

# Cotton Quarterly

Cotton Parish Council Village Newsletter

Spring 2011





# CARTERS M E A D O W



Reg Charity no  
1080734

## The Carters Meadow Spring Sale

If you're doing some work in the garden and need some bark-chippings, don't forget that at Carters Meadow we have a large stock of quality chippings. So if you need a barrow or a trailer full just let Andrew Collins know (contact 01449 767196) and give him a donation, and come down and fill your boots or barrow or trailer.



**Don't forget Carters Meadow  
is yours, why not visit ?**

## Work Parties 2011

Sunday March 6th

Sunday April 3rd

Sunday May 1st

Sunday June 5th

All work parties start at  
10.00am until lunchtime.

# Cotton Parish Council

**Welcome to the Spring issue of the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter.**



## **FROM THE CLERK**

On the 21st March 2011 Mid Suffolk District Council will publish details of the local council elections which will take place on Thursday May 5th. The election will be an opportunity for you to have a say in the way your village is run. Have you ever considered standing for election as a Parish Councillor but never done anything about it? If this is the case now is your chance. For details on how to stand for election and how to submit your nomination papers please contact me as soon after the 21st March as possible.

During March every household will be receive the 2011 Census form, please ensure that you complete and return it as the figures compiled effect the amount of funding the District Council receive from Central Government; over a 10 year period this can amount to tens of millions of pounds.

Cotton Parish Council met on the 7th December 2010 when the application to erect wind turbines in Wyverstone was discussed. After studying the revised plans it was felt that they did not address any of the matters raised on previous applications. The application was unanimously opposed.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would meet the annual cost of a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial. Councillor Couldridge reported that Enterprise Inns had informed her that they were actively searching for new tenants for the Trowel & Hammer and that they would keep her informed of any progress.

The Parish Council met again on the 11th January 2011.

Due to personal circumstances Joanne Moss is relinquishing the post of the village website co-ordinator, the name and details of her replacement will be announced once the hand over has taken place. The Council thanked Joanne for her efforts over the last 18 months. MSDC/SCC Councillor Stringer reported that due to cuts at MSDC it has been proposed that 7 of the 18 waste disposal sites would be closed, other proposals include the closure of County Council care homes for the elderly and cutting the subsidy to bus services.

PCSO Johnson reported one crime in the village since the last report the failed attempt to steal fuel from a motor vehicle. He reminded householders to ensure that their oil tanks are secure as the incident of heating fuel thefts in the county are increasing.

**Alarmed security padlocks are available from the Police they can be obtained by contacting them on 01473 613500 and ask to speak to the Mid Suffolk Central Team.**

There have been a number of incidents of "Hare Coursing" in the county and the public are asked to report any sightings to the police.

***The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 1st March 2011, 7.30pm at the Village Hall - all welcome.***

### **Parish Newsletter**

***Copy date for inclusion in the Summer Newsletter is the end of April. If any residents would like an item relevant to village affairs included, please contact Mrs Couldridge, Mrs Hutchinson or the Parish Clerk.***

### **Late News:**

***Keith Parsons has taken over the Cotton Parish website from Joanne. Please let him have your news and pictures of village events and items of interest at: cotton.parish@gmail.com***

### **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  
Parish email address: cottonparish@talktalk.net

#### **Mid Suffolk District /Suffolk County Councillor**

Andrew Stringer 01449 780339

#### **Parish web-site:**

Keith Parsons: [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc)  
[cotton.parish@gmail.com](mailto:cotton.parish@gmail.com)

# Cotton Village Hall

Reg Charity 292467



## Village Hall News

Britain was coming to a standstill, gritter-lorries were out day and night, and we were experiencing temperatures of minus 14. Did the hearty souls of Cotton give in? No, we walked to the hall, bottles in hand, dressed in either light weight Caribbean clothing or pirate outfit to have our Cotton Caribbean Christmas Party come what may. Even with the miscalculation of jerk chicken (sorry to the few who missed out), the limbo and best pirate "male & female" that all ages participated in, more than compensated. Juma played all night and we danced along to their unique playing of Calypso carols and Christmas songs, truly a Cotton night to remember. The hall was transformed into a pirate galleon for the night with masts, flags, and barrels. Our thanks to the Organising Committee, Collins of Cotton, Laws of Bacton and Emzo Coffee Shop.

Once again this year we joined up with the FCC to put on a Christmas Quiz that proved a challenge for all the teams due mainly, I think, to over indulgence in Christmas Spirit. Never the less, by a very small margin a combined team of the Wenban & Toole families triumphed in the end.

