



THE Grapevine

November 2022



Your community guide for **Colton, Easton and Marlingford**

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tribute to villagers**
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of a lifetime**
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PLUS

- **Local information**
- **Community interest**
- **Church services**
(Benefice)



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	Mrs Cossey – 01603 880789 28, Woodview Road, Easton
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	Mrs Cossey – 01603 880789 28, Woodview Road, Easton
Easton WI Secretary	Mrs Cossey – 01603 880789 28, Woodview Road, Easton
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499 Penny Nixon 07714 255024
Marlingford Village Hall bookings	John Bailey – 01603 880266 M: 07986 609319 jaydeebailey@gmail.com
Community Car Scheme	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 811323
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: Firework display at
Cromer. 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.

The Grapevine

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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 2023

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	

Advertisers can supply their own colour adverts to the correct sizes (contact treasurer for details) or they can have a colour advert designed from their supplied copy and pictures for the relevant fee which is in addition to the advertising cost. No design fee for black & white text adverts.

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
----------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

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
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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
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Treasurer	Carol Chiles carolchiles@gmail.com	01508 578352
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St Mary and St Walstan's Church, Bawburgh

Churchwarden	Susan Knight	07876 717487
---------------------	--------------	--------------

Need a bus? Here are your local bus services

Nortrax bus services: Colton, Easton and Marlingford

This service is FREE to use. Phone Nortrax for more details on **01603 508137**.
For Norwich, use the service on Mondays and Wednesdays to connect to the Excel service at Easton.

Monday and Wednesday

Bawburgh – Church Street	9.40am	Longwater – Link Road shelter	12.40pm
Marlingford – Bell	9.45am	Longwater – William Frost Way	12.57pm
Colton – village hall	9.50am	Easton – Bawburgh Rd	1.04pm
Easton – Chez Denis	9.57am	Excel departs Norwich at	12.40pm
Excel departs for Easton at	10.05am	Excel arrives in Easton at	1.00pm
Excel arrives in Norwich at	10.25am	Easton – Chez Denis	1.05pm
Easton – opp. Bawburgh Rd	9.58am	Colton – village hall	1.11pm
Longwater – William Frost Way	10.06am	Marlingford – Bell	1.15pm
Longwater – Link Road shelter	10.08am	Bawburgh – Church Street	1.19pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Colton Village Hall	10.30am	Longwater Link Rd shelter	12.30pm
Marlingford – opp. Bell	10.35am	Longwater – William Frost Way	12.32pm
Easton – opp. school	10.40am	Easton – opp. Bawburgh Rd	12.38pm
Easton – Chez Denis	10.41am	Easton – Chez Denis	12.39pm
Easton – opp. Bawburgh Rd	10.42am	Colton Village Hall	12.40pm
Longwater – William Frost Way	10.48am	Marlingford Bell	12.45pm
Longwater Link Rd shelter	10.50am	Bawburgh – Church Street	12.50pm

Excel bus services for Easton (Bawburgh Road)

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



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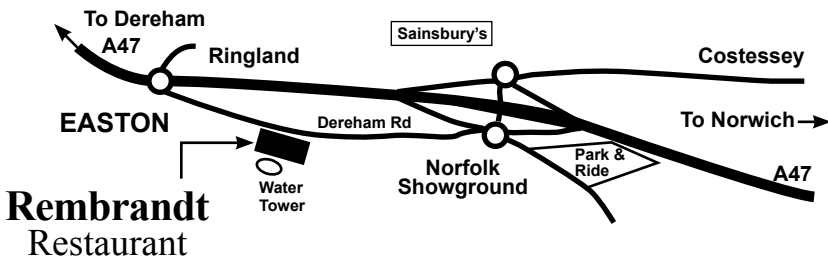
Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 4pm - 8pm

*For latest information
please see the website or phone*

01603 880010

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THE Grapevine

Cash award for your community magazine

The Grapevine has received an award of £1,000 for being a 'Community Champion' by the charity of Persimmon housing.

They donate this sum every month to 60 local groups and charities nationwide for good causes.

We are thankful for the donation and recognition of our service to



Cheque is presented to the Grapevine Committee.

our community. Thanks also to all those who have kindly returned envelopes with donations which go to help towards the cost of printed editions of the

Grapevine community magazine.

It is very much appreciated!

