Cotton

NB: The May and July Cafés have been cancelled and replaced with a Café on 20 June (see below).

Tuesday 12 May 2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club	
Tuesday 26 May 2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club	
Tuesday 9 June 2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club	
Saturday 20 June 10am – 12pm **new date**	Community Circle Café **new date**	
Tuesday 23 June 2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club	
Tuesday 8 September 2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club	
Saturday 12 September 10am – 12noon	Community Circle Café	
Tuesday 22 September 2pm – 4pm	Community Circle Club	

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

Neighbourhood Watch Report

No crimes reported in Cotton since Theft of a Vehicle on 17 March. This was in Broad Road and the vehicle was a Toyota Hilux parked I believe on a driveway. The vehicle was unattended and insecure, possible that the ignition keys were in the vehicle.

No sympathy I'm afraid for the loser, a gift for the offender. This has happened before in Cotton and if you think your vehicle is safe on your own drive unlocked then think again. The crime above demonstrates that fact. So if you value your property **lock it up**.

Not far from Cotton we had a Fly Tipping offence in Walsham Road Finningham. A nasty crime which was reported in the local papers and on Look East. This happened between the 9th and 10th of April. Police are asking for any information from anyone who might have witnessed or may have knowledge of this offence.

A wave of burglaries has occurred over the last few weeks in Mid Suffolk. It appears that a team of males have been targeting several villages and breaking into either dwelling or other buildings and taking whatever they can find of value. They are going equipped to steal, carrying bolt cutters with them and cutting locks securing premises. So be on your guard. Fit good quality locks and alarms to outbuildings, they are a good deterrent. If you are away from your house on holiday or for the evening, leave some lights on; don't make it obvious that the premises are empty. Lights that activate with movement are a good investment. So take some sensible precautions to protect your property. **Lock it or lose it**.

Police are giving these burglaries their highest priority, having units in marked and unmarked vehicles patrolling areas in order to deter and detect offenders. So all residents are being asked to remain vigilant and report any suspicious vehicles or individuals on 101, or 999 in an emergency. So enjoy the good weather ahead. Please don't leave sheds and garage doors open and in view of the opportunist villain. Let's keep Cotton crime free.

Tony Craighill. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917



Cotton & District Village Produce Association

Spring Programme

We meet in the village hall at 7.30pm and welcome visitors and new members.

17th June Visit to Collins Garden Plants where James will give us his topical hints and tips

15th July Summer outing to Blickling Hall, Norfolk

No meeting in August as we are busy preparing for VPA Annual Show on 5th September.

If you have never competed, why not give it a go this year. It is great fun and well worth the effort. Tel: Jane de Beer, Chairman 781594 or Chris Marston 781567 for more details.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH COTTON

We are holding our FLOWER FESTIVAL June 13/14th JUNE, 2015

The Theme is 'POETRY'.

We would love to fill the church with arrangements of flowers and greenery (or jugs of flowers and greenery from your garden if arranging is 'not your thing'). Please contact me and I shall be very happy to allocate you a spot in church.

We will be having a Book Stall and Plant Stall - we would appreciate your contributions, which we are willing to collect if necessary. Tel: Jane 781594 or Chris 781567

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

Tuesday, 16th June.

We are organising an afternoon visit to Abbotts Hall in Stowmarket for a talk about the family who lived there and then a tour of the house and walled garden. A mini-bus will leave Bacton village hall at 2.0 pm and return in the late afternoon for £ 5 or you can go by your own means.

Details from Peter Wenban at:-
01449 781095 or peterwenban@gmail.com

Members £ 2 Non-Members £ 3

We do not meet in the holiday months of July and August but do look out for the first meeting of our new season which opens with news of a Big Bang.

FLOWER FESTIVAL.
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH COTTON
13th & 14th JUNE

The theme this year is
'POETRY'

10am - 5 pm both days
Culminating with Evensong on Sunday
at 5.30 pm

Tea, Coffee and Home-made Cakes
and Cookies

Barbecue on Sunday 12 - 2 pm

Book and Plant stalls





CARTERS M E A D O W



Reg. Charity no: 1080734

Volunteers Flood in !

Carters Meadow volunteers really are made of stronger stuff. May's work party was conducted during one of the many cloudbursts we have had recently. Undeterred our volunteers stuck to their tasks, just like our clothing did to numerous parts of our bodies by the end of it. The picture clearly shows just how damp it was, I you would like to get wet in a good cause come along to one of our work parties listed below.

Now that Spring approaches Summer, the Meadow is full of life. below show's Bumble Bees on Apple Blossom as well as some very strange Ladybirds on the Scots Pine trees. Why not go and have a look for your self? Please write in the book in the shelter if you find something interesting, we will print a selection of the best finds next time



Summer Work Parties

Sunday June 7th

Sunday July 5th

Sunday August 2nd

All work parties start at

10.00am until noon

All Welcome