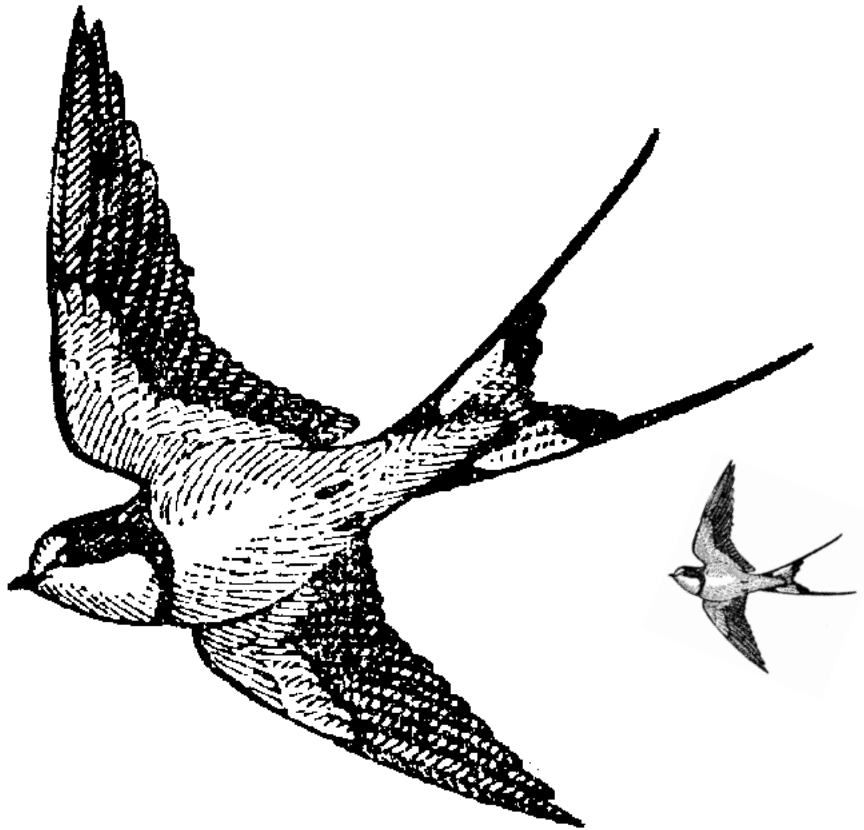


Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Summer 2010



'Swallows'



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

The Cotton Test Match

**A day of Knock-out Cricket
with 9 village teams**

- ★ *Beer Tent* ★ *Prize Raffle*
- ★ *Childrens' Fun*
- ★ *Huge BBQ*
- ★ *Lots of Tea & Cakes*

*Village Fête atmosphere,
plus Cut-throat Cricket!*

SUNDAY 18th JULY 2010

from 10.00am, Lime Tree Farm, Cotton

Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



COTTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2010

During the year 2009/10 all the projects started 2008/09 were completed.

THE PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan was completed and distributed to every household in the village and has been received very favourably by the residents of Cotton. The conclusion being that most residents believe that this is a very good place to live.

Some areas of concern were highlighted, those being traffic speed through the village and litter. The Parish Council is continuing to consult with the police on traffic control and we have had three litter picks organised by Councillor Stringer, which were well supported by local people turning out to help. As a result of the Parish Plan the Parish Council News letter was launched and the fourth Edition will shortly be distributed. The newsletter has been helpful to organisations in the village in keeping residents informed of their activities.

Also as a result of the Parish Plan a drama group has started which is proving to be very popular.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate the Parish Plan Steering Group for producing such an excellent document.

THE WELCOME PACK.

During 2009/10 a new and more comprehensive Welcome Pack has been produced.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.

Although we did not win the competition Cotton was awarded the Philip Watson Cup for the 'most improved village'. This is on display in the Village Hall. The Parish Council would like to thank all the village organisations for putting on such a good presentation in the Village Hall.

WATER FOR THE ALLOTMENTS.

The Parish Council was pleased to help obtain funding from Councillor Stringer's Locality Fund to

install a water supply to the Cotton Town Land allotments.

THE WEBSITE.

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Joanne Moss who has volunteered to manage the Cotton Parish Website and would like to thank Peter Osborne for all his help in the past.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Councillor Pauline Bridges will represent the Parish Council on the Cotton Town Land Charity. The Parish Council would like to thank Colin Hull for representing the Council over the past years.

