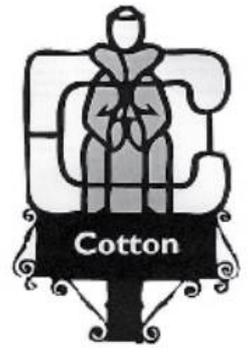


Cotton Quarterly



Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter
Summer 2017



Front cover picture is the view from the editors back gardens

STOP PRESS



Carters Meadow Activities

Sunday 4th June 10am until 12pm there will be activities at Carters Meadow for all the family.

Activities to include Butterfly spotting, pond dipping, tractor rides and a Gruffalo hunt

All welcome.

Cotton Oil Buyers

Saturday July 1st

Saturday October 7th

Saturday December 2nd

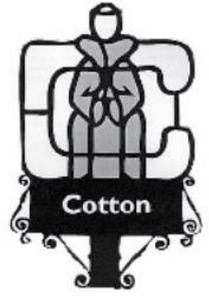
Contact 01449 781127 or 07845068679 peter_mead@sky.com

We will now take new members within 3 miles of Cotton so please let any family or friends know

Cut off date for Autumn edition of Cotton Quarterly is Friday 21st July 2017. All contributions to be sent to

cotton.quarterly@outlook.com

Parish Council



The Parish Council has met twice since the last edition of the Quarterly, on the 6th of March and the 10th of April 2017.

Many of you will have seen that the Vehicle Activated Sign has been in operation at two locations in the village, although it is too soon to draw any firm conclusions early analysis of the data produced has revealed a fascinating insight into driving patterns through the area. Vehicle movements past the sign seem to be in the region of 3000 to 3500 per day and speeds are generally in excess of the limit with top speeds recorded in excess of 90mph.

We are still seeking a suitable, safe and convenient location for a Bottle Bank.

The saga of the War Memorial at St Andrews continues, an update will be in the next edition of the Quarterly.

Planning applications have continued to come before the Parish Council and it was agreed by the Council to comment on two of them.

Firstly; Mill House in Mill Road. The Council expressed reservations about the design and its impact on the amenity a neighbouring property and also the problems that may be caused with regard to parking and access for vehicles.

Secondly; an application to seek detailed planning permission on the land next to the Trowel and Hammer public house. The Council took the view that the design of the revised application and its size in proportion to the plot of land was inappropriate and not in keeping with neighbouring properties.

More details of the comments and other planning matters will be available on the Cotton Parish Website - in the minutes of the meeting of the 10th April.

With the retirement of our long serving Parish Clerk Colin Hall, we welcomed our new Clerk, Rod Caird to his first meeting on the 10th of April. We look forward to a long and successful association with him. Also to be welcomed to our next meeting will be Paul Howlett who has just been co-opted onto the Council.

Finally, a reminder of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 18th May at 7.30pm. This is a very informal gathering of residents when village organisations will talk about what they have been doing and their plans for the future and for anybody to ask questions and make suggestions for the community - everybody is most welcome The week after on the 24th of May we will be holding the Annual Parish Council meeting again in the village hall at 7.30pm.

Chris Tester Parish Councillor



The role of Parish Clerk is one bound in history and in law. Every Parish has to appoint a Clerk to administrate the workings of the council, to make sure the increasing levels bureaucratic procedure and good financial housekeeping are adhered to. Parishes vary in size from the smallest which may have only a few houses to ones as big as Stowmarket, which has a Town council but in law it is still considered a Parish Council.

Where as Stowmarket Town Council employs many people, Cotton Parish Council employs only one, The Clerk. All the Councillors are volunteers and receive no payment.

Following the retirement of Colin Hall an advert was placed, there were two applicants for the post, neither Cotton residents but both experienced Clerks in other villages. The successful applicant was Rod Caird who has now taken up his post, serving Cotton and four other small villages. His contact detail are shown elsewhere in the Quarterly, so if you want to contact the Parish Council, speak to one of the Councillors or contact Rod direct.



Speed Watch

Many readers will now be aware of the "speed cameras" that have popped up in Cotton. Made available thanks to Andrew Stringers persistence and his locality budget they are going to become a useful tool for the Parish Council to prove to Suffolk County Council and others the fact that, yes, speeding in our village is a problem and not something that is imagined. In addition the data collected will be used to inform the local highways authorities of traffic movements in the village in order for them to make informed planning decisions.

