



# THE Grapevine

December 2023 – January 2024

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



- **Norfolk County Council's response to traffic concerns**  
pages 18-19

## PLUS

- **Local information**
- **Community interest**
- **Church services**  
(Benefice) page 27



**With best wishes for a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and peaceful New Year**



## Useful contacts

<b>St Peter's VC Primary School, Easton</b>	01603 880553
<b>Easton College</b>	01603 731200
<b>Easton College Tennis Centre</b>	01603 731302 easton.tennis@ccn.ac.uk
<b>Colton Village Hall</b>	Vicky Green – 01603 881336 vicky@mgarchery.co.uk
<b>Colton Carpet Bowls Club</b>	Dennis Mickleburgh – 01603 880391 Avalon, The Street, Colton
<b>Easton Bowls Club Secretary</b>	Peter Kidd - easton.bh@btinternet.com
<b>Easton Crafters' Club</b>	Mrs Janet Morris – 01603 471144
<b>Easton Football Club</b>	Michael Cossey – 01603 880143 73, Marlingford Way, Easton
<b>Easton Good Companions</b>	Pamela Hooker – 01603 880867
<b>Easton Gym Club</b>	01603 960511 enquiries@eastongymnasticsclub.com
<b>Easton Judo Club Coach</b>	Chris Abel – 0845 388 6895 chris@eastonjudoclub.co.uk 29, Goulburn Rd, Norwich
<b>Easton Junior Football</b>	Gavin Tipple – 01603 731585 gtipple@easton-college.ac.uk
<b>Easton Sports Centre</b>	Colin Brzeczek 01603 731263
<b>Easton Post Office</b>	Open Tues and Thurs 9am-2pm 01603 880007
<b>Easton Village Hall</b>	Roly and Christine Chapman 01603 880654
<b>Easton WI Secretary</b>	Mary Blathwayt – 01603 880574
<b>Little Owls at Colton Village Hall</b>	Katie Kemp 07790 276499
<b>Marlingford Village Hall</b> bookings	John Bailey – 01603 880266 M: 07986 609319 jaydeebailey@gmail.com
<b>Community Car Scheme for Easton only</b>	Jean and Dave Ditton – 01603 880857
<b>Citizens' Advice Bureau</b>	Wymondham 03444 111444
<b>Relate</b>	01603 625333
<b>Samaritans</b>	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:** Holly bush in St Andrew's  
churchyard, Colton.



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## The Grapevine

Local information.....	2-5
Village hall news .....	12
Community events .....	13-14
WI news.....	15
Beat news.....	16-17
Marlingford and Colton PC.....	20-21
Easton PC.....	22-24
Mobile library times .....	25
Church (Benefice).....	26

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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
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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

<b>Benefice Rector</b>	Revd Laura Montgomery eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com 172 Fairways, Queen's Hills, Costessey NR8 5GB	01603 744551
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<b>Reader</b>	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
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### St Peter's Church, Easton

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

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<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Anthony Perry, 7 Pegg Close, Easton	01603 882265
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Batchelor, 9, Cleves Way, Old Costessey	01603 322987
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### St Andrew's Church, Colton

<b>Churchwarden</b>	Sarah Smith, Bickerston Cottage, Church Lane, Colton	01603 757865
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<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Liz Plater, Church Cottages, Church Lane, Colton	01603 880556
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ	judy.scrivener@ googlemail.com
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### St Mary's Church, Marlingford

<b>Churchwarden</b>	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	01603 880846
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<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	01603 880846
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Carol Chiles carolachiles@gmail.com	01508 578352
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### St Mary and St Walstan's Church, Bawburgh

<b>PCC contact</b>	Lin Gibson	01603 744683
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# Need a bus? Here are your local bus services

## Bus services: Colton, Easton and Marlingford

There have been some changes to the bus services in Easton, Marlingford and Colton. Norfolk County Council has announced the following timetables which came into force 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  Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 9.32**	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](http://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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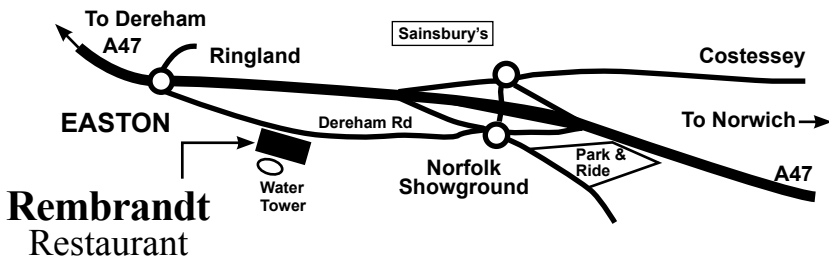
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Saturday 4pm - 8pm