Councillor James Hanlon has joined the committee of the Carters Meadow Trust as one of the Parish Council representatives on the Trust.

Following the resignation of David Coffey last year the Parish Council are pleased to welcome the appointment of a new Councillor Mrs Beryl Halliday. Welcome Beryl.

Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Val Couldridge

Chairman, Cotton Parish Council

FROM THE CLERK

Report of Parish Council AGM Held on 4th May 2010

Councillor Mrs V. Couldridge was re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council & Councillor Mrs J. Hutchinson was re-elected as Vice Chairman. Councillor Mrs. Beryl Halliday agreed to become a Trustee of the Carter's Meadow Trust, bringing the number of Parish Council representatives up to the required number of 4. The audited annual accounts for the year 2009-2010 were approved by the Council. A request for funding from the Bacton Under Fives was discussed and it was agreed to donate £100.00 towards their redevelopment fund.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is at 7.30pm in the village hall on the 6th July 2010

Colin Hall

Parish Clerk

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chair Mrs Valerie Couldridge 01449 781047

Vice chair Mrs Jeannie Hutchinson 01449 781320

Councillors

Mrs Pauline Bridges 01449 780000 Mrs Beryl Ellis 01449 780007

Mrs Beryl Halliday 01449 781682 Mr James Hanlon 07740 053849

Mr David Williams 01449 781645

Parish Clerk Colin Hall 01449 781400

Mid Suffolk District /Suffolk County Councillor

Andrew Stringer 01449 780339

Parish email address:

cottonparish@talktalk.net

Parish web-site:

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc

Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



The Cotton Art Show and Photographic Competition

We reported in the Spring Quarterly that the show was well in hand. Our curator, Judith Hamp, has informed us that more artists have requested exhibition space, to such an extent that Judith is limiting the number of exhibits artists may hang.

Roy Rodgers, our 'Artist in Residence', has completed his first year's work and naturally we hope to sell his originals, whilst at the same time creating an archive of the work to sell on as prints or other products.

Ken Howard RA, you will recall was persuaded to return to extend his 2009 lecture, I won't repeat where and when as it's sold out.

The Cotton Test Match

The main event of the Summer is of course our annual Cricket tournament. If any of you don't think much of cricket, fear not, it's really a village fête with many other attractions thrown in. Nine teams, however, battle it out starting at 10.00 am and continuing until the last side yields just as the sun goes down. The Jokers beer tent is quite a draw but we don't want to advertise it too widely as the FCC committee could lose their first place in the queue just behind CAMRA the real ale side.

Other Summer Events

Two other events may catch your eye. To add to the English Heritage restoration grant, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust have donated £10,000 and as a further effort to raise money wish to hold an event in

the church on June 25th, consisting of a talk by Clive Paine, an East Anglian church expert and by all account an entertainment in his own rite. The FCC will provide a few goodies and our 'Artist in Residence' will also exhibit prints of his work.

Then of course we are into the Games in the Garden affair where usually polite gentle folk get seriously competitive, where Douglas Gale usually trips over and Hamp in all innocence is bewildered at finding himself in the final of the shuffle board competition.

Kindly note these dates:

The Cotton Test Match Sunday 18th July at Lime Tree Farm

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust event Friday 25th June, St Andrews

Games in the Garden, Dandy Hall date to be confirmed

Should you forget, look out for our posters and our spectacular new road signs.

Alan Couldridge
Chairman FCC

Handbags & Gladrags

19th June 2010
7.30- 12.pm

At Cotton Village hall

A Tribute to

Rod Stewart

Optional 60's 70's 80's Dress

Ploughman's Supper

BRING YOUR OWN DRINK'S

*Featuring the finalist in the B.B.C TV best
tribute act show.....*

Gregg Dorrell

Plus Disco

Tickets £12.50 from Pauline at Finbows Furnishers tel: 01449 781732

Cotton Village Hall

At our recent AGM Mike Rowell and Jean Finbow stood down after many years service, the CVHC would along with the village would like to thank them for the work and commitment they have undertaken over many years.

Jean will still be committed to her small group of over 60's which in reality should be the over 70's. As I am sure you all know Jean has been on most village committees and worked on or attended them over many years and we owe her, as a village, our gratitude for all she has achieved. Thank you Jean.

James Collins was elected onto the committee and the established committee re elected unopposed.