Technically these are not cameras - they take no photos and do not record number plates. They record the speed of vehicles from both directions and indicate the speed to oncoming vehicles. The date and the time are also recorded. The first week of operation showed 24,546 vehicle movements (including bicycles) in both directions on the B1113 with an average speed of 45mph.

The first sets of data have now been collected, collated and presented to the Parish Council. If anyone wishes to see the data it will be made available on the Parish website as and when it becomes available. The cameras will be moved around the village from time to time so that we can get data on all three main approaches to the village.

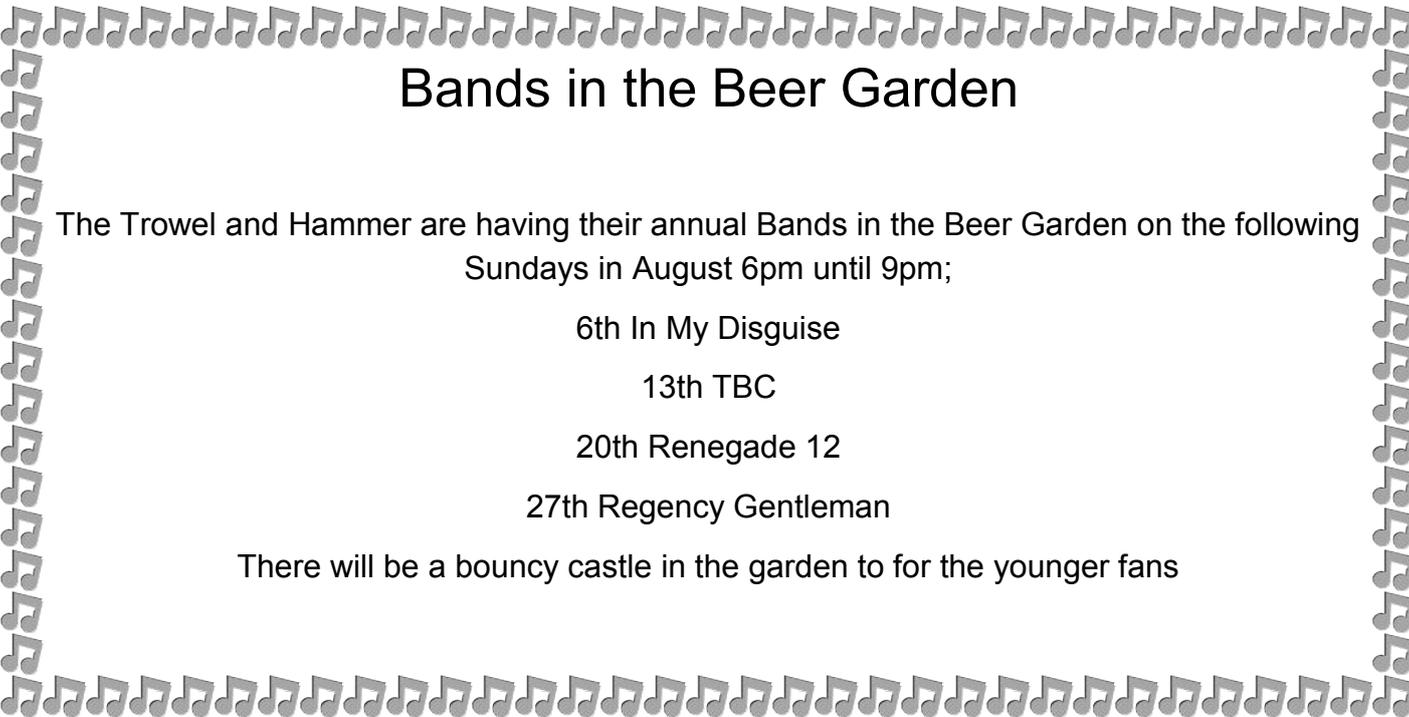
James Hanlon



Cotton Community Circle Club & Café Dates

At Cotton Village Hall

Tuesday 13th June	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 27th June	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 1st July	10am-12noon	Community Circle Café
Tuesday 12th September	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Saturday 23rd September	10am-12noon	Community Circle Café
Tuesday 26th September	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 10th October	2-4pm	Community Circle Club
Tuesday 24th October	2-4pm	Community Circle Club



Bands in the Beer Garden

The Trowel and Hammer are having their annual Bands in the Beer Garden on the following Sundays in August 6pm until 9pm;

6th In My Disguise

13th TBC

20th Renegade 12

27th Regency Gentleman

There will be a bouncy castle in the garden to for the younger fans

Cotton and District Village Produce Association

We meet in the Village hall on the third Wednesday of most months at 7.30 pm. We welcome visitors and new members and membership is only £2 per year.