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email: **[mcram@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mcram@tiscali.co.uk)**

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andrepairs.co.uk](http://www.lansdalechimneybuildersandrepairs.co.uk)**



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**Deborah Harding LCPH VMTRA**  
*Homeopathy & Reiki*

Mob: 07799 063 754

[debhardingnhp@gmail.com](mailto:debhardingnhp@gmail.com)

[www.debhardingnhp.com](http://www.debhardingnhp.com)

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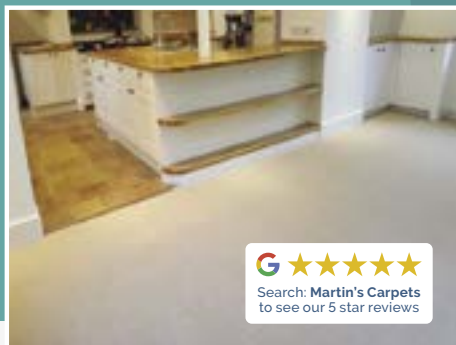
Hethersett: 01603 810022

17 Park Drive,  
Hethersett,  
Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,  
Hingham,  
Norfolk, NR9 4LJ

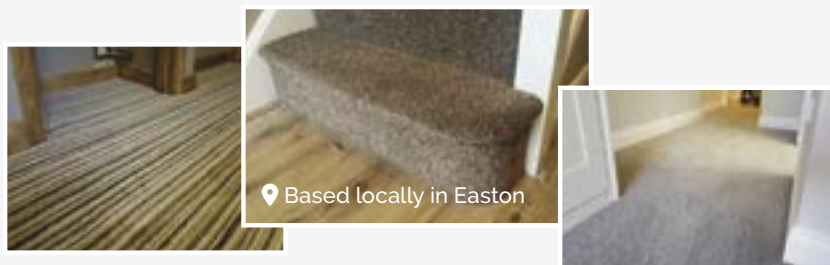
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Facebook: [martinscarpetsltd](https://www.facebook.com/martinscarpetsltd)

*Customer satisfaction is our priority.*

# THE Grapevine

## We really appreciate all your support!

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all who are supporting your community magazine. We know how much readers enjoy having their copies in print and donations go a long way towards us being able to give you more of these. Cost is a problem with rising paper and printing prices. We have some advertising revenue but it won't cover the cost of regular printing. If we had a cover price, it would be 50p, which works out at £5 per year for the 10 editions. So, if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of production for more printed editions of the magazine, you can do so by bank transfer. (Details for online donations are given below).

We very much appreciate the grants awarded by **Easton Parish Council** and **Marlingford & Colton Parish Council** to help us achieve that goal. And, of course, many thanks to those who deliver the printed copies to residents' homes in our three villages.  
**The Grapevine Committee:**  
**Annette (Editor), Felicity (Assistant Editor), Carol (Treasurer) and Sally.**



**Deadline for items for the February issue: Wednesday, January 24**  
**Email as word doc to: [annettegh57@gmail.com](mailto:annettegh57@gmail.com)**

## Have you enjoyed reading The Grapevine this month?

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of production for more printed editions of the magazine, you can do so by bank transfer.

**Account name:**  
**The Grapevine Magazine**  
**Business account no: 20420956**  
**Sort code: 20-99-08**  
Thank you!

# YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## Colton village hall

### ● Coffee Morning

**Saturday, December 9**

Opportunity to buy a coffee or tea and cake, and have a chat with your neighbours plus try your luck at the tombola! Just pop in to the village hall between 10am and 12pm.

Funds raised are for the village hall.

### ● Christmas Bingo

**Saturday, December 9**

Have fun – and collect your charity cash! It's the traditional festive family bingo. Eyes down at 7pm for the main event – plus a raffle and refreshments at half time.

From 6.30pm, the hall will be open for you to collect your Colton Charity Allotment cash – so you'll even have a bit of spending money!

