

Cotton Quarterly



Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Autumn 2016



STOP PRESS

We start this edition of the Cotton Quarterly with some sad news. At the time of editing this edition, we received news of the passing of Ernie Pearce. Ernie only recently received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for charitable services through the Lions Club in Stowmarket and District to the community, in the recent New Year Honours List.



Lions Club of Stowmarket and District Boxing Dinner Friday 20th March 2015

Ernie is a founder member of the Lions Club of Stowmarket and District in 1980 and has served as President on three occasions. Ernie is an inspiration to others, he has organised no end of fundraising events generating thousands of pounds for charity, families and individuals. Born in Bacton, Ernie's first job was as a builder/undertaker before he set up his own building business with which he continued until retirement. He served three years in the Royal Air Force where he participated in boxing and football as well as his service duties. Ernie served on the Parish Council for 43 years and was a founder member of Bacton Football Club. He also, along with others, helped to form the Bacton Bowls Club and assisted with the construction of the club house and the bowling green. He is mindful of the needs of others and visits individuals in need of support. Even during times of serious illness Ernie's kindness and compassion shone through in his concern for the wellbeing of others. Every village needs an Ernie Pearce, he was one in a million.

Our thoughts go to Ernie's family and friends.



Cut off date for Winter edition of Cotton Quarterly is Friday 21st October. All contributions to be sent to
cotton.quarterly@outlook.com

Well Done

Back in early June, James Collins of James Collins Garden Plants, won a gold award at the Suffolk Show for his garden display (see pictures below). James set this nursery up back in March 2009, we as most of the readers would agree this is very well deserved award. So from us here at the Quarterly, and all the readers a big well done.



James Collins display and award

On editing this edition we heard news from James Collins, that as of Thursday 18th August, James Collins Garden Plants will be shutting its doors for the last time. James is remaining in the horticultural industry as a Plant and Sales Consultant for one of the UK's largest wholesale nurseries. We, as most of our readers will agree, we are sad to see you go James, but we all wish you the best for the future.

Cotton Parish Council

Will have a vacancy for a
Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
This is a paid position
From the 1st April 2017

If you interested contact Colin Hall, the Parish Clerk, for further information

Email: cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com

Telephone 01449 781400

Tornado Alley

For some of you this title maybe a bit confusing but, for the Chairman of the Parish Council, Peter Gibbs this was a reality. On Tuesday 28th June it appears a small tornado hit the south part of the village down Stonham Road. The small funnel of the tornado was pictured over Cotton from Old Newton. Here is what happened in Peter's word's.

"At 6:15pm 28th June, it started to rain and very suddenly the wind got up and just got stronger and stronger with an incredible roar. The large ash trees in the field next to the house were leaning over at an impossible angle and looked like their leaves were about to be stripped away. Suddenly there was a loud bang and a large bough about a foot thick snapped off and hit our house blocking the back door, knocking tiles down and breaking some guttering. The wind then disappeared as quickly as it had arrived.

A quick assessment revealed that the house had got off fairly lightly with broken guttering and two broken tiles. A walk round the garden then showed that five mature trees had been either snapped off or completely uprooted. Luckily the tree with a resident family of barn owls had escaped the fury but only by a few feet.

Next morning James Collins drew our attention to a report in the East Anglian that a tornado had been spotted between Bacton and Old Newton; spotting one is interesting, being in one is terrifying.

We are very grateful for good neighbours who helped with the clearance of debris and the repairs, we will now need to decide what new trees to plant. Enquiries reveal most people never heard a thing but there are reports of some minor unexplained damage to fences and sheds on the south side of the village.

Cotton can now be called Tornado Alley, hopefully in someone else's garden next time!" PG

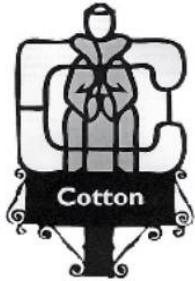


Damage to trees in Parish Council Chairman's mature trees



Tornado Funnel as seen by witness' (from East Anglian Daily Times)

Parish Council



At the Annual Parish Council Meeting Councillors Peter Gibbs and Sarah Wenban were re-elected as Chairman & Vice Chairman respectively. The Council would like to thank Mrs Wendy Nunn for bringing to their attention the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Ernie & Margaret Smith and suggesting that the Council make a presentation on behalf of the village. (Reported elsewhere in this issue.)

