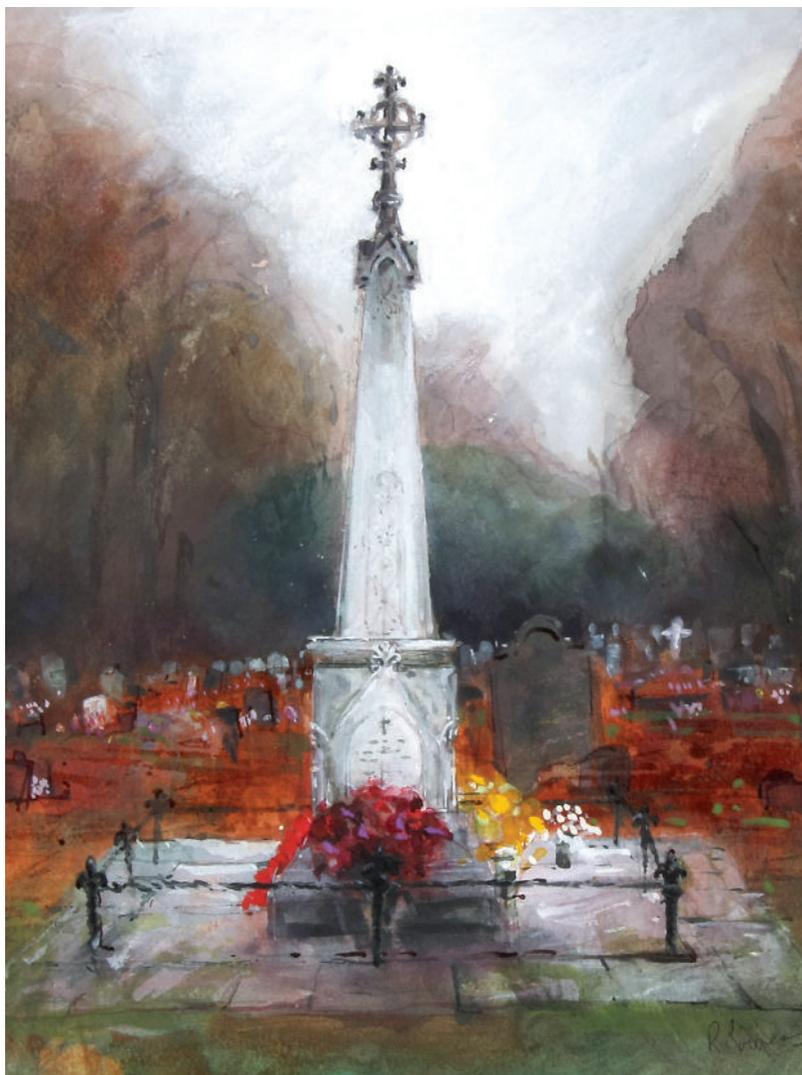


Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Winter 2015



Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



After saying in the last issue that details of all Councillors appeared in the Autumn issue I left one Councillor off the list and misspelt the name of another. I apologise to you and to the Councillors concerned. The correct details should now appear in this issue, plus photographs and details are now on display on all 4 notice boards and on the village web site.

A leaflet for the Police Connect scheme has been delivered with this issue you can return completed forms to any Councillor or to me and we will ensure that they are returned to Suffolk Police

Jeannie and Tony Hutchinson have decided to step down from compiling the "Quarterly" and enjoy a well earned retirement. They have been involved with the magazine since its inception and have done a wonderful job.

We are now looking for someone to fill their shoes and compile the magazine. If you are interested in taking on the job please contact me or any Councillor. The first issue under "New Management will be the Summer 2016 issue, I am sure Jeannie and Tony would be pleased to pass on any tips.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on the 20th January 2016.

