

THE Grapevine

February 2025



Palace Reborn

Inside the new castle keep
pages 18-20

Memories of Marlingford

Charlie Curtis
page 21

PLUS

- Local information
- Community interest
- Church services
(Benefice) page 29

Useful contacts

St Peter's VC Primary School, Easton	01603 880553
Easton College	01603 731200
Easton College Tennis Centre	01603 731302 easton.tennis@ccn.ac.uk
Colton Village Hall	Vicky Green – 01603 881336 vicky@mgarchery.co.uk
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499
Colton Art Group	Rosanna Ellis – 07765 294347
Colton Carpet Bowls Club	Dennis Mickleburgh – 01603 880391 Avalon, The Street, Colton
Easton Bowls Club Secretary	Jan Hudson - 01603 880811 eastonbowls.bh@btinternet.com
Easton Crafters' Club	Mrs Janet Morris – 01603 471144
Easton Football Club	Michael Cossey – 01603 880143 73, Marlingford Way, Easton
Easton Good Companions	Pamela Hooker – 01603 880867
Easton Gym Club	01603 960511 enquiries@eastongymnasticsclub.com
Easton Judo Club Coach	Chris Abel – 0845 388 6895 chris@eastonjudoclub.co.uk 29, Goulburn Rd, Norwich
Easton Junior Football	Gavin Tipple – 01603 731585 gtipple@easton-college.ac.uk
Easton Sports Centre	Colin Brzeczek 01603 731263
Easton Post Office	Open Tues and Thurs 9am-12pm 01603 880007
Easton Village Hall	Roly and Christine Chapman 01603 880654
Easton WI Secretary	Mary Blathwayt – 01603 880574
Marlingford Village Hall Bookings	John Bailey M: 07986 609319 jaydeebailey@gmail.com
Community Car Scheme for Easton only	Jean and Dave Ditton – 01603 880857
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wymondham 03444 111444
Relate	01603 625333
Samaritans	0330 094 5717

Doctors surgeries

Costessey, Roundwell 01603 744014
Beechcroft 01603 746683
Hethersett 01603 977477
Mattishall 01362 850227

Hospitals

**Norfolk & Norwich
incl W Norwich** 01603 286286
Julian & Hellesdon 01603 421421
Dereham, Northgate 01362 697300
Kelling 01263 710575

Police

Non urgent 101 **or visit website:**
 norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it
Urgent 999

Parish Council Clerks

Easton: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Marlingford & Colton
Maria Hutson 01603 850118
 marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

Councillor South Norfolk District and Norfolk County

Margaret Dewsbury 01603 759693
 6, Park Avenue, Barford NR9 4BA

Location of defibrillators:

Colton - Village hall, Norwich Rd; NR9 5BY
Easton - Village hall, Marlingford Rd,
 NR9 5AD
Rembrandt Restaurant, 65 Dereham Rd.
Lower Easton, 76 Ringland Rd;
Marlingford: The Bell, Bawburgh Road.
 NR9 5HX

Advertisers can supply high resolution
 jpg or pdf files of their own colour
 adverts to the correct sizes. (contact
 treasurer for details).

The Grapevine

Local information	2-5
Village hall news	12-13
Community & fundraising	14-15
Wellbeing	16
WI news	17
Marlingford and Colton PC	24
Easton PC	26
Church (Benefice)	29
Mobile library times	30

Editor/designer: Annette Hudson
 annettegh57@gmail.com 01603 749383

Assistant Editor: Felicity Maton
 f.maton@btinternet.com 01603 880846

Treasurer: Carol Chiles
 carolachiles@gmail.com 01508 578352

Advertising in The Grapevine

Contact the Assistant Editor or the
 Treasurer for more advertising details.

Annual advertising rates 2025

Black & white inside:			
1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£50	£75	£125	£200

Black & white back page:			
	£150	£200	

Colour inside:			
1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£100	£150	£250	£400

Colour back page:			
	£300	£400	£500

Front cover: Autumn in Ringland.
 Picture: Annette Hudson.

Please note: information in The Grapevine is provided
 in good faith. The publication and its board cannot be
 held responsible for any inaccuracies and any opinions
 expressed are the author's own.

Parishes of Easton, Colton, Marlingford and Bawburgh

Benefice Rector	Revd Laura Montgomery eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com 172 Fairways, Queen's Hills, Costessey NR8 5GB	01603 744551
------------------------	--	--------------

Reader	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
---------------	---------------------------------------	--------------

St Peter's Church, Easton

Churchwardens	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
	Margaret Seely, 8 Kennedy Close, Easton	01603 880888

PCC Secretary	Anthony Perry, 7 Pegg Close, Easton	01603 882265
----------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

Treasurer	Vacancy	
------------------	---------	--

St Andrew's Church, Colton

Churchwarden	Sarah Smith, Bickerston Cottage, Church Lane, Colton	01603 757865
---------------------	---	--------------

PCC Secretary	Liz Plater, Church Cottages, Church Lane, Colton	01603 880556
----------------------	---	--------------

Treasurer	Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ	judy.scrivener@ googlemail.com
------------------	--	-----------------------------------

St Mary's Church, Marlingford

Churchwarden	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	01603 880846
---------------------	--	--------------

PCC Secretary	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	01603 880846
----------------------	--	--------------

Treasurer	Carol Chiles carolachiles@gmail.com	01508 578352
------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

St Mary and St Walstan's Church, Bawburgh

PCC contact	Lin Gibson	01603 744683
--------------------	------------	--------------

