

Coton

Community News

cotonvillage.co.uk



June-July 2010

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EDITORIAL

At last a glimmer of summer weather appears, just in time for next month's Guided Walk and Cream Teas event, which is always very popular with villagers and visitors alike.

There is plenty of food for thought in this issue: allotments, traffic, elections, the Village Hall – we welcome your opinions on any or all of these topics! Write to or email the Editors, or take advantage of the new Coton Village website, an online version of the Coton Community News, which is now ready for action. We hope it will become a forum for comment, information, news and views: a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about Coton.

It has been set up by a small team, and is still a work-in-progress. If you would like to be involved, please contact Carolyn Postgate as soon as possible – we will be meeting soon to discuss developments. Meanwhile, check it out!

The Editorial Team

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Please send your copy for the August/September edition by 5th July at the latest to Carolyn Postgate, 5 Whitwell Way or email carolyn@clara.co.uk



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COTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Chairman's report to Annual Parish Meeting, April 2010

Mr Geoff Diplock, Chairman of the Parish Council, presented his report to the Annual Parish Meeting and a summary of the main points appears below.

- ◆ During the year, there was a change in Clerk and also James Fox resigned and Dr Sara Godward was co-opted.
- ◆ Dog fouling continues to occur, particularly in the Silverdale Avenue area, and residents are urged to pick up after their dogs and use the nearest dog waste bin.
- ◆ The Parish Council hopes to adopt the two red telephone kiosks on a non-working basis. Offers have been received to maintain the kiosk in Silverdale Avenue.
- ◆ The new residents from the Airey Houses development were welcomed to the village. The roads in this area are being re-surfaced.
- ◆ As a result of the severe winter weather several potholes have appeared and some have been temporarily repaired. Permanent repairs will take a little longer to complete and residents are asked to be patient and exercise extra caution in the meantime.
- ◆ Local councillors have been endeavouring to assist with the improvement of Broadband services in the area.
- ◆ The precept for the Financial Year 2010-2011 was agreed as £22,000, remaining roughly the same as last year.
- ◆ Rather than holding separate meetings to discuss planning applications received, plans have been on display for fifteen minutes prior to the Council meeting at which they are discussed and recommendations made. Plans are also available on the internet.
- ◆ Thanks were extended to Mrs Wilson and to Mrs Stoehr and LGS Services. Thanks were also expressed to Mr Jim Lewis for carrying out necessary works in the village, to the Parish Council members and to County Councillor Fiona Whelan and District Councillor Francis Burkitt for attending meetings and offering support with local issues.

Annual Audit

The Audit will be carried out again this year by Moore Stephens of Peterborough. All electors have a right to inspect the Council's accounts. Further information is available on the notice board and includes the dates for public inspection.

Recreation Ground

The Parish Council has received quotations for maintenance work to the trees on the recreations ground and has appointed a contractor to carry out the required work.

Community Clean up

Mrs Smart organised a Village Spring Clean on the weekend of 8/9 May with help and support from CPRE and the District Council.

Allotments

The Coton Allotments are in a reasonable condition. There are (supposedly) 38 full plots, each of 22 feet in width, numbered historically from 25, at the eastern (Cambridge) end, to 62 at the western (Pub) end. A preliminary audit showed that plots #25 to #38 appear to be of the correct width; these are followed by plots #39-44, which have not been cultivated for several years. Although #39-44 indicates 6 plots, the total width is, in fact, 77 feet, thus giving room in reality for only 3 ½ plots. Plots #45-62, at the Pub end, are all under active cultivation, but seem (the full audit has not got this far) to be rather close together, and may not each have the expected 22 feet of width.

All plots, with the exception of the "fallow" #39-44, are rented; 9 of them as half plots. 2 full plots and 4 half plots are rented to non-Coton folk. There is a waiting list of one (a Coton resident).

During the year, a clarified set of the Allotment Rules was sent to all allotment holders. Notice was given of an increased rent to take effect from October 2010. It was agreed that a maximum size (9 feet x 7 feet, 7 feet in height) should be imposed for any new sheds.

Some of the allotments are not as actively cultivated as they could be, and some are accumulating a considerable amount of "bric-a-brac". A number of allotments are being tended, in part or whole, by those who are not the named plot-holders. Further auditing is planned. The Parish Council has decided that in future allotment plots will only be available to parishioners. Current tenancies for those out of parish remain unchanged.

Connections Bus

The Parish Council has agreed to contract the bus for 2 sessions during the summer holidays, preferably during the 1st and 3rd weeks. The bus will be at the School. The Connections Bus will advertise the details in due course.

Clerk contact details

Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk to Coton Parish Council, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, CB23 7NY. Tel: 01954 210241 email: cotonpc@lgs-services.co.uk

Coton Parish Council website

Information on your Parish Council, including the meeting's agenda and approved minutes, can be found on the Parish Council website <http://www.cotonparish.org.uk>

Coton Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday each month at 7pm in the WI Hall. Parishioners are welcome.

***** STOP PRESS *****

Election of Officers

At the May meeting of the Parish Council, Mr Geoff Diplock was re-elected as Chairman, and Mrs Rosemary Darling as Vice-Chairman. The Parish Council decided that it would have no formal Planning or Finance committees this year. The following member responsibilities were agreed:

Allotments: Dr C Thorne and Mrs W Sadler

Footpaths: Mr A Storkey and Mrs B Smart

Trees: Mr A Storkey

Highways: Dr S Godward

Play equipment: Mrs D McLaughlin

Asset list: Mrs R Darling

Communications: Dr S Godward

Village Hall representative: Mr G Diplock

Newsletter: Mrs W Sadler

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There are 57 District Councillors in South Cambridgeshire, about one per 2,500 of the c. 140,000 population. Councillors serve for four years, and about one-third are up for election every three years, with no election on the fourth year. So this year there were elections for 19 wards, on the same day as the General Election.