Please note, our next issue (Dec/Jan) will be printed.

The Grapevine Committee

Be a 'Help at Home' volunteer for EACH

If you have time to spare, you could help a family caring for children with life-threatening illnesses with practical tasks such as cleaning, cooking and helping youngsters with homework. If you can spare two hours a week - even two hours



a month, EACH wants to hear from you. All training is provided.

For more information, please visit: each.org.uk/volunteering or call 01223 800 800 and select option 4.

Reg charity 1069284

If you would like to donate towards the cost of production for more printed editions of the magazine, you can do so by bank transfer using these details:

Account name:

The Grapevine Magazine

Business account no: 20420956

Sort code: 20-99-08

Thank you!

Deadline for items for the printed Dec/Jan issue: Wednesday, November 16
Email as text or word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

Seat with a view is fitting tribute to villagers

If you have been to Marlingford village hall recently, you will have noticed a number of improvements. One that the village hall committee is particularly pleased with is the bench on the patio. Come along and sit awhile as the view across the meadow is beautiful, especially during this colourful autumn. Sitting down, you will notice that there are three names engraved on the back of the bench. Ann, Jean and Vera were all stalwarts of the village hall committee and contributed immeasurably to the running of the hall and the many events put on over the years. These three wonderful people all passed away over the last few years and the current committee wanted to create a lasting memory to them. Many will remember Ann Knights from the Old Hall who acted as a trustee. Ann was a generous supporter and participated in as many events as she could including the regular art group of which Jean Austen was also founder member.



The bench at Marlingford village hall.

When Jean moved to the village, she immediately became involved in many things. Her energy and enthusiasm for life was invaluable to the hall and she was instrumental in starting many activities that continue to this day. Vera Richardson was associated with the hall for as long as I can



View across the meadow this summer.

remember (30 years) and for many years before that. She was a regular at all the events and always worked hard to ensure that people had a good time.

We miss them all but now they have a fitting memorial to thank them for the time, energy and good cheer that they brought to the village hall. I am sure they would all have loved sitting on the bench to have a good 'mardle' and enjoy the view. The committee hope you will take advantage of the bench to chat, contemplate or just enjoy the location.

***Chris Whiting, Chairman,
Marlingford Village Hall Committee***

Do you know about the Colton Fuel Allotment Charity?

Every year, the residents of Colton village are entitled to a share of the fuel allotment charity monies. This old charitable fund was set up to help the residents of the village pay for their fuel over the cold winter months (perhaps needed more than ever this year!).

The entitlement dates back to the Enclosure Act of 1801, when residents lost the right to collect fuel from the Common Land. A piece of land, identified as The Poor Land, was set aside and rented out. The Trustees, who make annual return to the Charity Commissioners, agree an amount each year which is then distributed in cash to each household in Colton. The funds are divided out at the annual Christmas bingo which is run by the village hall committee. All villagers are welcome to attend and collect their money; many people then stay for a fun night of bingo and refreshments.



A snowy scene at St Andrews, Colton, 2013.
Picture: Annette Hudson.

The date for the bingo this year is **Saturday, December 10**. Some residents have been kind enough in the past to donate their fuel allotment money towards the running of St Andrews Church in Colton. The church costs a lot of money to keep going and, in these current times, the heating costs have also risen. If anyone feels able to donate their fuel allotment allocation to the church, please contact either **Liz Plater** on **07775 088190** E: ne.plater@btinternet.com or **Sarah Smith** on **07769 9976173** E: sarahsmith1968@btinternet.com

Your Local Safer Neighbourhood team

Community Engagement Officer Vicky Bailey PC 1425

T: 101 Ext: 1113

E: victoria.bailey@norfolk.police.uk



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

Beat Manager Natasha Indans PC 1869

T: 101 Ext: 4162

E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



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

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

YOUR Colton village hall

● Have a go at crafting!



Colton Art & Craft group meets every fortnight on **Wednesdays** from 10am to 12pm in Colton village hall. Materials, instruction and tea or coffee is provided and the cost is £5. **Next meeting, November 9.** Go on - give it a try! **For more details, contact Rosanna Ellis on 07765294347 or email rosannaellis@btinternet.com**

● Thursday coffee morning

All are welcome every Thursday in Colton village hall from 10am to 12pm. Drink and biscuits available.