The weather played havoc with Steve Wale's attempt to complete the building work at the hall before Christmas. However I am pleased to say that at last he has finished; not only replacing the complete gable end but has turned our kitchen into a first class facility for all to use. A massive thanks to Steve and his colleagues for this work and its quality, and to Steve himself who has

contributed much of the material and his time to assist us in keeping the cost to a minimum. Also a big thanks to David Vincent who stepped in at short notice to undertake the decoration.

As winter goes and spring approaches we have organised a 50s/60s night for April 16, dancing to **Rogue Traders** who play the early music of these two decades, so get out the blue suede shoes and grow a DA haircut and ladies do you still have your petticoat skirts and dresses. Ticket £7-50 from John Doherty 781083.

It is time to start thinking about the design and positioning of your scarecrows for the COTTON WEEKEND on the weekend of May 28/30; also volunteers are needed to man the village hall Tea Room and all you lovely cake makers please be as generous as ever. We are considering extra activities this year that are not yet finalised to go in this quarter's magazine so please keep an eye on notice boards and the parish magazine.

We now have regular Tuesday morning Yoga session 10-00 to 11-30 for all ages. New beginners or any one wish to participate contact Lisa Vincent 01449 737513

**John Doherty**  
*Chairman*

**PS**

***Following the request in the last Quarter for your views on forming a Film Club at the Village hall; having recieved a ZERO response, this venture has been abandond.***

## What's On?

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Over Sixties Club (afternoon)  
Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm  
Parish Council 7-30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 8<sup>th</sup> Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 15<sup>th</sup> Over sixties club (afternoon)  
Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Village Produce Association  
7-30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> Line Dancing
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> Provisional booking
- 27<sup>th</sup> Hire of Crockery only
- 28<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 29<sup>th</sup> Over Sixties Club (afternoon)

### April

- 4<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 5<sup>th</sup> Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 12<sup>th</sup> Over Sixties Club  
Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm  
Village Hall AGM 7-30pm

### April cont.

- 16<sup>th</sup> 50s/60s Dance to **Rogue Traders**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 20<sup>th</sup> Village Produce Association  
7-30pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> Over Sixties Club

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Local Council Voting all day
- 9<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 10<sup>th</sup> Over Sixties Club  
Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Line Dancing
- 17<sup>th</sup> Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Line Dancing
- 24<sup>th</sup> Over Sixties Club  
Cotton Theatre Club 5-6pm
- 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> COTTON WEEKEND

*Please be aware that these dates are the only ones known of on going to print.*

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

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**COME ALONG TO AN EVENING OF**

**Rock 'n' Roll**

**to 50<sup>s</sup> & 60<sup>s</sup> early rock with**

**Rogue Traders**



**at Cotton Village Hall, 16th April 7.30 to 12**

BYO drinks & nibbles

Tickets £7.00

*50s/60s suits & dresses encouraged!!*

# Bacton & Cotton Local History Society

## **Tuesday, March 15th**

*An afternoon guided tour of the historic Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds at 2.0pm.*

A minibus will leave Bacton Village Hall at 1.45 for the one and a half-hour theatre tour at a cost of about £ 5 per person. or meet us in the Theatre's Greene Room just prior to the tour start.

Tour places booked through Peter Wenban (01449 781095) or Rose Graham (01449 780201) please.

*There will be no evening meeting*

## **Tuesday, April 19th**

*Hidden Gems and Horrible Problems.* Tony Redman of the Whitworth Co-Partnership, surveyor to Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral and the surveyor in charge of the restoration of St. Andrews Church in Cotton, will give an illustrated talk on his survey of the church, the amazing findings, some of national importance, and the essential work now being carried out.

## **Tuesday, May 17th**

*Tudor times in Haughley.* Sue Moore will give an insight into the Tudor life of the Sulyard family, Lords of the Manor of Haughley, and their tenants in what was becoming a major town in mid-Suffolk. And why was a castle built and destroyed there in the 12th century ?

**All meetings in Bacton Village Hall  
unless otherwise stated.**

**Members £2 Non-members £3**

# Cotton & District Village Produce Association

*The Club where gardening  
is fun*

**April 20th**

**May 18th**

**June 15th**

Meet at the Village Hall

*For details phone 780102*

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 01449 780102***



# Neighbourhood Watch Report

## **TURN UP THE HEAT ON OIL THIEVES.**

The major crime this month and the last is the theft of domestic heating oil.