The Council is pleased to be able to continue supporting St. Andrew's P.C.C. by donating £400.00 towards the cost of the upkeep of the churchyard.

Unfortunately there have been a few acts of vandalism in the village, graffiti in the bus shelter, a fire in the paper bank and youths climbing on the village hall roof. Should anyone spot this sort of thing going on please report it to the police who are aware and have opened a file on such events.

Despite the vandalism the improvements to the bus shelter are going ahead. These include painting the internal walls, glazing the windows putting a notice board inside and cutting the hedges back, if possible solar lighting will be installed. The work will be carried out over a period of time by several willing volunteers and most materials provide free of charge.

The erection of signs asking people to clear up after their dogs and horse riders to refrain from riding on footpaths seems to have had an effect.

At the Annual Parish Council meeting I informed the Council via the Chairman that I intend to stand down as Clerk at the end of this financial year (31st March 2017). So you will only have to put up with my scribblings for two more issues.

Village web-site www.cotton.onesuffolk.net
Facebook Cotton Parish Grapevine

Colin Hall

Clerk to Cotton Parish Council

Cotton's Parish Councillors' are:-

Chairman Mr. Peter Gibbs Tel:- 01449 781308 email:-
 peter.gibbs@talk21.com

Vice Chairman Mrs. Sarah Wenban 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

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. Cockedge	Tel:- 01449 780491 email: cocksedge191@btinternet.com
Councillor	Mr. E. Knight	Tel:- 01449 257381 email:- Elliott.o.knight@gmail.com
Mid Suffolk District Councillor / Suffolk County Councillor		
Mr Andrew Stringer		Tel:- 01449 780339 email:- andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk andrew.Stringer@suffolk.gov.uk
Parish Clerk	Mr Colin Hall	Tel:- 01449 781400 email:- cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com



Chairman
Mr. Peter Gibbs
01449 781308



Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Sarah Wenban
01449 781095



Councillor
Mrs. Beryl Ellis
01449 780007



Councillor
Mr. David Williams
01449 781645



Councillor
Mr. Chris Tester
01449 782134



Councillor
Mrs. Margaret Cockedge
01449 780491



Councillor
Mr. Elliott Knight
01449 257381



**Mid Suffolk District
& Suffolk County Councillor**
Mr. Andrew Stringer
01449 780339
andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Village Hall



What's on at the Hall

September

- 3rd Village Produce Association Show
- Zumba 5th 12th 19th 26th
- African Dance & Drums 6th 20th
- Private camping on the field 9th 10th 11th
- Circle club 13th 27th
- Café 17th
- Dog Training 20th
- Harvest Supper 23rd
- Bingo 30th

October

- 2nd Car park for Music Museum
- Zumba 3rd 10th 17th 24th 31st
- Spinning wheel Theatre's production of "Casanova" 3rd
- African Dance & Drums 4th 18th
- Circle club 11th 25th A G M
- Dog Training 18th
- V P A meeting 19th
- Café 29th

November

- African dance and Drums 1st 15th 29th
- Zumba 7th 14th 21st 28th
- Circle club 8th 22nd
- Dog Training 15th
- V P A Meeting 16th

Hi all, we have some good news to relay along with I'm sorry to say some bad. The good news is that after many years of fund raising we under took the refurbishment of the ladies toilets, much to the ladies delight I'm sure. I along with James Hanlon undertook the task and completed it between school runs and shopping expeditions, many thanks to James.

Other good news is we are to hold a BINGO evening in September, with Peter Mead as our caller, this has been requested for years so let's hope for a full house on the 30th.

The newest fund raising project is for replacement and new equipment for the Children's Playground as much is getting dated and difficult to maintain.

We have replaced the stolen/broken rear light to rear fire door.

