

THE Grapevine

July/August 2023

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford

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woodwork**
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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	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
Marlingford Village Hall bookings	John Bailey – 01603 880266 M: 07986 609319 jaydeebailey@gmail.com
Community Car Scheme for Easton only	Jean and Dave Ditton – 01603 880857
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wyndham 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: Field of poppies.
Picture: Annette Hudson.



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1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
100	150	250	400

Colour back page:

	300	400	
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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 01603 744551
eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com
172 Fairways, Queen's Hills,
Costessey NR8 5GB

Reader Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton 01603 880255

St Peter's Church, Easton

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

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

Treasurer 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 carolachiles@gmail.com 01508 578352

St Mary and St Walstan's Church, Bawburgh

PCC contact Lin Gibson 01603 744683

Need a bus? Here are your local bus services

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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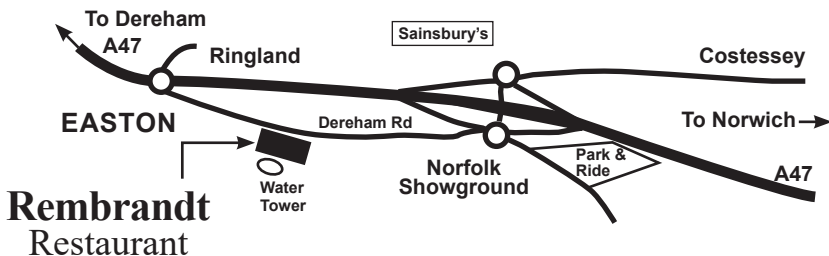
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THE Grapevine

The three of us, such friends we were...

Research shows there are more than 850,000 people in the UK with dementia. The number of people with dementia is increasing because people are living longer. It is estimated that by 2025, the number of people with dementia in the UK will be more than 1 million.

It can be very emotional visiting a friend or relative with the condition and Colton resident Ann Dunn has composed this poem which sensitively portrays her own experience.

● **For information on dealing with dementia, visit dementiauk.org**

A Visit

Remember me?
Ann Marie?
Och my goodness me!
Ann Marie!
Rose's grandchild!
Look at you now,
sure you're all grown up!
I hear the whirr of the ceiling fan...
She takes my hand.
On the beach outside
the white waves roll
silently on the grey shore sand....
Who are you again?
Och yes
Rose!
Rose, Ah those were happy days....
The three of us, such friends we were,
Making tea outside on a primus stove
On a rainy day without a care
How we laughed,
Laughed.....

The clock ticks heavily.
Black hands on a weathered
yellow face.
tracing out the seconds,
pace by pace.....
night, morning, noon,
sun and moon,
sun and moon....

Sorry, who's this you are again?
Och yes
Your daddy.....
Huge dark eyes search bleakly
meekly,
through thick opaque glasses
that reflect the evening light...
Your daddy would try his hand at
anything...
Och the cars, the cameras,
Model planes and boats and kites....

Ann M Dunn

Deadline for items for the September issue: Friday, August 25
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton village hall

- **Annual BBQ** : Saturday July 15.
Details on p13.
- **Save these dates!** :Saturday
September 9: Curry Evening,
Details will be posted around Colton.
Saturday October 14: Colton Quiz
- **Thursday coffee morning**
All are welcome to the coffee
morning every **Thursday** in Colton
village hall from **10am to 12pm.**
- **Hall hire**
Colton village hall can be hired for
events including birthday parties
or wedding receptions. The cost
per hour is £7.50 for residents and
£15.00 for others.
For more details, contact **Vicky
Green** on **01603 881336** or email
vicky@mgarchery.co.uk

Marlingford village hall

- **Thursday Talks – 7.30pm start
with refreshments and raffle**
July 6: Tombland, Norwich:
A long and colourful history with
David Berwick. £5.
July 27: The Magnificent Seven
with Jim Stebbings. Fascinating and
shocking facts of the lives of seven
American songwriters. £5.
**August 24:. Running a B&B in a
farmhouse in rural Turkey** with
Jenny Gibbs and Mustafa Bas. 5.

Save these dates!

Friday, October 20

Bingo Night

Marlingford village hall

Friday, December 16

Carol Singing

The Old Hall, Marlingford

Monday, May 6 2024

Church fete

Marlingford Village Hall

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

Easton village hall

● **Easton Good Companions**

July 6: Games afternoon

July 20: Hazel's birthday party.