I've written before that I don't think that local government should be party political, but it is a fact of life that most Councillors now have a party affiliation. In 1973, 49 out of the then 53 Councillors were Independent, but since then the number of Independents has fallen inexorably, election-by-election, and now only 7 out of 57 are Independent.

After the election on 6 May, SCDC has 29 Conservatives, 20 Lib-Dems, 1 Labour and 7 Independents. At SCDC, just like in the national Government, a party with a clear majority – in SCDC's case, the Conservatives (just!) – appoints the Leader and all the Portfolio Holders (who are the district council equivalent of a Government minister).

I don't know what conclusions to draw from the 19 individual elections – perhaps there are none, and perhaps all situations had local factors, which is probably how it should be. The 13 "no changes" were that 8 Conservatives and 2 LibDems stood again, all retaining their seats, and that 3 LibDems retired, to be replaced by new LibDems. The net "changes" were LibDems +4, Conservatives -2 and Independents -2, achieved by 5 changes to the LibDems (from 2 Independents and 1 Conservative who stood again, and 2 retiring Conservatives) and 1 change to the Conservatives (from a retiring LibDem). And before you ask, my turn comes around next year!

Francis Burkitt, District Councillor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

In the April-May edition you asked for feedback on the idea of traffic lights on the High Street around the S bend near The Plough. Whilst I can't speak for the rest of the village, the consensus in our household is a polite but definite, "No thank you" to the idea. As a short term measure they were necessary, and resulted in a beautiful new thatched roof, but as a long term measure then we see only negatives such as unnecessary driver/cyclist inconvenience, a build up of traffic around that area and damage to the aesthetics of the village.

Having talked to a few villagers about this, I understand that the main interest people have in the traffic light concept is to make the S bend easier to negotiate, particularly when cars/vans are parked on the pavement. Whilst I understand this desire, I don't think that traffic lights are the logical solution. In general Coton is a safe village to drive, walk and cycle around, but if the village currently has an appetite to discuss possible improvements then there are some more items worth throwing into these discussions:

- 1) The re-emergence of previously filled potholes around the village.*
- 2) The chaos caused by parents driving their children to school. We have been blocked from entering and exiting our drive onto Whitwell Way by car on a number of occasions by parents parked opposite our house for half an hour or more. I can't describe how annoying and stressful that is when trying to drive into work!
- 3) Poor visibility around the corner where the High Street leaves Cambridge Road (when coming from the Madingley direction).
- 4) Cars leaving The Plough not paying attention to bikes coming along The Footpath from the cycle path over the M11, and focusing only on Brook Lane.
- 5) Traffic leaving the southbound M11 at junction 12 and pulling onto Grantchester road seemingly without realising that they are joining a road and should give way to traffic. I wonder what other residents feel about all of this?

Simon Naylor

13 April 2010

* ***Editor's note:*** since this letter was written, the potholes have been filled again, in response to requests from villagers. The number to ring if you wish to report potholes is: 0345 045 5212



Dear Editors

Your welcome report on Village Traffic Lights (*Community News*, April/May) reminded me how the traffic along Cambridge Road-High Street-Brook Lane has increased dramatically since I moved to Coton 22 years ago. This route has, in effect, become a

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kind of ring road around the west of Cambridge between the A1303 (Madingley Road) to the north and the A603 (Barton Road) to the south. It is the result of two factors: the growth of Cambourne and the action taken by Cambridge city to protect itself from traffic.

The main cause is Cambridge's defensive move, taken not in a single blow, which would have led to protests, but as a sequence of smaller steps over the years. These include: (i) the peak-hour restrictions on Silver Street, which reduces the traffic entering Cambridge via Madingley Road and Queens Road; (ii) the numerous and severe traffic calming measures on Grange Road, which make it much less attractive to vehicles; (iii) the abandonment of the plan to make Clerk Maxwell Road an alternative to Grange Road as a link between Madingley Road and Barton Road; and especially (iv) the traffic lights at Junction 13 motorway exit on Madingley Road, which slow down the A1303 traffic so that in peak times there is a tail-back as far as the American Cemetery and beyond, which makes Coton not merely an attractive alternative route into Cambridge, but also for entry to the motorway at Junction 12.

Much of this through-traffic is in a hurry, with consequential careless driving. At the south entry to Coton on Brook Lane, the speed limit is constantly ignored by traffic going in both directions. Half the lane has no footpath and fast-moving traffic is now a real danger to pedestrians, cyclists and joggers.

Measures surely now need to be taken to protect Coton against this massive increase in through traffic which will only get worse over coming years. If Cambridge has learnt how to defend itself against traffic, why cannot we do the same? I am asking the Parish Council to consider this matter and to advise the County Council on appropriate remedial action.

Professor David Hargreaves

Brook Lane, 5 May 2010

WI REPORT

April

An excellent speaker – Mrs Marie Carden. It was possible to hear a pin drop during this talk – except when Bluey the dog went walkabout: no problem. A very active lady with a love of the outside became housebound when a surgeon explained that he could not offer her any more help. After, unwillingly, accepting total care from carers, Mrs Carden heard about Dogs for the Disabled, and her life gradually changed. Assessment, learning, waiting: gradually life improved, and now Mrs Carden is a wonderful ambassador for Dogs for the Disabled.