## Marlingford village hall

**NOTE: We hope to have WiFi installed in Marlingford village hall before Christmas.**

### ● Village Hall Christmas Fair

**Saturday December 2:** Come and enjoy our popular Christmas Fair. 11am - 2pm. Stalls include handicrafts, craft, cakes, jewellery, knitwear and tombola. Mulled wine, bellringers and a Christmas raffle. **PLUS Santa is popping by too!**

### ● The VIPs Acapella Chorus - live!

**Saturday December 16**

Back by popular request!

Award-winning barbershop style chorus. 7pm for 7.30 pm

Bar, finger buffet and raffle.

£10.00 Advance booking only by December 9.

**T: 01603 880479**

**Marlingford Village Hall Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year. The village hall is 100 years old in 1924. Do keep a look out for events throughout next year to celebrate this special occasion.**

## Easton village hall

### ● Easton Good Companions

**Coming up:**

**Dec 7:** We will celebrate Pat and Pam's birthdays. If you are over 55 and wish to join us, we meet every two weeks at the village hall on

**Thursdays** from 2pm until 4pm.

Pop along and meet us!

*Tony Perry*

### ● Easton Pop In

Pop In – or as Clarice calls it “Drop In” – continues to grow.

One Tuesday in October, we had 23 people all putting the world to rights. We are having a **Bring & Share** lunch on **December 19**

# Community and Fundraising Events

after Pop In. There will be a list for people to put what they will bring. We will re-open after Christmas and New Year on **January 9, 2024**. Cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit – 70p. Where else can you get such a bargain? And if you want to splash out for 90p you can have a mug. We meet every Tuesday morning from 10am until 11.45am in Easton village hall. We are always looking for volunteers to help out!

*Brenda and Tony*

## ● Easton Crafters Club

Takes place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Easton village hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm doing various crafts including cards, jewellery and flower arranging with a workshop for members on the 2nd Tuesday.

**For more information, ring Janet on 01603 471144.**

## Autumn fayre success

Thanks to all the wonderful people who came to Easton Crafters Autumn Fayre on Saturday 28th October and for contributing to our charity this year of Guide Dogs for the Blind. We managed to raise the amazing sum of £905 09.

A very Happy Christmas and Peaceful  
New Year to all our readers

St Andrew's Church  
Colton

All are invited to our  
**Village Carol Service**  
Sunday December 17  
at 11am



followed by coffee  
and mince pies

88 22

# CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

AND CHARITY PAYOUT  
Saturday, December 9  
Colton Village Hall

13 Doors open: **6.30pm**  
Eyes down: **7pm**

★ PLUS RAFFLE ★

**Refreshments at 'half time'**  
Bring your own alcohol  
Donations of prizes gratefully received  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

# Community and Fundraising Events

Marlingford Village Hall

## Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 2  
11am - 2pm.

**Come and meet Santa!**

Handicrafts, cakes, jewellery,  
knitwear, tombola, mulled  
wine, bellringers and raffle.



**Quiz Night**

Marlingford Village Hall  
NR9 5HL  
**December 3**

Then first Sunday of each month

**6.30pm for 7pm start**  
**Teams of four**

Bring your own refreshments.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

**£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

who? when? why? how? who? when? what? where? which? when? what? when?

Marlingford Village Hall

Back by popular request!

## The VIPs Acapella Chorus – live!

Saturday December 16

Award-winning barbershop style chorus. 7pm for 7.30 pm  
Bar, finger buffet and raffle.

**£10.00 Advance booking only by  
December 9.**

**T: 01603 880479**

## Colton Art & Craft Group

Wednesdays

10am-12pm

Meet fortnightly at  
Colton Village Hall

**£4 per session**

For more details and  
to find out when the  
next meeting is,  
contact Rosanna Ellis  
on 07765294347

[rosannaellis@btinternet.com](mailto:rosannaellis@btinternet.com)

## News from Easton Women's Institute

### Big thanks to Marilyn

The members of Easton WI were very sorry to learn that Marilyn Cossey has had to step down as a committee member and as the WI secretary due to ill health. Marilyn has been a member of the WI for many years and has served as secretary for a very long time. The process of filling the secretary's role has started and we hope that someone will have stepped into the post by our Annual Meeting in February.

This will not be an easy task as Marilyn will be a very hard act to follow. We owe her a big thank you for all she has done for Easton WI over the years and we all send her our good wishes.

