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- Community interest
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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
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-2pm 01603 880007
Easton Village Hall	Roly and Christine Chapman 01603 880654
Easton WI Secretary	Mary Blathwayt – 01603 880574
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499
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	01603 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

Gina Lopes 07879 379181
clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.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

Front cover: Ann Dunn on her Portuguese Camino walk.



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Printed by: Barnwell Print Ltd,
 Dunkirk, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6SU.
 Tel: 01263 732767 W: barnwellprint.co.uk

The Grapevine

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Advertising in The Grapevine

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

Annual advertising rates 2024

Black & white inside:

1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£50	£75	£125	£200

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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
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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	Dave Batchelor, 9, Cleves Way, Old Costessey	01603 322987
------------------	-------------------------------------------------	--------------

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 carolchiles@gmail.com	01508 578352
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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 on **September 3rd, 2023**: (All services are excluding Bank holidays)

Service 808 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only:				
From	At	Arrives	Connects to	
Marlingford Bell	09.18	Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 9.27	Konekt 4 service from Easton to Norwich at 9.38, arriving 10.05	
Colton, The Street - Pond	09.23			
Colton, Junction Norwich Road and The Street	09.24			
Konekt 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.

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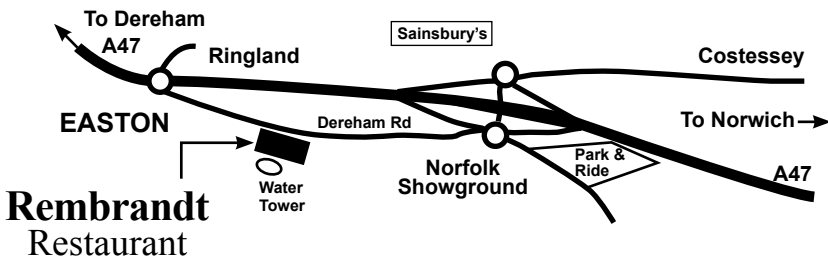
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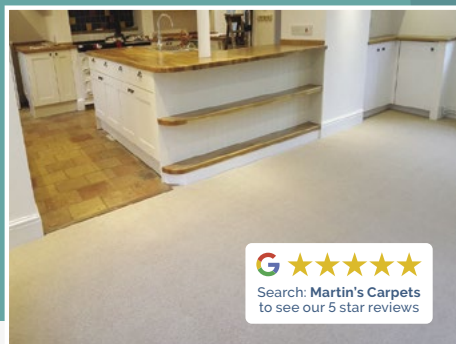
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Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,
Hingham,
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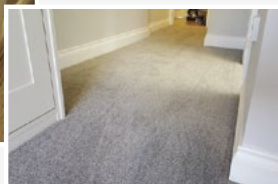
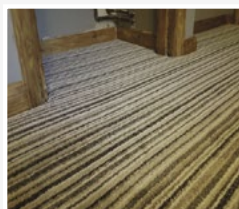
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THE Grapevine



Remembering those merry days of yore

It's May already. The clocks have gone forward an hour and we're all happy that the days are getting longer. In medieval England, folk would be preparing for the Mayday festival which celebrated the arrival of spring and renewal of life.

Families would be preparing to go 'Maying' where they set off into the woods to gather flowers and greenery to decorate their homes and villages.

I wonder what it says about modern times to know that this activity is now illegal?

There would also be Morris

Dancers, May Queens, feasting, games and music – all probably now replaced by crashing out on the sofa and binge-watching a Netflix three-season special (other streaming services are available...). Am I being cynical? Possibly. But you just don't hear of those sorts of community activities so much these days. We should all spend more time getting together and having fun. In some ways it seems, medieval folk were ahead of their time. They certainly knew how to get the party started.

Annette Hudson

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 June issue: Friday, May 24, 2024

Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton village hall

● Colton Quiz Night

Saturday, May 11 – An opportunity to delve into the dusty recesses of your brain along with other keen quizzers. Teams of up to 6. £4 per person. Bring your own refreshments. Doors open 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start.