Anne Clarke

PROFILE: GEOFF AND SYLVIA DIPLOCK

Last year, Geoff and Sylvia celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. This profile should have appeared then to mark that auspicious occasion but in their retirement they have a very full schedule. Only now, twelve months later, has it been possible to fit in this interview between their time away looking after their daughter, post surgery, and a holiday near Woodbridge.

Where did you spend your childhood, Geoff? I was born in Wrestlingworth, then we moved to Haslingfield. My father worked at Wimpole Hall which, at that time, housed American troops.

And Sylvia? I lived in Madingley. My father was butler to the Harding family in Madingley Hall. I came to live in Coton in 1948 when my father retired and we had to give up the tied house in Madingley.



How did you meet?

Sylvia: When my parents went on holiday, I stayed with family friends who were interested in cricket and I had to go along with them to matches. It was at a cricket match in Haslingfield that I met Geoff.

Geoff: In our courting days, I covered a lot of miles, cycling to Cambridge for work and then to Madingley and back to see Sylvia; I probably cycled about 20 miles on such days.

Your present house is post-war. Where did you live when you first came to Coton?

We first lived in the bottom flat at 31 Silverdale Avenue, then in the bottom flat at 15 Silverdale Avenue. We moved to Whitwell Way, then to our present house. When we first came to Coton the population was about 500; at that time there were fields where today we have the 'new estate' of the sixties, i.e. St John's, St Peter's and Brookfield Roads and Benny's Way. Extra houses were built on Whitwell Way and later Sadler's Close was built in the farmyard of Sadler's Farm. Much more recently we have had the new housing in Silverdale. Now the population is around 800.

Where do your children live now?

Our eldest, Nigel, lives in Histon, Angela is in Luton and Karen lives near Derby. Our family gave us a computer for Geoff's 80th birthday and our grandchildren are a great help when problems occur. One of them has posted a photo of us on Facebook.

Geoff, what work did you do?

I served my apprenticeship with a firm of printers, S G Bigg and Son. Then I had to do National Service, returning to printing with Jarrolds on demob. For 27 years I worked for South Cambs District Council as a rent collector. I have been retired for 15 years.

Geoff, you've served on many committees and represented Coton in several capacities. Can you fill in some details, please?

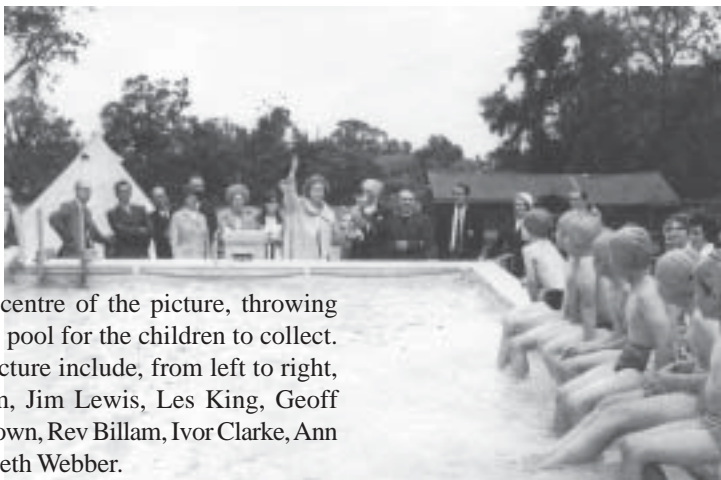
There used to be a Community Association in the village, which I chaired. It was this body that organised an annual village entertainments evening and started the publication of the Coton Community News. In the beginning, the Community News was typed on to a master stencil, then copied on a Gestetner machine. Volunteers assembled and stapled the sheets. It is very different now as today's editors use professional publishing software to compose the final magazine from the copy they receive as email with attachments or hand-written. This is then sent electronically to the printer.

I am Chairman of the Coton Community News and Sylvia is Treasurer. We are responsible for the adverts, the village diary and distribution of the magazine.

Since 1972, when 'Pop' Randall gave up being Secretary of Coton & District British Legion, I have been Secretary. I am co-ordinator of the Joint County Poppy Appeal and organise the collection in Coton. I have been involved in reinstating the Annual Festival of Remembrance in the Guildhall in Cambridge. For six years I was County Chairman and am currently President.

When our children were at Coton School, I served on the PTA. My most vivid memory of that time is of being involved in the installation of the school swimming pool in the farmyard at Rectory Farm. It was opened in the summer of 1963 by Anne Clarke who was a teacher at the school. On that occasion 240 newly minted pennies were thrown into the pool and the children, all wearing swimming hats because the filter couldn't cope with strands of hair, jumped in to retrieve as many as possible. A few years later the new school was built and the pool was moved piece by piece by hand from the farm across the road to its present position ready for the summer term of '65.

This photo of the official opening of the swimming pool in 1963 comes from Anne Clarke's collection.



Anne is in the centre of the picture, throwing pennies into the pool for the children to collect. Others in the picture include, from left to right, Roger Needham, Jim Lewis, Les King, Geoff Diplock, Mrs Brown, Rev Billam, Ivor Clarke, Ann Lake and Elizabeth Webber.

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I am a long serving member of the Parish Council; I don't remember exactly for how long – approaching 40 years. I have been elected chairman four times. I serve on the Coton Village Hall Committee.

Sylvia, you too have helped many village organisations over your 60 years here.