Colin Hall

Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

Village web-site
on Facebook

www.cotton.onesuffolk.net
'Cotton Parish Grapevine'

N.B. Copy for the Winter Newsletter by end of January please

Cotton's Parish Councillors are:-

Chairman	Mr. Peter Gibbs	Tel:- 01449 781308 email:- peter.gibbs@talk21.com
Vice Chairman	Mrs.Sarah Weban	Tel:- 01449 781095 email:-sarahwenban@hotmail.com
Councillor	Mrs. B. Ellis	Tel:- 01449 780007 email:- ber.35@hotmail.com
Councillor	Mr. D. Williams	Tel:- 01449 781645 email:- sanddwilliams@btinternet.com
Councilor	Mr. C. Tester	Tel:- 01449 782134 email:- ctnego2@aol.com
Councillor	Mrs. M. Cocksedge	Tel:- 01449 780491 email:- cocksedge191@btinternet.com
Councilor	Mr. E. Knight	Tel:- 01449 257381 email:- Elliott.o.knight@gmail.com

Mid Suffolk District Councillor / Suffolk County Councilor

Mr Andrew Stringer **Tel:- 01449 780339**

emails:-

andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk / Andrew.Stringer@suffolk.gov.uk

Parish Clerk **Mr Colin Hall** **Tel:- 01449 781400**
email:- cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com

Getting Stuff Done

You will see the Parish Council is getting stuck into some of the jobs around the village. Following reports from residents, the large pothole we've all nearly fallen into in Cock Road has been fixed as a priority by the County Council, we will do another village-wide pothole survey shortly with a view to getting the whole lot fixed in one go, like we did last year. Following a chase-up the field hedge along Mill Road which was overgrown has been flailed back by the owner who reports he has now put in place arrangements for more regular cutting. The bus shelter, which is owned by the Parish Council has been tidied up and is more useable. It is hoped we can come up with a longer term plan for the building which will prevent it disappearing into the undergrowth again.

The churchyard is receiving regular trimming now but the tidier it gets the more the War Memorial looks 'on the huf'. A structural engineer says it is safe, nonetheless it looks like it needs some work. One of our residents whilst working on another project for the church stumbled across Heritage Lottery Fund project money specifically allocated for the restoration of War Memorials. A small working group has been formed supported by the Parish Council to apply for money to take down the memorial, replace its foundations and reassemble it upright. The project will also involve work to clearly record the lives of those who died in both World Wars, so that their names will live on, long after we have all gone. Due to severe budget cuts the Police presence locally is unlikely improve but if you want to get information about local crimes and things to look out for, go to www.suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect, once registered you will automatically get updates direct. You can also apply by post and get information by telephone or text message. The service is free.

What isn't free is the provision of dog mess bins. A number of people have suggested we have some in the village. The cost of installing each one can be £200; the cost of emptying them is £30 per year per bin. We would probably need at least half a dozen to make any impact on the dog mess nuisance with no guarantee it will sort the situation out. The current Parish Council budget for the whole of Cotton is £5500 and averages at £24 per household per year. Most of the budget goes on administration, insurance and allocating monies to support local organisations, leaving little money for new commitments, so the dog bins would need to be an increased Council Tax cost to us all. There is no doubt if dog owners cleared up the mess their animals leave dog mess would not be an issue. Views on that would be appreciated by any Council Member; also views on any issue can be left on the village Facebook page 'Cotton Parish Grapevine'

The biggest task for the Parish Council at the moment is objecting to the building of 47 houses in the field between Broad Road and the railway line, although in Bacton Parish we have a keen interest in the proposals and are consultees in the planning process. If you go to Mid-Suffolk's web site and click through to the planning applications page using reference 0764/15 you'll see all the relevant documents, including those which show Bacton Parish Council are in favour of the development despite the safety issues along Broad Road, the proposed one way traffic scheme under the Pound Hill railway bridge and the general environmental impact. The documents are worth a read.

There must be other things your Parish Council ought to be doing, if you know of some tell one of your Councillors so they can get on with it!