Need a bus? Here are your local bus services

Bus services: Colton, Easton and Marlingford

There have been some changes to the bus services in Easton, Marlingford and Colton. Norfolk County Council has announced the following timetables which came into force in **May, 2024**: (All services are excluding Bank holidays)

Service 808 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only:				
From	At	Arrives	Connects to	
Marlingford Bell	09.08	Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 9.17	Konect 4 service from Easton to Norwich at 9.38, arriving 10.05	
Colton, The Street - Pond	09.13			
Colton, Junction Norwich Road and The Street	09.14			
Konect 4 service from Norwich to Easton at 12.15 arriving 12.42.	Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 12.50	Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 12.55	Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	12.58
			Colton, The Street - Pond	12.59
			Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	13.04
Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 11.15 (Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 11.20)	**Additional Service from Longwater only		Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	11.23
			Colton, The Street - Pond	11.24
			Marlingford Bell	11.29

For more information, visit: ourhire.co.uk

The Flexibus service will continue to be provided with the service now being supplied by Our Bus. In addition to the current arrangements, there will be a new per-booked service to the N&NUH at 7.50 and 17.45. To book a bus, call 01603 223956.

Excel bus services for Easton (Bawburgh Road)

Monday to Saturday daytime: bus up to every 30 minutes along the whole route.

Extra journeys at peak times.

Sundays, public holidays and evenings: bus up to every hour.



www.rembrandtrestaurant.co.uk



Fish and Chips
Restaurant * Bar * Takeaway

****Fresh fish delivered daily****

Current Opening Hours

Thursday 4pm - 8pm

Friday 4pm - 8pm

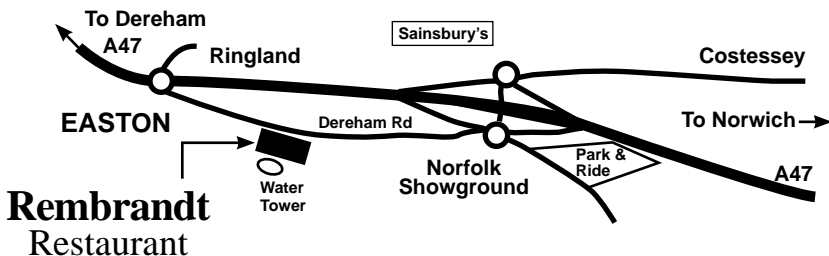
Saturday 4pm - 8pm

For latest information

please see the website or phone

01603 880010

Dereham Rd, Easton, Norwich NR9 5EH



IAN WICKHAM

Bespoke
furniture maker

Bespoke joinery

Kitchen supplier & fitter

General home
carpentry

Established local craftsman
based in Easton

All carpentry work
considered

E: ianwick76@gmail.com

T: **07867 976718**



WARMAN

Landscaping, Gardening & Groundworks

- ★ Hedge Cutting
- ★ Paths & Patios ★ Fencing
- ★ Gates ★ Grass Cutting
- ★ Driveways ★ Shed Base
- ★ Decking ★ Patio Cleaning
- ★ Grass treatment
- ★ Tree trimming
- ★ Garden Clearance
- ★ Planting

For a free, no obligation
quotation, contact Ben

07340 388864

01603 759629

benwarman9@icloud.com

R.D. GUEST

Plumbing and Heating
Engineer

- Oil
- Gas
- Renewables
- Water

2 Riverside Cottages,
Bawburgh Road,
Marlingford NR9 5AG

Call Ryan on
01603 880459
or **07921 956442**

info@rdguestplumbing.co.uk

24 hour callout available

**DKC
PLUMBING**
OIL BOILER SPECIALISTS

Oil Boiler Servicing

Oil Boiler Breakdown

Oil Boiler Care Plans

Oftec Registered



07375995198

www.dkciplumbing.co.uk



Pain Relief Clinic

- **Back / Sciatica
Shoulders / Neck**
- **Hips / Knees / Ankles
Tennis Elbow / Arthritis
Fibromyalgia**

Call: **01603 881376**
07787 121287

Chris Winter Bsc hons Lic Ac

White Arch Clinic, Easton,
Norwich

www.acu-pro.co.uk

TSM Plumbing Heating & Drainage

- Blocked Drains
- Plumbing Repairs
- Blocked Toilets

01603 280144
07827 016047

**29, Woodview Road,
Easton NR9 5EU**

W: tsmplumbing.co.uk

E: office@tsmplumbing.co.uk

Marlingford Village Hall

Available for meetings,
interest groups, activities
and private parties.

Plenty of parking available.

Tables and chairs will
accommodate up to 60 people.

Crockery, glasses and
cutlery available for hire.

Booking Details

Please contact
John Bailey
jaydeebailey@gmail.com
T: 07986 609319

A Lansdale Chimney Repair/ Builder

9 Cherry Tree Close,
Mattishall, Dereham

**Chimney repairs,
extensions, garden walls
paving, fireplaces**

Free estimates

Over 30 years of experience

Mobile 07799 355146
01362 288068

brianlansdale@gmail.com
**[www.lansdalechimneybuilders
andrepairs.co.uk](http://www.lansdalechimneybuildersandrepairs.co.uk)**

Bluebell Health Clinic

Osteopathic Medicine & Alternative Therapies at Easton & Norwich

Gentle, safe, and effective treatments to bring you back to health

Arnaud Geanty D.O. FSCCO
Traditional & Cranial Osteopathy

Tel: 01603 880 214

Mob: 07931 713 741

www.bluebellhealthclinic.co.uk

Deborah Harding LCPH VMTRA

Homeopathy & Reiki

Mob: 07799 063 754

debhardingnhp@gmail.com

www.debhardingnhp.com

Treatments for all ages, from baby to elderly, for all your musculoskeletal aches and pains, injuries and ailments

Easton Clinic

2 Woodview Road
Easton NR9 5EU

Norwich Clinic

21 Charing Cross
Norwich NR2 4AX



Ivan Fisher



**Independent
Funeral Standards
Organisation**
Quality Assured

Independent Funeral Homes Ltd

Established 2005

We are proud to be a family run, independent funeral home.

