

# Cotton Quarterly

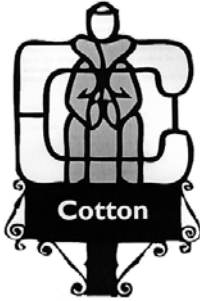
Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Winter 2010



# Cotton Parish Council

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.



Cotton Parish Council met on Tuesday 2nd November.

Amended plans for a single storey dwelling on land to the east of Elm Cottage, Blacksmith Road were discussed. Councillors agreed that the amended plans are an improvement on the original plan and more in keeping with style of building, the application was unanimously approved.

Work has now commenced on the renovation of the village hall; clarification on the timescale for payment of grants from Mid Suffolk District Council & Suffolk County Council is being sought.

The Clerk reported that Bacton Parish Council had agreed that the "dog mess bin" on Broad Road could be moved to the entrance of the footpath on the opposite side of the road. This has now been done and a letter of thanks has been sent to Bacton Parish Council.

In order to publicise the Parish web-site Councillor Hutchinson has prepared an advert for insertion in the Parish Magazine.

The police reported that there has been one reported crime since the last meeting, someone attempted to break into a garden shed in Broad Road, the attempt failed but some damage was caused. There have been a number of trailer thefts across Suffolk, owners are reminded to keep the trailers secure when not in use.

Councillor Hutchinson suggested the Council should write to the owners of the Trowel & Hammer inquiring about their plans to re-open the pub, Councillor Couldridge has undertaken to write to them and report back to the Council.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday, 11th January 2011 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

All are welcome

**Colin Hall**  
Parish Clerk

## Digital TV Switchover - minimising the potential for negative environmental effects

### What will happen?

The switchover from analogue to digital TV in the Anglia TV region takes place in July 2011 (for south Suffolk) and November 2011 (for north Suffolk).

To keep your TV service, you will need to convert your existing TVs to digital before the switchover date. This does not mean that you will have to get rid of your old set as almost any TV can be converted simply by adding a digital box, even a black and white one, so there is no need to buy a new TV unless you want to. As well as avoiding the unnecessary waste, converting your existing TV can be a far cheaper way of adapting to the switchover, as digital boxes are available from around £20 though, as with actual TVs, prices vary depending on the product.

### What if my TV cannot be upgraded?

If however you are planning to replace your TV, try to buy one that is energy efficient - look out for the Energy Saving Trust's '*recommended*' logo.

If you still decide to get rid of an old TV that is in good working order, you could offer it to a friend, or offer it via a reuse network such as Freecycle (<http://www.freecycle.org>) or Freegle (<http://www.ilovefreegle.org>)

Alternatively, you can take your old set for recycling, free of charge, to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Stowmarket. You could also ask the supplier delivering your new TV if they have a service for taking the old one away, or you can arrange for Mid Suffolk and Babergh Waste Services to collect it at a cost of £22 (0845 606 6045)

**Do not dump your old TV - flytipping is a criminal offence!**

---

## 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](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc)

# Cotton Village Hall

Reg Charity 292467



## Village Hall News

London, Paris, Milan, and now Cotton is to become one of the leading venues for fashion shows after the evening of top entertainment and style, presenting the "House of Wardrobe" by Sharon.

It attracted top models that included:

**Jerry Hanlon**  
**Naomi Stringer**  
**Twiggy Rumen**  
**David "The Bond" Vincent**  
**Kate Halliday**  
**Claudia Lawes**  
**Bridget Dawson**  
*and*  
**James "The Depp" Collins**

The models strode the cat walk, which was in the midst of the stunningly decorated hall.

Many thanks to Mark and Mavis Hewitt for organising the show, also a big thank you to all who assisted in making the evening a big success.

As no doubt most of you will have noticed we have had to remove the end wall of the Village hall before the force of gravity beat us to it. I am pleased to tell you that Steve Wales, who has undertaken the work, has removed all the rotten timbers and replaced them with treated new ones.

Unfortunately, he is of the opinion that the complete front of the Hall may be in a similar state of decay, a view also held by other villagers with an expertise in these matters, and that effort should be put under way to renew or replace the hall as in its present state it has a limited life.