21st June A Question and Answer evening with two very knowledgeable judges, Mr. Mike Riches and Mr. Terry Hurren. If you have a problem or tricky situation you would like to solve get your questions ready for this fun and informative evening.

19th July Summer Excursion on a Broads River Trip.

No meeting in August, but we will all be busy preparing for the Annual Show on 2nd September.

Show Schedules will be ready towards the end of July. Please telephone our chairman Jane de Beer 781594 or Chris Marston 781567

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

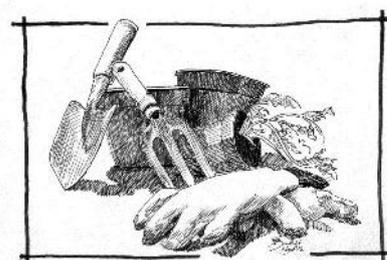
Week-end of June 24th/25th we will be holding our Flower Festival.

The theme will be hymns old or new. Choose your favourite and your flowers and join in the fun. We have small and larger places available in church and would love to have some new participants this year. You don't need to have experience, just enthusiasm and everyone is very friendly and supportive.

We will be having a PLANT STALL in the churchyard and a BOOK STALL inside.

Please sort through your bookshelves for books you no longer need and if you are a gardener we would welcome your extra seedlings or cuttings.

Christine Marston, (programme organiser) 781567



Parochial Church Council

St Andrews Church Cotton

As you may have noticed the path to the Church has become uneven and broken in places. We have been obtaining quotes for the relaying of this path and can confirm that we will have the work carried out from the 12th June this year. When you read this, St Andrews Church will have hosted a concert on the 30th May of light traditional and contemporary music. The retiring collection will go towards the relaying of the path. If you would like to give a donation towards this work please speak to either our treasurer Mrs Jane de Beer on 01449 781594 or contact one of the Churchwardens.

Dates for your diary, Saturday 24th June and Sunday 25th June, we will be holding a Flower Festival weekend in the Church. The theme will be "Favourite Hymns", please contact Mrs Christine Marston on 01449 781567 if you can help with serving refreshments or looking after the plant stall. If you would like to do an arrangement Christine would be pleased to hear from you. Our Songs of Praise service will be held after the second day of the Flower Festival at 6.30pm where we can enjoy singing some of our favourite hymns.

Do call in and visit us, you will be most welcome.

Carole Jones, one of the churchwardens - for Cotton PCC

Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

7.30 pm Bacton village hall Members £2 Non-members £3

Tuesday, June 20th, 7.30 pm Bacton village hall

"The Domesday Book"

When William I called his Council to plan defences for his shores he learned that the country's reserve coffers were almost empty. He therefore proposed an assessment of his subject's land so that taxation could fund a permanent military force. This resulted in the Domesday Book and, as Tom Doig describes, not an ox, a cow, or a pig was left out!

*(The Society does not meet in the holiday months of July and August. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, 19th September at 7.30 pm.** Look out for our new and very interesting programme for 2017/2018 and advertising for each meeting)*

Neighbourhood Watch

Well the days are getting are getting longer and warmer, we hope, Suffolk Police are reminding residents to protect their homes and property against opportunist thieves. The warmer weather can bring with it offenders on the look-out for lapses in security, such as open or unlocked doors or windows, particularly when valuables are left on display.

Since January 2016 at least 29% of burglaries in Suffolk have been the result of an unlocked door or window. Police say that they get more burglaries in the warmer months as people want to leave their doors and windows open in the good weather.

So what can you do to prevent the thieves getting in? If you are going out for a short or a long time then lock up properly. Good locks on doors and windows may prevent an unlawful entry. Alarms can frighten offenders away and security lights that come on when it's dark can also be useful. Don't cover front doors with large shrubs, thieves like to operate under cover not on display. Garages and outbuildings are also vulnerable as people often store quality items inside and the thieves obviously know this. So good quality locks are helpful to deter but are not fool proof.

If you are away for a length of time then get a neighbour or friend to look in now and again. Don't keep all your eggs in one basket, spread the valuables around. Don't leave stuff on display in the front garden, kids toys and bicycles are easy to take and end up on a car boot sale. So make an effort to protect your property unless you want to be a victim of crime.