August 3: Talk on Royal British
Legion by Stewart Blackburn

August 17: T. B.A.

August 31: Gal Tina (Talk local Gal
torkin' 'bout Loyfe and 'at)

The group is open to all over 50s.

We welcome members **Thursdays**
at Easton village hall from **2pm-
4pm.** Pop along and meet us!

Tony Perry

● **Easton Pop In**

We are still open every Tuesday
from 10 until 11.45 serving
coffee and tea to the people of
pensionable age.. who just like a
bit of company and a chat.

Brenda and Tony



**COLTON
SUMMER
BBQ**
**SATURDAY
JULY 15**
from 5pm
PLUS
* Prize Raffle *

Bring your own drinks
and join the fun at
Colton Village Hall!

Unwanted items needed!

If you have any new, unused items/gifts that would be good for raffle/tombola prizes, we would gladly receive them to raise money for St Mary's Church, Marlingford Fabric Fund. Second-hand books are also welcome for a future book stall. Items can be given to Felicity, Jane or left in the church.

Thank you.

Norfolk Day Thursday July 27



Tea and cakes – 2.30 to 4pm
served from the Coachhouse
at The Old Hall
Bawburgh Road,
Marlingford NR9 5HX



Donations of £5 per person for
Marlingford Church Fabric Fund

Quiz Night at The Bell, Marlingford

First Sunday of the month:

September 3, October 1

November 5, December 3

6.30pm for first questions
at 7pm – teams of four

2.50 per person (cash please)

If you don't have a team, just come
along and join a team on the night.

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

Colton churchyard car park improvements

Many will know that the car park in the churchyard becomes very muddy during the winter months. Indeed, in recent years, we have tried to restrict usage to the hours around our monthly church service by keeping the bollard over the entrance. The carol service is always a challenge, when our numbers increase hugely and each year we hope that no one will require the use of a tractor after the service to drag them out of the mud!!! We are conscious that, in keeping the car park closed, we are restricting its use for those who would like to park there and enjoy local walks.

The PCC of St Andrew's is now in a very fortunate position in that we have the funds to improve the car park. Having taken advice, this will need to involve a permanent hard core and possibly shingle embedded on top. We would delimit the carpark with 'sleepers' hoping that the final effect will be in keeping with the rural nature of the churchyard and do everything to maintain the beauty of the setting. The sleepers will mark the break between the car park and present line of newest graves. We will, of course, be following



St Andrew's church in fine weather.

due process and will obtain quotes and necessary permissions from the Diocese.

If anyone in the village would like to chat to us about this, we would welcome comments, experience and names of contractors that villagers have used. We know that the east end of the churchyard will look a little different as a result of this work but our aim is to enhance the use of the churchyard and church, and make the car park a facility for all in the community, and beyond, to enjoy.

Liz Plater

(PCC secretary 01603880556)

Sarah Smith

(Churchwarden 01603 757865)

Terry and Judy Scrivener

(PCC Fabric Officer and Treasurer)

News from Easton Women's Institute

Naughty but nice!



WI members enjoy a cream tea in the train carriage.

I am writing this the day after Easton WI's very successful outing to Sheringham to enjoy a cream tea on the North Norfolk Railway to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the formation of our WI.

The sun shone, the train was on time and the tea was "naughty but nice"!



July talk

At our meeting on **Thursday July 13** at 7.30pm in the village hall we will be having a talk called **The Spinster's Tale – a woman's work**. We do not have a meeting in August but on **Thursday August 10** at 10.30am we will be having a

coffee morning in the village hall. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee (or tea) and cake plus all the usual entertainments!

Coming up

Our first meeting in September is on Thursday September 14 when **Cheryl Cade** is coming with her **Cheesy Chat** (with samples including vegetarian cheese). Later in the month on Monday September 25 we will be hosting the Barford and District Group autumn meeting when the speaker will be **Susan Dawson** with her talk **From Bed and Breakfast to Bed and Bondage**. I am assured this talk is not too sensational but sounds as if it is likely to be a bit of a laugh!

Easton WI has got through the Covid years almost intact but, like a lot of organisations and clubs, we have lost a few members for a variety of reasons. We are always pleased to welcome new members or visitors who can drop in to find out what the WI is all about. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of every month except August at 7.30pm in Easton village hall. We would love to meet any of the new residents of the village as well as anyone else interested to come along and find out about us.