● Coffee Morning

Saturday, June 15 – Catch up with friends and neighbours in the village and meet new people! Coffee, tea and cake will be served from 10-12pm.

● Horse Racing Night

Saturday, August 17 – Place your bets please! An evening of equine fun and frolics.

Marlingford village hall

● Quiz night – Friday, May 3

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of four to six. £2.50 per person (cash please). There will be tea and coffee available.

● Bingo night – Saturday, May 18

Doors open 7pm. Eyes down at 7.30pm. £5 per adult, £2.50 per child (cash only). Refreshments available - bring your own wine, beer and snacks.

A Tea, Cake and Treasure Hunt was held in the village hall on Sunday

April 7. A beautiful sunny afternoon meant families could sit outside on the patio overlooking the river and water meadows while the children took part in a treasure hunt. It was a great opportunity to relax over a cuppa and cake, and catch up with family and friends.

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

Thursday May 9 – Juyna Lewis will give a talk entitled ‘**My Bangladeshi Childhood. Tales of a rural life in a faraway country**’. Includes a demonstration of how to elegantly wear six yards of material!

Thursday May 23 – Members can bring their own board games to play or we have, at the club, a few other games including Scrabble and cards games.

● Easton Pop In

Tuesdays – 10.00am to 11.45am for tea, coffee, biscuits and friendly chat!

Brenda and Tony

● Easton Crafters Club

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Easton village hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm doing various crafts including cards, jewellery and flower arranging. **For more information, ring Janet on 01603 471144.**

The Good Companions

I've joined The Good Companions
A club for OAPs
I thought I'd make new friends
But find I'm making tea.

We do have some very good speakers
Plus dice games, Bingo and more.
Sometimes there's music to dance to
Just don't end up on the floor!

You might just win on the raffle
Something good I hear you say
A cruise or a trip to Iceland
If that's your dream-
There's no tickets today!

Now I'm glad I joined
Good Companions

It's all so exciting you see
So thank you for making me welcome
And I don't mind making the tea.

A poem by CB -2024

Farewell to popular village character

Marlingford's oldest resident, Jack Oakman, died peacefully at home on April 12.

He was much loved, a real character who enjoyed chatting with neighbours while walking his dog Teddy.

Teddy now has a new home with Lisa, Tim and CJ.

Quiz Nights

Marlingford Village Hall

NR9 5HL

Friday May 3

June 7 - July 5

? Doors open 7pm ?
for 7.30pm start ?

? Tea and coffee available ?
Bring your own wine/beer

? £2.50 per person ?
(cash please)

Teams of 4 – 6 Make a team on the night
Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Marlingford, Fabric Fund

B I N G O

21 Saturday 1

May 18

Marlingford Village Hall

NR9 5HL

4 Doors open 7pm 10
Eyes down 7.30pm

£5 per adult

£2.50 per child (half book)

(cash only please)

Refreshments available
Bring your own wine, beer, snacks

All proceeds to St Mary's Church,
Marlingford, Fabric Fund

Community and Fundraising Events

If you know who this is...  ...you've got a head start!

COLTON VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ

SATURDAY, MAY 11

7.00 for 7.30pm start

Teams of up to six - £4 per person.
Call Vicky on 01603 881336 to book a table. Feel free to bring your own refreshments.

A test for eyes AND ears!
All proceeds towards village hall

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Try your hand at bowls at a special open day

Easton Bowls Club invites you to join us for an open day on **Saturday May 4** (2pm for 2.30pm start). All are welcome from total beginners to experienced players. You don't need to bring bowls – we have spare sets you can use. Please wear flat soled shoes if you have them. The green

is accessed through the same gate as St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church on the Marlingford Road, Easton, NR9 5AD.