On the 3rd October we have once again the fantastic Spinning wheel Theatre Company production of **Casanova**, not to be missed, put it in your diary

The bad news is that we are still being plagued by two boys on a scooter who think its fun to climb on the roof, break bottles and leave cans of larger and Red bull along with general rubbish. I understand two individuals also on a scooter have made a nuisance of themselves elsewhere in the village, are they the same two do you know them? The police have been informed.

Lastly our grass cutting contractor has not turned up of late and the field was rather overgrown so a massive thanks to Andrew Collins who came to our rescue.

Cotton Community Circle Club & Café Dates

At Cotton Village Hall



Tuesday 13th September	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 17th September	10am-12noon	Community Circle Café
Tuesday 27th September	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 11th October	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 25th October	2-4pm	Community Circle Club and Annual General Meeting
Saturday 29th October	10am-12noon	Community Circle Café (Hallowe'en)
Tuesday 8th November	2pm-4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 22nd November	2pm-4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 10th December	10am-12noon	Community Circle Café

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

September 20th John Winthrop, Suffolk gentleman who founded Boston, Massachusetts

The Pilgrim Fathers founded a new American colony in 1620. In 1630 an expedition led by John Winthrop of Groton, near Boxford in Suffolk founded Boston, Massachusetts of which state he became the first Governor. Dr. Nick Sign tells us his less well-known but exciting story.

October 18th Suffolk at the time of the Plague

We welcome back Pip Wright to tell us what it was like to live in Suffolk at the time of The Plague. He takes us through various visitations of the terrible bubonic plague in the county with special reference to Ipswich in 1665

November 15th Musicians and Entertainers in Medieval Suffolk

Our town squares and village greens were alive to much jollity as Kate Jewell will tell us of the travelling folk who gave much pleasure in a hard working life

(We will end this last meeting of the year with our customary, mince pies, tea and coffee to wish everyone – A Very Happy Christmas and a good New Year !)

Friends of Cotton Church



Autumn 2016 FCC Update

Work Party 17th & 18th Of September 2016 . 10am till 1pm

This year we have started to prioritise what works to make sure St Andrews can continue to inspire future generations, one of the outstanding jobs that we would like to tackle, is the clearance of the base of the railings surrounding the Church. This job will expose the brick base allowing maintenance to take place, as well as effectively widening the road preventing erosion of the triangle and surrounding verges.

This would all help follow on from the excellent work being carried by Quentin Bretherton, clearing the various paths surrounding the interior of the graveyard.

If you would like to come along please do, tea coffee and all the tools we need will be provided.

For further details please give me a call.

Andrew Stringer Chairman FCC 01449 780339



North facing internal picture (notice leaning of pillars)

Parochial Church Council

St Andrews Church Cotton

As anticipated in the last issue we were delighted to welcome our new Priest-in-Charge Revd Val White in May and it is good to be working with her and her husband Revd David White as they settle into their time with us all in the Bacton benefice.

The PCC held a car boot and table top sale at the village hall in July which despite good weather and local support was only marginally more successful financially (at about £400) than our previous sale. Anyhow many thanks are due to everyone who took part.

The annual Suffolk Historic Churches “Bike Ride & Stride” will take place on Saturday 10th September; it would be good if we can use this opportunity to have proper cycling or walking involvement this year to raise a few funds to share between ourselves and the trust who are presently doing much good work in providing grants for roof alarms to protect vulnerable church lead. So please get a few fit family members (or perhaps those who, like me, could usefully enjoy some exercise!) to register either directly with the Trust (www.shct.org.uk), or with our church’s own organiser –Mrs J Milward, Brookrise, Brookhouse Lane, Cotton (781827) or contact me on 780272.

On Friday 23rd September we will host another Harvest Supper in the Village Hall; the meal format will be slightly different this year to simplify the catering but please contact Jane deBeer (781594) to reserve a place. Our Harvest Festival Service will be the following Sunday 25th September.

An unexpected opportunity to stage a pre-Christmas concert in the church has arisen and we hope to arrange something suitable; more information will be circulated nearer the time.