Mary Blathwayt

Operation Randall – wildlife crime update

It has been an incredibly varied month. We have managed to finalise an investigation in relation to destruction/disturbance of a protected European species, namely Great Crested Newts. This work required a licence from Natural England which is now in place and restorative work has been carried out.

A donation to a local wildlife charity has been paid as part of a community resolution. If you plan to carry out any work that requires or likely to require a licence, please make sure the licence is fully in place before work is carried out.

We have also had a number of reports of nesting birds being disturbed and destroyed. These can be incredibly frustrating crimes to deal with as we need to prove the nest is active. That said we have

stepped into contacting a few builders/developers where it looks like work is going to be carried out damaging such nests these have included seagulls, house sparrows and blue tits over this month. All nests are protected whilst being built or active, they cannot be removed until the end of the season around the end of August. Also, we had a slightly unusual call when a landowner was accused of damaging some bluebells whilst replacing an old worn-out track. Whilst bluebells are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, they're an exception under the legislation and protected from being offered for sale and linked offences rather than like many of the other plants listed under the act from destruction.

Christopher.holmes2@norfolk.police.uk

Your Local Safer Neighbourhood team

Beat Manager

Stuart Barnard Sgt 499

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Beat Manager

Natasha Indans PC 1869

T: 101 Ext: 4162

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

Raising money to retain our lovely churches

The annual church Bike Ride is always a popular and well supported event. Last year, 622 gallant participants raised an extraordinary total of £134,301. This was an increase of more than £3,000 from 2021. This is surely a reflection of how much people want to preserve Norfolk's iconic churches.

Our thoughts now turn to the 2023 Bike Ride and we are working towards this year's 40th anniversary event on September 9.

We wonder if the pioneering people who first did the Bike Ride in 1983 would believe that it is still going strong in 2023 and that the event has raised over £4 million for churches. We still have our magnificent churches and we don't think we have lost any in the last 40 years thanks to the Bike Ride, the Norfolk Churches Trust and our amazing supporters. However, the challenges are still enormous and we hope you will celebrate this 40th year by making a huge effort to support a church

of your choice and the Norfolk Churches Trust by taking part in the 40th Bike Ride. We would also love to hear from anybody who took part in the first bike ride.

In the meantime, sit back, relax and bask in a heartfelt thank you from all of us here.

Norfolk Churches Trust
Bike Ride committee

Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for quarter ending June 2023

	Number	Member	
First	32	John Bailey	£50.00
Second	48	Carol Chiles	£35.00
Third	39	Jane Knights	£25.00
No bonus until Christmas issue			

The thrill of success after finding out you've been doing it wrong all these years...

I've always enjoyed making things with wood. Whether or not it has ever qualified as 'proper' carpentry is a moot point; nothing I've ever cobbled together would excite a fan of Chippendale or Hepplewhite. Or even IKEA. It is not for want of ambition. When I was at school, I went into woodwork class with an order from a customer in the bag already – mum wanted a fender stool, three feet long, a foot wide, in mahogany, with Queen Anne legs. The woodwork master, Jack Green, was delighted that someone wanted to do something other than a shelf and so I set to work. I had done most of the complicated stuff and more or less assembled the piece when the school year ended and I left, but it wasn't quite finished. The stool went into the garage where woodworm pretty much ate the lot. Over the years I've made various things, some of which have even ended up being used in the house. I have an issue with scale; a bookcase for a few paperbacks became big enough to house a chunk of the British Library collection, a cabinet for a small corner expanded to a size large

enough to rent out as an AirBnB. And nothing I've made was ever done properly – wonky cuts, not a square edge in sight and no joints which were not held together with screws, big nails or half a pint of strong glue. Finding myself at a loose end after departing from the world of work, I spotted an ad for free adult learning courses from Norfolk County Council. What's this? Basic bench carpentry? Why not? And so I presented myself at a brand-new, brilliantly-equipped construction training facility in Hellesdon on a Monday evening for the first of six three-hour sessions. The basic course really is basic – how to hold a saw properly, for instance. But I discovered that I have been doing it wrong for the past 45 years (sorry Mr Green) and



The completed table – a piece of furniture any IKEA fan would be proud of! Picture: Dominic Castle

A walk in the woods

Following her recent fundraising success, nine-year-old Elona Moore's latest initiative has been to make your circular walks into and out of Colton Wood a little more interesting. She has placed several painted pebbles along the footpaths and invites you to see how many you can find. There are seven pebbles in total, illustrated here. Colton & Marlingford Parish Council has

photographs and a map of each of the seven positions so if you can't find them, let us know!



