




THE Grapevine

December 2024 – January 2025

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



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of the ukulele!
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- Church services
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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

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The Grapevine

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Contact the Assistant Editor or the
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Colour back page:

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Front cover: Church candles
 by Felicity Maton.

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
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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
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Reader	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
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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
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Treasurer	Vacancy	
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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
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Treasurer	Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ	judy.scrivener@ googlemail.com
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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
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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	Konec 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			
Konec 4 service from Norwich to Easton at 12.15 arriving 12.42.		Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 12.50	Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	12.58
		Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 12.55	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.

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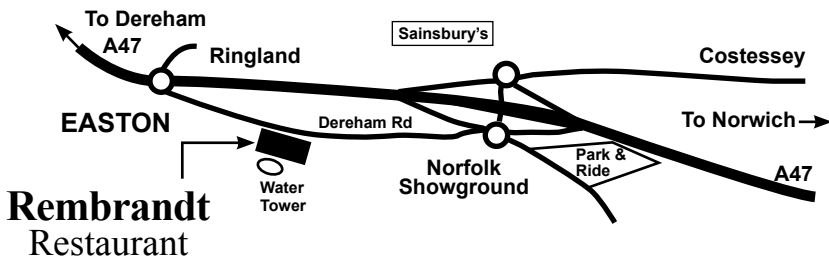
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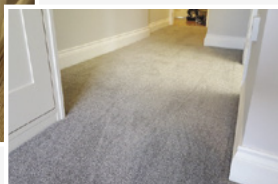
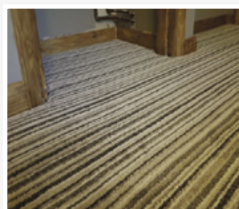
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THE Grapevine

We are all praying for a peaceful world

Well, another year rolls round and I wonder where the time has gone. It's been an eventful one with elections all over the world making us all a little apprehensive about our future – we can only hope good sense prevails in the policy decisions of our world leaders and that war and strife-ridden countries will finally find peace.

John Lennon released his song 'Happy Christmas, War is Over' in 1971. It was a song to promote social unity and peaceful change. What would he think of the state of our world fifty years later?

He might wonder if mankind has learned anything from the lessons of its past. We have just held our Remembrance Day in which we honour those who gave up their lives in all conflicts everywhere to keep us free. This epitaph on the memorial for the fallen in the battle of Kohima says:

"When you go home, tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow we gave our today".

On their behalf, I wish everyone everywhere a happy today and a peaceful tomorrow.

Annette Hudson (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:

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Thank you!

Deadline for items for the February issue: Wednesday, January 22 2025
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

YOUR

Colton village hall

● **Christmas Bingo plus Colton Allotment Charity payout**

Saturday December 7 (see opposite)

Easton village hall

● **Easton Good Companions**

December 3 – Marie Garwood's special birthday celebrations

December 19 – Christmas meeting with exchanging of cards with cake and wine.

We return on the January 2, 2025.

We would like to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas

From Carol and the committee.

● **Easton Pop In**

Tuesday, December 17

We are holding a **Festive Lunch** consisting of a casserole plus a vegetarian option for anyone who wishes to join us. We are hoping someone will supply a pudding. Pop In will be from 10.00am until 11.45am and lunch will be served after that at 12noon. If you wish to attend, please let Brenda or Tony know your choices or just come to Pop In and sign up.

We wish all our happy Pop Inners a joyous festive season.

Pop In is every Tuesday at Easton village hall 10am until 11.45am. Open to everybody who wants to

simply pop in and chat. 70p for a cup and 90p for a mug of tea or coffee. (Decaff available)

Brenda and Tony

● **Easton Crafters** would like to thank all who attended their **Autumn Fayre** on October 19 to raise money for RNLI. We are pleased to say we managed to raise £740 and would also like to thank all our members for their hard work

Janet Morris

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Easton village hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. **For more information, ring Janet on 01603 471144.**

Marlingford village hall

This December, Marlingford Village Hall will be 100 years old!

The hall will be open on **Saturday, December 14** from **2pm - 5pm** displaying items from the village hall's history. There will be refreshments available. Admission is free.



CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

AND CHARITY PAYOUT

Saturday, December 7

Colton Village Hall

Doors open 6pm

Eyes down: 7pm

Refreshments at 'half time'

Bring your own alcohol



★ **PLUS RAFFLE** ★

Donations of prizes gratefully received

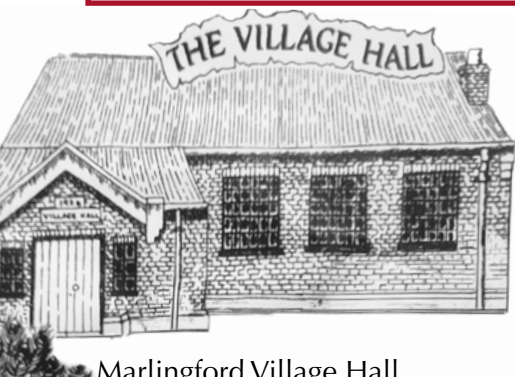
All profits in aid of St Mary's, Marlingford restoration fund

THE OLD HALL
MARLINGFORD, NR9 5HX

CAROLS IN THE
COURTYARD

13
DECEMBER
6PM - 8PM

A festive evening of carols with the City of Norwich Brass Band. Mulled wine, mince pies, waffles and raffle. £ 5 entry per adult and children under 16 free.



Marlingford Village Hall Committee would like to wish everyone a very **Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**. Thank you very much for all your support this last year, and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Sue Stubbs

All are invited to our **Village Carol Service** at **St Andrew's Church, Colton** on **Sunday December 22** at **11am**

Supported by **The Cawston Brass Band** and followed by coffee and mince pies



A collection will be taken in aid of **St Martin's Housing Trust**

Community News and Fundraising Events



The art of conversation over coffee in Colton

Villagers turned out in force last month to drink tea or coffee and peruse the work of the village hall's talented art group which provided an impressive display of their artworks from the past year.

Images from emus to minarets decorated the hall and gave the visitors a lot to talk about.

The morning also offered a sale of handmade Christmas cards, labels and bunting all made by the art group plus a children's

activity table where paper, corks and cotton wool were turned into miniature nativity scenes and Father Christmases. Village volunteers also provided a variety of delicious cakes and raffle prizes.

The morning raised £190.70 in all for the village hall fund.

● **The art group is open to all and meets on the first and third Wednesday morning of the month from 10am to 12pm.**



What a lot of talented folk in our community!



A wonderful art and craft exhibition was held in St Peter's Church on the theme of 'Remembering'. So many lovely displays were created from within the community including some brilliant artwork and poetry from St Peter's Primary Academy and Queen's Hills Primary. First year students from Easton College also supplied some stunning floral arrangements. A team of valued helpers ensured that tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes (& soup!) was provided. £400 was raised for



St Peter's Church.

Thank you so much for all your support!

Margaret Seely, churchwarden.

Colton residents' charity payout in December

A reminder for Colton villagers that each year, the Trustees of the Colton Fuel Allotment charity distribute a payment to each household from income from the rent of a local piece of land. The charity is required to appoint trustees – at present there are three. Their role is to decide the amount of the payment and how

to distribute it. The most effective method, in the past has been at the **Colton Village Hall Christmas Bingo** to be held this year, on **Saturday, December 7** at 7pm. (Doors open at 6.00pm).

There is one payment for each household and there is a requirement that people have lived in their home for at least a year.

Successful Easton coffee morning fundraiser

Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the three million people in the UK living with cancer. Here's a message from **Victoria Sutton** who held a coffee morning in Easton village hall in October:

"I just wanted to thank everyone who came along on October 23 to support the Macmillan coffee morning. It was wonderful to see so many local people! Thanks, too,



to everyone who made cakes for the event but who were unable to attend due to other commitments. The event raised £120.26.

I look forward to seeing everyone again next year. "

● **More information on coffee mornings here: macmillan.org.uk**

St Mary's tower and roof inspected before repairs

A full inspection of Marlingford church tower and roof was carried out last month by a church architect. This is a necessary step prior to going out to tender for the specialist building works and significant repairs that are needed. Although it is a religious building built for the people of the village in very different times, I think most people would agree that this link to our past is worthy of preservation. Please do all you can to support the upcoming activities in the village aimed at raising money to repair this beautiful building.