### Musical entertainment

By the time you read this we will probably have had our Christmas meal together on Thursday November 30 at Marlingford Bell at 12.30pm and will be looking forward to our next meeting which will be on **Thursday December 14** at 7.30pm when we will be entertained by a musical group called **We are Three**. We have also invited members from some of the surrounding WIs to join us to enjoy our meeting and the refreshments to follow.

### Sign language

At our following meeting on **Thursday January 11, 2024** at 7.30pm, Steve Hurley will be coming to talk to us about **British Sign Language**. All of us who have watched the Great British Bake-off will have seen the deaf contestant who has with her a signer who enables her to join in on the same terms as other contestants and will know what a wonderful thing it is to be able to communicate with a deaf person by signing.

### Save the Date!

Even further ahead our meeting on **February 8, 2024** will be our **annual meeting** and we are relying on our members to supply the entertainment!!

This worked very well last year and we hope to build on what was then a very successful meeting.

As I always say every month, we would be very happy to welcome new members and, as there is so much new building in the village, we hope that some of the new residents will come and find out about Easton WI.

You are welcome to attend up to three of our meetings as a visitor before deciding whether you would like to join us as a member.

*Mary Blathwayt*

## Be wary this autumn - secure your home

Burglary and thefts tend to increase during the autumn months as the afternoons get darker, making it easier to identify unoccupied homes, which are often left unlit. Residents can make their homes more secure by following some basic crime prevention advice such as:

- Use timer switches on a lamp, radio or TV set so that they turn on as it gets dark in the afternoons.
- Make a habit of checking that ground floor windows and doors are closed and locked when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Upstairs windows should be locked when the house is unoccupied.
- PVC doors must be locked by lifting the handle and turning the key to ensure all the security features are in place.
- Car and house keys should be

Picture: Pixabay



Lock upstairs windows when house is unoccupied.

kept out of sight in a safe place.

Don't leave them on display on windowsills, in porches, hallways or kitchens.

- Secure your rear garden by shutting and locking any gates. Burglars can use garden tools, like ladders to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.

### Your Local Safer Neighbourhood team

#### Beat Manager

**Stuart Barnard Sgt 499**

E: [SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk)



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#### Beat Manager

**Andrew Sneddon PC**

T: 101 Ext: 5699

E: [SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk)



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



## Operation Randall - tackling rural crime

Many of our native mammals are quickly building up their reserves to get them through the winter. The hedges still have a few berries on them and all the chestnuts and acorns are dropping for the squirrels and mice to clear up. Our other popular mammals, hedgehogs and bats, will be entering hibernation and it is essential they are not disturbed whilst hibernating. Bats will unlikely be seen until around May time now. Hedgehogs are a little less predictable with some not fully hibernating at all and their behaviour changes significantly depending on the weather. That said, if you see hedgehogs out and about during daylight hours, please seek advice as this is not normal behaviour at anytime of year. Many of our native birds will be enjoying the fruits of the hedgerows for a few more weeks but these will quickly disappear. If you can provide some fat balls and nuts over the coming months, they will be enjoyed. It's a lovely sight to see in your garden during these slightly duller months. Our coastline and waterways see an influx of migratory birds from colder climates, who enjoy our milder winters. You will also see

fields of geese, particularly the pink-footed geese, who love to feed on the waste sugar beet tops which are left behind from the harvester during the winter period. This can be a very surreal sight to see fields full of geese in quiet inland areas. Our farms tend to be a little quieter but let's be honest, there is rarely a moment to take stock on a farm! Arable farms will be making use of any dry weather windows to get cultivations done and the last of any autumn planted crops in the ground (given how wet it has been I doubt there will be much more in the ground this side of Christmas now!). Otherwise, it is a vital period to complete annual maintenance on machines and buildings. Livestock farms probably hit one of their most intensive periods, with nearly all livestock now inside, which is labour intensive with daily feeding and clean bedding needed. Cattle do not generally thrive outside over winter unless they can be kept on some very free draining soil or a purposely grown crop like stubble turnips. Sheep cope a little better and you will see these outside throughout winter as their small feet don't cause so much damage and mess.

# NCC responses to our traffic concerns

In last month's *Grapevine*, Marlingford and Colton Parish Council put five questions to Norfolk County Council Highways department about what they will do to address the problem of traffic being diverted through Colton and Marlingford when the A47 is closed. These responses were circulated in the November newsletter:

**M&CPC:** 1 The roadway is cleared, cleaned and any damage is repaired at the earliest opportunity. 2 Arrangements will be put in place to urgently repair and reinstate verges, hard standing, barriers and walls which have been damaged by the volume of traffic.