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

We have no more meetings after November AGM and Quiz but we do have our Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 2nd December in the VH. Tickets £15 available from Jane de Beer 781594 or Chris Marston 781567

We do not meet in January our first meeting in 2016 being Feb 17th when Peter Green will give a talk "Plants to Music".



Allotment in Cotton

One allotment space has become vacant, with immediate effect, on the allotment site at the junction of Scuffins Lane and Cock Road, Cotton.

If you are interested please contact Bert Bertoloni on 01449 780035 or bertoloni@btinternet.com for details.

On behalf of the Cotton Town Estate Charity

Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

As we go to Press the unexpected and sad news of the sudden death of Mrs Myrtle Hales is heard; Myrtle was of course a stalwart supporter of the congregation at St Andrew's and had served with devotion both as a churchwarden and a PCC member until recently. Her funeral will take place before this item is printed, but will be our opportunity to gather our collective memories and tributes of her lifetime of service

There is little positive to report regarding the progress towards the appointment of a new Minister; it appears that the chance to serve five rural parishes with six churches is not a compelling opportunity for any priest seeking a change!

Our chancel roof repair is now complete; few serious problems have been encountered and hopefully the scheme will be under budget which should enable a more detailed look at the other damp and drainage issues. Some internal re-plastering will occur but only to repair areas where water ingress has occurred from the previously leaking roof. There will be a new public water butt to replace the leaky old one adjacent to the south porch, which will have a proper overflow.

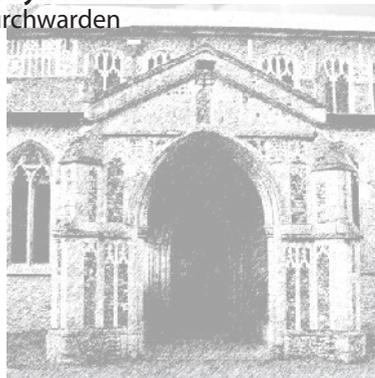
You will read elsewhere in the Quarterly that the PCC with support from the Parish Council are trying to raise money for the restoration of the War Memorial in the Churchyard. This project will include the telling of a fuller story about those named on the Memorial and although one member of our small group has already compiled a detailed history we need more information that we plan to gather in the New Year. We will be advertising in the Parish and Community newsletter as well as future copies of the Cotton Quarterly, but in the meantime if anyone with a connection to

those named on the memorial wishes to make contact, please get in touch with John Telford-Taylor. Telephone 01449 781387 or email <john@telford-taylorco.uk>

We would welcome some additional assistance with the cleaning rota which is a great way to "serve" even if you are not a regular church attender! Please contact Christine Marston (01449 781567). Distribution of the Parish & Community News is also a function undertaken for the wider community by the PCC, but which draws in many volunteers; with passing of Myrtle Hales we need to find one or two locals willing to distribute a few copies each month on her former round (of which we may not yet be fully aware); if you have not received your copy please let me know on 780272 or email to <mervyn.walker@icloud.com> and we will supply asap.

Service Lists are published each month church notice boards. Please note that there will be no Christmas Eve ("Midnight Mass") at Cotton this year but there will be other services in the vicinity. The Christmas Day service will be a Family Service at 10.30 a.m.

Mervyn Walker
Churchwarden



Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



This Christmas we are proud to host the singing talents of the very popular Edmund Octet. This year's show will be happening on **Friday the 11th of December**, the whole thing starts at 7.00pm. There will be the annual trimming of greenery to decorate the entire Church. Please see seasonal posters for details.

The FCC are delighted to see the works to the Chancel Roof having reached a conclusion. Earlier this year we pledged £20,000 of FCC funds towards these vital works. We all had our fingers crossed during the reroofing that no nasty surprises would crawl out of the woodwork.

It is a huge relief that our worst fears did not materialise. The reroofing is a one of the original reasons that the FCC was formed; it is immensely satisfying to see the roof looking beautiful as well as secure.