Our bid for a grant from MSDC is still pending.

Forthcoming events include an evening with Rod Stewart with the finalist of the BBC best tribute act Greg Dorrell. Sarah Wenban and Geoff Toole are looking into the possibility of using the MSDC cinema service so that we would have easier access to equipment for film nights.

Ladies keep a look out for the fashion show coming in the autumn.

We have had to start imposing charges for hirers that leave on the heating and lights after they have left the Hall as the increase in our electricity bills is eating a larger portion of our income from hire charges.

What's on?

JUNE

- 1st Theatre club
- 3rd Election Register
- 7th Line Dancing
- 8th Over 60's
- 12th Bacton FC Bar B Q
- 14th Line dancing
- 15th Theatre Club
- 19th An Evening with Rod Stewart
- 20th Line dancing
- 22nd Theatre Club
- 22nd Over 60's
- 28th Line dancing
- 29th Theatre Club

JULY

- 4th Private Function
- 5th Line dancing
- 6th Over 60's
- 6th Theatre club
- 10th Car park booked K L T
- 12th Line dancing
- 13th Theatre Club
- 15th Private function D A
- 16th Private function
- 17th Wedding James & Laura
- 19th Line dancing
- 20th Over 60's
- 20th Theatre club
- 26th Line dancing
- 27th Theatre club

AUGUST

- 2nd Line dancing
- 3rd Over 60's
- 9th Line dancing
- 16th Line dancing
- 17th Over 60's
- 21st Private function W D
- 23rd Line dancing
- 28th Private function
- 30th Line dancing
- 31st Over 60's

Cotton Village Hall Committee

Chair	John Doherty	01449 781083
Treasurer	Jenny Hanlon	07723347200
Secretary	Ann Doherty	01449 781083
Committee	Pauline Scruby	01449 781732 (Shop)
	George Stringer	01449 781071
	Mary Bretherton	01449 781374
	Mark & Mavis Hewitt	01449 781048
	David & Joyce Vincent	01449 781529
	James Collins	01449 781182
Bookings Secretary	Tracy Lowings	01449 781433

Cotton & District Village Produce Association

The Club where gardening is fun

Evening visits:

Wed. June 16th Visit to Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery, Dickleburgh.
Meet Cotton Village Hall 7.00 p.m.

Wed. July 21st Whole day outing to R.H.S. Hyde Hall.
Cost £18-00 includes admission.

To book or further details phone Ann or Keith on 780102

Sat. Sept.4th Annual Show Cotton Village Hall.
Schedules available early August

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Not too much to report locally although surrounding villages have had their share of burglaries and thefts. Wrought iron chairs were stolen from a rear garden in Old Newton and a motor bike, parked and unattended, was stolen from Old Market Street in Mendlesham. The burglaries reported to police were often from unsecured sheds and outbuildings, property stolen usually garden tools and equipment. This sort of crime is often the work of the opportunist burglar, so why make things easy for them? A decent padlock may be a deterrent; it's worth spending a few pounds to save a lot more.

There have been several cases of theft from motor vehicles in supermarket car parks. A recent one in Cedars Park, Stowmarket and another in a supermarket just off the A14 at Bury St Edmonds. In both cases the offender working with at least one other person, blocked a motor vehicle in as they were about to leave the car park. When the driver got out of their car, leaving it insecure, another person went to the vehicle and stole property left on the front seat. Another similar case occurred when a driver was asked for directions, whilst distracted another person stole property left on the front seat. Whilst we all feel a desire to help others, don't get out of the car, or if you do, lock it. Never feel pressured to help someone. If you feel unsure or unsafe, call the police.

Some good news, a twenty year old was recently charged at Bury St Edmonds with 13 offences, consisting of burglary, attempted burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary.

Investigations spanning 8 counties were led by Suffolk Constabulary as some of the offences were committed in Suffolk. A good result.

Don't forget, if you see anything suspicious, people or vehicles cruising around the village, then call police with details and vehicle numbers. We have recently had door to door salespersons calling at houses in the village. They should wear badges or have and show some identification. Never let them in to your home, even if they appear to be very nice people and you feel a bit sorry for them after listening to their sales pitch. If really suspicious of their intentions, call the police.