**NCC:** Roads will be inspected, and repairs actioned as soon as possible (though the wet ground will affect the timing of this).

A contractor has been instructed 'at the earliest opportunity' to send a road sweeper and possibly a digger to clean the road, which will be inspected for damage once clear.

**M&CPC:** 3. Erect signage to permanently stop lorries and other large vehicles attempting to use our local, single lane roads.

**NCC:** To do this a Traffic Regulation Order is needed. This would require a full consultation process and is likely to be challenged by local businesses/farming. NB Mr.



Traffic at a standstill in Colton.

Mayo's colleague witnessed, during an inspection, farming activities in the parish continuing to push soil onto the part of the road and causing further verge erosion). Advisory signage could be an alternative but is non-enforceable. If the parish wishes to pursue a possible TRO to restrict large/heavy vehicles, Mr. Mayo recommends discussing with your local member/s Cllr Margaret Dewsbury and/or Cllr Greg Peck who may consider a potential bid via the Road Safety Community Fund scheme.

**M&CPC:** 4. Ensure that the police, or any other authority, know that the roads through Colton are, and always will be unsuitable for any overflow traffic.

**NCC:** Under a blue light situation, police will understandably focus on the incident itself, mindful not to increase risk of consequential incidents occurring as a result. The county council regularly engages with the police and other

authorities to discuss issues and we will reiterate the impact of diverted 'trunk' road traffic on unsuitable rural roads. When reviewing planned closures and diversions, we would condition the applicant to suitably sign rural roads to discourage diverted traffic if necessary and by exception temporary close. This isn't our favoured approach (to close roads) unless there is a direct need, and we expect drivers to use the signed diversion route.

This was an emergency giving no opportunity to assess beforehand and National Highways informed us of their closure at 2.08, by such time the damage was done. Human instinct will result in drivers using what they consider the most direct alternative despite signage etc. to advise otherwise.

Most satellite navigation systems do the same.

**M&CPC:** 5. Provide us with an assurance that in future, all traffic, affected by issues on the A47, whether by flooding, accidents, or forthcoming construction work, will never be directed through Colton.

**NCC:** I'm unable to give assurances regarding works/incidents on the A47 and would recommend this matter be addressed to National Highways. NCC will continue to liaise closely with NH to

ensure any 'planned' works on their network give thorough consideration to potential impact on NCC network and appropriate measures are implemented.

On this issue, the parish council do send a representative to the Norwich Western Link / A47 Local Liaison Group, and will raise this issue at the next meeting, to be held in Costessey, on 8th November.

### **Marlingford**

Due to the low-lying nature of the village, Marlingford residents became very concerned about flooding and drainage.

November's heavy rain led to the main access road to the Watton Road via Bow Hill being completely flooded and blocked.

The road from Marlingford to Barford was also impassable for a time due to a huge puddle close to the Tiffey bridge.

Furthermore, some of the residents on Bawburgh Road mentioned that the River Yare reached further up their gardens than ever before.

An elderly couple quite wisely started filling sandbags!

In future, so much depends on how the Estate and Environment Agency manage the gates at Marlingford and Bawburgh Mill.

***John Morse, Chairman, Marlingford & Colton Parish Council***

# Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

## Your Parish Councillors:

**Mr J Morse, Chairman**

**Dr Paul Hammerton,  
Vice Chairman**

**Cllr Deborah Perfect**

**Cllr David Woods**

**Cllr Mark Pfeiffer**

## New Beat Manager

PC Andy Sneddon has recently taken over as Beat Manager and he attended the recent parish council meeting to introduce himself.

*"Hi everyone. I'm PC Andy Sneddon part of the Local Policing Team for South Norfolk. I have taken over the Costessey area and will be the new Beat Manager for Costessey, Easton, Colton, Marlingford, Barford, Great Melton and Wramplingham. I can be contacted via email on:*

***SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk***

*I look forward to meeting you."*

He stressed the importance of reporting crimes either by phone, online at **norfolk.police.uk**, the email above or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

The prevalence of speeding within the villages was discussed and it is hoped that by working together steps can be taken to reduce it.

