

# Cotton Quarterly



Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Winter 2017



Stormy sky looking east from Double Corner September 2017

# STOP PRESS

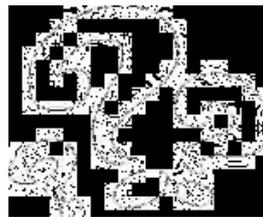
With the dark nights now drawn in, it is important that all road users are seen. This includes pedal power, 2 or 4 legs. Also it is important that children walking home from the bus stop are seen by other road users. Hi-viz is great and cheap too, and gives motor vehicles that extra few seconds to see you. Do not forget your torch so you can see where you are going to. A torch with a red light on the back again allows motor vehicles to be aware you are there if they approach you from behind.

**BE SAFE, BE SEEN**



Dates for the Bingo are;  
Friday 29th December,  
Friday 26th January,  
Friday 23rd February

At Cotton Village Hall. Eyes down for 7pm.



## Quiz Night

Date for the next quiz night is  
Friday 8th December  
7:30pm start



## **Cotton Oil Buyers**

Saturday December 2nd

Thursday February 1st 2018

Contact 01449 781127 or 07845068679

[peter\\_mead@sky.com](mailto: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 Spring 2018 (March, April and May) edition of Cotton Quarterly is  
Friday 19th January 2018. All contributions to be sent to

[cotton.quarterly@outlook.com](mailto:cotton.quarterly@outlook.com)

# Parish Council



The Parish Council ran a consultation exercise in the Village Hall in September where all parishioners were invited to give their views on where in the village they felt housing development could be undertaken, and what type of houses should be built over the next 20 years. (It is anticipated demand would be in the order of 20 houses over the period.)

The event was attended by 111 individuals making up nearly 25% of the resident population. Participants were briefed on the process and then given three coloured discs to stick on maps of the whole village. They were also offered three plastic counters to be placed in boxes representing the various house styles which might be built. Also, Parish Councillors spoke with all people attending to discuss the various options and seek views on what people wanted, and also what they didn't want.

The outcome was a series of village maps, clearly showing those areas where development would be preferred and the types of housing it was felt will be needed over the next 20 years. Interestingly, there was support for the process and little evidence of reluctance to consider some phased housing development.

Housing style was offered in the following categories, (shown in brackets is the number of votes for each category):

- Executive Homes (5)
- Modern 'Grand Design' (1)
- Bungalows (62)
- Traditional Suffolk Design (64)
- Affordable/Social Housing (60)
- Well Built Three Bedroom Family Homes (16)
- Eco Homes (26)

Discussions with residents clearly showed a need for cheaper housing for younger families, properties for current residents to down-size into, and well-built three bedroomed houses for families to live in for an extended period.

The areas chosen for building consisted of 'brownfield sites', i.e. an area previously built on and requiring clearance before housing development could take place, and 'greenfield sites', where the land has not been previously developed.

Cotton's Settlement Boundary has been unchanged for about 20 years and has become outdated; some of the suggested areas for development will require the Settlement Boundary to be adjusted accordingly.

All the areas suggested have services within range and house building is achievable, in some more easily than others. Sewerage capacity will be an issue at an early stage and will need to be addressed by the planning authorities.

## Brownfield Sites

Site location	Level of resident support	Number of houses	Availability
Music Museum, Blacksmiths Road	Strong	6-7	Subject to a wish to sell by the owners, not available for 10-20 years
Lawes Builders Yard	Medium	12	Currently used as builders' yard with no plans for disposal, not available for 10-20 years
Church Farm farmyard	Medium	10	Currently used as farmyard with no plans for disposal, not available for 10-20 years
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

## Greenfield Sites

Site location	Level of resident support	Number of houses	Availability
Mendlesham Road ribbon development	Strong	8-10	The land is currently unused and may be available
Scuffins Lane, land adjoining the allotments	Strong	2	The land is privately owned and may be available for building on the road frontage
Scuffins Lane, land on the West side	Medium	4-5	Privately owned land
Diaper's Field, Mill Road	Medium	8-10	Privately owned land already offered for development by the owners in the recent 'call for sites'
Parkers Road junction with Broad Road	Medium	3-4	This land is unused currently but in private ownership.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	

## Summary:

These proposals give a total number of at least 25 houses phased over 20 years, with no more than five houses being built every five years. The preferred 'brownfield' sites are not currently being offered for housing but may be over the duration of the plan. If so, they would be seen as a priority for development with a proportionate decrease in the allocation on 'greenfield' sites. All the development sites identified are in private ownership. Additionally there may be some windfall sites which are within the settlement boundary and may become available for development during the life of the plan.

Just to emphasize again – these are ideas, not plans. A lot of water has to go under a lot of bridges before a brick is laid, and considerations of sustainability, employment, schools, wildlife and ecology all play their part in developing an eventual proposal for the future. But the consultation exercise was a great success and the Parish Council is truly grateful to everyone who came along and expressed their views about Cotton's future.