● If you are likely to attend, email: eastonbowls.bh@btinternet.com or phone our club secretary **Jan Hudson on: 01603 880811.**

Come and meet us!

Simon and Mandy are proud to re-open your local pub, **The Marlingford Bell** to serve Marlingford and the surrounding communities with a warm welcome and a great smile.





Cleaning up in Colton

The village hall area looks decidedly neater after efforts from villagers to give it a good tidy-up. They also installed a bench in the park in memory of committee member and villager, Joyce Ireland. Thanks to all who helped out.



Sterling work going on – weeding, sorting books and preparing to install the memorial bench.

News from Easton Women's Institute

Coming up...

On Thursday May 9 at 7.30pm in the village hall we will be having **The Windmill Handbell Ringers** to give a talk and play their bells for us.

Then, at our next meeting, on Thursday June 13, the **Friends of Norfolk Dialect** will be coming to teach us the local lingo (those of us who don't already know it that is!)

We will be enjoying a visit to **Wymondham Heritage Museum** on April 29 possibly followed



by lunch and then we will have an afternoon tea at **Bawdeswell Garden Centre** on May 29 to celebrate the birthdays of three of our members that month. We are always happy for other people to come with us on outings if we have enough space. Visitors are also welcome to come to up to three of our monthly meetings before we ask them to join the WI.

Mary Blathwayt

Operation Easter once again ready to enforce law against stealing rare birds' eggs from nests

The national enforcement campaign to protect our nesting wild birds is underway for 2024. The taking of wild bird eggs is a serious crime, yet it remains an illicit hobby for some determined individuals. Whole clutches of eggs can be taken from some of the UK's rarest birds and stored in secret collections. New risks to wild birds have also emerged in recent years with criminals taking eggs or chicks from bird of prey nests and trading them illegally across the world. Detective Inspector Mark Harrison from the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) says: "Thankfully, egg collecting as a hobby has declined over recent years due to effective law enforcement and a change in attitude, particularly as younger generations realise the negative

Picture: Erik Karits/Pixabay



Yellowhammer - on the conservation red list.

impact that this crime has on our wild birds and biodiversity. But the problem still persists and new related risks have also emerged, including the increase in wild taken birds of prey, chicks and eggs that are being illegally

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Beat Manager

Stuart Barnard Sgt 499

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

laundered into the legitimate falconry industry. Operation Easter is one of the NWCUs longest standing operations for the protection of wild birds and at this crucial time of year when the birds are breeding, we need to ensure that we are alive to the risks and ready to respond. The NWCU will continue to support all the UK's police forces to prevent further crimes and pursue those criminals that commit offences.

We will help to co-ordinate the policing response, ensuring dedicated Police Wildlife Crime Officers from the participating UK police forces receive up-to-date intelligence, operational support and access to specialist investigators from the NWCU. If you have any information on egg thieves, or those who disturb rare nesting birds without a licence, you should contact your local police by dialling 101 – ask to speak to a wildlife crime officer if possible. Get a description/photo and vehicle registration if safe to do so. Nesting is in full swing so please contact the police if you see anyone acting suspiciously around nesting birds. Information can also be passed in confidence to Crimestoppers via 0800 555 111.

Picture: Jason Bonnicksen/Unsplash



Please keep dogs on leads near livestock

It is essential that dogs are kept in control at all times when any livestock is around. It is even more essential in the coming weeks with many young lambs hopefully bouncing around the spring grass.

Your dog may be fine and have great recall but it only takes that one incident when they lose concentration and get into the field of cattle, sheep or other livestock and you end up criminally responsible for their actions. It is also important to remember your dog doesn't have to kill for you to find yourself in a lot of trouble. Simply causing shock or disturbance to the animal is enough to be an offence.

What about this as a way to relax on a Wednesday morning...



View with a boat - watercolour Ann Dunn



Painting from a photograph - acrylic. John Morse



Children in a stream.
Copy of a painting - acrylic.