As this goes to press the committee have not had the opportunity to digest

and evaluate this information, to suggest the course of action needed to be taken.

## Film Night

We have joined the Mid Suffolk Digital Cinema Club, that gives us free access to their equipment to enable us to cut the cost of any future film nights. Sarah and Geoff have undertaken training to use this equipment and now have an understanding of the legal requirements for showing a film; this however has thrown up a dilemma as to whether:

1) We form a film Club with a yearly fee and show any film we choose with **no advertising** as members would be made aware of the program.

Non members could come along as a member's guest but would have to pay extra.

2) Show films as and when we choose, open to all, with advertising but subject to Royalties and organisational fees.

The first option would in fact be the cheapest to undertake but carries the restrictions of being a club.

The second has greater flexibility but a charge reflecting, in joining a film distribution network, and the cost of royalties makes it more expensive.

*To assist us with your preferred option*

**PLEASE TICK YOUR PREFERENCE AND RETURN TO:**

Garden House, Broad Road, Cotton

- 1. No Film Nights
- 2. Create a Film Club
- 3. Show films to open audiences

**John Doherty**

Chairman, Village Hall Committee

SOFT DRINKS & SNACKS AVAILABLE

SOFT DRINKS & SNACKS AVAILABLE



ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
COLLINS OF COTTON PLANT CENTRE

**£3.50**

ON THE DOOR THAT NIGHT

**£4.50**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**COTTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**DOORS OPEN FROM 7PM**  
**SHOW STARTS 8PM**  
**SHOW ENDS 11PM**

COVERS FROM FAMOUS ROCK ACTS

GUNS N' ROSES

METALLICA

IRON MAIDEN

AC/DC



**3 HOURS OF PURE ROCK FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCES**

**NO TICKET NO ENTRY NO TICKET NO ENTRY NO TICKET NO ENTRY NO TICKET NO ENTRY**

## What's On?

### December

- Sat 4th Private Party
- Mon 6th Line Dancing
- Tues 7th Over Sixties' Xmas Party,  
Drama Club, V/H Committee Meeting
- Wed 8th V. P. A. Dinner
- Mon 13th Line Dancing
- Tues 14th Drama Club
- Fri 17th Cotton Christmas Quiz
- Sat 18th Dance: Live music  
**"Escape from Fate"**  
*(See James Collins for details)*
- Mon 20th Line Dancing
- Tues 21st Drama Club
- Mon 27th Private party

### January

- Mon 10th Line Dancing
- Tues 11th Drama club
- Mon 17th Line Dancing
- Tues 18th Drama Club

- Mon 24th Line Dancing
- Tues 25th Drama Club
- Mon 31st Line Dancing

### February

- Tues 1st Drama Club
- Mon 7th Line Dancing
- Tues 8th Drama Club
- Mon 14th Line Dancing
- Tues 15th Over Sixties Club,  
Drama Club
- Wed 16th V. P. A. Meeting
- Mon 21st Line Dancing
- Tues 22nd Drama Club
- Mon 28th Line Dancing

*Please be aware that these date's are the only one's known of on going to print.*

***"Please support these events and  
in doing so  
Support the village and its hall"***

Cotton Village Hall Committee

*and*

The Friends of Cotton Church



*present the*

# ***Christmas Quiz Night***

*with your very own Quiz Master*

**“John Doherty”**

***Ho! Ho! Ho!***

***AT COTTON VILLAGE HALL***

Friday 17th December at 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00

to include a Seasonal buffet  
*(bring your own drinks)*

Tickets from 781047 & 781083



# Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



## The English Heritage Restoration Project

There can't be many Cotton Villagers who have not spotted the amazing scaffolding now cladding St. Andrews. It looks similar and certainly as impressive as the edifices usually to be seen surrounding Big Ben or Westminster Abbey. If you think this erection is impressive you should see the inside. Work continues until the end of January, then watch out, as the FCC will be contributing towards the costs, so we will be back with many of our fund raising events. For more detail of the works I'm sure the PCC article in this quarterly will contain more detail.