● Colton Quiz

The quiz held on October 15 was very well attended – so much so that more answer sheets had to be printed! Prizes went to the **Quizzzy Rascals** who came first, and the **Odds and Sods** who came ninth. John Morse won the £10 football card sweepstake. £100 was raised for the village hall funds. Thanks to all who came to pit their wits!

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

We filled three huge boxes at our Harvest Festival service which went to the Food Bank in Norwich. Thanks to the Wiltshire family for their donation of food parcels. Coming up: a surprise afternoon on November 24 with 'We Three', horse racing (in-house), exchanging Christmas cards and, just before Christmas, carols with nibbles. We welcome members **every two weeks on Thursdays** at Easton village hall from 2pm until throwing out time at 4pm.

Tony Perry

● Easton Crafters Autumn Fayre

Thanks to everyone for supporting this on October 29. We raised the amazing amount of £949.69 for Alzheimers.

Janet Morris

● Easton Pop-In

We are always looking for volunteers to help out and with Brenda currently out of action, we are hoping for more help than usual. Pop In is on **Tuesdays** from 10am to 11.45am. Tea or coffee – 70p a cup or 90p a mug. Don't sit alone at home using your heating! All over 50s welcome.

Brenda Daynes and Tony Perry

Community and Fundraising Events

Marlingford village hall

● Enjoyable events

A wonderful evening was held on Saturday October 8 when the award winning **VIPs Acappella Chorus** came to the village hall. Thanks to all who helped and to everyone who came. Special thanks to the VIPs who travelled from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex to get to Marlingford! The group will be returning next year.

On October 18, popular speaker **Chris Bell** of **Weatherquest** came and gave another of his very interesting talks on **Storm Chasing and Global Warming**.

● Autumn Fair

With Christmas in mind, this event on Saturday October 22 offered an array of gifts, decorations and paintings by the Thursday art group. £145 from the takings was donated to Marlingford church fabric fund.

Felicity Maton

● Coming up - village hall talk

On Thursday November 24 at 7.30pm **The Gal Tina** will talk about '**Life Poems and Norfolk Squit**' – this is certain to be a fun-filled evening full of laughter! Refreshments available. Entrance fee is £5.





Don't miss Marlingford Christmas Fair

Marlingford village hall is holding its Christmas Fair this year on **Saturday December 3**, from 11am to 2pm. Come and join us to soak up the festive atmosphere of our recently



refurbished village hall. There will be stalls with cakes, jewellery, handcrafted ceramics/wood craft/quilts, tombola, raffle and refreshments. Entry is free.

News from Easton Women's Institute

Interesting talks

Easton WI met in October to hear **Simon White** tell us all about the **Gardens of East Anglia**. However, our subject at our meeting on Thursday, November 10 will be completely different. **Christine Chapman** will be coming to demonstrate **'lamp work'** for us. Also, something to look forward to at our December meeting, **Phil Butcher** will be coming with his programme of **'Stuff and Folly at Christmas'** and we will have visitors from other WIs to enjoy this together with a light buffet. It was a huge step forward for the Barford and District Group of WIs to hold our first meeting since 2019 at the end of September in Mattishall Memorial Hall.

Having worked hard to get this meeting up and running, I was unable to go due to Covid disrupting my life for the first time! Happily, it all went smoothly and those who went enjoyed the evening.

The group is made up of members from Barford, Bowthorpe, Easton, Hethersett and Mattishall WIs and now New Costessey WI have also decided to join us. We meet twice a year to enjoy good speakers and to get to know WI members from each other's villages.

Easton WI meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at Easton Village Hall and we are always pleased to welcome visitors to join us.

Mary Blathwayt

Struggling with bills? You can find help here

If you have money worries following the cost of living rise, don't panic – there is help available. The most important thing is to talk to someone and see if you can work something out.

Below are the details for a range of other agencies who may be able to offer help. This is just a selection of services provided by [Norfolk Association of Local Councils](#).

● For a further information on available help, please visit marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

General advice

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS) – helps people who are in financial hardship and cannot pay their living costs. [NAS](#)

Norfolk CABx – offer advice on money problems face to face, on the phone, via e-mail and webchat. T: 0800 144 8848 option 1

MoneyHelper – can point you towards local debt advice services online, on the phone or in person. moneyhelper.org.uk/en

Stepchange – free debt advice online and support for as long as you need. stepchange.org

Money Saving Expert (MSE) – offers help and advice on a whole range of subjects, including signposts to advice agencies.

moneysavingexpert.com

Food costs

Trussell Trust – operate a number of foodbanks around the county.

trusselltrust.org

Nourishing Norfolk – a range of hubs and schemes to help people eat economically and healthily.