Tony Craighill, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator 01449 781917

Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church Cotton

At the Annual Meetings of the Parish held on 23rd March new Churchwardens were elected and also a new PCC; the Churchwardens for 2010/2011 will be Mrs Myrtle Hales (thank you so much for continuing yet again, Myrtle) and also Mr Mervyn Walker our present Secretary. We said farewell from official membership to very long-serving PCC members, Mrs Jean Finbow and Mrs Joan Milward; our sincere thanks are recorded to them for their unstinting service. This means that the PCC is looking for new members to aid the management of St Andrew's – any volunteers or suggestions as to possible recruits will be more than welcome; please speak to any member, the Rector, Liz Varley (781108) or the Secretary (780272).

The changed worship pattern notified in the Spring newsletter has already had to be amended to accommodate some of those who assist with our service rota; in due course we will be holding services on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. Please see the Parish Magazine or the church notice board for details.

The church Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday was a great success and it was wonderful to see so many youngsters racing around looking for tokens to exchange for their chocolate eggs. The event raised £88 for general funds.

At last we have received confirmation from English Heritage of an enhanced grant which is designed to enable the PCC carry out all the works proposed by our architects following the investigation carried out last year. The grant amounts to £109,000 against a projected total cost for the scheme of £185,000 (this figure includes VAT of some £27,600!). We have received committed grants from other sources totalling £35,000 (Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and The Friends of Cotton Church). This still leaves a deficit of nearly £24,000 which the PCC is urgently looking to fund !

Diary date:

**Friday
25th June
7 - 9pm**

To mark the SHCT grant that organisation is sponsoring an event at St Andrew's on Friday 25th June, between 7pm and 9pm (tickets £6 on the door), by Clive Paine described as "Suffolk's Performance Historian". The FCC are supporting this event with their well-known organisation, so this promises to be a memorable evening, as well as giving everyone a unique insight into our important and historic church.

Look out for the posters!

Carters Meadow

Reg Charity 1080734



Chairman's Roundup

2009 -10 has been a year where Carters Meadow has increasingly been used by the inhabitants of Cotton and beyond. It is of course difficult to monitor by how much, but personal experience and anecdotal evidence would seem to back this. We have been involved in many activities to improve the amenity, raise funds and increase our profile in the wider community. Some of which I will detail below. . .

1. At the beginning of last year the Trustees initiated a Parish wide newsletter giving details of our activities, this continued through the summer and now forms part of the Cotton Quarterly.
2. Caroline Lucas Leader of the Green Party paid a private Visit to Carters Meadow, she expressed her admiration for our community project and planted a tree.
3. We had two fund raising activities at the meadow last year in June we had a Midsummer BBQ and in October a Halloween party both events attracted good attendance and raised approximately £300. We attracted a good cross section of our community and beyond.
4. The Trustees also produced a calendar for 2010, while we managed to make a small profit, it was not as successful as we had hoped and will review whether we repeat the process later this year. We have also raised some funds by receiving donations in exchange for wood chippings.
5. This year the Trust was invited by MSDC to be part of the BBC Breathing Places scheme, they sent along 2 of their Rangers with mowers and we managed to attract our best ever Sunday attendance with over 20 people coming along and joining in.
6. Carters Meadow also featured in a major article in the East Anglian Daily Times which has brought forward some interest from a wider audience and offers of assistance.
8. The wild flowers in the meadow put on a pretty good show for visitors last year and we hope and expect that it should be even better this year and will audit what we have. We have continued our ongoing programme of free maintenance and replacement where appropriate and we intend to put some picnic tables & benches in the meadow to encourage greater use by visitors.



CARTERS M E A D O W



Reg Charity 1080734

Carters Meadow goes back to School

On Tuesday the 20th of April volunteers including countryside officers of the district council attended Bacton Community Primary school, bringing along a box full of creatures large and small gathered from the meadow to show what might be found on a "bug hunt". The event was organised by the deputy head to raise awareness of environmental issues among the students. During the day "Bug Hunts" took place around the school. The species found included Mason Bees living in a classroom wall and a wolf spider found lurking under a litter bin, the screams could be heard in Old Newton.

By the time you receive this newsletter the meadow should have taken delivery of 2 new picnic tables. Visitors will now be able to enjoy a meal out among the wild-life, don't forget the wine glasses.

Work Parties 2010

- Sunday June 6th
- Sunday July 4th
- Sunday August 1st
- Sunday September 5th
- Sunday October 3rd
- Sunday November 7th
- Sunday December 5th

All work parties start at 10.00am until 1p.m.

All Welcome