Before I married I worked in the farm office at Chivers, but when I married I had to leave work as they didn't employ married women – quite a change from the situation that women are now in. When our children were older I worked as cook in the school kitchen and did playground duty in the mornings. Currently I am treasurer of the Garden Club and the Coton Community News and I have been treasurer of the PTA. I am also programme secretary of the WI and knit for the knitting circle that was started by WI Members. Years ago there was a Young Wives' Club which I joined and which has evolved into today's Afternoon Club. At long last we have joined the Friendship Club for the over 60s, twenty years on.

Have you memories of remarkable people or events in the village in earlier decades?

Yes. I think that newcomers to the village will find it hard to believe that we had a local milkman, Douglas Childerley. Originally he and his wife delivered milk from the dairy cows at Silks' farm (Rectory Farm). There was a baker's van (Mr Barker from Oakington), a grocery van delivered goods ordered the previous week and a hardware van sold essentials such as paraffin, soap, pots and pans.* There was a local taxi service run by Arthur Goodfield. Horace Silk I remember as a generous benefactor to the village. Also, there used to be regular whist drives in the WI Hall and the Tea Gardens at Linden Brook (on Brook Lane) served very good cream teas.

Have you time for hobbies?

Sylvia: I very much enjoy gardening but now find that difficult because of knee problems. Geoff helps me and we manage to get the garden looking tidy.

Geoff: We have been keen caravaners for 35 years and are members of the Caravan and Caravan Camping Club. Our favourite destination is Scotland. Our next planned trip is to Bridlington to celebrate our 61st wedding anniversary.

*Editor's note: Currently Coton has a Wednesday afternoon fish van and a weekly box delivery of organic produce

Elizabeth Thomson

HUMP-BACKED BRIDGE – BARTON TO HASLINGFIELD

The hump-backed bridge on the road from Barton to Haslingfield goes over the old railway line, which is now where the radio telescopes are.

The University owns the bridge and is responsible for its maintenance (apart from the tarmac itself, which is owned by the County Council in its capacity as Highways Authority). The bridge recently failed a safety inspection and, indeed, the large cracks in the structure are easy to see.

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The University considered three options, and did so in close consultation with Barton and Haslingfield Parish Councils, and with me as District Councillor and Fiona Whelan as County Councillor.

The options were (1) to keep it as a hump-backed bridge, and repair it, by putting a concrete 'box culvert' underneath ; (2) to take away the bridge and half of the earth of the embankment, and leave an incline up to a 'crossroads' between the road and the line of the telescopes; (3) to take away all of the earth of the embankment and have a flat 'crossroads' on the level ground.

Practically everyone preferred Option 1, which is what the University has chosen. That will cost the University about the same as Option 2, about £500,000. Option 3 would have been much more expensive, because of the extra earth to be removed. Options 2 and 3 would have severely harmed the habitat, because of all the earth removal.

The work will take place over next winter, which is best for habitat reasons.

The County Council is insisting that new crash barriers are put on either side of the road along the embankment, to stop cars falling off either side (not that any seem to have done so!). But many Councillors are against this, because (a) cyclists, walkers or horse riders could be trapped between a passing car and the barriers; and (b) some of the hedgerow will have to be removed to make way for the new barriers. This debate with the County Council is still ongoing.

Francis Burkitt, District Councillor

COTON GARDEN CLUB

Our last meeting of the season was held on 5 April when Hilary Thomas gave a talk on *Bulbs for Every Season*. She gave a very thorough review of bulbs from early spring snowdrops through daffodils and tulips to bulbs, corms and tubers for late summer flowers, and left us with plenty of ideas for things to plant immediately for summer and to plant later for next spring.

There will be an all day outing on 24 June starting at Park Green Nurseries near Stowmarket at 10.30am followed by lunch in the tea room at Helmingham Hall at about 12.30pm and a self guided tour of the gardens. The cost will be £2 at the nurseries and £6 at the Hall.

On 19 July there will be an afternoon tour of Robinson College Gardens with the Head Gardener starting at 2.45pm. It is recommended that we catch the 2.28pm Uni 4 bus from Madingley Park and Ride to avoid trying to park near the college. The cost will be £1 to the National Gardens Scheme. Please contact Margaret Skempton for full details and to tell her if you wish to go on either visit.

Julia Hall



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BIRD NEWS

It is fairly easy to start any of these pieces that I write, by mentioning the weather, because there is nearly always something odd to report. This year's early spring was marked by some pretty cold days in March, but warm days in April. But April was really odd in being so dry – only half an inch in the whole month. The rain on the single night of the recent May 1/2 was more than that – in fact the first couple of days of May have included most of the wind that should have characterized March, and all the showers of April!



Garganey

The summer visiting birds have now all arrived, and it had seemed that they might have been a little late, due to the aforementioned 'funny' March and April weather. The dates I have for the earliest record known to me in the county (with 2009 dates in brackets after each) are: Garganey March 7 (March 8), Chiffchaff March 17 (March 14), Sand Martin March 17 (March 4), Wheatear March 19 (March 16), Swallow March 20 (March 19), Blackcap March 21, Willow Warbler March 25 (March 31), Yellow Wagtail March 27 (April 4), Sedge Warbler April 2 (April 1), Hobby April 6 (April 14), Common Tern April 7 (April 5), House Martin April 8 (March 28), Whitethroat April 8 (April 17), Grasshopper Warbler April 9 (April 10), Nightingale April 11 (April 10), Cuckoo April 15 (April 10), Garden Warbler April 17 (April 21), Reed Warbler April 18 (April 10), Lesser Whitethroat April 18 (April 3), Swift April 19 (April 10) and Turtle Dove April 21 (April 19). So, as usual, any change was more apparent than real, with 7 species arriving a day or two earlier, and 13 a day or two later!