Social supermarkets

These offer a wide range of affordable groceries, and other goods, to help people eat healthily.

The Feed – Norwich thefeed.org.uk

The Burrell Shop - Thetford the-burrell-shop

Energy costs

Money Saving Expert (MSE) offer advice on a range of subjects including energy.

askbill.org.uk

National Energy Action (NEA)

advice to householders on energy bills and keeping warm and safe in their home. nea.org.uk

Age UK – Advice for older people ageuk.org.uk

SCOPE – Advice for people with a disability. scope.org.uk

How to help others by donating

NEA is asking those who don't need it, and can afford it, to donate their [Winter Fuel Payment](#) or [Energy Bill Support Grant](#); or to donate to our [Winter Warmth Support Pack](#) appeal. Click on the links for more information.

Easton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

CLlr Ben Moye – Chairman

**CLlr Peter Milliken –
Vice Chairman**

CLlr Stuart Renders

CLlr Peter McCarter

CLlr David Lewis

New Easton community centre

Easton Parish Councillors wish to announce the very exciting news that work is scheduled to start on the new Easton community centre on 27 October 2022. A lot of hard work has been done in the background to reach this point and the new centre will be a wonderful asset for the village and a focal point of activity in the future.

St Peter's path

After lengthy correspondence and legal advice, it has now been confirmed St Peter's path is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council Highways Department. Any residents with concerns or issues about this path should direct them to Norfolk County Council.

norfolk.gov.uk

Tree warden needed for Easton

If you have knowledge of trees and woodland or are a keen environmentalist with an interest and some spare time you may wish to consider this vacancy. If you are interested, please email: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk



Persimmon Homes

The parish council has highlighted breaches concerning the phase one build. Persimmon Homes has complied with the discharge of *Condition 42*, however South Norfolk council has failed to discharge this condition and has not yet provided any solutions. This leaves a 'caveat emptor' situation until *Condition 42* is discharged. It is for buyers to decide if the risks are worth it. There will be road closures on Bawburgh Road while works take place and notices should be received before closures.

Transfer of play areas

Easton parish councillors are pleased to report the play areas at Cardinal Close and St Peter's Drive have finally been transferred to Easton Parish Council from South Norfolk Council.

Bus shelter and waste bins

An additional bus shelter is to be installed on Dereham Road. The parish council is also placing four extra bins around Easton near the church, close to the school, Bawburgh Road and also by the village sign.

Councillor vacancies

There are still some vacancies for the role of Parish Councillor.

If you are interested please contact the clerk.

Easton Parish Council

The Village Hall, Marlingford Road,
Easton NR9 5AD

W: eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

How to report highway problems in our area

Norfolk County Council Highways department is responsible for most of the 6,000 miles of roads in Norfolk. They have a page on their website for the public to report problems they come across on the roads in the county. These are some of the problems that can be reported there:

Potholes: Large holes on the road, path or cycleway surface.

Drainage and flooding: Standing water, ditches, blocked drain, flooded property, impassable road



Flooded or impassable roads can be reported online.

Highway damage: Cracks or other damage to a road (potholes has its own section)

Hedges and trees: Trees or hedges that have fallen into the road or are leaning, unstable, diseased or dying

Streetlights: Broken, missing or problem streetlights

Manhole cover: Broken, missing or rocking manhole cover

Grass, weeds or verges: overgrowth creating issues or obstructions

Road signs and posts

Damaged, missing or dirty road and warning signs

Obstructions, spillages and

mud: Thick mud, soil, stones, embankment slips, large branches and illegal road signs

Road markings: White and yellow, stop or give way lines

Go to: norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem

to make a report. You can create an account if you wish to receive updates on the problem or just continue without registering and follow the instructions to simply make the department aware of it.

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

**Dr Paul Hammerton,
Vice Chairman**

Cllr Mr Steve Clarke

Cllr Prof Carole Farrow

Cllr Mr David Woods

Cllr Mrs Caroline Agate

Council vacancy

Following our previous notices in The Grapevine and the community newsletter, the Parish Council is still keen to invite interested residents to become councillors.