With offices in Aylsham, Hethersett and Hingham,
we're always here when you need us, 24 hours a day.

www.ivanfisher.co.uk

Aylsham: 01263 735161

2- 4 Norwich Road,
Aylsham,
Norfolk, NR11 6BN

Hethersett: 01603 810022

17 Park Drive,
Hethersett,
Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,
Hingham,
Norfolk, NR9 4LJ

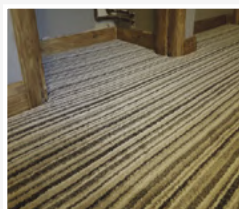
Martin's Carpets Ltd



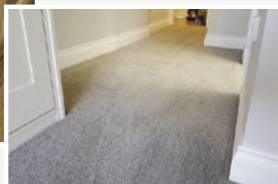
- ✓ Home visit with samples
- ✓ Carpets and vinyls
- ✓ Floor preparation
- ✓ Furniture removal
- ✓ Door trimming
- ✓ Disposal service

FREE Measure & Estimate

FREE Fitting Service



Based locally in Easton



Supplying and fitting
carpets and vinyl flooring
for over 30 years

01603 88 00 87

Mobile: 07867 51 87 48

Email: info@martinscarpetsltd.co.uk

Web: www.martinscarpetsltd.co.uk

Facebook: [martinscarpetsltd](https://www.facebook.com/martinscarpetsltd)

Customer satisfaction is our priority.



THE Grapevine



Where have all the sparrows gone?

Each morning as I eat my breakfast, I am entertained by the antics of the birds feeding from the feeders and bird table in my garden. Recently, I've noticed that since moving from Colton, where I saw many sparrows and starlings gorging seed and suet on a daily basis, I don't recall ever seeing a sparrow in this garden. The biggest visitor here, just three miles away from Colton, is the blue tit. I see coal tits, great tits, robins and goldfinches. Recently, a virtual swarm of long-



tailed tits devoured the suet balls in less than a day! Jackdaws, magpies and the occasional woodpecker feature but never sparrows. Nor chaffinches come to think of it – many of which visited my Colton garden.

I did however, see a brambling, – a bird I've never seen anywhere else I've ever lived. Interestingly, the sparrow was the top-sighted bird in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch last year. So why is my garden such a sparrow-free zone...?

Annette (editor)

Where you can find our online editions

You can access each issue of *The Grapevine* online on the **Easton parish council** and the **Marlingford and Colton parish council** websites, and it is always posted on the **Nextdoor** website. If you would like digital copies, please send your email address to: **annettegh57@gmail.com** and you will be added to a list of subscribers. Our printed editions are published in Dec/Jan, March,

May, July/Aug and October and are distributed in Easton, Colton and Marlingford. If you enjoy reading *The Grapevine* and would like to make a donation towards the cost of more printed editions, you can do so by bank transfer:

Account name:

The Grapevine Magazine

Business account no: 20420956

Sort code: 20-99-08

Thank you!

Deadline for items for the March issue: Monday, February 17, 2025
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

YOUR

Colton village hall



● Coffee morning

Saturday, February 22: Come and mingle with friends and neighbours to chat over coffee, tea and cake.

● Coming up:

Saturday, March 1: Beetle Drive

After last year's popular event, we will be hosting another opportunity to get to know the locals in the frantic race to draw a complete beetle!

Monday, March 10: Village Hall

Committee AGM . All are welcome to attend this public meeting in Colton village hall.

● Colton Village Hall ended the year with the traditional family fun Christmas bingo night, which drew a full house to the hall on a chilly December evening. There wasn't a spare seat as the callers went through the cards and handed out 20 prizes to the lucky players. There were plenty of winners in the raffle too and the evening raised

over £200 to support the hall's upkeep. Earlier that day, the hall hosted a coffee morning for villagers to meet and have a chat while enjoying a drink and a piece of delicious home-made cake. Looking ahead to 2025 the hall has a packed programme of fun events for the whole family, from quizzes to a beetle drive, coffee mornings to the always-popular summer barbecue and more. We hope to see you there!

Dom Castle

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

February 13: AGM

February 27: We have a talk by **Wally Webb** on *Adventures on the Norfolk Broads*. We also celebrate Debbie's special birthday.

We meet at the village hall on a **Thursday** every two weeks from 2pm until 4pm. Open to over 55s.

Tony Perry

● Easton Pop In

We welcome everybody to come and join us for coffee or tea and to keep warm in this cold spell. We are open from 10am until 12 noon every **Tuesday** morning at the village hall. Come and join us!

Brenda and Tony

BEETLE DRIVE COLTON VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY MARCH 1

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM
FOR 6.45PM START
£5 PER PERSON
TEA/COFFEE/CAKE AVAILABLE

NEVER DONE THIS
BEFORE...LOOKS
INTERESTIN'!