**Also at its most recent meeting** the Parish Council started discussing the budget it will set for 2018/19.

It was noted that some legal costs might be incurred in amending the Meadow's management arrangements; that traffic calming measures might be contemplated as a result of the VAS data; that a village defibrillator and/or play equipment might be considered; and that an earmarked, rather than general reserve would be a desirable way to present the Parish's funds. A budget draft will be presented to the next meeting on November 22, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, which everyone is welcome to attend.

***The Parish Council now has an email list, so that we can pass on items of interest to the village; to be included in the list just contact the Clerk Rod Caird on [cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com) or call him on 07785 331217.***

Parish Clerk      Rod Caird                      [cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:cottonparish.clerk@gmail.com)

*Cotton's Parish Councillors' are:-*

Chairman              Mr. Peter Gibbs                                      Tel:- 01449 781308 email:-  
[peter.gibbs@talk21.com](mailto:peter.gibbs@talk21.com)

Vice Chairman      Mrs. Sarah Wenban                                      Tel:- 01449 781095 email:-  
[sarahwenban@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahwenban@hotmail.com)

Councillor              Mrs. B. Ellis    Tel:- 01449 780007 email:-  
[ber.35@hotmail.com](mailto:ber.35@hotmail.com)

Councillor              Mr. D. Williams    Tel:- 01449 781645 email:  
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Councillor              Mr Paul Howlett    Tel:- 01449 781294 email:-  
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Mid Suffolk District Councillor / Suffolk County Councillor

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[andrew.Stringer@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.Stringer@suffolk.gov.uk)

# Village Hall



## A word from the committee

Well it's been an interesting few months since our last public post; the standing down of a long serving and dedicated chairman will always leave a void which is difficult to replace. We cannot thank John and Ann enough for all they have selflessly done over the years, we couldn't have received the facilities in better condition or reputation- we look to continue this.

We have brushed ourselves down and reshuffled our pack and the same faces reside however we are pleased to announce the arrival of Matthew Rayner to our committee, a bright young man with a passion for a number of subjects including photography and technology. Most importantly for us a fresh set of eyes and opinions. Matthew and his family moved into Double Corner earlier this year- we welcome them all and hope they will be happy here for many years to come.

New faces are always welcome on the committee as I am aware that we make this plea on a regular basis, the hall need new and younger members on its committee to keep us pushing forward as well as retaining its past and history.

I think we can all agree our playing fields and grounds have never looked better this year and we have noticed many more families using our grounds over the summer. This does however highlight our aging play equipment which we feel may need some drastic attention in the coming year, we are beginning to gather a few ideas and information for what may be done to improve what we have on site and your opinions would be most useful in the steering of this next project.

**It's your village, your hall and your playing field, get involved!**

Your village hall committee:

James Collins

Jen Hanlon

Ines Flynn

Pauline Scruby

George Stringer

David Vincent

Matthew Rayner



## Cotton Community Circle Club & Café Dates At Cotton Village Hall

Saturday 16th December Cafe	10am—12pm	Christmas Circle
Saturday 13th January 2018	10am - 12pm	Circle Cafe
Saturday 24th February 2018	10am - 12pm	Circle Cafe
Saturday 7th April 2018	10am - 12pm	Circle Cafe
Saturday 19th May 2018	10am - 12pm	Circle Cafe

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## Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

7.30 pm Bacton village hall

Members £ 2 Non-members £ 3

### January 16th The A to Z of curious Suffolk

We welcome back Sarah Doig to talk about rambling through the countryside and coastline unearthing a cornucopia of strange, spooky and mysterious facts along with Pepys and also Defoe's view on cheese. Also the game of Dwile Flanking !

### February 20th How we used to go – the evolution of sanitation !

Our old friend Tony Redman will describe the rise of sanitation from the bucket thrown into the street to the family three seater (or more) to the 'water closet' (wc) and the products of Thomas Crapper.

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# Parochial Church Council

## St Andrews Church Cotton

We are undoubtedly in a difficult place at present in the Bacton benefice as a whole, as our Priest-in-Charge Revd Val White has been absent on sick leave for a considerable period, with her ordained husband David, shouldering many responsibilities of the parishes. That situation was bad enough but has now become more complex with Revd David now himself suffering serious illness and so we are self-reliant. This involves extra burdens on the lay Ministry Team which covers all the churches, and so greater emphasis on services which lay members can cover. We have the support of our new Rural Dean Revd Diane Williams of Needham Market and her assistant Revd Chris Childs, but these priests also have their own continuing parish responsibilities, as well as keeping an eye on our needs. We continue to pray for the health and wellbeing of all concerned, but also that our local Ministry may continue to be supportive of all in need, whether regular church attenders or otherwise.

