



THE Grapevine

February 2024

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



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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	Peter Kidd - easton.bh@btinternet.com
Easton Crafters' Club	Mrs Janet Morris – 01603 471144
Easton Football Club	Michael Cossey – 01603 880143 73, Marlingford Way, Easton
Easton Good Companions	Pamela Hooker – 01603 880867
Easton Gym Club	01603 960511 enquiries@eastongymnasticsclub.com
Easton Judo Club Coach	Chris Abel – 0845 388 6895 chris@eastonjudoclub.co.uk 29, Goulburn Rd, Norwich
Easton Junior Football	Gavin Tipple – 01603 731585 gtipple@easton-college.ac.uk
Easton Sports Centre	Colin Brzeczek 01603 731263
Easton Post Office	Open Tues and Thurs 9am-2pm 01603 880007
Easton Village Hall	Roly and Christine Chapman 01603 880654
Easton WI Secretary	Mary Blathwayt – 01603 880574
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499
Marlingford Village Hall bookings	John Bailey M: 07986 609319 jaydeebailey@gmail.com
Community Car Scheme for Easton only	Jean and Dave Ditton – 01603 880857
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wymondham 03444 111444
Relate	01603 625333
Samaritans	0330 094 5717

Doctors surgeries

Costessey, Roundwell	01603 744014
Beechcroft	01603 746683
Hethersett	01603 977477
Mattishall	01362 850227

Hospitals

Norfolk & Norwich incl W Norwich	01603 286286
Julian & Hellesdon	01603 421421
Dereham, Northgate	01603 697300
Kelling	01263 710575

Police

Non urgent 101 **or visit website:**
norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it

Urgent 999

Parish Council Clerks

Easton

Gina Lopes 07879 379181
clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Marlingford & Colton

Maria Hutson 01603 850118
marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

Councillor South Norfolk District and Norfolk County

Margaret Dewsbury 01603 759693
6, Park Avenue, Barford NR9 4BA

Front cover: Sunrise over Colton.

Picture: Geoff Dunn.

Advertisers can supply their own colour adverts to the correct sizes. (contact treasurer for details). They can be high resolution jpg or pdf files.

The Grapevine

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Advertising in The Grapevine

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

Annual advertising rates 2024

Black & white inside:

1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
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	£150	£200	
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Colour inside:

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£100	£150	£250	£400

Colour back 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

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

Bus services: Colton, Easton and Marlingford

There have been some changes to the bus services in Easton, Marlingford and Colton. Norfolk County Council has announced the following timetables which came into force on **September 3rd, 2023**: (All services are excluding Bank holidays)

Service 808 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only:				
From	At	Arrives	Connects to	
Marlingford Bell	09.18	Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 9.27	Konekt 4 service from Easton to Norwich at 9.38, arriving 10.05	
Colton, The Street - Pond	09.23			
Colton, Junction Norwich Road and The Street	09.24			
Konekt 4 service from Norwich to Easton at 12.15 arriving 12.42.		Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 12.50 Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 12.55	Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	12.58
			Colton, The Street - Pond	12.59
			Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	13.04
Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 11.15 (Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 11.20)		**Additional Service from Longwater only	Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	11.23
			Colton, The Street - Pond	11.24
			Marlingford Bell	11.29

For more information, visit: ourhire.co.uk

The Flexibus service will continue to be provided with the service now being supplied by Our Bus. In addition to the current arrangements, there will be a new per-booked service to the N&NUH at 7.50 and 17.45. To book a bus, call 01603 223956.

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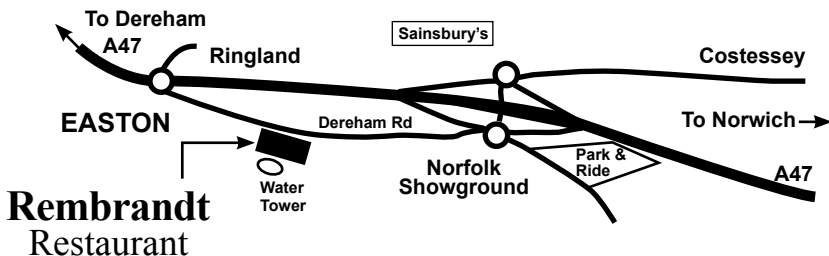
Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 4pm - 8pm

***For latest information
please see the website or phone***

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Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,
Hingham,
Norfolk, NR9 4LJ

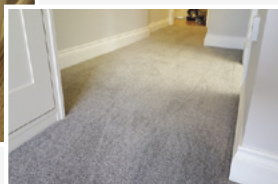
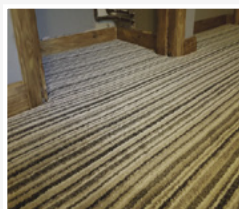
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Customer satisfaction is our priority.