Roll...	Draw...
6	Body
5	Head
4	1 Leg
3	1 Eye
2	1 Antenna
1	Tail



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

● Easton Crafters

We all enjoyed our Christmas party in early December with a ploughman's lunch and entertainment.

On January 14, 17 of our members enjoyed a New Year lunch at the Village Inn, Little Melton and then returned to the village hall for tea and cakes. The next club meeting will be January 28. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Easton village hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

Thank you and Happy New Year.

Janet

For more information, ring Janet Morris on 01603 471144.

Colton Art & Craft Group

Wednesdays

10am-12pm

Meet fortnightly at
Colton village hall
£3 per session

For more details
contact Rosanna Ellis
on 07765294347

rosannaellis@btinternet.com

Colton Village Hall Committee

AGM MONDAY MARCH 10

COLTON VILLAGE HALL

7.00pm

ALL WELCOME

Carol singing with Cawston Brass Band

Colton residents filled St Andrew's church before Christmas for a lively carol service with Cawston Brass Band providing the music as usual. It was lovely to see the church full and to hear so many children taking part in the readings of the Christmas story. They also helped with the collection which raised an amazing sum of £293, all of which was donated to St Martin's Housing Trust supporting the homeless and those at risk. After the service, there were hot drinks and mince pies.

Fuel Allotment Fund

St. Andrew's Church, Colton PCC would like to extend their thanks



Villagers enjoying a hot drink and mince pies in the church after the service. Picture: Annette Hudson

to everyone who donated their Fuel Allotment money paid over in December 2024. The total was once again an impressive £450 for which we are very grateful as it goes a long way to supporting the day-to-day running costs of the church and is most appreciated.

Judy Scrivener

Vintage tractors help raise funds for church

Modern day tractors as well as 18 vintage tractors took part in their annual journey around the parish in December. They started off at the Marlingford Bell and then, after a short run, stopped for breakfast at Barford Lakes. They continued on around the Colton area before heading back to the Marlingford Bell. A big thank you to everyone who took part and thanks to all



those who made donations – £143.17 was raised in aid of the upkeep of Marlingford church.

Making a big noise about the birth of Jesus



Some of the children who performed in *The Noisy Nativity*.

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but here's a reminder of a big school event for the pupils of St Peter's Primary Academy. The Reception and KS1 children were excited about performing *The Noisy Nativity*. In this story, the main characters were under the impression that Christmas is all about presents but they were quickly pointed in the direction of the Nativity – and so began a lively retelling of the story of Jesus' birth.

The pupils spoke, sang and performed extremely confidently making all the staff and parents watching very proud.

Fiona Flavell, Head of School

● We are looking to offer the opportunity for an enthusiastic Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our existing team as soon as possible. It will be in term time only, Monday-Friday 12pm-1.15pm. If you are interested please contact the school office on 01603 880553.

Marlingford resident **Tom Jay** sadly passed away on December 5, 2024. A celebration of his life was held at GreenAcres, Colney Wood on Wednesday, January 8 which was attended by many family and friends.

There will be tributes to both men in the March edition of *The Grapevine*.

Julian Mobbs, who lived in Marlingford, passed away peacefully on January 4. The funeral service will be held in the church at 11am on **Thursday January 30** and afterwards at the Marlingford Bell.

Finding the right resources for better health

A not-for-profit wellness organisation called **Feel Good Norfolk** has recently launched a free, easy-access and user-friendly wellbeing directory with a wide variety of services and products to promote better health and feeling good. The wellness businesses listed are from Norfolk and fully accredited and insured. The directory is part of their mission to make Norfolk the UK's wellness capital and they are working to ensure as many people as possible in Norfolk know about it and are able to access it – particularly as folk are most

vulnerable to mental health issues during the winter. There are 33 podcast conversations offering expert advice, an events page to find local offerings plus blogs with advice from some of Norfolk's wellbeing specialists. The organisation has funding from The National Lottery and Norfolk Community Foundation. It also runs a monthly community hub and wellbeing programmes to support those experiencing health challenges, as well as financial hardship.

● **For more information, visit** feelgoodnorfolk.co.uk

Beat news : Your Local Safer Neighbourhood

Here are dates for the next Safer Neighbourhood Meetings (SNAPs) for Norwich West & South:

Norwich West (covering Bowthorpe, Wensum and University wards): **Wednesday February 19**, 7pm, Cadge Road Community Centre, Cadge Rd,

Norwich NR5 8DD.
Norwich South (Nelson, Town Close, Eaton and Lakenham wards) – **Thursday, February 20**, 7pm at St Marks Church Hall, Hall Road, NR1 3HP.

Join us to raise any issues or concerns in your neighbourhood.

Beat Manager
Stuart Barnard Sgt 499
E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



Updating you on issues in your area and co-ordinating volunteers, specials, speedwatch and cadets.

Beat Manager
Andrew Sneddon PC
T: 101 Ext: 5699
E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



Engaging with your community to solve local issues and helping to keep you safe.

News from Easton Women's Institute

Christmas fun

Easton WI enjoyed a very good Christmas meeting where we were entertained by the **Gal Tina** with her humorous stories in Norfolk dialect. Together with our visitors from neighbouring WIs we all enjoyed a finger buffet and an enormous raffle!



An interesting talk

In January Geoff Dyett, a local magistrate, came and talked to us about the **Role of the Magistracy**. This was fascinating and we learned a lot about the justice system.