Thank you to the PCC and all concerned with coordinating this project.

FCC Founding members Tony & Jeannie Hutchinson stood down as FCC Trustees at our recent

Annual General Meeting, the FCC would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work over the years, their input has proved invaluable.

Andrew Stringer

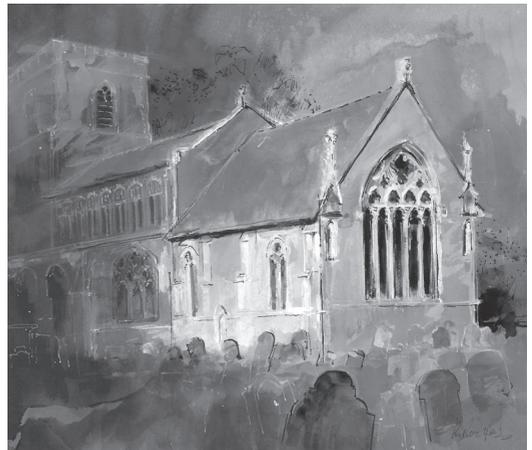
Chairman F.C.C.

01449 780339

Christine Tester

Secretary

01449 782134





THE FRIENDS OF COTTON CHURCH
Christmas Concert
Featuring The Edmund Octet

with Traditional Carols, a Dash of Humour
and



Seasonal Refreshments



St Andrews Church, Cotton
FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2015
FROM 7.00 PM

Tickets £7.50 from 01449 781320/782134
under twelves free



FRIENDS OF COTTON CHURCH
Registered Charity No. 1053483
www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cotton

Cotton Village Hall



News

The Hall continues to thrive and is getting a lot of positive remarks on it as an ideal party venue.

We are very pleased that Becca Gibbs has offered us the Spinning wheel Theatre Companies production of Charles Dickens **A Christmas Carol on Tuesday the 8th of December at 7-30**, This is sure to be a fantastic night out to get us all in the Christmas spirit (past present and future) there are one or two village activity you should not miss this Christmas, this is one, and of course the other being **The Cotton Quiz on Friday 18th** where you are invited to bring along nibbles and drinks and pit your knowledge against your fellow villagers in teams of no larger than six.

We are delighted that a group of mums organised a Halloween party with around 70 kids having a great time dancing to a monster disco. It was such a success they are organising a **Children's Christmas Party Disco Party 29th Dec Cotton Village Hall 5-7pm**. Look out for notices at the Hall and around the village.

John Doherty

Chairman, Cotton Village Hall

What's on

December

Zumba 7th 14th

A Christmas Carol 8th

Café 13th

African Drums/Dance 15th 22nd

Dog Training 15th

Christmas Quiz 18th

Children's Christmas Disco Party

29th Cotton village Hall 5-7pm

1 to 11yrs £5-00 per ticket

from Bacton Stores or Jem on

07852959105

Food and a present for each child

Private Party 28th

January

Zumba 4th 11th 18th 25th

African Drums/Dance 12th 26th

Community Club 12th 26th

Café 23rd

Dog Training 19th

February

Zumba 1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th

African Drums/Dance 9th 23rd

Community Club 9th 23rd

Dog Training 16th

Spinning Wheel Theatre
presents

Charles Dickens'

A Christmas Carol

Adapted and Directed by Amy Wyllie
Designed by Becca Gibbs

Cotton Village Hall
Tuesday 8 Dec, 7.30pm
Tickets: £9.50 & £7.50

www.spinningwheeltheatre.com
or James Collins Garden Plants



Polstead
Press



Support and public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

After Many years of static pricing we have to increase the hire charge of the Village Hall and Playing field to:-