exulted in suddenly being able to cut wood in a straight line. We were shown the essentials of working with hand tools, marking out, making proper mortice and tenon joints, how to use a chisel to chop out wood. All good stuff. We were let loose on a project of our choice and, yet again, ambition reared its head. An order for a side-table, Scandi-style, with gently splayed white oak legs and a ply top, came in. But this time, thanks to the help of the tutor, the time to do it and the increased knowledge, I did it properly. In the interests of transparency, I should say that I did do some of the work at home and did use a power tool (a router to shape the edges of the top and the legs) but the rest was hand-made with not a

nail or screw in sight.

If I may be so immodest, I think it looks pretty decent. Sure, if you look closely you'll see the odd wobbly line or slight gap, but it's a functional and not unattractive piece. And it didn't end up being much bigger than planned. At the time of writing, I'm in the middle of the intermediate course – still free – and not making a bad fist of the task we have been set – creating a carpenter's box. Where I go from there I'm not sure, but I'll have a look through the 449 courses on offer and see what I fancy. I've always liked the idea of pottery...

Dominic Castle

● Find out more here:
norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/adult-learning

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

**Dr Paul Hammerton,
Vice Chairman**

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr David Woods

Public Rights of Way

Please ensure that if you have a public right of way next to or through your property that it is kept clear from obstructions to allow walkers to enjoy these paths. Some paths cross, or are between fields, and we ask landowners to ensure that they remain accessible.

Amenity areas

Colton amenity area has had an 'upgrade'! The parish council is pleased to announce that through the fundraising efforts of Elona Moore and community infrastructure levy funds, the area is now equipped with a nest swing and a slide. The parish council would like to thank Elona for raising the money that has helped allow these improvements. Take a visit and enjoy this lovely area.

Calling all residents – your village needs you!

The villages of Marlingford and Colton are served by a single parish council, which has an important role in oversight of issues such as highways and

planning applications, along with responsibility for care of the amenity and play areas. Councillors have no political affiliation. Serving on the council is a rewarding experience, getting to know the residents and helping to maintain a sense of community in our villages.

I feel the time has come for me to step down, after having served for almost eight years on the council, much of that time as either chair or vice-chair. With increased pressure of work at the university, I was not going to stand for re-election this summer, but that would have left the parish council with no representative from Marlingford.

I have decided that to step down in March 2024 to allow time for other Marlingford residents to volunteer to serve our village. We have a great set of councillors from Colton but there are three vacancies, so new volunteers could be co-opted onto the council.

This would allow a transition period while I am still vice-chair of the council. It would be a real

shame if no one from Marlingford was prepared to serve on the council. Please consider offering yourself for co-option onto the parish council as it is important both villages are represented. If you would like to find out more about it, please come along to one of our meetings on July 11th or September 12th. The former meeting will be held at Marlingford Cricket Club, the latter at Colton village hall.

Paul Hammerton (Vice-Chair, Marlingford and Colton PC)

Clerk's note: The parish council currently has four members and is able to have a maximum of seven so we are looking at filling three vacancies. There will be a further vacancy in the spring when Paul Hammerton steps down.

Bus Services

Following a consultation process, Norfolk County Council is proposing some changes to the bus timetables serving Colton and Marlingford, which are due to take effect from September.

The council recognises the importance of rural transport and subsidises contracts for services at an average cost per passenger journey to reflect this. For example, a service may cost £10 per passenger journey. If it's the only

service for that community then the case to maintain the service is greater. The service to Longwater offers two different travel times. On Tuesday's there will be a bus at 09:32, returning at 11:15 or on Thursdays at 09:32, returning at 12:50, both with the option of connecting to the Konect 4 service which serves the city centre via the hospital. This would take 1 hour 45 minutes in the city centre. These times will not suit everyone but the council believes they are reasonable. There will also continue to be a pre-book service to Wymondham on Mondays but no longer on Fridays. This is unfortunate because it means prospective passengers can't use the service to attend the Friday farmer's market in Wymondham. The county council recognises this means a change in routine for some passengers. However, they have considered such adjustments in the context of a wider review of services throughout the county and conclude it's not always possible to keep all services and timetables the same when making wider changes. The parish council would like to hear from residents about the acceptability of these proposed changes in order to provide feedback to the county council.