What's coming up

We are now looking forward to **Thursday, February 13** at 7.30pm when our speaker will be **Ellie Coulson** from the **Hamlet Centre** in Norwich. This is a charity that provides support for children, young people and adults with disabilities and complex health needs in Norwich and Norfolk. On the second Thursday of the month, our March meeting will mark our **WI's 72nd birthday**

and we will be having a musical talk from **Saffron Summerfield** (pictured right) entitled **From Milton Keynes to Mississippi**.



We will also have refreshments and will invite guests from other WIs. At the last two meetings, we have had visitors who, being men, are decidedly ineligible to join the WI. However anyone is welcome to come to our meetings for up to three meetings in a year before they ask to become a WI member. As I say every month, the members of Easton WI would love to have more ladies join us. Easton has had a WI here since 1953 and, as the village population is currently growing fast, we would love to welcome some of the new residents to come and find out what we do and hopefully become members. We meet every month except August at Easton village hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm and we also arrange visits and outings at other times. We would love to hear from anyone who is interested to join us.

Mary Blathwayt

Norwich castle: bringing a royal palace to life



The tinning process completed.

Picture: Sherwood Tinning

The Royal Palace Reborn project is transforming Norwich Castle's iconic Norman Keep. Norwich Castle is one of Europe's most important early medieval castles. Royal Palace Reborn is transforming the interior of the Keep by reinstating the floors and room layout of the medieval period. This work has been sensitively planned to provide step-free access to all levels of the castle so everyone can experience a Norman royal palace and its many stories. The dismantling of the yellow tower crane on the Castle mound in December marked a significant milestone in the progress of the project. The recreated

Norman spaces on the principal floor are now structurally complete. The arches of the Victorian spine wall, inserted by Victorian architect, Edward Boardman, have been infilled to recreate the original solid spine wall dividing the Great Hall from the other rooms on the principal floor. Additional walls to create the Chapel and King's Chamber have also been completed and new floor levels inserted, re-establishing lost mezzanines. These will enable visitors to explore the original layout of the Keep as it would have appeared when building work was finished by William the Conqueror's son, Henry I, in 1121.



The project is supported by a £13m grant from National Lottery players through The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project team are working to ensure elements such as doors and metalwork look as close as possible to their medieval originals, while also fulfilling their practical function in a space soon to be visited by an estimated 300,000 people per year. One challenge has been the design of the doors between the recreated rooms. The most spectacular of these is the one which opens from the Great Hall into the King's



Heating the iron for tinning. Picture: Sherwood Tinning Chamber. This is covered with leather which has been painted in ultramarine blue and features elaborate metalwork which has been silvered or 'tinned'.

These doors would have provided a powerful visual statement to 12th century visitors of the importance of the rooms beyond. Designs for the decorative metalwork of the King's Chamber doors and for the main entrance door from

the Forebuilding (or Bigod Tower) into the Great Hall, are based on surviving 12th century English examples from three Norfolk churches located in Haddiscoe, Raveningham and Hales.

Local artisan blacksmiths, James Spedding and Roger Foyster, of Holkham Forge, have researched and hand-crafted the elaborate hinges, scrolls and knotwork with spectacular results, and are now working on the equally elaborate altar rail gates for the Chapel, inspired by the example surviving in Canterbury Cathedral.

Interpretation Lead and Senior Curator of Archaeology at the Castle, Dr Tim Pestell, explains more: "The doors into and within the Castle Keep created a hierarchy based on the importance of the rooms and the status of the people who were allowed to access them. The most elaborately decorated doors were those at the grand entrance to the Great Hall from the Forebuilding, and the door used by royalty and nobility to access the King's Chamber".

James Spedding, Blacksmith at Holkham Forge, says: "We have used modern equipment to speed up the making of the door furniture but the fundamental processes of forging, bending, splitting, punching and welding have not altered in the 2,600 or so years

since blacksmithing has been practised in Norfolk, and would certainly have been the same processes used to forge the iron parts of the castle 900 years ago". Some of the metalwork is made to look even more splendid by an additional process known as tinning, carried out by Hertfordshire-based company, Sherwood Tinning – a process to 'tin' or 'silver' iron which takes several days. The addition of a leather covering and coloured paintwork is based on manuscript and archaeological evidence from the period and completes these hugely significant and symbolic entries into the Great Hall and King's Chamber – and it's hoped they will challenge preconceptions of what medieval doors might have looked like when new. While looking the part, modern fire-safety standards have had to be

applied to the Keep, requiring us to create Norman doors that also meet fire regulations. A proto-type door of the same specifications was subject to fire testing – which essentially involved a controlled burn to ensure the doors conform to these standards. Happily, they passed! A new lift and staircase will enable access from the basement to the battlements and make Norwich Castle the UK's most accessible castle when it reopens in 2025.

● **For more information on the Palace Reborn project, visit: norwichcastle.norfolk.gov.uk**

● **Over the past eight years, documentary makers Eye Film have had exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the Palace Reborn project. As a result, *The Castle – Rebuilding History*, narrated by Stephen Fry, will be shown on Channel 4 following the opening of the Norman Keep to visitors later this year.**



Left: The door at Raveningham Church, Norfolk, 12th century. Middle: Creating a medieval-style doorway. Right: Roger Foyster, blacksmith, with sketch of Bigod Tower door and elements of completed decorative ironwork. Pictures: Norfolk Museums Service

Memories of Marlingford

Collected by Joyce Smith

Today we begin a series of pieces taken from the *Memories of Marlingford* book featuring stories about the village and villagers, past and present, as remembered by local residents.