## Flooding on the A47

During recent flooding on the A47, traffic was diverted through Colton causing damage to verges and drives and significant delays. The

parish council has been told that the cause was due to blocked culverts and work has been undertaken to prevent this happening again Remedial work will be undertaken to ensure that damaged verges and driveways are repaired.

Residents can report highway issues to Norfolk County Council on **norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem**

## A helping hand for South Norfolk residents

South Norfolk Council recognises how important it is for their elderly residents to stay in their own homes for as long as possible and sometimes, a small change can make a big difference.

The council's **Handyperson+** scheme supports residents with a wide range of small household repairs and minor adaptation work. The experienced team can help with many tasks including fitting key safes, fall prevention adaptations, smoke alarms, grab rails and better lighting. They can also offer advice on staying warm

during cold weather.

As well as small works, the handyman will chat to residents during a visit to see if they would benefit from any additional help. They have an in-depth knowledge of grants, allowances and services a resident may be eligible for. In addition, the team can direct residents to relevant community support to help combat loneliness. You may be eligible for the service free of charge if:

You are over 65

- have a long-term condition or disability AND
- receive either housing benefit, guaranteed pension credit or

universal credit.

You may be eligible for the handyman service with an hourly charge of £10.32 if:

- you are over 65 AND have a long-term condition or disability

You may be eligible for our handyman service with an hourly charge of £20.78 if:

- you are under 65 you have no long-term condition or disability.

This does not include the cost of any materials.

**To request the Handyman+ service please call 01508 505284, or email: [handyperson.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:handyperson.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)**

## Parish council meetings and public inclusion

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

The next meetings will be held at Colton village hall on:

- **Tuesday December 12**
- **Tuesday January 9**
- **Tuesday March 12**

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.



Colton village hall.

**Maria Hutson,**

Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council,

T: **01603 850118**

E: [marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com](mailto:marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com)

W: [marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk](http://marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk)

# Easton Parish Council

## Your Parish Councillors:

**Cllr Ben Moye – Chairman**

**Cllr Peter Milliken –  
Vice Chairman**

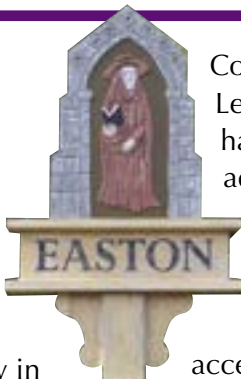
**Cllr Peter McCarter**

**Cllr David Lewis**

## New Easton community centre

Easton parish councillors are pleased to confirm that great progress is being made on the new community centre. The roof is now finished, the doors and windows are now in and the cladding finished. The scaffolding came down today to reveal the building and we feel it looks great but there is much more to do. By the time you read this, the floor screed will have gone down and the first fix plumbing and electrics will have been completed.

We hope to open the community centre late February or early March – it will depend on obtaining the final highway permissions to create a suitable public entrance. This last year has been tough but we have overcome many challenges. We received a grant of £500,000 from South Norfolk Council and £500,000 from the Greater Norwich Growth Board. The rest of the money to pay for the hall is coming from the 25%



Community Infrastructure Levey (CIL) we receive as we have a Neighbourhood Plan adopted. Due to market conditions, the costs have increased and as such, we have applied to South Norfolk for access to our future CIL funds.

It is calculated that our future CIL receipts will total just over £1,000,000. We have asked for the sum of £500,000 and, with the CIL we have received over the last two years (£596,000), this will give us the funding to finish the project and leave us with funds for other projects within the community.

Due to the legal framework surrounding CIL, it is important that as much as possible is allocated to large capital projects because the small print stated that what is not spent within five years of receipt will be clawed back by South Norfolk to go in their general pot. Our mission was to create a building that would reflect our rural roots and the building should look as if it was based on a farm building, so we were pleased to



Things are progressing on the new community centre.

receive a complaint from a resident that they did not like the building because it looked like a farm building! We have achieved our goal but we know not everyone will like what we have achieved. More work to landscape the property is now underway. Please judge it when it is complete or,

even better, don't just sit back and complain – get involved in our community. Give up your free time to support the many activities that your community needs done. If you have some free hours a week, apply to become a parish councillor – full training is being offered.