December saw over 26 such thefts across the county and Mid Suffolk certainly had their share.

Residential oil tanks can be an easy target and we should certainly take steps to ensure the safety of our expensive oil.

### **Some suggestions:-**

- **Screen your tank with fencing or hedges.**
- **Close and secure any gates leading to the tank.**
- **Conceal or cover any external pipes and fuel lines.**
- **Install dusk to dawn security lighting.**
- **Install lockable caps supported by a closed shackle padlock.**
- **Regularly check your fuel levels, sensors which monitor levels from inside the home are available.**
- **Consider installing a tank alarm.**

Keep an eye on your neighbour's properties. Large quantities of oil are often stolen and thieves need a sizeable container or a large vehicle to take it away. If you see any suspicious persons or vehicles in your road or in a neighbour's driveway, **contact police immediately by dialing 999.**

Several thefts of birdscarers from local fields have been reported to police. Four such thefts occurred at the end of December. Propane cylinders and batteries were stolen, so again if you see any suspicious persons lugging heavy batteries and propane cylinders around, unless it's the farm worker, then call police.

A few burglaries occurring locally, the old favourite of someone wanting to check water pressure, or other excuse to get inside your home, once inside they make away with cash or other valuables. People living on their own or the elderly are very vulnerable to this crime.

Several of these offences reported lately in the local press. So be aware, and look after your neighbour.

***Let's keep Cotton crime free this year!***

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

# Parochial Church Council

St Andrew's Church, Cotton

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas services, despite the very cold conditions in the chancel, which we have to use at present due to the continuing major works in replacing the nave roof. On one occasion it was so cold that even the CD player went on strike!

The restoration works continue with many intriguing and challenging finds among the timbers aloft: we will be happy to share some of these events with the village in due course, when our architects will make a presentation. Unfortunately our last two grant applications yielded only a small addition to our funds, and so we have a current deficit on present costs (which will NOT be final) of nearly £11,000! So please do support us and the FCC in meeting this further challenge.

You will also know that due to the possible dangers of the building works to youngsters, we were forced to cancel the "Elf Trail" in December, BUT we do intend to repeat last year's very successful and enjoyable church "Egg Hunt" on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April** between 10.a.m. and 12 noon. Come and search for the tokens to exchange for your chocolate eggs! (there will be a small charge).

Other dates for your diaries include an open meeting of the CCJ (the Council of Christians and Jews) (Suffolk and North Essex branch), being hosted in the benefice at Old Newton Parish Church on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30p.m. – do come along and hear our speakers talk about "The Passover".

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will take place at 2p.m. at Wyverstone church; the theme is "Praying for Chile" and Mary Myatt will be the speaker (R.E. adviser to Suffolk County Council).

Our usual spring jumble sale will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, when hopefully we will be able to use some of the church for this event

(10 until 12).

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS** for the election of churchwardens to hold office for 2011/2012, will be held in the church on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 2p.m. Nominations must be submitted to the Rector prior to the meeting (if unsure of the procedure please speak to either the Rector (781108) or the secretary (780272). A following meeting will then receive reports and appoint members of the PCC. Formal notice of these meeting will be posted on the church notice board in due course.

**Coffee Morning:** On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May Mr & Mrs Wenban have kindly offered to host a Coffee Morning for us at their home at Dandy Hall, Willow Lane, Cotton, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon; it is a delightful spot and especially so if the sun shines– please come and support us then.

We are delighted that our colleague on the PCC, Mrs Christine Marston has agreed to arrange another **Flower Festival** for us this year – this will take place on Saturday and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> July. The theme will take up the celebrations to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James version of the Bible – "People of the Bible". Christine can be contacted on 781567.

Lastly on a somewhat more serious note, would anyone who believes they have a reserved burial plot in the churchyard at St Andrew's which has NOT been confirmed by a formal "faculty" from the diocese (which they would have paid for in advance) please contact the churchwarden/secretary (on 780272) on reading this note – thankyou, as we just wish to avoid problems in the future!

**Mervyn Walker**  
*Secretary*

# Friends of Cotton Church

Reg Charity 1053483



## **St Andrew's Restoration Project**

In spite of the freezing weather before Christmas continuing, as it did, well into January the work continued apace. Tony Redman, our architect, reports that currently the leadwork is 30% completed whilst the structural repairs are 70% finished, by the time you read this these figures will have significantly improved. Woodworking progress has been slower than anticipated due to new discoveries of woodworm infestation; the Friends thought they had dealt with this a couple of years ago.