Viv Ashley

This month folks, I am using these pages to promote the growing art group at Colton. They get together every two weeks on a Wednesday morning for two hours of rest, relaxation, chat and whatever kind of artwork you might like to do. Since it began, they have tried quite a few different sorts of media and, have enjoyed testing their abilities to produce interesting pieces often with surprising results. Rosanna Ellis started the group last year after being asked by a resident if she would do an art class. "We had the space and I had the equipment so I agreed!" Villager Viv Ashley has been

attending from the start.

"I love coming to the group because I've always wanted to do a painting class. You don't have to be good at it as you learn a lot while you're here"

Linda Flatt, who lives in Colton, thinks she has really improved since joining the group.

"I definitely find it easier and I look at things differently now. When I'm out, I see something and think 'How could I paint that?'"

Parish councillor John Morse, joined after he was told he had a talent even though he has never painted anything in his life.

"I've done the odd pencil sketch but I've never painted. I love to come



Sunflowers - acrylic.

Judi Woods



River Yare.- watercolour.

Rosanna Ellis



Copy of a landscape - acrylic

Linda Flatt



Daisy-
chalk pastels.
Martin Roper

along and see my colleagues doing a much better job than I am but I'm keen to learn!"

Martin Roper used to do engineering drawings as a profession.

"I'm not an artist at all and don't find it easy but I find it very enjoyable."

Judi Woods was urged to give it a go by Viv whom she met one day while out walking. Judi admits that it took a great deal of encouragement from husband David to get the confidence to join but now says it's the best thing she's done.

"I love being here and just escaping into doing a painting.

"It's something to look forward to. Two hours really fly by!"

You don't have to have any art skills to join the group, so why not come along and give it a go? You might be surprised at what you can do!

The art group meets every second Wednesday in Colton village hall from 10am to 12pm and is open to anyone who would like to learn or who just wants two hours a week to paint or draw. It costs £3. Refreshments and art materials are provided.

For more details, contact Rosanna Ellis on 07765294347 or email: rosannaellis@btinternet.com

● If you'd like your group featured in *The Grapevine*, just email me: annettegh57@gmail.com

Intrepid Ann sets off on another Camino walking adventure

On 3rd March this year I started my third Camino, this time not alone, as on the previous trips, but with my 31-year-old daughter.

I am now almost 75 and after each journey I have thought it would be my last. But the Camino has a magic that keeps calling you back. Each Camino is different, and this time was no exception.

It was a wonderful experience. My daughter lives quite far away from me and has a busy lifestyle, so we hadn't seen much of each other over the past few years.

This was catch-up time.

Despite the weather (it rained quite a lot), some blisters and my relatively slow pace, we laughed a lot, met up with great people of all ages and, most important, we talked a lot about everything under the sun. We learned new things about each other, discussed our emotions and relationships, reminisced about the past, talked about our future plans and enjoyed just living in the moment with each other.

We started in Porto where we spent two days enjoying that city and preparing ourselves for the 240k walk to Santiago which would take



Ann and her walking companion, daughter Catriona.

us two weeks to walk.

We didn't book accommodation, preferring not to plan ahead.

We spent the first night in a monastery by candlelight as there had been a power cut. This gave a romantic atmosphere and we spent a lovely evening storytelling, singing and listening to a Danish couple perform with a cello and guitar. That day, sadly, saw the last



of the good weather. The continuous rain made the paths muddy and difficult to navigate but we soldiered on meeting fellow pilgrims and sharing experiences along the way. The local people we met on the road were friendly and helpful, pointing out shortcuts and offering us fresh oranges from their trees. Each afternoon it was a great



One of the hostels they stayed at.



Catriona is delighted to be in Spain.



Danish couple who entertained them - this picture looks like an Old Master!