Wildlife in my back garden this spring has included more than one black squirrel and a number of both foxes and muntjac deer. I guess that the last-named will have added to the problems that the pigeons, pheasants and partridges contribute to the destruction of my broccoli.

Some of the 'firsts' that I noticed in the village this year were crocuses on February 20 (I forgot to note the date for snowdrops); a Mistle Thrush with nesting material on March 3; frogs on March 15 and daffodils on March 21. Although the frogs, on arrival, seemed active enough in my pond, I did not find any frogspawn or frog tadpoles at all this year. But a week or so ago, when attempting to remove some of the weed that is rapidly turning the pond from water to swamp, I found several newts. These I have only once seen in the pond before, and that was many years ago, so I do not know their origin. I seem to remember a story that newt tadpoles are carnivorous, and that they can wipe out frog tadpoles (and maybe toad tadpoles as well). Does anyone know if this is so?

CJR Thorne

ST PETER'S CHURCH COTON SERVICES FOR JUNE & JULY

6 Jun	8.30am	Holy Communion
	11am	Praise Prayer and People
13 Jun	11am	Family Service
20 Jun	11am	Holy Communion
27 Jun	11am	Family Communion
4 Jul	8.30am	Holy Communion
	11am	Praise Prayer and People
11 Jul	11am	Family Service
18 Jul	11am	Holy Communion
25 Jul	11am	Family Communion



From the Registers

Wedding	28 March	Simon Howlett to Kate Mordaunt
Burial	14 April	John Charles Chapman aged 89

CHURCH NEWS

Soup and Roll Lunches

Monday 14 June to be held at Prue Kynaston's 2 Sadlers' Close from noon-1.30pm
 Tuesday 6 July to be held at Mary Macintosh's, Cambridge Road from noon-1.30pm
 Please let the ladies know if you intend going.

Cream Teas

On Tuesday 15 June a meeting is to be held in the Parish Room at 2.30pm to make arrangements for the Cream Teas on Sunday 20 June 2.30-4.30pm. Please come along if you are able to make cakes, or help on the day. Carolin Göhler is arranging a country walk at 1pm on the same afternoon. Flower arrangers and volunteers: we will be decorating the church on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June from 10am. Please get in touch with Prue Kynaston if you are able to man the church on Sunday.



© CambridgePPF

PCCAGM

At the AGM held on 18 April in the Parish Room, Julia Hall and Rosemary Darling were elected Churchwardens. A big thank you was given to Chris Doake and his team who keep the churchyard grass so trim and tidy, to Thelma Jones for the readers list, Beryl Smart for the church cleaning rota, all the sidepersons, providers of coffee after services, flower arrangers, soup and roll lunch hosts, to Julia Hall and Caroline McGonigal for opening and closing the church, Dan Wheeler and Alan Darling for

looking after the church finances, Sally Bott and Sarah Wheeler for the marvellous job they do at Sunday Club, and lastly to our Clergy: Bill Pickering, Andrew Macintosh and Ruth Bond for their invaluable support to us during the Interregnum. The PCC is looking for a secretary. There are five meetings a year. We thank Caroline McGonigal very much for all her hard work in the past.

Dogs

Please keep dogs on a lead whilst walking through the churchyard – there have been some cases of dog fouling on graves.

Julia Hall and Rosemary Darling

Churchwardens

CHURCH ROTAS

Cleaning

23 May-6 Jun Caroline McGonigal & Anne Roberts
 7-20 Jun Thelma Jones
 21 Jun-4 Jul Anne Clarke & Rosemary Darling
 5-18 Jul Sally Green & Sylvia Lee
 19 Jul-1 Aug Lindsey Bagnall & Sarah Wheeler

Sidespersons

6 Jun 8.30am A Storkey
 11am J Hall
 13 Jun 11am Bott Family
 2 Jun 11am J & R Gray
 27 Jun 11am T & D Jones
 4 Jul 8.30am Julia Hall
 11am Gill King
 11 Jul 11am Bagnalls
 18 Jul 11am K Fowle & C Pickering
 25 Jul 11am Anne Roberts

Coffee

6 June Alan Storkey
 13 June Anne Roberts
 20 June Thelma Jones
 27 June Elizabeth Mitchell
 4 July Alan Storkey
 11 July Beryl Smart
 18 July Sally Green
 25 July Lindsey Bagnall

Grass Cutting

7 Jun Jim Lewis
 14 Jun Clare Fox
 21 Jun Chris Doake
 28 Jun Roy Brown
 5 Jul Colin Fenton
 12 Jul Brian Free
 19 Jul Roger Gray
 26 Jul Gordon Kinsey

Altar Flowers

28 May-11 June Susan Ramsey
 12-25 June Pauline Brown
 26 June-9 July Jean Lewis
 10-23 July Jill Doake
 24 July-6 Aug Kathleen Fowle

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COTON VILLAGE HALL FUND PROGRESS (slow but in the right direction) REPORT

Coton Village Hall company Registered Charity No 1134860

It has taken the Charity Commission over 10 months to register the company as a charity. However, we are finally there and received registration on the 11 March. The company has been set up to own and run the Village Hall for the community. There are no shareholders and no dividends will be paid. The company directors and charity trustees are: Geoff Taylor (Chairman), Elaine Free, Jean Hughes, Annelies Kramers, Cathy Shaw, Allan Treacy and Mel Mason. Company members are: Jean Lewis, Jim Lewis, Anne Clarke, Ivor Clarke, Geoff Diplock and Bill Smith.