## Easton PC clerk's new position

We are very pleased to advise that our clerk Gina Lopes is now the President elect of the Society of Local Council Clerk (SLCC) and will take office shortly. The SLCC is the professional body for local council clerks and senior council employees. Gina will remain the clerk for Easton while dedicating some of her time to her SLCC duties. I am sure the residents of Easton will join with us to congratulate Gina for the work that she has done and, as Gina moves forward, she will have a national platform to help promote and develop the Localism Act 2011 giving a bigger voice to local communities.

## Orbit Homes

Orbit homes are on schedule to have 50% occupation by March 2024. We encourage residents who wish to rent or buy in Easton to put their name on the South Norfolk Council housing register. If residents have questions about eligibility either renting or shared ownership, please speak to South Norfolk council and don't be put off applying.

## Speeding

The parish council is working hard to ensure our roads are safe by liaising with the police and Norfolk

County Council Highways to reduce speed in our area.

Due to the amount of speeding in the village, Norfolk police traffic enforcement team has designated our village a priority area and is continuing to deploy mobile speed cameras on Dereham Road. We often receive reports of inconsiderate and sometimes illegal parking and recently, a resident highlighted further examples by providing photographs of individuals parking on the pavements around the village. Once we receive reports and images of this nature, they are immediately passed to the police if the vehicle is likely to cause an obstruction, and to Norfolk County Council Highways who may take enforcement action against the owners. Please note it is our duty to report these matters to the appropriate authority once we are made aware of them.

We ask residents not to park on the verges as it creates damage and can make the area look unsightly. Residents can report these and other highway issues direct to Norfolk County Council.

**If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please email our clerk: [clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk)**



## Mobile library 2023 – December/January dates

**Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: Dec 28; Jan 25**

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: Dec 27; Jan 24**

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

**Thursday: Dec 28; Jan 25**

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.**

## Give the Posada Family a home for a night

Many in our villages will know that St Andrew's, Colton and St Mary's, Marlingford own Posada crib scenes. The Mexican tradition is that the nativity characters should be passed from family to family in the village giving Mary and Joseph a home for one or more nights. It is a lovely way to welcome Christmas. In Colton and Marlingford, we have been doing this for many years.

The figures are then returned to church on Christmas Eve.



If you would like to bring the Posada family into your home this December, phone or text

**Liz Plater:** 01603 880556

m:07775088190

**Sarah Smith:** 01603 757865

m 07769976173 or call

**Felicity Maton:** 01603 880846



# The Rambling Vine



## There's always a reason to hope...

I wonder if you've had a moment recently where you've just watched the news or read the paper and seen what's going on in the Middle East or somewhere else in the world and felt the absence of anything hopeful.

The sense that you can't see how things are going to improve and get better. It can be a scary feeling as I think, as humans, we all have that underlying need to have hope.

If you search for songs with a theme of hope within them, the list is a bit longer than you might expect. Bruce Springsteen has 'high hopes', The Weeknd sing 'I hope you find somebody', Take That sing: 'Everybody needs a little hope'...and they're right – it seems to be something that a lot of us need, especially right now.

It's said that the antidote to any despair might be hope. It's one of the most powerful—and



essential—human mindsets and possible to achieve even when it feels out of reach. "Hope is a way of thinking," says Chan Hellman, a psychologist who's the founding director of the Hope Research Center at the University of

Oklahoma. "We know it can be taught; we know it can be nurtured. It's not something you either have or don't have."

December marks the beginning of our journey through the, now largely forgotten, season of Advent and hope is one of the themes that we are invited to consider every year.

This year, I wonder if we need to be reminded even more of the hope the Christmas story shows us. The hope of the Christ Child – that God has such 'high hopes' for us that Jesus entered the world as a human baby, grounded and rooted in human reality to show us that love.

So as we enjoy time catching up with friends and family over the next few weeks and the Christmas