Mark Pfeiffer



Teaching the children about remembrance

At St Peters Primary Academy we have been remembering. On Monday, November 11, we had a remembrance-themed collective worship. During this time, we remembered all those whose lives have been affected by conflict since the First World War and those who have died in particular. At 11am, the whole school observed a period of silence around our poppies. In class, children learnt about when the first Remembrance Day was held, who is being honoured on Remembrance Day, what happens on Remembrance Sunday and why we see lots of poppies at remembrance time. Many of our pupils made poppies and wreaths and some made a magnificent display in the church.

Fiona Flavell, Head of School



The rules governing the hunting of birds

Hunting includes the chasing, capturing or killing of any bird or animal. Not all hunting is illegal, but there are many laws and legal restrictions that help protect wildlife. Illegal hunting can include hunting outside of an open season, using traps or weapons that cause unnecessary suffering, or hunting without a special licence.

You are also breaking the law if you:

- assist in an illegal hunt, such as allowing hunters to use your land or providing them with dogs
- watch or attend an illegal hunt

Knowing when hunting is illegal can be challenging. Different animals and birds have different laws to protect them. If you're planning to go hunting, it's important you know what you can and can't do.

Wild birds

It is illegal to hunt a wild bird if:

- it is not their hunting season

- they don't have a hunting season
- you are hunting on someone else's land without their permission
- you are using firearms without a licence

Game birds

Game birds include pheasants, partridges and grouse, as defined by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The hunting of game birds is covered by the Game Act 1831.

Game birds have their own open season. It is illegal to:

- hunt game birds outside of their open season
- hunt on land without written permission from the landowner
- hunt on Sundays, Christmas Day, or at night
- use firearms without a licence

● **For more information on illegal hunting of birds and animals, go to: norfolk.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information**

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News from Easton Women's Institute

A musical interlude

At our November meeting, **Penny Doe** and her husband Ted played and sang a selection of folk songs related to Christmas – some familiar, others not. Penny played a range of musical instruments including a violin, a mandolin, a wind instrument called a low whistle and a strange triangular stringed instrument rather like a zither.

Ted, who had been a professional musician, played the cello. It was a very pleasant evening.



Penny demonstrating her musical instruments.

Next meeting

Easton WI will meet on Thursday, December 12 in the village hall at 7.30pm to enjoy the humour of the **Gal Tina** with another of her poems and Norfolk squit about life. This is bound to make us all laugh and

reminisce about life in general!! We will have visitors from other WIs and a finger buffet, a raffle and time to say Happy Christmas to our friends.

Planned outing

There will be a trip to a local garden centre on Wednesday, December 11 to enjoy a bit of Christmas shopping!

Next year

Coming down to earth with a bump, on Thursday, January 9, we will have a talk from **Jaclyn Abel** and **Steve Websdale** about the role of the magistracy.

As I say every month, the members of Easton WI would love to have more ladies join us. Easton has had a WI 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. We also arrange visits and outings at other times. We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us.

It just remains for me to wish all our members and friends a very Happy Christmas and send them best wishes for the new year.

Mary Blathwayt

Always wanted to play an instrument? The ukulele is a very good place to start!

Looking for a fun, new hobby? Across the country hundreds of folk are strumming ukuleles and singing in groups every week. If you've always wanted to play an instrument, the uke is an ideal starting place as it's very easy to learn. The ukulele group in Wymondham recently celebrated its 10th birthday and is still going strong with weekly, local meetings and several original members still popping along to play along on club nights.

"We aim to make each meeting a fun occasion and play a selection of songs from our many songbooks which are freely available from our website" says group member, Roy Heatley.

"We are a diverse bunch of all ages and playing abilities but the emphasis is always on having fun and making music together in a relaxed atmosphere".

The group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at The White Hart in Wymondham where a different leader each session leads them in playing a variety of songs from their songbooks.



The more formal face of the ukulele group's 'Gig Gang', but anyone

"Sometimes it will be songs with only three chords, other times there will be a few more chords but no one cares if a few chords are skipped, we get there in the end" says Roy.