Planning Consent for the Hall Redevelopment

After long and protracted negotiations with SCDC planning department we have been informed that the Conservation Officer has objected to the rounded ends to the main hall saying it upsets the linear line of the High Street buildings, which is contrary to conservation policy. We were led to believe that these objections would be overruled but after much dithering the Conservation Officer's objections have prevailed and the planners have informed us that we will not receive planning consent with the design as it stands. Indications are that a squared end set further back from the pavement would be acceptable, so we have amended the plans in order not to delay the project any further. It is a great shame that we have to lose the rounded ends to the main hall as we believe the design had panache and style befitting that of the Parish Village Hall. We should have a planning decision by the end of May, by which time this whole process will have taken over 3 months!

Hall ownership

By the time you read this, we hope that transfer of ownership from Coton WI to Coton Village Hall will have taken place.

Winding Up Coton Village Hall Fund

Again as you will know from the public notice, by the time you read this we hope to have passed a resolution to wind up CVHF charity and transfer the assets to Coton Village Hall.

DAY OF DANCE AND TABLE TOPSALE

Many thanks to all who participated and helped on 1 May. A magnificent £618.66 was raised for the Village Hall. Special thanks go to the dance performers and to Dawn McLoughlin and Sandra Day for organizing the event.

Mel Mason

D.J. IRELAND

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VHF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BINGO (Last of the season) Friday 21 May 7pm

COFFEE MORNING & PRODUCE STALL

Saturday 5 June 10-12 noon

Saturday 3 July 10-12 noon

VILLAGE FETE ADVANCE NOTICE

Coton Village Hall is planning another Mini Fete cum Car Boot Sale on Monday 30 August 2010, from 2-5pm, on Coton Recreation Ground. The event will be along much the same lines as last year, laid back, with emphasis on simple fun for everyone. Anybody who thinks they want to get involved with a stall or other attraction or just to help, or wants more information or even advance-book a car boot, please do contact Elaine Free on 210230, or Annelies Kramers on 211580.

More details will follow in the next issue of CCN.

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

The organisers and many village people wish to thank the volunteers who helped with the village spring clean in May. Let's hope that now the village will remain litter free.

Beryl Smart

The rubbish bags ready for collection at the end of the weekend



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ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING WORK UNDERTAKEN

SCHOOL NEWS

We must firstly apologise for missing the deadline for the last Community News. We therefore have a lot more to tell you about this time! As ever the school is a hive of activity; we have had many exciting events and have many more planned for this term.

On Friday 19 March the School Council organised a day for Sport Relief. They started planning before half term and sent out order forms for selling Sport Relief Socks. On the run up to Sport Relief Day, the children participated in assemblies to inform children how their money would help people in this country and around the world. On the day all children completed 13 laps of our walking route (1 mile in total) and Year 5/6 children organised sporting activities in the afternoon for children and parents. Children brought donations totalling £215; therefore with the donations from the socks they raised £415. It was a really enjoyable day and great to see how much the children enjoyed taking responsibility and how enthusiastic they were about walking the mile and taking part in the activities.

During the second half of the Spring Term parents began work on the development of the courtyard and spent many Saturday mornings clearing the area ready for the installation of musical instruments during the Easter holidays. Saul Eisenberg, a creative musician, spent 4 days in school installing the outdoor instruments which he had designed for our courtyard. Then a group of parents planted an area with aromatic and 'feely' plants and constructed a planter for a herb garden to be used by the cookery club for their recipes. The result of all this work is fantastic and the children love using the space. We still have more plans for it such as a water feature and clay tiles made by the children. We are extremely lucky to have parents who are so committed to the school and are willing to give up their time to make these things happen.

Class 3 have just returned from a 2-day residential visit to Mepal Outdoor Centre. This was another successful trip with children enjoying activities such as archery, trust trails, climbing, sailing, kayaking and leaping fearlessly into the lake from rope bridges (equipped with wet suits and life jackets, I hasten to add!!). As ever it's great to see the children grow in confidence over the 2 days; I think they all had a good night's sleep when they returned!!



Activities at the Mepal Outdoor Centre

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On Saturday 1 May Dawn McLoughlin organised a Day of Dance in aid of the Village Hall Fund. This was a great event with the Country Dance Club performing and involving the audience, the Street Dance Club putting on a great performance and some fabulous Belly Dancers who were mesmerising to watch. The day culminated in a Ceilidh, organised by the PTA, in the school hall with The Crofters playing; this was a fantastic evening with great participation from young and old alike!!

This is Jenny Maguire's last term at Coton School as she is retiring in July after 24 years in various roles in the school, from third in charge (when there were only 3 teachers) to head. Jenny has booked 'Jack', a rock and blues band, to play in a marquee in the Plough on Friday July 16th to raise money for a fund to subsidise educational visits; the cost of coaches and visits is becoming prohibitive and it is so important that children are still given these enriching experiences. The PTA will be selling tickets for this after half term; it will be important to know numbers in advance so that we get the right size marquee, so if you plan to come please buy a ticket in advance.