## **The Celebratory Concert**

With work on the Church due to finish at the end of January we and the extremely posh choir who had promised to sing as a gesture of support thought that a March 6th date would see the work completed and the scaffolding dismantled, no easy task, there is more inside the building than outside, with the place cleaned up (even more daunting). So the Friends' Committee has been forced to delay this event; we believe this International choir will perform for us at some time in the future. With a couple of Christmas Concerts lost in the last two years we have sacrificed a great deal of income, however we feel vindicated due to the contractors, who had hoped to start in the Summer of 2010 agreeing to delay the contract to accommodate two weddings in the Church, the domino effect is thus upon us.

## **The Window Cleaning Saga and its Discoveries**

Most of the Committee and several Friends turned out last month to work off the scaffolding and clean the clerestory leaded lights. Not only did this Big Society clean the glass and brush down the cobwebs but discovered under a century and a half's worth of green moss words etched into the

glass. They went on to discover three or four more examples; upon returning the following Saturday a few more came to light. Such was the interest that both local papers picked up the story and we got a slot on Radio Suffolk. The words take the form of Shakespearian sonnets, but we need expert help to validate them.

## **Roy Rodgers**

Our Artist in Residence paid a visit to the site last week, and escorted by Mervyn Walker, the Committee member who knows more about the project than any one, clambered up the scaffolding, took a load of photographs and probably did a few drawings. We anticipate another fine collection at this year's Art Show.

## **The Cotton Art Show**

Our Curator Judith Hamp has started gathering her artists together with her invitation to exhibit letter even now dropping on many studio mats. The Art Show is held at the Cotton Weekend along with the Cotton scarecrow competition and the Heart of Suffolk Walking Festival. Also of course are our usual Cotton attractions, including Carters Meadow and the Mechanical Music Museum. Let's hope the Trowel and Hammer is open with a new landlord joining the Village Hall's tea room and completing weekend's catering arrangements. We have been investigating the possibility of holding a model aircraft display. Bert Bertiloni is an enthusiast but we are currently looking for a field to use as the runway.

## **A.C. Chairman FCC**

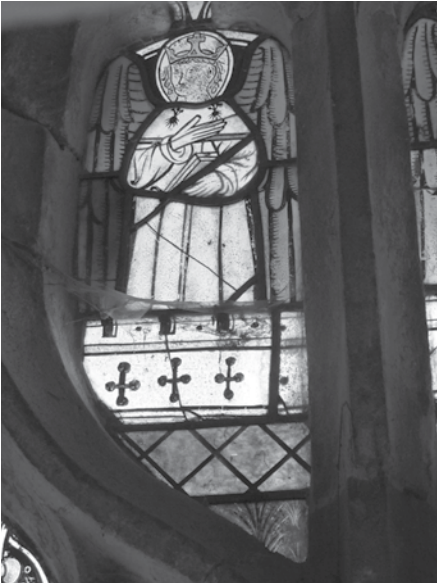
*PS*

*FCC AGM Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

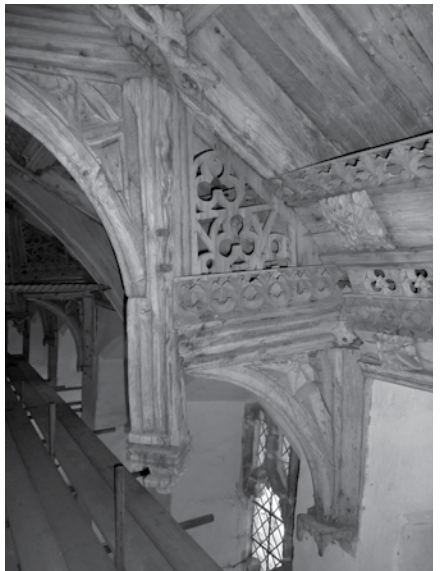
*Cotton Village Hall, 7.30pm.*

*All welcome.*

# Saints and Sinners



Clockwise from left:  
Medieval window, carved angel,  
Shakespearean sonnet etched in glass,  
double hammer-beam.



More photographs of the parts of the church we have been able to access during the building work will be on display at the Art Show in May, or go to:  
[www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/cottonpc)



*Friends of Cotton Church*  
*Reg. Charity 1053483*



# **Cheese and Wine Preview Party**

*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm*

Tickets £7.00 from: 781047 or 766230



*St Andrew's Artist in Residence*

# **Roy Rodgers**



[www.onesuffolk.co.uk/CottonPC](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/CottonPC)