## The Belfry Gates

During the Restoration Project the FCC is organising the restoration of the Belfry Gates as well as pigeon proofing the open ringing chamber. This is a project we elected to commission last year when our architect advised us that the railings surrounding St. Andrews were valuable and well worth repairing. The main architectural structural work has now rather taken over but we believe we can run to the Belfry metal work. We await a faculty for permission to start the project.

## The Christmas Quiz Night

As the church will be unavailable over Christmas, as last year, we are holding, along with the Cotton Village Hall Committee, a Christmas Quiz Night. (*see the main advertisement in this quarterly*) The FCC will provide it's famous Christmas buffet, plus a big raffle and featuring John Doherty in his, never to be forgotten role as Quiz Master.

## Artist in Residence

Roy Rodgers still has a few of his original water colours of St Andrews interiors available but the FCC now holds the archive. These signed prints are inexpensive and would make splendid Christmas presents especially for local villagers who have family connections with Cotton Church (*for details contact AC on 781047*).

Roy will later be drawing and painting scenes of the restoration project, if he can paint in a hard hat.

## The Reopening of St. Andrews - A Celebratory Concert

We have secured an international choir who will give a concert in St Andrews to celebrate the completion of the work to take place on 6th March 2011. This choir will contain soloists and instrumentalists from the world famous Monteverdi Choir. This concert will be widely advertised in the New Year and we anticipate an extremely enthusiastic response.

**Alan Couldridge**  
*Chairman FCC*

# Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church, Cotton

Well, the major restoration has finally started and the scaffolding is very apparent on the outside, including the temporary roof cover. You will need to take our word that the nave is completely full of scaffolding as well – all to prevent a possible structural collapse when the weight of the lead comes off the roof! We shall just have to wait and see, but not for long as matters are now proceeding at a pace.

The scaffolding is well protected by alarms and the police are fully involved, but we still need you eyes and ears – in case of doubt just phone 999! We are still awaiting responses from our last possible grant donors and so are looking for funds. Regrettably, as you may have heard, the VAT recovery scheme for places of worship may end soon, adding hugely to our maintenance costs.

As I write the annual **Gift Day** was held last weekend, and no doubt our Treasurer, Diana Stevenson is counting the donations. This is an appropriate time to say a big “thankyou” to her, as yet again due to her diligent management St Andrew's has again been able to pay its “Parish Share” in very good time (this is what all churches in Church of England Dioceses have to pay for our clergy who provide our services and everything else they do for us, as well as our share of the administration of the church in Suffolk).

**The Historic Churches Trust** sponsored cycle ride also raised a significant sum – over £600 plus any Gift Aid, which we will share jointly in our Fabric Fund with the Trust. Many thanks to all who took part in this enjoyable event, whether as riders or recorders. Very many thanks, yet again, to our local organiser Mrs Joan Milward, who made sure it all worked out on the day.

The “Elf Trail” planned for 18th December has had to be cancelled due to the scaffolding and building work taking place around the church.

We look forward to new activities in the Spring.

**Mervyn Walker**  
*PCC Secretary*

# Neighbourhood Watch Report

## **Crime updates for the past few weeks.**

Burglary at Broad Road, Cotton. Security light in rear garden disabled and shed window smashed, attempts to force open shed door failed, nothing taken.

Burglary at Walsham Road, Finningham. Residential garage broken into. At present it is not known what was stolen. Another burglary in Westhorpe Road. An insecure garage was entered and a blue 120amp Mig welder was stolen.

At Old Newton, Finningham Road, the theft of a silver Williams trailer stolen from an open barn.

I wonder which of these crimes could have been prevented! Any insecure garage or shed is an easy target for the opportunist thief. Anything is capable of being stolen and it pays to make some attempt to secure your property.

The dark nights are now upon us, nothing the thief likes better.

**So be warned and lock it up!!**

Police are warning us about using ATM's and the golden rule of not allowing yourself to be distracted. When using an ATM there is a tendency to focus on the machine, but be aware of your surroundings.