Each week, a group email is sent out with news of the songbooks being played at the various sessions. New members are welcome and are generally paired up with a more experienced player for the first few sessions to answer questions and queries along the way. There are no subs or other costs – the only cash needed is the money for your drink at the bar. The group has a core of regular players who like to perform gigs for free at the many local care homes



... is welcome to come along and play on their club nights.

and interest groups in and around Wymondham. They also meet on alternate Thursdays (on the weeks when there isn't a Tuesday session) upstairs at The Feathers in Wymondham. These sessions tend to be a little more concentrated on getting things right and learning new songs or practising the performance setlist just to get things absolutely right. Every year the group nominates a charity where the audience may make donations. "We are very proud to say that over the past five years or so we have raised at least £1,000 each year with last year, a magnificent £1,300 being raised" explains Roy. "This year we have already reached our



The group playing on Zoom during the pandemic.



Ukulele is one of the easier instruments to learn.

£1,000 target so who knows what our total will be with still five gigs to go before the end of the year?". Pub hosts Kieran at The White Hart and Lorna at The Feathers allow the group to practise at their premises. "We are very grateful to them for their generosity and support over the years" said Roy. The ukulele is a very versatile instrument and relatively easy to play. Their song vault contains a wide variety of songs to suit all tastes. So, release your inner rock star and become part of a fun group of local uke players!

● **If you are interested in joining the ukulele group, you can contact them via their website: wymondhamukulelegroup.com**

Gone fishin' – with Dom and Milt

Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer, stars of BBC TV's *Gone Fishing*, have nothing on Colton angler Dom Castle and his longtime buddy Milton Lindsay...

Sometimes, an upstart needs to be put in his place. In recent trips Dom, with a mere four years of angling experience, has dared to catch more fish than 50-year veteran Milt – despite the latter's 'it's not a competition' nonsense.



But today, on one of those perfect October autumn days, the empire strikes back. A light fog is draped over the trees and water at Billingford; all is still as our heroes rock up for a

crack at the Basil Todd lake.



With their familiar lack of imagination, they select their usual spots and, as the autumn sunshine starts to burn the mist away and reveal the seasonal beauty that nature has laid on, commence angling. Dom is first out of the blocks with a few bream falling for his pineapple wafer – unusually they are feisty little beggars, putting up a bit of a tussle instead of surrendering like wet paper bags.

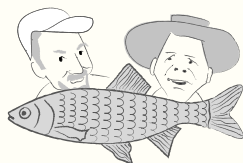
It's quieter on Milt's peg.



The Floatmeister General, who, for once, appears to have remembered to bring all his gear, has his traditional waggler out (not a euphemism) but to start with, the fish are disinterested. Undeterred, Luton's legend pours a coffee and settles down with *The Sun*.

The morning drifts on, the quiet of the lake broken only by birds and the occasional blast of a shotgun trying to do them some mischief. But fish are starting to come in to both men and it is turning into a good day.

And then it turns into a very good day for Milt. His float snaps under and he connects with a substantial fish; a tench, perhaps a mirror



The day gets off to a misty start.

Milt proudly displays his solid carp.



Dom - the pretender - with his bream.



carp? Battle commences. Milt is using very light tackle with a breaking strain of just 3.5lbs and he just can't winch this fish in. It has to be played with finesse and delicacy and it won't be rushed. And play it he does, like a virtuoso on a Stradivarius.

Dom comes over to admire the man at work and to see what this fish actually is. But it stays deep and out of sight until Milt persuades it to break the surface

– and it's a common carp, a solid one as well. Dom heads off to grab his landing net, a rather bigger item than Milt's shrimper. Finally it is landed



and weighed and it's a fine, chunky specimen of 12lbs, as near as dammit, easily the biggest fish landed by either of the duo in the four years they've

been fishing together. Dom acknowledges the Floatmeister and genuflects in his general direction as they pack up in the late afternoon sunshine and head home.



"Sometimes," observes the sage, "an upstart needs to be put in his place."

Dominic Castle

(Editor's note: I wonder why they swapped hats?)

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mark Pfeiffer

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr David Woods

Christmas closures

The parish council will be closed over Christmas and New Year from December 20 until January 6 2025. During this time support is available at:

southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-hub-1

or by calling **01508 533933**

For highways issues, please contact Norfolk County Council on **0344 800 8020** or go to: norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem

Defibrillators and funding

The parish council was unsuccessful in securing funding to replace the defibrillators at Colton village hall and The Bell in Marlingford. Further discussions have taken place with a number of organisations. Both machines have recently received new batteries which can last up to four years. The machines are checked monthly and logged on the 'webnos' and 'circuit' to indicate they are ready for use to emergency services. The parish council will continue to seek alternative funding as well



as ring-fence money in the budget towards replacement machines. The council is continuing to look for funding a first-aid/CPR course to be held in the village. If you have not already registered your interest, please contact the parish clerk.