Finally, we are awaiting permissions from the diocesan authorities re-lay the brick floor to the main porch entrance, parts of which have subsided significantly after last winter. We also have some internal subsidence around a tomb ledger beneath the south choir stall in the chancel, for which our surveyors have been asked to specify required repair works.(We may need to seek local grant funding for these two minor projects).

The main external drainage scheme, for which we retain adequate grant funds, is also awaiting final approval. A comprehensive report on the works required to strengthen the wooden bell-frame is currently being written, so that permission to carry out these works may also be sought.

As I write the hot summer spell I wished for prior to the last edition is in full swing (just for a while!) – enjoy!

Mervyn Walker
One of the Churchwardens

Cotton and District Village Produce Association

This thriving village club was formed in 1941 as the Cotton Food Production Association, growing much needed food and raising pigs. Many of the surnames of those early pioneers, Vincent, Bullock, Hales, Finbow, to name but a few are represented in the current membership. It is thought that the change of name to the Cotton and District VPA, came in about 1948. The first show was held in 1954 and continues to be held on the first Saturday in September each year.

Saturday 3rd September	Annual show in Cotton Village Hall. Opens at 2.30. Prize giving 3.30
Wednesday 19th October	Talk from Melanie Collins from Mickfield Hostas 7.30pm Cotton Village Hall
Wednesday 16th November	AGM and photo quiz ' Mystery Tours of the Garden' 7.30
Wednesday 7th December	Annual Christmas dinner 7pm start for 7.30pm meal

Membership open to all £2 per year to include all meetings at the Village Hall (and a cup of tea) and there is a raffle at each meeting. There is usually a small charge for evening visits and the annual outing and Christmas dinner are at cost. New members will always find a friendly welcome.

*For further details, contact Jane de Beer (chairman)
781594 or Christine Marston, (programme organiser)
781567*