Flooding and fly-tipping threaten our countryside

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone – let’s hope the world calms down for us all this year. Unfortunately, the weather has already caused some problems for villagers in Colton and Marlingford with the river bursting its banks and flood plains filling up after a period of constant rain. We’ve had to deal with road closures making getting around longer and more stressful. Add to that inconsiderate, selfish folk who think its fine to dump their rubbish where they please with no regard for others and a ‘couldn’t care less’ attitude to the beauty of their surroundings. We can only hope that these people are found out and subjected to the penalties this criminal offence carries with it.



Approaching Marlingford Mill. Picture: Jane Knights



Fly-tipped rubbish in the road in Marlingford.

Deadline for items for the March issue: Friday, February 16
Email as word doc to: 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, March 2.

Come and have a natter with your neighbours. Tea, coffee and cake available plus a tombola.

● Village Hall Committee AGM Monday, March 11.

All are welcome to the annual general meeting of Colton village hall committee. 7.00pm start.

Coming up at the village hall:

● Spring Bingo

Saturday, April 6. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.00pm.

● Hall hire

Colton village hall can be hired for events including children's birthday parties, wedding receptions or baby showers. 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

● Marlingford Village Hall ended 2023 with a flourish!

Our popular **Christmas Fair** was held at the beginning of December with the usual variety of stalls. Warming soup, bell ringers and of course Father Christmas made it a

fun-filled Christmas event.

Nearer to Christmas, we welcomed back the **VIP Barbershop Singers** who entertained a packed hall to an evening of song. Great food, good company and fun songs made for a lovely end of the year event.

● **Our village hall is 100 years old this year.** Watch out for events taking place to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions Happy New Year to all!

Coming up:

February 1: Bob's Singalong

February 15: AGM.

March 14: Easter Dice Game

All over 55s are invited to join with us at the village hall on Thursday afternoons.

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

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 second and fourth Tuesday of the month at

Easton village hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm doing various crafts including cards, jewellery and flower arranging with a workshop for members on the second Tuesday.

For more information, ring Janet on 01603 471144.

Farewell to a much-loved local couple

On behalf of the Old Village Hall Committee, we wish to convey our condolences to Heriot and Merylyn Cossey's family for their sad loss – not only them but for the whole village.

They were fondly known as Mr and Mrs Easton for all the work they did for the village which was evident in the reflections at the service at Colney Wood.

Heriot was a community car driver and Merylyn worked tirelessly for the village hall taking bookings, being key holder and janitor and always caring for the community.

They will be missed for all they did for us and we will always be grateful for their input into village life.

***Roly Chapman and
Village Hall Committee***



Community and Fundraising Events

Easton craft fair trip

Easton Crafters is organising a coach trip to **Stamperama Craft Show** in Lincoln on **28th April**. There will be various craft stalls and workshops that people can join in. If anyone is interested could they please contact **Janet** on **01603 471144**.



Picture: Anita Smith, Pixabay

Quiz Night

Marlingford Village Hall

NR9 5HL

Friday February 2

? **Friday March 1** ?

Friday April 5 ?