The PTA is not going to let Jenny rest this term or go out quietly. Consequently they have set her a swimming challenge to raise money for the renewal/replacement of the swimming pool. It has become clear that, after 47 years of use, the pool is in need of major structural work which inevitably will come at a cost. I'm sure many of you will remember being involved in the original construction of the pool in the sixties; I know Dawn remembers taking her sixpence to school every week. [See page 13] The pool has been a really valuable resource for generations of children in Coton learning to swim and enjoying it in the summer holidays. We don't want to lose it. If you would like to sponsor Jenny there are details of this challenge on page 31. Swimming lessons at school take place in the second half of the summer term and the PTA runs after-school and holiday swimming. Other before- and after-school activities for children include Tri Golf, Cricket, Multisports, Street Dancing and Country Dancing.

On Earth Day we had an hour without electricity in the school: no Smartboards, no computers, no CDs in assembly etc. The children initially thought they wouldn't be able to do maths without the Smartboard... they were wrong!! We did in fact keep everything switched off for considerably longer than the designated hour, which showed we can cope without the appliances that we have become to depend on so much. This term Margaret Guest will be setting up an Eco Team in the school to monitor waste and energy use.

During this term we will also be organising small enterprise activities and have plans for a creative week in the first week of June. This will be based around the theme of our KS2 end of term performance. The Dress Rehearsal for this will be on Wednesday 14 July. We stress that this is a rehearsal and there may be interruptions from staff involved however if you would like to come you are welcome. We will put details of this on the school notice board nearer the time.

Jenny Maguire and Margaret Guest

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FUNDRAISING FOR THE SWIMMING POOL

The PTA has embarked on raising funds for the renewal/replacement of the swimming pool. As one of its fundraising activities, Mrs Osborne has set Ms Maguire and the children a challenge called

SOS (Sink or Swim)

THE CHALLENGE



To swim the equivalent distance of the English Channel, which is 35.42 km (that's a whopping 22 miles for those of you still working in the imperial system of measurement!).

We are extremely pleased to announce that Ms Maguire has accepted the challenge and has already started clocking up kilometres at her local LA fitness swimming pool. The pool is 17.5 metres long and in order to complete the distance she will be swimming just over a staggering 2023 lengths!

After half term the children will be starting their challenge and Mrs Osborne will be recording the amount they swim cumulatively during their swimming lessons. She will then compare their progress against Ms Maguire's. But who will go the furthest? The PTA has set up a *Just Giving* page if you would like to sponsor Ms Maguire:

<http://www.justgiving.com/cotonpta>

After half term children will be asked for sponsorship too. Thank you for your support.

CRICKET CLUB

The 2010 cricket season has started in earnest – not only have England triumphed in the Twenty20 World Cup, but the Coton 1st XI has notched up its first victory too! (We won't dwell on the two defeats.) Look out for our mid-season review in the next issue.

Come and join us for fun, exercise and great camaraderie. We have weekly matches and weekly practice sessions for both the adult and kids' squads. All standards welcome (especially retired Test cricketers – we live in hope).

For details, go to www.cotonsports.co.uk or come and see us every Wednesday from 7pm at the Rec (and once in a while in the Plough afterwards!).

And for some great Bank Holiday entertainment, come and celebrate the arrival of Summer and England's first World Cup win of the year at the Coton Twenty20 Extravaganza! Fun, fast-paced cricket plus an all-day BBQ – Monday 31 May from 1pm at the Coton Rec.

Gabriel Fox




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COTON'S DAY OF DANCE

The idea of a Day of Dance was born on Carolyn Postgate's doorstep while organising last year's Entertainment Evening. It would be a celebration of the return of Summer; little did we know at the time how long and hard the winter was to be. Spring duly sprang, a little late. The wheels began to turn and the Village Hall fund-raising team jumped aboard.

Come the week before the event, the weather was typically British. The forecast for Saturday 1st May was for heavy showers, so the decision was taken to hold the event in the school hall, not outdoors. Sure enough, the sun shone until late in the day! A selection of stalls sold wares such as plants, toys, books, cakes and sausage rolls. Cream teas were served, games played and raffle tickets sold.

Many thanks go to the children of Coton School and Jenny Maguire (who gave up watching her favourite football team for the afternoon). They opened the dance event with a splendid exhibition of country dance, clearly enjoying themselves as they danced their socks and trainers off.

Once again, the talented, beautiful Arthi performed a veil dance for us and, trust me, it is very hard to get the veil to flow like that. When I do it, I look like I'm wrapped in a chrysalis! Whilst our exotic lady changed, Mrs Maguire kindly took charge, rallying everyone to grab a partner and take to the floor, giving them an opportunity to practise for the ceilidh in the evening. The Banaat Bast belly dancing group performed three dances starting with a Bollywood number that was received with great enthusiasm, most of the audience having recently seen *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Coton School's after-school 'Street Dance' class finished the performance event and everyone was amazed at their talent. Can we look forward to seeing them on 'So You Think You Can Dance'? Watch out, Arlene Phillips! A big thank you to their lovely teacher, Ciara Comerford.

After the entertainment, the winners of the raffle and games were announced. The day concluded with mums, dads, children and friends enjoying the evening ceilidh. Watching the men enthusiastically leaping around gave me the thought that they should start a Morris Men group. Try as hard as I might, I couldn't get Morris Men for the event. Evidently they are in great demand and are booked years in advance.

Many thanks to: The Village Hall Fund committee, Coton School Parent Teacher Association and the Head Teachers and Governors of the School; and last but definitely not least the people of the village, without whose generosity these events wouldn't take place.

What's next? Keep reading your Community News and support your Village Hall Fund and School.