Unfortunately, the weather wasn't always kind.

feeling to reach our hostel, dry out and have communal meals with people who were fast becoming our friends. We stayed in a variety

of places ranging from simple donativos to more comfortable, privately run hostels. For those two weeks, we lived in the moment, far away from the troubles of the world. Spring was bursting out all around us as we walked. Little things, like eucalyptus scent, emerging butterflies, copious wild flowers, a mole crossing the road, overflowing rivers, birdsong, and searching for four-leafed clovers became the main events of the day. It was a truly bonding and memorable experience, one we will treasure for the rest of our lives.

Mobile library 2024 – May dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: May 16

Stop no	Arrives	Departs	Postcode
18: Colton Road near Home Farm	10.25am	10.45pm	NR9 5HS
20: Mill Road	10.50am	11.10am	NR9 5HU

Colton –Route: CEN 319

Wednesday: May 15

38: Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 423

Thursday: May 16

6: Parkers Close	11.15am	11.35am	NR9 5EE
8: Marlingford Road	11.40am	12.00pm	NR9 5AD
10: Marlingford Way	12.05am	12.25pm	NR9 5HB
12: Kennedy Close	12.30pm	12.50pm	NR9 5EY
14: St Peter's Drive	12.55pm	13.15pm	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.

One way to save money on your energy bill

For those looking to save on energy bills, I have a suggestion based on my own recent experience.

You may be considering solar panels which, while this is an excellent system, does have some drawbacks. Firstly, it is quite expensive and it may be a long time before you recoup your outlay. Secondly, to be most efficient, your home needs to have a large enough roof for about 12 panels and face roughly south for most of the day. I think I've found a potential solution to both challenges.

We make use of an off-peak tariff for our electricity supply which gives us an off-peak rate of 7.5p per kilowatt hour (kWh), between 11.30pm and 5.30am. The standard tariff for the rest of the day is approximately 30p per kWh.

I have therefore invested in a battery and inverter system where I harvest electricity at the cheap rate, store it a big battery and then use it during the day.

In choosing what to buy, I provided a couple of years' worth of energy bills to my supplier who recommended, in my case, an 8.6 kWh battery storage system.

The inverter is connected to my main consumer unit and converts the electricity supply from AC to DC to store it and back again when

it's drawing power during the day. As the system has a capacity of 100 amps, it only takes a couple of hours to recharge the battery meaning I can charge up my EV and run other appliances at the cheap rate overnight as well. Based upon my first couple of months' experience, I already save £50 a month on electricity bills which means I expect to get back my original investment in approximately five-and-a-half years. That's at least half the cost and time that a solar panel system, (if I had enough roof space to fit sufficient panels) would take to achieve payback.

My battery and inverter system are stored in my garage and are cabled across the front of our home to and from the consumer unit. Thus, the equipment does not have an impact inside our house at all. The only disadvantage of this system, compared with a solar panel installation, is that you are unable sell unused energy back to the grid.

That said, it is also possible that, by buying an extra option, which I elected not to do at this stage, you could use a gadget which would enable you to use the stored power during our numerous power cuts.

John Morse

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman

Vacancy

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr David Woods

Cllr Mark Pfeiffer

Councillor vacancies

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council consists of seven councillors who are volunteers in act for the benefit of residents and the community. There are four active councillors acting on behalf of the villages with three vacancies for new councillors to join them. The parish council meets six times a year in either Colton or Marlingford and meetings usually last between one and two hours. Councillors do not have to be connected to a political party and work for the good of the community which includes ensuring play areas are safe, promoting local initiatives such as litter picks, supporting local groups to expand and seek funding, commenting on planning applications and being involved in consultations such as the ongoing development of the A47/western link. To see what the role entails, come along to one of our meetings. Alternatively, feel free to contact our clerk, **Maria Hutson** on **01603 850118**, or by email to **marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com**

South Norfolk

Community Awards 2024

Nominations are open! The awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of residents from across the district, who go above and beyond to support others or complete incredible achievements. All shortlisted nominees will be invited along to the awards ceremony at Glen Lodge and the winner in each category will receive £250 to give to their chosen community group or voluntary organisation.