Parish council meetings and public inclusion

Parish council meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

The next meeting will be held on:

- **Tuesday July 11, 7pm,**
at Marlingford Cricket Club
(pictured right)
- **Tuesday September 12, 7pm,**
at Colton village hall.

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

● Please note new times for each stop

Mobile library 2023 – July/August dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: July 13, August 10

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: July 12, August 9

38: Ex post Office 9.45am 10.00am NR9 5DB

Easton –Route: CEN 419

Thursday: July 13, August 10

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.



Get out and support your local cricket club!

They say there's nothing like the crack of willow on leather on a sunny afternoon – so why not spend a few pleasant hours watching your local cricket team? Marlingford Cricket Club is a village club playing social cricket.

It's an inclusive club focusing on the enjoyment of the game. Its idyllic setting provides a charm and ambiance resulting in a great experience for players and spectators alike. Club's address is: Mill Road, Marlingford NR9 5HL.

Marlingford Cricket Club fixtures 2023

Date	Team	Overs	H/A	Time
JULY				
Sun 2	Hardingham CC	40	Home	12.30pm
Thurs 6	Norwich Hockey Club	20	Away	6.00pm
Sun 9	Bodleian CC	40	Home	1.00pm
Thurs 13	Earlham Village CC	20	Home	6.00pm
Sun 16	St Andrews CC	40	Home	1.00pm
Thurs 20	Grass Hoppers	20	Home	6.00pm
Sun 23	Easton FC	40	Home	1.00pm
Thurs 27	Wombles	20	Home	6.00pm
Sun 30	Gt Ellingham CVC	40	Home	1.00pm
AUGUST				
Wed 2	Norwich Hockey	20	Home	6.00pm
Sun 6	Catton CC	40	Home	1.00pm
Wed 9	Ashby St Mary CC	20	Away	6.00pm
Sun 13	St Andrews CC	40	Away	1.00pm
Sun 20	Stiffkey CC	40	Home	6.00pm
SEPTEMBER				
Sun 3	Rudham CC	40	Home	1.00pm
Sun 10	Saham Toney	40	Home	1.00pm
Sun 17	Ashby St Mary	40	Away	1.00pm
Sun 24	Tbc	40	Home	1.00pm

Easton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Cllr Ben Moye – Chairman

Cllr Peter Milliken –
Vice Chairman

Cllr Peter McCarter

Cllr David Lewis

New community centre update

Easton Parish Councillors are pleased to confirm the Easton community centre building site is back up and running. Due to matters beyond the councillors' control, the site was shut down for three weeks. Overall, the build is about six weeks behind the original schedule, but it may be possible to claw back some of this time. The main slab is being poured at the time of writing and it is hoped by the next update the building will be up and watertight.

Maintenance in the village

Grass cutting of verges – Some residents reported a few areas that had been missed in the village grass cutting.

Cllr McCarter has spent some considerable time liaising with our contractors to sort this out. The issue was mainly caused by changes in staff and lack of handover which, hopefully, has now been resolved leading to an improved service going forward.



Please note Easton Parish Council is not responsible for all the verges and many are maintained by other authorities.

St Peter's path – There have been ongoing reports of overgrowth and lack of maintenance along St Peter's path.

It has been confirmed this path is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council and any concerns should be raised with them please at norfolk.gov.uk



Building work progressing on the new community centre.

Speed limit changes

At the time of writing, a public consultation is underway regarding proposed changes to the speed limits along Bawburgh Road and also Bluebell Way. Easton parish councillors are in support of these changes and have repeatedly requested a reduction in speed here. Details of the proposals may be viewed online at **norfolk.citizenspace.com/**.

Sundown Festival at the Norfolk showground

There was a meeting held recently to discuss this year's Sundown Festival. Easton parish councillor McCarter attended and met with the local police, U-Live and others



to raise concerns and issues that had been previously experienced by residents.

Plans to address issues such as festival goers entry and exit points and times, waste, drink/drug drivers, speeding through the village and disruption were discussed in detail.

Information leaflets will be circulated to all householders nearer the time and residents should use the telephone hotline to raise any concerns. (See parish council website for the number).

Welcome to our open spaces

With the onset of warm, sunny weather, we hope all our residents and families enjoy our open spaces and play areas during the summer. We would remind residents to please take their litter home where possible to ensure the areas remain clean and enjoyable for all users.