Annual budget and precept for 2025/26

The council agreed the budget for 2025/26 and set the budget for the forthcoming year at the November meeting.

The parish council is urging residents to attend the meeting in January where time will be set aside to explain more about the

budget for 2025/26 and its plans for the year.

Further information about the budget will be published in a future issue of *The Grapevine* once it has been lodged with South Norfolk Council at the beginning of January.

Season's greetings

The parish council would like to wish residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councillors look forward to working with residents in 2025!

Parish council meetings and public inclusion

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of alternate months at 7pm.

At each meeting there is an opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise any issues they may have. You are also welcome to simply come along and listen to the meeting. Councillors look forward to welcoming residents to the next meeting.

The next meetings are;

- **Tuesday 14th January, Colton Village Hall, 7pm**

- **Tuesday 11th March, Colton Village Hall, 7pm**

Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council: **Maria Hutson**

T: 01603 850118

E: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

W: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

What the parish council does

Marlingford & Colton Parish Council consists of up to seven residents of the parish of Marlingford & Colton.

Members are normally elected to serve by the residents of the parish every four years.

The council is responsible for many things including:

- Monitoring and reporting on the general tidiness of the villages
- Management of grass cutting in public areas
- Expressing views and recommendations on local planning applications
- Monitoring and reporting on the condition of local highways and footpaths

The provision and maintenance of:

- Litter and dog bins
- Colton Amenity area
- Marlingford Amenity area
- Marlingford Conservation area
- Parish council notice boards in Colton and Marlingford

Members of the parish council meet once a month (with the exception of the month of August), at a meeting to discuss, report, monitor and most important, make decisions on matters concerning the villages of Marlingford and Colton.

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

New website

We would like to remind everyone of the new parish council website eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact email address is clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

We do not have any access to the previous council website or email accounts. Please ensure all communications are sent to the new email address given.

Apologies for cancelling the November 5 parish council meeting. This was due to not having an available clerk.

We recognise there is a lack of information with regards to the financial situation and current progress with the new community centre. We realise the villagers' anxieties and have been working closely with South Norfolk Council to better understand our position. It has been our endeavour to hold a public meeting as soon as possible to convey these findings in a clear, understandable and transparent



manner. We are aware of the recent newspaper articles and maintain this is not supported by the full parish council. It remains our intention to hold a public meeting shortly.

Recycling centres

From Monday November 18, anyone wishing to take things to a recycling centre must book a slot beforehand. Slots will be available every fifteen minutes. Bookings can be made up to seven days beforehand on the council's website: [norfolk](http://norfolk.gov.uk).



gov.uk/recyclingbooking or by phoning the customer service centre, **tel: 0344 800 8020**

Winter fuel payment and pension credit

This year, to qualify for the 2024 – 25 winter fuel payment, you must apply for pension credit by December 21.

You can telephone the pension credit claim line to check your eligibility on **0800 991 234**

Parish council budget setting

In our next meetings, the parish council will be discussing budget priorities and the proposed budget for 2025/26 allowing the precept to be agreed. The precept is the money the parish council request from South Norfolk council. This money is collected from residents as an element of the annual council tax bill.



Picture : Freepik

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings to watch the discussions around the forthcoming budget.

Vandalism

Unfortunately, we have to report that there have been a few incidents of vandalism within the village. Firstly, to Jubilee playing field security fencing and secondly, to the bus shelters on the corner of Marlingford Road and Dereham Road. These have since been repaired by councillors.

The bus shelter mural has also been defaced. There has been an attempt to remove the ‘scribble’ which was partially successful.

This is extremely disappointing as the mural brings a uniqueness to the village for all to enjoy regardless of using the bus stop or not. At a time where funds do not stretch to repairs, we are thankful council members have taken on these tasks themselves.

It is very disappointing to have any form of vandalism in the village, especially to facilities many people use.

Anyone witnessing vandalism is asked to report it to the parish council as soon as possible using the email address below.

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Rambling Vine



Picture - Gerd Altmann/pixabay.com

Let's keep the meaning of Christmas in sight

It's December and, as we start this month, I'm sure your thoughts have already begun to turn towards the big C word!