Dawn McLoughlin

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COTON COUNTRYSIDE RESERVE

Make your own Scarecrow at the Coton Countryside Reserve



© Chris Goodwin

Our first ever scarecrow event will be held at the Reserve on Sunday 6 June.

Drop in between 11am-3.30pm and follow the signs out on the day from the Martin Car Park up to Red Meadow Hill (free event – donations welcome). Let your imagination run wild: get creative and make weird and wonderful scarecrows together with local artist Chris Goodwin. We will provide some recycled materials but please bring your own bits and bobs to add in as well. All scarecrows will be on display in the Reserve until the end of June (and then recycled). We would greatly appreciate any old clothing to re-use on the scarecrows. Please contact CambridgePPF to

arrange collection before the event. You are welcome to bring your own picnic and enjoy the views from the meadow. We look forward to seeing you there.

Any queries, please contact enquiries@cambridgeppf.org

GUIDED WALK & CREAM TEAS

Sun 20 June – Midsummer Guided Walk followed by Coton Village Cream Teas

The walk starts at 1pm at the Reserve Notice Board off Coton Footpath.

Countryside walk lasting about 2 to 2.5 hours, ending at the village green where tea and a wonderful selection of cakes will be on offer.

Free walk – donations appreciated. Any refreshments purchased will support Coton's historic Church.

Carolyn Göhler

CEO, Cambridge PPF



Photo © Cambridge PPF



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PLUTO – PLANET OR PET?

Until recently it was thought that there were nine planets circling the Sun. Pluto was the outermost planet at an average distance of 3,700 million miles from the Sun. It had been discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona in 1930.

Venetia Burney from Oxford was 11 in 1930 when she was told of the new discovery by her grandfather. She suggested the name 'Pluto' because she was fascinated by astronomy and mythology and knew that Pluto, the king of the underworld, did not have a planet named after him. She suggested the name to her grandfather who relayed it to the Oxford Professor of Astronomy who then cabled the suggestion to the discoverer. When the name was officially adopted, her grandfather gave her a five pound note, equivalent to about £240 to-day.

Venetia later studied mathematics at Cambridge but was denied her degree because women were not admitted to degrees at Cambridge until 1948. She first qualified as a chartered accountant and later became a school teacher. She became Venetia Phair on her marriage in 1947.

Pluto the planet became the centre of controversy in 2006 after a large number of similar objects had been discovered in the same region of the solar system. After much acrimonious discussion it was decided that Pluto was not really a planet but merely a 'dwarf planet'. Venetia was interviewed by the BBC and said that she did not mind the change. However, the same year that Pluto was discovered, Walt Disney gave Mickey Mouse a pet dog Pluto. Venetia was adamant that the cartoon dog had been named after the planet and not the other way round. She sadly died in 2009 at the age of 90.

Pluto is already known to have three moons. In 2006 a spacecraft 'New Horizons' was launched to explore Pluto and is planned to reach there in 2015. It will study the surface of Pluto as well as smaller objects in the same part of the solar system.

Derek Jones



Pluto, as seen by the Hubble Space Telescope (left) or drawn by Walt Disney (right).

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	4	3		9			5	
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2			5		8			3
				7				
	8		6		1			

2	3	5	9	6	4	7	1	8
8	7	9	2	1	5	6	3	4
6	4	1	8	3	7	2	9	5
4	5	8	6	7	3	9	2	1
1	9	7	5	8	2	3	4	6
3	6	2	4	9	1	8	5	7
9	8	3	1	4	6	5	7	2
7	2	4	3	5	8	1	6	9
5	1	6	7	2	9	4	8	3



Solution to Sudoku Challenge:
Coton 22 (CCN April/May page 12)

cherry blossom

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Diary

June

- 1 VH Committee 7.30pm WI Hall
- 1-4 Half Term
- 2 Black Bin collection
- 3 Friendship Club: Bingo
- 5 VHF Produce Stall: 10am-12pm WI Hall
- 6 CCR Scarecrow Day: 11am-3.30pm Coton Countryside Reserve
- 8 Green Box & Bin collection; Term Begins
WI Committee Meeting; Parish Council 7pm WI Hall
- 14 CRF Soup & Roll Lunch: Prue Kynaston's, noon-1.30pm
- 15 WI Annual Outing & Lunch; Black Bin collection
Meeting to arrange Cream Teas 2.30pm Parish Room
- 20 CCR Midsummer Guided Walk 1pm
CRF Cream Teas: Village Green 2.30-4.30pm
- 22 Green Box & Bin collection
- 24 Garden Club: Park Green Nurseries & Helmingham Hall 10.30am
- 29 Black Bin collection

July

- 1 Friendship Club: Lunch at Scotsdales
- 3 VHF Produce Stall: 10am-12pm WI Hall
- 6 VH Committee 7.30pm WI Hall; Green Box & Bin collection
CRF Soup & Roll Lunch: Mary Macintosh's, noon-1.30pm
- 13 WI Committee Meeting; Parish Council 7pm. WI Hall
Black Bin collection
- 16 Coton PTA Rock & Blues Concert at The Plough
- 19 Garden Club: Robinson College Gardens 2.45pm
- 20 Green Box & Bin collection
WI Meeting 7.45pm WI Hall: Mrs P. Dolan *Poems & Anecdotes*
- 22 Term Ends
- 27 Black Bin collection

CRF = Church Restoration Fund

VHF = Village Hall Fund

CCR = Coton Countryside Reserve

Front cover: new thatch on the High Street – photograph by Carolyn Postgate