Please report any damage or incident via our website **eastonparishcouncil.co.uk** or direct to the clerk:

clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Any incidents of antisocial behaviour or vandalism should be reported to the police at the time. We welcome you to enjoy all our open spaces throughout the village, details of which are available on our website.



The Rambling Vine



If you need me – just let me know

Once upon a time, a vicar had a single parish where he would spend his days riding his bicycle round the village, visiting the two hundred or so households in his care, writing sermons and spending copious amounts of free time writing books or commentaries, discovering new plants and insects or, in Grantchester anyway, solving murders! He knew everyone and everyone in the community attended church every Sunday (sometimes twice!), and knew him.

Sadly, those days are long gone. In a recent article, I wrote that visiting people in times of darkness has been one of the greatest privileges of my ministry. Since I wrote that, I've been asked who it is that I visit so, as there seems to be some confusion, I thought I might explain.

Times have changed and we no longer look back with rose tinted glasses. I have four parishes in the benefice and a housing estate which has 900 homes in my care. It is impossible for me to know everyone and what is going on in each of those homes. I rely on others from the church community in each parish to let me know if someone would like me to visit

which they do very well, though sometimes, someone gets missed. I also have to rely on people taking the initiative to ask me themselves which, I appreciate, can be a difficult step.

Times have also changed in terms of people's religious beliefs – we have multiple faiths reflected in our benefice. Most of you reading this do not attend church on a regular basis and many of you will have no faith at all.

Church used to be a place where people came together and needs were shared. That remains true for those who are part of the worshipping community across the benefice, but church is something most people have chosen to 'opt out' of these days because it no longer reflects something that is real or important to them. Not everyone wants a visit from a vicar and especially not in times of crisis or difficulty –

I know people who would think this offensive, or even manipulative. Times also changed in terms of COVID-19. It is easy to forget that restrictions only lifted early last year and that, for example in our benefice, we cancelled larger Christmas services in 2021 for fear

of Omicron. For many, it seems a dim and distant memory. But even now, while for the majority of us life has returned to normal, there are people for whom it is a real risk to invite a stranger into their home who may have come into contact with the virus.

So the answer is actually a really simple one – I happily visit anyone who asks me to!

Thankfully there are many people willing to ask one of their church-going neighbours to contact me or who contact me directly.

I am happy to simply chat, or to bring home communion if you cannot get to church for mobility or health reasons. In fact, the benefice has a visiting team who would be happy to come out and see you if you don't want a visit from the

actual vicar!

So please don't sit in silence hoping that somehow I will just know you want me to visit – reach out and I will pop round.

I won't promise to have any answers to what you are going through, but I can sit and listen and pray with you.

For all the reasons given above please do not refer anyone to me without checking with them first, but if you do know someone who asks you to arrange a visit from me, then that's brilliant – my details are in *The Grapevine*, *The Bawburgh News*, the Diocesan Website, A Church Near You website, and in every church porch.

Please do get in contact - mine's a coffee, white with one!

Laura Montgomery

Church services July/August 2023

July		
Sunday 2	10.00am	Easton - Benefice HC
Sunday 9	10.00am	Bawburgh - all age HC
Sunday 16	10.00am	Marlingford - Benefice HC
Sunday 23	10.00am	Easton - Benefice HC
Sunday 30	10.00am	Colton - Benefice HC

August		
Sunday 6	10.00am	Easton - Benefice HC
Sunday 13	10.00am	Colton - all age HC
Sunday 20	10.00am	Marlingford - Benefice HC
Sunday 27	10.00am	Bawburgh - Benefice HC

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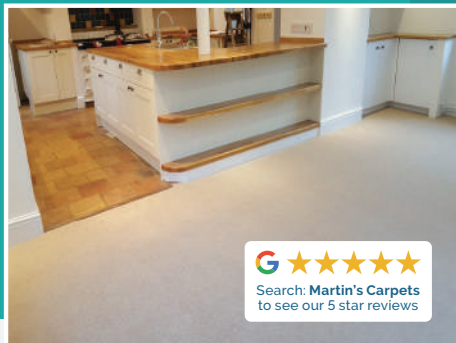
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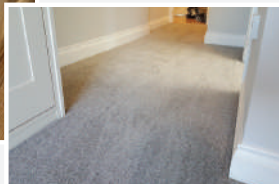
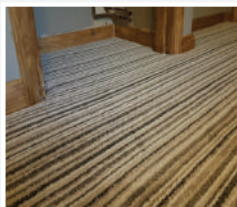
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