Charlie Curtis

Charlie worked for GB Price, farmer, of Colton and lived in Colton with his mother before moving to a little white cottage on Bawburgh Road, Marlingford.

Charlie had two bicycles, one for work and the other for best, keeping his best one in his small living room.

He bought the piece of land between his cottage and the shop where he erected two new poultry houses which he creosoted every year keeping new surplus gardening tools in them but no chickens!

He used to cycle to Norwich market every Saturday afternoon where he bought 'hedgehog oynment' as a hair dressing. When electricity came to Marlingford, Charlie had his house

'electrified' and the first night, when it got dark, he put all his lights on and stood in the road to admire them, "That look alright, don't it boy?". He admired and was proud of his two-way switch.

He took a coach to the Derby every year and regularly backed the horses.

He was fond of fried onions and raw broad beans.

While his mother was still alive, she kept house for him and would boil sausages on the open fire ready for his tea.

Charlie grew masses of vegetables on his piece of land on the opposite side of the road. When he finished working for GB Price, he was employed at the sewage works in Bawburgh. Charlie was a hard worker and a real Norfolk character.



He's all about love – but who was St Valentine?

Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on February the 14, is widely recognised as a day of romance and affection. Its origins however are steeped in both ancient traditions and historical ambiguities that intertwine Roman Christian and mediaeval customs

The festival of Lupercalia

The earliest connection to Valentine's Day can be traced to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, celebrated from February 13 to 15. This fertility rite honours Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. The festival involved rituals such as the sacrifice of goats and dogs, and also included a match-making lottery where men and women were paired for the duration of the festivities. By the late 5th century, Pope Gelasius I abolished Lupercalia deeming it unchristian and is believed to have established

February 14 as a day to honour St Valentine instead. However, there is debate over which Valentine the day honours as several martyrs named Valentine appear in early Christian records. The most popular legends surround two figures:

Valentine of Rome: a priest who was martyred in 269 CE under emperor Claudius II. According to legend, he defied the emperor's ban on marriages for young men – believed to make better soldiers – by secretly officiating weddings. He was executed but became a symbol of love and devotion.

Valentine of Terni: a bishop who also performed forbidden marriages and ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and later venerated as a saint. The Valentine's Day association with romantic love emerged in the Middle Ages, particularly

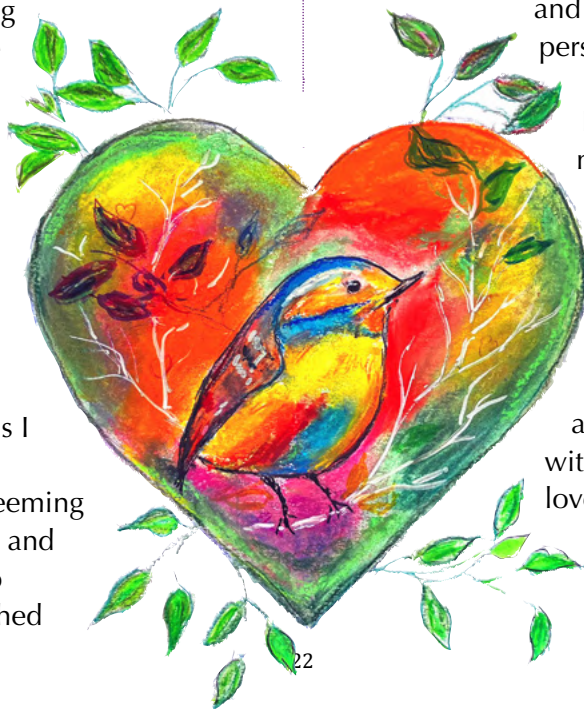


Illustration: Ann Dunn

in England and France. February 14 was believed to mark the beginning of birds' mating season, as noted by Geoffrey Chaucer in his 14th century poem *Parlement of Foules*.

This idea of 'lovebirds' influenced the day's connection to romance. By the 15th century, Valentine's Day was celebrated with the exchange of love notes and tokens of affection.

The earliest known Valentine poem

was written by Charles Duke of Orlean to his wife in 1415 while imprisoned in the Tower of London.

The commercialisation of Valentine's Day began in the 18th and 19th centuries in England where the tradition of exchanging pre-made Valentine's cards gained popularity.

Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide often with flowers, chocolates and heartfelt messages.

Some other historical events that took place on February 14

1477: Margery Brews wrote one of the best known Valentine's Day love letters to her future husband, John Paston. It was uncovered by the British Library and is believed to be the oldest surviving English Valentine's day letter.

1779: English explorer Captain James Cook was killed in a battle while attempting to capture a Hawaiian chief. He and his men were confronted by a crowd seeking to rescue their hostage.



1852: Great Ormond Street Hospital opened with just 10 beds. Originally called 'The Hospital

for Sick Children', it was the first hospital in the UK to offer dedicated in-patient care to children.

1929: The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre was the murder of seven members and associates of Chicago's North Side Gang. The men were gathered at a garage and were lined up against a wall and shot by four unknown assailants, two of whom were disguised as police officers.

1984: At the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won gold and became the highest-scoring figure skaters of all time for a single programme, receiving twelve perfect 6.0s and six 5.9s which included artistic impression scores of 6.0 from every judge, after skating to Maurice Ravel's Boléro.