If you are interested in local issues and want to make a difference in your community, being a councillor could be for you.

We are particularly keen to welcome newly-arrived residents who want to get to know their neighbourhood and its workings. Why not come along to one of our meetings and see what the role entails? If you want to know more, please contact our parish clerk:

Maria Hutson

T: 01603 850118

E: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

or our chairman:

John Morse

T: 07760 557488

E: jmorse_MCPC@yahoo.com

Please note that with effect from our next meeting on November 8, all future meetings will take place in Colton village hall.

Colton amenity area

We are delighted to announce that the lease on the Colton amenity area, and village hall car park has been signed. We would however still like to encourage our residents to make as much use of the facilities as possible. The Parish Council has already identified additional facilities that we are looking to provide, but we are anxious to receive suggestions as to how the facility may be used in future.

Speeding

The Parish Council continues to monitor traffic volumes and speeding issues in Marlingford and Colton. One of our SAM-2 cameras has recently been returned from a refurbishment and as such, traffic flow in both villages will continue to be monitored. We are also in dialogue with the police who have confirmed that the roads are not safe and that jointly, we need to identify other mitigation techniques designed to be effective in slowing down traffic and seeing reduced volumes. We are particularly interested in monitoring traffic as,

in early 2023, planned upgrades to the A47 will mean there will be increased volumes of traffic looking for 'rat runs' through our villages.

Budgets and grants

As the Parish Council now prepares its draft budget for 2024/25, we are hoping to identify which areas of expenditure, beneficial to our communities, will be of value.

As part of this process, we would like to invite relevant organisations to apply for money through a grant application process for the 2024/25 budget.

We will shortly be preparing an application form which will be available upon request from our parish clerk.

Warm spaces

South Norfolk Council wants to work with its communities to create a network of Warm Spaces – a group of venues where South Norfolk residents can come together to keep warm, enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit (or two).

Community groups, faith organisations, CIC's, CIO's, parish and town councils, and trusts can all apply for a Warm Space Grant provided they have a bank account that the grant can be paid in to.

Private organisations, or proposals that promote a religious or political purpose are not eligible to apply.

● **For more information, click here:** [warm-spaces-grant](#)

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm (except August). The next meetings will be held on

● **Tuesday 8th November at Colton village hall** (*right*)

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.



Contact details for clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Maria Hutson

T: 01603 850118

E: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

W: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

Early morning starts help to avoid the heat of the midday sun

Part two of Ann's trek along the Camino de Santiago sees her battling the intense Spanish heat.



Being Irish, I am not very tolerant of hot weather, certainly not walking in temperatures of over 30 degrees. So I started to get up before sunrise at 4:30am to start walking and would stop before noon, thereby avoiding the merciless heat of the hot midday sun. This was one of the most beautiful experiences of the whole Camino. It was wonderful to be walking as the light began to gently illuminate the darkness and grow increasingly more intense. It was so very peaceful. As screeching swallows swooped down over the glowing meadows practically fanning my face with their wings, I thought how lucky I was to experience this. At times like this, I felt happy to be alive, listening to the rhythmic click of my walking poles while butterflies emerged stretching their wings in the morning light and sleepy lizards and snakes found their positions to sunbathe for the day. It wasn't long though before fitter pilgrims would begin to pass me



Arrows indicate the direction of travel.

on the road calling out "Buen Camino" as they passed. The other advantage of an early start was that I usually arrived as the hostel was opening and so could bag a bottom bunk, have a shower, wash out my clothes and hang them out before the hostel would begin to fill up. The heatwave continued. One day, just three kilometres from Estella, my destination that day, I decided to stop for a coke – not usually a favourite drink of mine, but wonderfully refreshing in the heat. I went into a little local café.



The Cruz de Ferro.



A tranquil scene along the way.

It was bliss. It had air conditioning! There were many local people there and I got chatting. Then I ordered a beer and then another one. Big mistake! When I ventured outside after spending an hour there, it was into a scorching heat of 38 degrees! I honestly thought I would collapse, have a heart attack or stroke, just walking those last few kilometres; that was also the day I got my first blisters!