So we did have an attempted burglary in Cotton a couple of weeks ago. Two young men and a dog had a go at the house next to Cotton Church. The men took a spade from the garden shed and attempted to lever open a window at the back of the house. Fortunately the householder returned and the youths and dog made off. Also reports of two white Transit vans driving round the village late at night. If you see such vehicles then take the index number and ring police on 101 or if you see a crime being committed then dial 999

Scams

How to avoid and report.

A scam is a trick to make you hand over money or personal details.

Scams can be received by email; post; phone call; text message.

They can also be lottery scams; fake ticketing; and online dating scams.

Scammers will contact you out of the blue. Ask for your personal or financial details. Put you under pressure to respond quickly. Ask you to keep their offer secret. Make promises that sound too good to be true.

What you should do.

Verify their identity. Look out for grammatical or spelling mistakes.

Never give out your bank details. Never send money to someone you don't know.

Always say no to persuasive sales talk.

If you suspect a scam report it to Suffolk Trading Standards on 03454 04 05 06. Or via their online form. If you think you have been a victim of identity theft then call Suffolk Police on 101.

Help us to keep Cotton crime free.

Tony Craighill. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917.

Historical Cotton

A few years ago when the church roof was being repaired the inside of the building was also filled with scaffolding to enable access. This gave the opportunity for a little band of villagers to climb right up to the angels on the hammer beams and the high windows to clean many decades of grime. As they scrubbed away at the cobwebs and bat droppings and carefully cleaned the ancient glass it became evident that many panes had messages and poems written on them. One of the little panes high up on the south side of the nave had the name Cecil Gaffer scratched into it.

Cecil was born at Rose Cottage on Mendlesham Road. He and his wife Ivy lived most of their married lives nearby at Pink House in Stonham Road. They were certainly living there in the 1930s because a window pane on the front of the house still has the words "Mrs I Gaffer 1933" etched into the glass.

Glass features in all the stories told by people who knew Cecil because he was a skilled cutter and was always the person to go to when a piece of glass was needed. Unfortunately, all the sharp off-cuts were either thrown into a ditch or just left lying underfoot. When the current owners bought his house they collected dustbins full of shards in the hope of preventing injury to their dog's feet, after many years they are still picking up the results of Cecil's work.

Cecil was the builder on a bike and fixer of most things. He never drove a car so did all his work within cycling distance but he was always in demand as a skilled carpenter. He was also a keen cider maker, producing a brew which needed handling with extreme care. David Vincent recalls, as a teenager, being invited to taste the latest batch - the effect was so severe he had to push his bicycle home!

Cecil and Ivy were great gardeners, recyclers and fixers of things that were broken, they were almost self sufficient in everything having a large vegetable garden, flocks of hens and many fruit trees. Several of Cecil's hen houses and sheds still stand and have been adapted in recent years, the garden has also been rediscovered after some years of neglect.

Our man died in 1996 aged 90; he and Ivy now reside in the Churchyard



Reg. Charity no: 1080734

CARTERS MEADOW



Storm Doris Claims our Bird Hide, We Will Rebuild

March's work party cleared up the remains of the bird hide, that had taken a tumble during storm Doris. For all you keen birders who are now homeless, please do not worry, we will rebuild it and make it more user friendly in the process. Other changes being planned for the spring/summer season are a new set of solid Oak entrance gates and posts which costs for this have been met by kind donations.

Work Parties

Sunday June 4th

Sunday July 2nd

Sunday August 6th

All work parties start at 10.00am
until noon



Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*)

Carters Meadow is fortunate to have a lovely wild flower called yellow rattle. Please look out for it this summer. It has been on the news lately as this plants feeds on the roots of grasses and could be the answer to highway verges as councils restrict the budget used to mow. Mother nature could provide the answer.

Spinning Wheel Theatre's

THE SECRET GARDEN

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

Adapted and Directed by Amy Wyllie, Designed by Becca Gibbs

When Mary Lennox is orphaned she is bundled off to live with her uncle at the gloomy Misselthwaite Manor. Sullen, spoiled and lonely, she begins to be entranced by the mysteries of the house and its gardens... but can she unlock the secrets that are held within? With the help of some unexpected friends – and an overgrown magical garden – her life, and the lives of those around her, is transformed.

This Spring, Spinning Wheel Theatre's charming and heartwarming adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's treasured childhood novel hits the road across East Anglia. A joyful and uplifting tale of magic, friendship and hope, this is a show for all the family - not to be missed!

Cotton Village Hall

Thursday 1st June, 7.30pm

Tickets: £9.50 (£7.50 concessions)

Available from www.spinningwheeltheatre.com or The Trowel and Hammer