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mark Pfeiffer

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr David Woods

Parish council meetings and 2025 dates and venues

Parish council meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September and November, normally on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Agendas are posted on the parish council noticeboards and the website at least three days beforehand. The public are welcome to attend all parish council meetings; there is an opportunity to speak and ask questions. Please note, if you would like an item to appear on the agenda, details must be sent to the clerk at least 10 days before the meeting. The council is unable to make a decision on anything not included on the agenda but can discuss newly raised matters and refer them to the next meeting. Minutes of meetings are posted on the website: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk and are available from the clerk but remain in draft form until they are agreed at the next meeting. The parish council is looking at

possible venues for meetings in Marlingford and it is hoped to be able to meet in Marlingford church in the warmer weather.

The remaining meetings for 2025 will be held on;

- **March 11:** Colton village hall
- **May 13:** (Annual parish meeting and annual parish council meeting) – Colton village hall
- **July 8:** venue tbc
- **September 9:** venue tbc
- **November 11:** Colton village hall (pictured)



Annual budget and precept for 2025/26

At the January parish council meeting, chairman John Morse gave a presentation on the budget agreed for 2025/26. It has been necessary to increase the parish council precept – the amount of money it receives from council tax. John broke down the key areas where there will be increased spending including:

- Increase clerk's hours from five to seven hours per week.
- Increase in legal, audit and subscription costs.
- Create and manage new gov.uk website and email accounts in accordance with requirements of JPAG (Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance).
- Maintenance of amenity areas including urgent and necessary tree maintenance.
- Legal costs associated with extending the lease at Colton amenity area and car park.
- Continuing to support grants to *The Grapevine*, churches and cricket club.
- Establishing a reserves policy to accommodate unforeseen remedial work.
- Training costs and defibrillator consumables

The band D precept per household

from April will be £114.82p – approximately £2 a week. That compares to the 2024/25 Precept of £1.49p per week. The parish council believes it is offering good value for money while gradually increasing reserves to ensure that any contingency is available should the need arise.

Overnight road closures

It has been reported that buses and lorries have been diverting through the villages when there have been overnight closures of the A47. Galliford Try, the contractors, have asked for evidence/photos of vehicles ignoring the diversion signs. Please email these to the clerk on the email below or use the village What's app groups.

Further information about the work and dates of closures can be found at nationalhighways.co.uk

Potholes

The colder weather has seen an increase in potholes on the local roads. Parishioners are encouraged to report these on norfolk.gov.uk and fixmystreet.com

Parish council contact

Maria Hutson, clerk to Marlingford and Colton parish council.

T: 01603 850118

E: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

W: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

Easton Parish Council

Your parish councillors:

Chairman – Mark Caton

Vice-chair – Jan Hudson

Cllr David Lewis

Cllr Des Fulcher

Cllr Peter McCarter

Cllr Roly Chapman

Cllr Mark Cordy

Cllr Mike Jobling

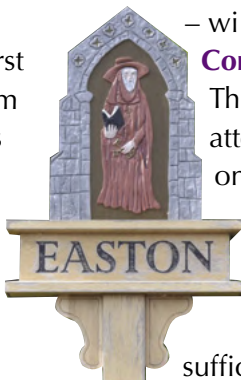
Cllr Mike Bowman

Parish council meetings

The council meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the village hall. Members of the public are always welcome and there is an opportunity for you to ask questions or to make comment.

Introduction

Considerable work has been going on over the last couple of months, behind the scenes, to stabilise the financial position of the council. Many of the outstanding invoices relating to the community centre have now been paid and there is a plan for the remainder. It is looking highly likely that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will approve the re-profiling of the existing loan over a greater time period which will have the effect of making the repayments much more affordable. The final decision on the precept – the amount of money raised from residents as part of their council tax



– will be taken on February 4.

Community centre

Thank you to all those who attended the public meeting on December 17. Feedback and support shown both on the night and since has been incredible and it is clear that there is sufficient support within the community to complete the project. If you have skills and would be willing to be involved, then please email:

clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Come and join the council

There is currently a vacancy on the council for a **councillor**.

Would you like to be involved in local decision making, that really makes a difference to the community in which you live? Do you know someone who could represent the community? Please get in touch by emailing the clerk. We would love to hear from you. We are also looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person to take on the paid role

of **parish clerk and financial officer**. Are you an experienced administrator or existing clerk looking for a varied, flexible and mostly home-based role? Then this could be for you. Full details are on the parish council website: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday, February 7.

Persimmon development

Phase two has now been approved by South Norfolk Council and phases three and four are currently being consulted on. More details can be found on South Norfolk Council's website.

The parish council will be responding in due course.

Other infrastructure projects

The parish council is also liaising with VolkerFitzpatrick – the company laying the cables for the Hornsea 3 project and Norfolk County Council regarding the Norwich western link. It's important to be aware of the impact these projects might have on the village and ensure that consideration is given to our residents.

Norwich half marathon

At the last meeting, the parish council heard from both the organisers and those who had concerns regarding the Norwich

half marathon that was held on November 24. The council will be giving further consideration to this.

Devolution for Norfolk?

Margaret Dewsbury, county and district councillor for Easton, updated those present at the last meeting on the possibility of the move to a Unitary Authority for Norfolk. Norfolk County Council has requested that they join the Devolution Priority Programme which, if successful, will see a central government-organised consultation process over the coming months.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on **Tuesday, February 4, 7pm** at the village hall.