Cotton Village Hall & Playing Field					
Rates (Starting 1 st Jan 2016)					
	Summer (1 st May- 31 st Aug)		Winter (1 st Sept- 30 th April 30 th)		
	Per Hour	Per 8 hr Day	Per Hour	Per 8 hr Day	
HALL	£6-00	£42-00	£7-00	£50-00	
HALL & FIELD CAR PARK (SHOWS, FETE'S ETC)	£15-00	£100.00	N/A	N/A	
CAMPING (UP TO 20 PITCHES) Hall included £120-00 Per 24 hr day No Half day discount					
CAMPING OVER 20 PITCHES TO MAX 35 £200-00 Per 24 hr day No Half day discount					
OFF SITE HIRE					
CROCKERY (PER EVENT) £15-00					
TABLES £15-00					
CHAIRS £15-00					

REGULAR WEEKLY BOOKING WILL RECEIVE A £1-00 PER HOUR DISCOUNT

THE HALL IS CHECKED AFTER EVERY HIRE AND A PENALTY OF £25-00 WILL BE CHARGED FOR ANY HEATING THAT IS LEFT ON, ALSO £5-00 FOR ANY LIGHTS LEFT ON AND RUBISH BAGS NOT DISPOSED OF AS REQUIRED

Community Circle Club and Café September-November 2015

Venue: Cotton Village Hall, Blacksmith Road, Cotton

Saturday 12 December 10am – 12noon

**Community Circle Café
(Christmas Café 2015)**



Tuesday 12 January 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Saturday 23 January 10am – 12noon

Community Circle Café

Tuesday 26 January 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club



Tuesday 9 February 2pm – 4pm

Community Circle Club

Tuesday 23 February 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 2016.)

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Suffolk Police have issued an alert concerning the thefts of lead from churches. Patrols and investigations are continuing, but they are appealing to residents to report any suspicious persons or vehicles they may have seen in the village or near the church. Enquiries as a result of thefts of lead from churches have resulted in reports of vans being seen in the area during the early hours of the morning. So members of the public are being asked to be vigilant and report any sightings of vehicles or persons involved in any suspicious activity, however trivial it may seem, immediately to the police by dialling 999.

The police are also appealing for witnesses and providing advice to all horse owners in the county after horse equipment was stolen from an outbuilding in Battisford early in October.

The offender broke into an outbuilding and stole a large quantity of tack and other items. They include a leather head collar, white silk hat with brown spots, nummahs, Ariat Bromont riding boots, liveryman clippers, Pro-lite air jacket, three bridles, a Wintec saddle and a Bates saddle.

Quite a haul. Out buildings are always a target and should be as secure as you can make them. Local police will give good advice on security should you contact them.

A number of burglaries have occurred not a million miles from Cotton. Two in Wetheringsett, plus one theft of a pressure washer left outside a shed. One at Great Ashfield, one at Brockford, and another at Winston. The burglaries were mainly unlawful entry to a shed and the theft of property. I don't know how secure the buildings were but please make sure your out buildings are as secure as you can make them. If you store valuable property in your shed then spend money on protecting it from the opportunist thief. Security lighting, good quality locks and property marking, so if you are unfortunate in having it stolen, then there is a good chance, if recovered, that you will get it back. Make sure it's all insured as well, if you don't take steps to secure the property, the company may well not pay out for the loss.

Let's keep Cotton crime free.

Tony Craighill. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917.





Reg Charity 1080734

CARTERS MEADOW



Grand Design comes to Cotton

Unique opportunity to take up residency in this high spec penthouse apartment in mature oak overlooking a wild flower meadow, grassland, maturing woodland and recently improved water feature. Quiet neighbourhood occupied by range of birds, mammals and land improvement specialists, a flock of Hebriddean sheep. No onward chain. Single occupancy only. No subletting. Long lease.

Winter Work Parties

December 6

January 3

February 7

10.00 - 12.00

For those who have not yet discovered this oasis of peace and calm on the boundaries of Cotton (double corner, Mendlesham Road) or are new to the village, do come and enjoy the freedom to wander through this ever changing landscape, created on your doorstep. **It is yours!**