Christmas is often seen as a time of joy and celebration but for many, it can also be a whirlwind of activity—shopping, cooking, attending events and rushing from one thing to the next.

In the hustle and bustle, it's easy to lose sight of the true meaning of the season.

In the midst of the shopping lists and festive preparations, we can find ourselves distracted, pulled in every direction and feeling disconnected from the spiritual heart of Christmas.

Yet, it is precisely in this busy time that we are called to slow down and reflect on the deeper significance of Christ's birth. The story of Jesus entering the world in a humble stable,

surrounded by animals and strangers invites us to find God in the unexpected and the quiet moments of our lives.

Taking a few moments each day to pause and pray, to read the Nativity story or simply to sit in silence can help us reconnect with the peace and hope that Christmas brings. Even in the busiest of days, there are small opportunities to find Jesus – in the kindness of others, in the beauty of a Christmas carol or in the love we share with family and friends.

As we move through the rush of the season, let us remember that the greatest gift of Christmas is not wrapped in paper or tied with ribbon, but is the presence of Christ with us, now and always.

By making space for Him, we can rediscover the true joy of the season. Merry Christmas!

Rev Laura Montgomery

Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for quarter ending December 2024

	Number	Member	Amount
First	11	Christine Kent	£50.00
Second	20	Sue Hester	£35.00
Third	18	Paul Hammerton	£25.00
Bonus	32	John Bailey	£10.00

Congratulations and thanks. Your membership helps with the upkeep of the church. Prizewinners please email church treasurer, carolachiles@gmail.com with bank details to receive your money or let her know if you want to donate it back to the church. **For renewing your annual membership, please pay £20 per number into the following Barclays bank account.** Account name: **MPCC 50 Club**, account no: **00378445**, sort code **20-62-53**. Thank you!

Church services December 2024/ January 2025

December		
Sunday 1	10.00am	Easton – Holy Communion; Advent readings and hymns
Sunday 8	10.00am	Bawburgh – Holy Communion; 2nd of Advent
Friday 13	6.00pm - 8.00pm	The Old Hall, Bawburgh Road, Marlingford Carols in the courtyard
Sunday 15	10.00am	Marlingford – Holy Communion; 3rd of Advent
Sunday 22	11.00am 6.00pm	Colton – Holy Communion; 4th of Advent; Cawston Brass Band Bawburgh – Carols by candlelight
Tuesday 24	3.00pm 4.30pm	Marlingford – Crib service Easton – Cringle
Wednes. 25	10.30am	Colton – Holy Communion; Christmas Day
Sunday 29	10.00am	Bawburgh – Holy Communion; 1st of Christmas
January 2025		
Sunday 5	10.00am	Easton – Epiphany; Holy Communion
Sunday 12	10.00am	Colton – The baptism of Christ - All age service 1st of Epiphany; Holy Communion
Sunday 19	10.00am	Marlingford – 2nd of Epiphany; Holy Communion
Sunday 26	10.00am	Bawburgh – 3rd of Epiphany; Holy Communion

For information: February 2, 2025 – Candlemas - the presentation of Christ in the temple). Venue to be decided

Thanking an act of kindness from our carpetfitters

I would like to say a big thank you to Martin and Joshua of Martin’s Carpets.

After spending a long hot day laying carpets in our lounge, stairs and landing, doing a brilliant job, they were about to leave.

I started to pull back our large 6x4ft window when the entire panel dislodged and fell out into the patio, smashing into pieces.

Martin and Joshua left but, without being asked, returned within the hour with gloves, spades and brooms to help clear up the glass. It would have taken us hours, so I cannot thank them enough for their kindness. A box of Border biscuits (their favourite) was not enough thanks, so I just want to thank them again publicly!

Sue Stubbs



Mobile library 2025 – January dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: January 23

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: January 22

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 423 Thursday: January 23

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.

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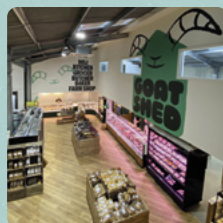
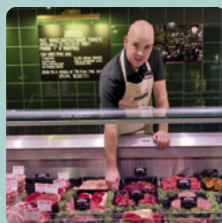
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www.instituteofchimneysweeps.co.uk

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