If anyone is standing so close to you that they can see your hands, don't enter your pin number. If you feel uncomfortable, discontinue and walk away.

If someone tries to gain your attention in any way as you are carrying out a transaction, ignore them. Retrieve your cash and card safely as a priority.

And lastly, if you see any suspicious behaviour around ATM's, then call the police on the 999 system.

**Tony Craighill**  
*Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator*  
**01449 781917**

---

## Cotton & District Village Produce Association

*The Club where gardening is fun*

We do not meet in January  
Feb 16th Mrs Pauline Harper a talk on Vegetables  
Mar 16th Mr Richard Ayres MBE My Life at Anglesey Abbey

All speaker meetings are held in Cotton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.  
Visitors most welcome.

***New members always welcome please contact Ann or Keith on 780102***



## CARTERS MEADOW

Reg Charity 1080734

The trustees have overseen a busy and productive 12 months. Some enjoyable events have taken place in the meadow. The number of people, both villagers and visitors who come to the meadow has I believe continued to grow.

We received a share of the proceeds from the Cotton Village Weekend and have raised some funds through our events at the meadow. The sale of calendars for 2010 was disappointing; although the product was excellent we were barely able to cover costs.

In previous years we have had to fund the hiring of mowers to cut the meadow, this year Peter Gibbs generously brought his rather fine old tractor with mower and did it for us free of charge. It should also be noted that once again Alan Couldridge has kept our paths in pristine condition and we thank them both.

The winter was very long and very cold and the Trustees decided not to have a Burns Night party in the meadow. The Midsummer BBQ was moved back to August. It was nevertheless blessed with a good attendance and fine weather.

Halloween was a great success, there were approximately 50 people in there and they all seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. I would like to thank the Friends of Cotton Church and the Village Hall Committee for the loan of equipment without which our events would be much more difficult to stage.

I said last year that our events are not just about fundraising and this has continued to be our philosophy. We like to think of Carters Meadow

as a community project that the community enjoy.

We have placed 2 picnic benches in the meadow this summer and hope that it will further encourage our visitors to come back and enjoy what we have to offer.

The flora and fauna in the meadow has continued to flourish and although we lost a few trees, more were planted. A new visitor to the meadow this year has been the Privet Hawk Moth (Britains largest) we saw many caterpillars hungrily enjoying our trees and hope to see these magnificent moths next year.

Pond maintenance has been ongoing throughout the year and we have continued to battle with our weed problem, this year in part, by the use of chemicals, it now seems to be under control. There was a magnificent display of Dragonflies and Damselflies around the pond and our resident Moorhens again successfully bred. So presumably they approve of the improvements.

Visitors would have noticed the arrival at the beginning of the summer of a rather special man and his dog. They were the winners of the Cotton Scarecrow Competition and were kindly donated to us by Mr Grzedzicki of Broad Rd.

We have continued to develop Carters Meadow for the benefit of the village and have received support and encouragement from a variety of sources; we should all be proud of what has been achieved and look forward to even better things in the future.

The Community Wildlife Advisor for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust is a regular visitor to Carters Meadow and she said *"Please pass on my compliments to all those involved with the Meadow. I always enjoy coming to look at it and am very envious that I don't have something similar in my village"*.

**Chris Tester**, *Chairman*



Reg Charity 1080734

# CARTERS MEADOW

## Scary Creatures Come Out To Play



Since our last Newsletter, strange sights have been appearing at the meadow. Late in the summer we had huge numbers of Privet Hawk Moth Caterpillars. These caterpillars are 10cm (4 inches) long. They have now burrowed into the soil to hatch out next year as the UK's largest native moth.

On Saturday 30th October over 40 people came to celebrate Halloween and enjoy excellent Bangers & Mash, followed by Bread & Butter Pudding. Henry Nichols was by far the best dressed Ghoul and the prize for the best carved pumpkin went to Kate Cappock (see below) and a good time was had by all.



### Winter Work Parties

Sunday December 5th

Sunday January 2nd

Sunday February 6th

All work parties start at 10am  
until 1.00pm

**All welcome**

*For more information 782134*