You can never really get lost on the Camino because of the yellow arrows, the scallop shells and signposts that mark the way. But it can be difficult walking through cities, and in Logrono I did get lost – not much fun in the searing heat.

There were things I came to look out for, which gave me fortitude, like seeing a communications mast

as you were dragging yourself uphill because you knew that you were approaching the highest point and would soon be descending. Another was when you could see a church tower on the horizon because you would know that a town was nearby, where you could have a rest and a coffee and perhaps a bed for the night.

The small churches in the towns and villages impressed me a lot more than the huge, pompous cathedrals in the cities. They were humble, atmospheric and built very simply from local stone.

Many of these churches had the added bonus of having storks nesting in their towers; a wonderful sight to behold.

The Cruz de Ferro is a tall iron cross at the highest point of the whole Camino. Tradition has it that pilgrims bring a stone from their

hometown to leave at the foot of the cross, symbolising a release of burdens. I arrived to see the sunrise and reverently left my two stones, one from Donegal, Ireland and one from Winterton, Norfolk, both places that I hold close to my heart. And so, I continued ever westwards, getting stronger by the day, meeting old companions and every day meeting new ones. I always walked alone, at my own pace, but every hostel I stayed at was a new, sociable and interesting experience.

After many more highs and lows, I triumphantly strode into Santiago de Compostela on July 1. At the pilgrim's office, I proudly received my Compostela, and finally, to crown it all, at the pilgrim's mass in the Cathedral that



Triumphant at completing the pilgrimage!

day, they blessed the pilgrims with the Botafumiero; a huge incense burner or censer which has been in use since mediaeval times. It is a truly spectacular scene to witness and a very fitting finale to the pilgrimage.

New sign at Colton church announces services



St Andrew's Church Colton now has an additional sign for informing parishioners of forthcoming services. The sign will be hung the week leading up to a regular Sunday service or any forthcoming special events such as the Christmas carol service. Special thanks to our fabric officer Terry Scrivener and David Sweales of 'Under Wraps' vehicle wrapping services for making the sign.

The Rambling Vine



Posada figures in Colton church.

Picture: Liz Plater

Help us all to carry on the Posada tradition

St Andrews church, Colton has a beautiful set of Nativity models known as the Posada figures. The Posada tradition originates in Mexico. It commemorates the long and difficult journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Mary would find safe refuge to give birth to the baby Jesus. In Mexico, people dress up as Mary and Joseph; a small child, dressed as an angel, leads them around the village as they seek refuge in village houses from 16 – 24 December. Songs are sung and meals shared. In Colton, we would like to continue our own tradition of

passing the Posada figures from home to home before bringing them to the village carol service on 18 December. Families are encouraged to give a home to the figures for a night before passing them on to another family. They are a lovely reminder of the Christmas story and a way for the whole family to focus on why we celebrate the Christmas festival.

● **If you would like to receive the figures in your home for an evening please let Sarah Smith (01603 757865) or Liz Plater know (01603 880556) and we will happily include you in the plan.**

Liz Plater

Get knitting now for this year's Nativity!

We are looking for volunteers to knit small sheep to use around all the communities in our Benefice in the run up to Christmas – that's a lot of sheep!
So, if you love to knit and would be

able to make us one (or a few!) we would be very grateful.

If you would like a pattern to follow, then please call

Felicity Maton: 01603 880846

or email: f.maton@btinternet.com



Sunday services November 10am (unless otherwise stated)

6th Bawburgh

13th 10.45am - Easton:
Remembrance

3pm - Forest church,
Queen's Hills

20th Colton:
All age service

27th Marlingford:
Advent carol
service



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Marlingford – Route: CEN 317 Wednesday: November 23

Stop no	Arrives	Departs	Postcode
18: Colton Road near Home Farm	2.10pm	2.25pm	NR9 5HS
20: Mill Road	2.30pm	2.45pm	NR9 5HU

Colton –Route: CEN 319 Wednesday: November 2 and 30

38: Ex post Office	5pm	5.15pm	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 419 Thursday: November 24

6: Parkers Close	10.45am	11am	NR9 5EE
8: Marlingford Road	11.05am	11.25am	NR9 5AD
10: Marlingford Way	11.30am	11.50am	NR9 5HB
12: Kennedy Close	11.55am	12.10pm	NR9 5EY
14: St Peter's Drive	12.15pm	12.45pm	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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