We are grateful to Julie Bullock who has taken over the "Ride & Stride" event for us - we had a few participants of our own and welcomed many visiting cyclists St Andrews. This is an important fund raiser for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust which typically raises at least £130,000 annually to support their grants to churches of all denominations across the county.

Important services in the remainder of the year include our Remembrance Sunday Service on 12th November AT 3 P.M (our usual time) which will include Reading of the Names at the Cotton Memorial in the churchyard; please support this important service remembering Passchendaele especially this year.

Christmas is slightly complicated as we have a year when Christmas Day is on a Monday and thus Christmas Eve is obviously a Sunday, so despite our shortage of service takers we have two services one after the other ( not sure I agree but that is what is in the diary). At Cotton the service on the 24th is a Benefice Family Communion at 10.00 am. On Christmas Day we will have our usual Christmas Morning Worship at 10.00 am (always this time on Christmas Day to allow time for the turkey to be cooked!).

I trust all of the above goes well as we (my wife and I ) will not be around , as having sold our home to move away in January we shall have little furniture left and so enjoy a few days of relaxation after a very difficult time on the housing market!!

As this is my last contribution, my parting thought is "does anyone take the slightest notice of , or worse still, ever read, what I have spent an hour typing"?!

Mervyn Walker

"once upon a time a churchwarden but no more"

# Neighbourhood Watch

I have not received any reports of crimes committed in our area from the police so far. I have emailed our Safer Neighbourhood Team but no reply as yet. They will probably come after I have completed this report.

Police are issuing warnings again to be vigilant about distraction thefts, especially in supermarket car parks. There was a recent incident where a lady left her handbag on the seat of her car whilst unloading the shopping trolley. As she was returning the trolley to the trolley bay a male asked her for directions. When she got home she realised that her purse had been stolen and £300 had been withdrawn from her account using a card from her purse. It is suspected that the offender had an accomplice who removed the purse while the victim was being distracted at the trolley bay. So be warned. Don't leave your items unattended in your car, even for a short time. Lock the vehicle even when paying for fuel. It just takes a few seconds for someone to remove property. So please take precautions and don't become a victim of crime.

Another scam, this time from a someone calling on the telephone claiming to be from HMRC (the tax office) stating the person owed money in unpaid tax. Threats of arrest were then made if the outstanding amount was not paid. One Suffolk victim who reported the scam to the police lost £1500 to the scammers.

## **How to protect yourself.**

HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ask for payment in this way. Telephone messages and text messages can easily be spoofed, you should never trust the number you see on your telephone display. If you receive a suspicious cold call , end it immediately. Report fraud and cyber crime. to the police.

Lets keep Cotton crime free.

Tony Craighill. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. 781917.



# CARTERS

## M E A D O W

Reg. Charity no: 1080734



## Could you lend us a hand?

### The Charter of the Forest

Everyone has heard of the Magna Carta, but fewer people know about the Charter of the Forest, This charter was signed 2 years after the Magna Carta in the reign of Henry the third at Runnymede, in this document clauses relating to the forests are expanded and made into there own charter,

Setting out freedoms and liberties of all those living on Forest areas.

It re-establishes rights of access to the Royal Forests for free men.

800 years on The Woodland Trust is organising a new Tree Charter, and for everyone signing they will plant a tree.

You can find the Charter at <https://treecharter.uk>

Meanwhile all free men and woman and children of Cotton can enjoy our woodland whenever they like.



### Work Parties

Sunday December 3rd

Sunday January 7th 2018

Sunday February 4th 2018

All work parties start at

10.00am until noon

The morning starts off with a stroll around the Meadow to see if anything needs urgent attention, there is normally time for a cuppa and a chat and some time to enjoy the great outdoors.



**Trophy & Cup winners 2017 V.P.A, Show**

**Challenge Cup** Beryl Ellis

*Runner-up* David Vincent

**Garden News Shield** John Bullock

*Runner-up* David Vincent

**Parish Challenge Cup** David Vincent

*Runner-up* C. Tupper

**Home Produce Cup** Will Grey

*Runners-up* Chris Marston  
Chris Grey

**Flower Challenge Cup** Sandra Welham

*Runner-up* Will Grey

**Floral Arrangement Cup** Chris Marston

*Runner-up* Helen Mead

**Cotton Memorial Cup** David Vincent

*Runner-up* John Bullock

**Wine Challenge Cup** David Vincent

*Runner-up* Peter Gipson

**Hollingsworth Rose Bowl** Jane de Beer

*Runner-up* Beryl Ellis

**Walter Vincent Challenge Cup** John Bullock

*Runner-up* David Vincent

**Lizzie Vincent Trophy** Chris Marston

*Runner-up* Joyce Vincent

**Children's medal** Abbey Baker



# VPA ANNUAL SHOW