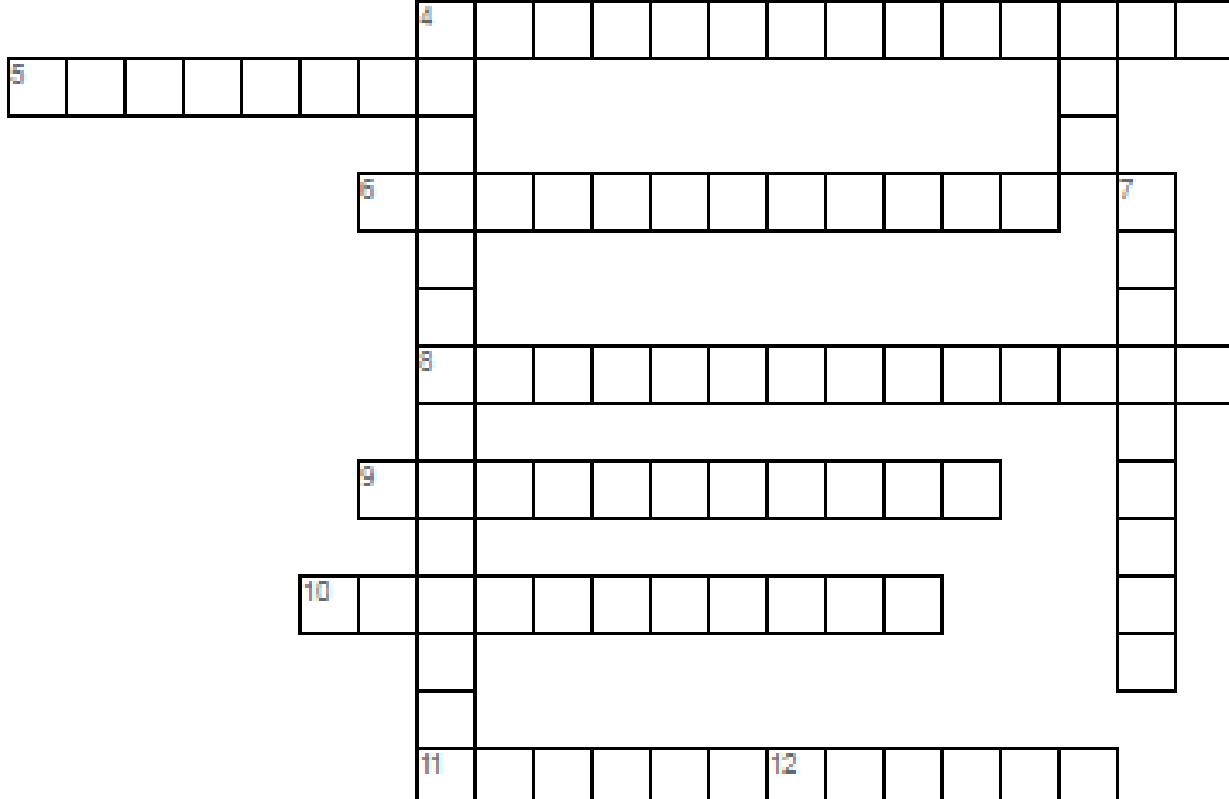


Take a break crossword

Lets see if you can complete the roads of cotton crossword using these clues. Enjoy.
Answers will be in the Winter edition

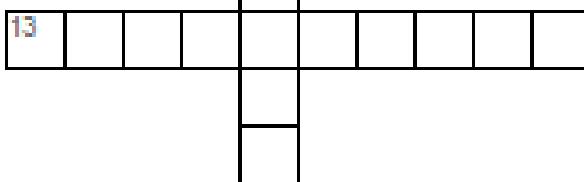
Across

- 4 A home by a small stream
- 5 where to produce flour from above
- 6 part sone, part muffin, and like a doughnut, filled with jam
- 8 Head this way for the chip shop
- 9 old English for 'stoney ground'
- 10 Posh writing instrument
- 11 Twice round the bend
- 13 Tree found by water



Down

- 1 Our village
- 2 God's house
- 3 The pothole rat run
- 4 Place for neddys new shoes
- 7 Type of bean
- 12 Hens mate



Neighbourhood Watch

July is apparently Scams Awareness Month. This as a national campaign from Trading Standards and Citizens Advice, it aims to spread awareness of scams and how people can go about reporting them. The theme for the first week in July is telephone scams.

A telephone scam will often:-

Give extravagant promises- if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Ask you to pay for something up front, you may have to pay a fee to claim a prize.

Put pressure on you to make a quick decision, e.g. an investment opportunity will end unless you pay straight away.

Ask for your bank account details, so they can steal your money.

Follow this advice to protect yourself:-

Don't reveal personal details

Never give out financial information over the phone, even if the caller claims to be from your bank. Be wary of anyone asking for personal information such as your passport details.

Ring the organisation.

If you're unsure that the caller is genuine you can always ring the company or bank they claim to be from. Find the number yourself, from a letter or phone book, not the one provided by the caller. Use a different phone if you can, or wait 5 or 10 minutes just in case the caller kept the line open.

Don't be rushed.

Scammers will try to rush you into providing your personal details. They may say they have an offer or an investment that is time limited. Or they may say your money or your bank account is at risk if you don't give them the information they need right away. These tactics are designed to pressure you, but don't be rushed into doing something you are not sure about.

Hang up

If you feel harassed or intimidated, or if the caller talks over you without giving you a chance to speak, then end the call. It may feel rude to hang up on someone, but you have the right not to be harassed and pressured to buy something, answer a survey, or give you personal details.

Information about all kinds of scams, how they operate and how to protect yourself can be found on the following websites.

Citizens Advice. www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scams-awareness-month/

Suffolk Trading Standards. [www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/tradingstandards -for -consumers](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/tradingstandards-for-consumers). Or get the phone number from the phone book.

Recent crime figures. At the moment I cannot get up to date crime figures for Cotton and the local area. We no longer have a dedicated police officer for our village as the Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team covers all the villages, seventy in all. However, burglary dwelling is a constant offence in the area, so please take all necessary steps to secure your property and not become a crime statistic. Criminal Damage occurred in Bacton on Friday night, 10th June. A number of cars had their wing mirrors damaged. Police were investigating

asking for any witnesses to the offence.