You can nominate an individual or group that has gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in their community in any of the following categories:

Young Achiever Award - A young person (aged 18 and under) who has made an exceptional contribution to their community.

Community Organisation of the Year - A community organisation which has made a significant impact to the community.

Business in the Community

A local business or commercial organisation that has gone above and beyond to support the community.

Volunteer of the Year

An individual who selflessly devotes time and energy to the community.

Environmental Champion

An individual, school or community organisation which has made an extra effort to have a positive impact on the environment.

Connecting Communities

An individual, school or community organisation that has gone out of their way to encourage communities to come together and promote inclusivity.

Lifetime Achievement

A person who has dedicated over 20 years of their life to the community, volunteering for the benefit of others and deserves special recognition for their efforts.

Town or Parish Councillor

of the Year - A councillor within the South Norfolk District that has shown commitment and service to their community.

Healthy and Active Award

An individual, school or community organisation that has excelled in facilitating healthy and active lifestyles.

● **Make a nomination by calling the team on 01603 430611.**

Parish council meetings and public inclusion

The parish council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of alternate months. Meetings are held at 7pm.

● The annual parish meeting is being held on **Tuesday May 14** from 7pm at **Colton village hall**. Come and find out about what has been happening in the villages over the last 12 months. Enjoy light refreshments while meeting others from the villages. The agenda is published on the website a minimum of three working days before each meeting and is also displayed on the village notice

boards. Members of the public are welcome to attend. 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. Councillors look forward to welcoming residents to the next meeting.

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:

Cllr – Ben Moye

Cllr – Peter Milliken

Cllr Peter McCarter

Cllr David Lewis

Cllr Des Fulcher

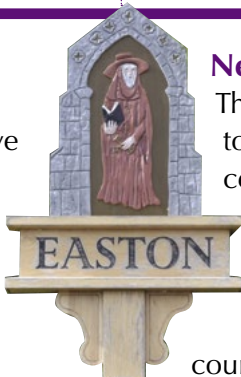
Thanks and farewell

It is with regret that Easton parish councillors Ben Moye and Peter Milliken have decided to step down from the council for personal reasons.

Cllr Moye has done a great job as chairman and, with his expertise in planning, has also had much input in responding to applications – especially useful with the larger developments in the village. Cllr Milliken has been a councillor for several years and has held the position of both chairman and vice chairman during this time. Cllr Milliken has spearheaded the new community centre project and spent many hours of his own time ensuring that the building can be delivered for the community.

Councillors and staff express their grateful thanks to both of these councillors for their hard work, dedication and service as Easton parish councillors.

They will be greatly missed by everyone.



New Community Centre

The building works continue to progress well and the centre is heading towards completion. However, the necessary streetworks have temporarily been put on hold while

councillors wait for UK Power networks to connect 3-phase power to the building. The building will not be able to be completed until these works are finished.

The community centre website is regularly updated to keep residents informed and can be accessed via the following link:

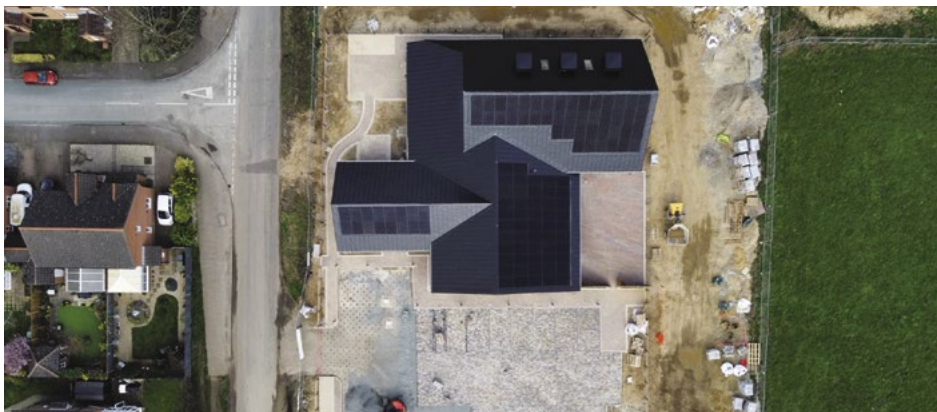
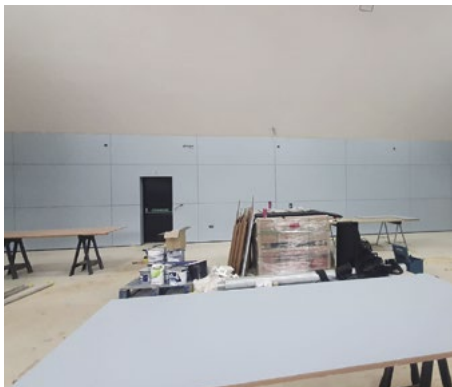
eastoncommunitycentre.co.uk

Highways, speeding and parking

Residents are respectfully reminded to be considerate when parking in the village and to observe speed limits when driving.

End of year accounts and audit

The council is required to produce and publish end of year accounts each year. Mr Woodcock, the Responsible Finance Officer, has been finalising the accounts for the



Interior and exterior work progressing on the new community centre.

financial year 2023-24.

The set of accounts will be presented at the annual meeting on May 7, 2024 and will undergo both an internal and external audit process.

Accounts will be published and available in due course.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Easton annual parish meeting will be held on **May 7, 2024** at 6.00pm. The annual council meeting will be on the same day

at 3.30pm.

Agendas will be published on the council website and noticeboards nearer the time.

All residents are welcome to attend.

Councillor vacancies

There are vacancies for parish councillors and if you would like to be considered or want more information, please contact the clerk to discuss further:

clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

The Rambling Vine

Welcoming in the merry month of May

May morning at dawn used to be celebrated with Morris dancing: people stepping out in their new clothes – putting off winter and welcoming spring.

May is full of traditions and rejoicing that the signs of the happy season of warmth and comfort has returned.

A Maypole might be erected with ribbons and garlands attached, again with dancing around it. You can see that the church has key Festivals in May. One is Pentecost (50 days since Easter),

also called Whitsun, when there might be a harvest of first fruits.

The followers of Jesus and his mother, Mary, were in Jerusalem when a fierce ‘wind’ blew – then ‘flames of light’ hovered.

They found they could tell visitors from the Roman provinces about Jesus’ message of God’s love for all. Each listener could understand every word in his own language! Another festival is Trinity: when Jesus was still with the disciples, he gave them all reassurance that they



Dicentra - otherwise known as Bleeding Hearts.

Picture: Jin Lee/Pixabay



Dancing around the Maypole. Picture: Jenny Marie



A lovely May floral display. Picture: Felicity Maton

were not useless if they behaved badly as they can be forgiven because they are always loved. He asked them not to condemn their surroundings for what seems wrong. What they can do is try to find a way to save it.

May 8, 1373 is the date when the lady Julian of Norwich had her near-death experience.

During an illness, she had a series of visions of Jesus suffering on the cross. She survived and was able to write about what she saw and conversations she had with him

which filled her with joy. Again, we are all loved. These writings survived and we are able to read translations and commentaries on them.

The Friends of Julian's Annual Lecture will be given in Norwich Cathedral on Saturday May 11 at 10.30am by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams (entrance by ticket only).

Email me for more details:

f.maton@btinternet.com

Have an enjoyable, merry May!

Felicity Maton

Church services May 2024

May		
Sunday 5	10.00am	Easton – Sixth of Easter HC
Sunday 12	10.00am	Colton – Ascension HC all age
Sunday 19	10.00am	Marlingford – Whit Sunday HC
Sunday 26	10.00am	Bawburgh – Trinity Sunday HC

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