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk



The Rambling Vine



AS Photography/Pixabay

It's all about kindness and loving each other

This month we approach the February 14, a day widely celebrated as St Valentine's Day, and for some it's easy to be swept up in the modern notion of romantic love—heart-shaped cards, flowers, chocolates, and expressions of affection. While these are lovely traditions, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the deeper meaning of this day, which has its roots in the life of a Christian martyr. St Valentine was a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the third century. According to legend, Claudius banned marriages for young couples, believing that single men made better soldiers. St Valentine, however, defied this decree and secretly married

couples, acting out of love for both God and his fellow man.

He was eventually arrested and, for his acts of love and kindness, was sentenced to death.

Before his execution, he is said to have sent a note to the jailer's daughter, signing it *From your Valentine* – a phrase that endures to this day.

In this story, we see not just a man willing to sacrifice his life for others, but a profound understanding of love that transcends mere sentimentality. St Valentine's love was sacrificial, selfless, and unconditional—qualities that echo the love Christ shows us.

Love, in the Christian sense, is not merely an emotion or a fleeting feeling. It is an action, a choice to

serve others, to show kindness, and to seek the good of another, even at personal cost.

This kind of love is woven into the fabric of the Christian faith—after all, Jesus commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to love one another as He has loved us.

As we mark St. Valentine’s Day, let us remember that love is not confined to grand gestures or romantic moments.

Love is in the small acts of kindness we show to others, in the patience we extend to our families, and in the care we give to those in need. It is a love that invites us to look

beyond ourselves and see the world through God’s eyes.

Whether you are sharing a meal with a loved one, sending a note to a friend, or simply taking time to care for your neighbour, let this day be a reminder of the love that surrounds us, that upholds us, and that calls us to serve one another.

And in doing so, we live out the true spirit of St Valentine, who knew that the greatest love of all is that which is given freely, without expectation of return.

May God bless you with His love, now and always.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services February 2025

Sunday 2	10.00am	Easton – Candlemas HC
Sunday 9	10.00am	Colton – All age HC 4th before Lent
Sunday 16	10.00am	Marlingford – HC 3rd before Lent
Sunday 23	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC 2nd before Lent

Marlingford Church 50 Club – If number holders wish to continue their membership this year, please pay £20 per number into the this **Barclays Bank account** – account name: **Marlingford PCC**, account number: **00378445**, sort code: **20-62-53**.



St Peter’s Church, Easton.

Picture: Annette Hudson

Mobile library 2025 – February dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: February 20

Stop	Arrives	Departs	Postcode
Mill Road	10.40am	10.55am	NR9 5HL
Colton Road near Home Farm	11.00am	11.20pm	NR9 5HS

Colton –Route: CEN 319 Wednesday: February 19

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
----------------	--------	---------	---------

Easton –Route: CEN 423 Thursday: February 20

Parker's Close	11.30am	11.50am	NR9 5EE
Marlingford Road	11.55am	12.15pm	NR9 5AD
Marlingford Way	12.20am	12.40pm	NR9 5HB
Kennedy Close	12.45pm	13.05pm	NR9 5EY
St Peter's Drive	13.10pm	13.30pm	NR9 5HF

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquiries call 01603 222303.

SOOTS

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Friendly, prompt, clean & tidy service
Sweeping certificates issued, fully insured

SWEEPS

Rory Freeman

07510 237290

INSTALLATIONS

Paul & Leon

07879 333395

pauljmay77@gmail.com



In association with
Natural Heating



REGISTERED MEMBER
www.instituteofchimneysweeps.co.uk

IC Travel & ICT Coaches

For your coach trips, short-breaks,
coach or minibus hire
and airport transfers.



Leisure Travel

Day excursions & short breaks from
Norwich and the surrounding area.
Contact us for your brochure.



Private hire

Up to 8 passengers for airport/
cruise transfers, small group
travel and similar.



Coach Hire

We have an executive fleet of 16,
34 and 53-seater coaches.

- Fully licensed and insured.
- Reliable personal service from a family business.
- Trusted by local companies including Norwich City FC.



01603 86 86 80 • bookings@ictravel.co.uk

Visit our website: ictravel.co.uk

[f @ictravelexcursions](https://www.facebook.com/ictravelexcursions)

[@ictravelexcursions](https://www.instagram.com/ictravelexcursions)

Contact us on social media:

[X @ictravelnorfolk](https://www.x.com/ictravelnorfolk)

Get your business **NOTICED!**

For more details, contact
Carol Chiles on
01508 578352
carolachiles@gmail.com

Faircroft Childminding/EYFS Colton

Ofsted - Graded outstanding
since 2014 to present.

We believe children learn best
in a warm, caring environment
where they feel safe and respected.

Promoting outdoor learning
and physical play.

Contact Mrs Rachel May
07961268326

M.S. Shingles Ltd Building Services

Professional local service with over 25 years experience

All Building Works undertaken

Free No Obligation Estimates

Call Mark on Mobile: 07799 691414

The Oaks, Barford Road, Marlingford, Norwich NR9 5HU

More than just a farm shop...



FRIENDSHIP TABLE

Socialise and meet others from the local community every Wednesday 9:00am-11:00am in the Goat Shed kitchen.



'HOOF IT' WALKS

Join us on our monthly 'Hoof It' walks around our beautiful countryside and enjoy a refreshment on us. Head online for upcoming dates.



COW CLUB

Learn all about our on-site Simmental herd with Sam and meet the newest members of our herd - the calves. Head online for upcoming dates.

GOAT SHED



BUTCHERY WORKSHOPS

Learn the process of how we make our very own traditional pork sausages using locally farmed pork and take home what you make at the end of the course.