## Church services December 2023 - January 2024

December		
Sunday 3	10.00am	<b>Marlingford</b> - 1st of Advent HC
Sunday 10	10.00am 3.00 pm	<b>Easton</b> - 2nd of Advent HC <b>Forest Church</b>
Friday 15	6.00pm	<b>Marlingford Old Hall</b> - Carols in the Courtyard
Sunday 17	11.00am 6.00pm	<b>Colton</b> - Carols with Cawston Brass Band <b>Bawburgh</b> - Carols by candlelight
Sunday 24	10.00am 3.00pm 4.30pm	<b>Bawburgh</b> - Christmas Eve HC <b>Marlingford</b> - Crib service <b>Easton</b> - Christingle
Monday 25	10.30am	<b>Marlingford</b> - Christmas Day HC All age
Sunday 31	10.00am	<b>Colton</b> - Morning service
January		
Sunday 7	10.00am	<b>Easton</b> - First Sunday of Epiphany HC
Sunday 14	10.00am	<b>Colton</b> - 2nd of Epiphany HC all age
Sunday 21	10.00am	<b>Marlingford</b> - 3rd of Epiphany HC
Sunday 28	10.00am	<b>Bawburgh</b> - Candlemas HC

period itself, let's take the opportunity to be thankful that we live in peace in comparison to others across the world and don't often fear for our safety.

Let's take the opportunity to be generous with what we have, so that those in more vulnerable situations might have the chance for that grounded hope to be nurtured in their situation and circumstance.

During Advent, as the church community meets week by week

in the church buildings throughout the Benefice, we will be praying for the hope of the Christ child to stir in our hearts and remind us that we are not alone – we have 'found somebody'. We draw strength from knowing the buck doesn't stop with us but we take responsibility for our part in making our community a more hope-filled place.

Have a hope-filled Advent, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

***Rev Laura Montgomery***

# News from St Andrew's church, Colton

As many of you know, Colton church has been bequeathed a sum of money from Alan and Dorothy Rose Falgate, who passed away during the pandemic.

The members of the PCC are doing their best to spend the money wisely, not only for the church but for the benefit of the wider village community. Those attending the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday December 17 will instantly see the improvements made so far.

A sound system with a hearing loop will have recently been installed and all the pews will have cushion pads along their length.

We would like to thank our local village garden contractor, Karl Palmer, who has transformed the graveyard. It looks amazing; some graves have been unearthed from brambles and who knew that there is a flint wall along the road side of the graveyard?

Karl has been asked to continue to 'manage' the churchyard to keep on top of the brambles etc. The church entrance has been planted with perennial plants to brighten the welcome for parishioners.

The central area of the graveyard which has, for many years, been left wild, has been cut back to ground



level in order that we can re-seed with a wild flower mix to encourage more birds and butterflies.

The PCC would also like to extend their thanks for the ongoing contribution of our grass cutting team; Andrew Scales, Ian & James

Alston and William Pixton, and to Philippa for organising the rota. Forthcoming plans are to surface the car park with hardcore, tar and shingle with wooden sleepers defining the edging. Those of you who have tried to park there during past winters will have faced a very muddy area which is sometimes shut off completely. We are currently awaiting planning permission before work can begin. A bench seat and engraved plaque in memory of the Falgates will be positioned overlooking the wild flower area.

On completion of the car park, we intend to hold a thanksgiving service marking all that we have been able to complete thanks to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Falgate. Further projects are yet to be decided but any ideas would be welcomed.

**Liz Plater**

## Marlingford Church 50 Club

### Winners of the draw for quarter ending December 2023

	Number	Member	£
First	6	Kate Broom	£50.00
Second	25	Eric Neale	£35.00
Third	34	Edward Tarry	£25.00
Bonus	15	Matt Browne	£10.00

Congratulations and thanks to the membership which helps with the upkeep of the church. Prizewinners please email church treasurer carolachiles@gmail.com with bank details to receive your prize money. For renewing your membership, please pay £20 per number into the following Barclays bank account: account name: MPCC 50 Club, account no: 00378445, sort code: 20-62-53. Thank you!

## Colton fuel allotment charity

We've reached the time of the year when the Trustees of the Colton Fuel Allotment charity, distribute the annual payment to Colton households.

Each year, the charity can distribute a payment to each household from income derived from the rent of a local piece of land.

There are a number of fuel allotment charities in parishes throughout Norfolk – more than 90 are registered with the Charity Commissioners.

The charity is required to appoint trustees – at present there are three. Their role is to decide the amount of the payment and how to distribute it.



The most effective method, in the past has been at the Colton village hall **Christmas Bingo** to be held this year, on **Saturday, December 9** at 7pm.

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

## Marlingford Village Hall

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

Plenty of parking available.

Tables and chairs will accommodate up to 60 people.

Crockery, glasses and cutlery available for hire.

### Booking Details

Please contact  
John Bailey 01603 880266  
jaydeebailey@gmail.com

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