Anti-Social Behaviour is a problem in Cotton. Youths riding a motor bike, minus crash helmet, along Mill Road, also disturbed on the roof of the village Hall, and suspected of criminal damage to field gate nearby. Call 101 if you see the motorcyclists without crash helmets, or if you see them on the roof of the village hall.

The bus shelter in Cock Road Cotton, has apparently been used by youths, glue sniffing was suspected. If you see the shelter occupied by youths, have a word or report to police on 101.

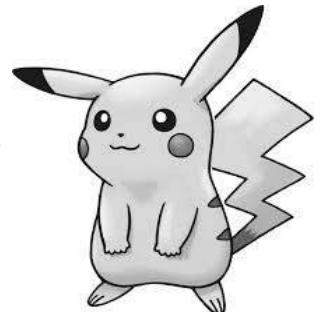
Unfortunately the 101 number is having a few problems. It does keep you waiting a while. Hopefully things will improve.

Lets keep Cotton Crime Free. With your help we can.

Tony Craighill, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator 781917.

Pokémon come to Carters Meadow

It appears Carters Meadow is on the map with the new App called Pokémon Go. Now to those of you that have not heard of this new trend or like myself very little time for these type of crazes, it is the a game you play on you phone/tablet using the camera function to see the world around you and catch little cartoon creatures and collect them. If you have seen the younger or even middle aged generation glued to their phone/tablet screens while walking around like Zombies then this maybe the reason why.



Carters Meadow also holds lots of beautiful things to look for with the naked eye too; wild flowers, birds, animals and pond life. It is a great place to get in touch with nature, for children to explore (my 4 year old daughter loves going to Carters Meadow), fly a kite, walk the dog and experience the natural beauty that Carters Meadow has to offer.

The meadow is managed in such away that allows nature to dictate how it is managed, while allowing the visitors to explore it's beauty. This management is done by a few volunteers to allow this piece of land to be experienced by all. Now as with most things more volunteers are required. No experience required nor every work party to be attend, but if you can spare a few hours a few times a year, it be gratefully received by all. Why not pop down to one of the work parties held first Sunday of every month and chat to one the volunteers.

So if you wanting to get in touch with nature and experience the beauty of the countryside or just catch Pokémons then Carters Meadow is the place to come.

Words from Kirsty Pollintine



CARTERS MEADOW

Reg Charity 1080734



Orchids and New Bird Hide

The orchids may have been a little late this year but made up for that in their number, colonising new areas of the field and the meadow. It has been a good year for wild flowers everywhere.

We have been given another unwanted building, this time a bird hide. In need of quite a lot of TLC before it is usable, but we hope to have it in situ fairly soon so that it can be worked on. So bring your binoculars next time you are here, you never know what you may see.

The hay has been cut on the meadow and we should soon have our flying flock of Soay sheep back to fatten up on the new grass and contribute to the improvement of the flower meadow.

Autumn Work Parties

Sunday 4 September

Sunday 2 October

Sunday 6 November

10.00 - 12.00

Congratulations

On 11th July, Ernie and Margaret, who are both 91 years young, celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary, and to celebrate this milestone the chairman and vice chairperson of the parish council presented Ernie and Margaret with lovely plants on behalf the village.



Sarah Wenban (Vice-Chairman) far left and Peter Gibbs (Chairman) far right presenting Ernie & Margaret with their plants



Ernie and Margaret 91 years young

Ernie and Margaret married in 1946 at Colchester Registry office with Margaret's sister as a witness and another individual, who was a customer from the shop next door ,who Ernie persuaded to be a witness as he did not want to return home without Margaret being his bride.

Ernie, the son of a farm foreman from Boxted Hall and Margaret Keeble the daughter of a cowman from Old House Farm in Great Horkesley. They moved to cotton 57 years ago. Ernie spent many years looking after working horses, Suffolk punches, on farms and finishing his working life as a signaller on the railways. They have three cards from the Queen celebrating their milestones in their married life.

I think we can say on behalf on all the readers, best wishes and congratulations