? **Doors open 7pm** ?
for 7.30pm start

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

£2.50 per person

(cash please)

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

B I N G O

21 **Saturday** 1
March 23

Marlingford Village Hall
NR9 5HL

4 **Doors open 7pm** 10
Eyes down 7.30pm

£5 per adult
£2.50 per child (half book)
(cash only please)

Refreshments available
Bring your own wine, beer, snacks

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

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

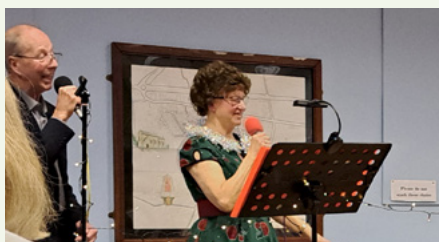
News from Easton Women's Institute

A very sad loss to our group

Easton WI members were very sad to hear of the death of our long term secretary, Marilyn Cossey. At our Christmas meeting we remembered her and all she had done for the WI. We are going to go on finding things that Marilyn and Heriot did for the village that we did not realise they were doing. So far I have noticed there were no Christmas decorations in the village hall this year and no biscuits at our last WI committee meeting. We did have milk for our drinks at our Christmas meeting but only because we thought of it at the last minute. Oh Marilyn! How we miss you!! Thankfully, Sandra Bowman has agreed to take on the role of WI Secretary.

Christmas entertainment

At our Christmas meeting, we were entertained by a group called **We Are Three**. As only two of them were able to come, the title did not seem appropriate. However, we had a nostalgic time listening to the music of the 60s and 70s along with



Christmas entertainment from We Are Three.

visitors from neighbouring WIs and enjoyed a buffet and a raffle.

A talk about communicating

In January we had a talk by **Stephen Hurley** on **British Sign Language** ably assisted by Emma Brown. We should all be able to sign our own names now!

Coming up

On **Thursday February 8** we will be holding our **Annual Meeting** and members have been asked to share a poem, saying or story that they have found memorable or useful at some time in their life.

March will see our 'birthday' meeting when Easton WI will be 71 years old. We will have a talk about the music, life and stories of seven American songwriters including Cole Porter and Richard Rogers. We'll be inviting visitors and will be having refreshments so if anyone would like to come we'll be very pleased to welcome them.

As I say in this column every month we really would like to welcome new members to our small WI. We are a friendly lot and do enjoy going out together as well as having a monthly meeting in the village hall. If anyone is interested in either joining or knowing more about the WI please do come to one of our meetings.

Mary Blathwayt

Beware of a spate of cold callers in the county

We're urging residents to be vigilant following reports of suspected cold callers operating throughout the county.

It's after police received a report at 1.20pm on Monday December 4 of a man going door to door offering to sell household items on Wroxham Road, Sprowston. There has additionally been a number of reports made across other districts with similar circumstances.

What often happens is someone will knock at your door saying they have recently been released from prison or are in rehabilitation, and offer to sell you household items.

● We advise you to lock your back door before answering the front door. If you do not recognise the person, speak through the closed and locked door.

● If they are selling something or offering to do any work on your

house or garden, tell them you are not interested and ask them to leave. If they persist, tell them you will call the police and call us on 999. If you have any doubt – keep them out.

● We advise that you should never agree to buy goods from, or have work done, by someone that calls unannounced at your door.

Often such traders don't provide full names, trading addresses or contact telephone numbers, resulting in it being virtually impossible to trace them if there are any problems with the work or goods.

Anyone feeling threatened by a cold caller should call 999 immediately. Anyone with information about suspected rogue traders should contact police on **101**, or alternatively Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Your Local Safer Neighbourhood team

Beat Manager

Stuart Barnard Sgt 499

E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



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

Beat Manager

Andrew Sneddon PC

T: 101 Ext: 5699

E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



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

Fly-tipping and littering are criminal offences

Sad to say, there have been several rather bad incidents of fly-tipping in our area lately. It's frustrating and stressful to residents if they cannot identify the culprits. Although the police will take action if they witness fly-tipping, any residents finding incidents of fly-tipping should report it to the local council because they can organise the removal of the rubbish.

It is a criminal offence to deposit waste without authorisation and there are strict laws around the movement and disposal of waste. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, both businesses and householders have a legal duty to dispose of their waste correctly. Fly-tipping is the term given to any waste that has been dumped on land without permission. Littering is a separate offence usually involving a single item. Both are criminal offences which may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution against the person responsible. Large scale illegal dumping (such as lorries dumping rubbish) and hazardous waste can be reported to CrimeStoppers: 0800 555 111

What the council will do:

- Investigate cases where someone has witnessed an incident or where there is evidence to suggest where the waste has come from or who



Waste dumped in Church Road, Marlingford.

has dumped it.

- Remove waste that has been fly-tipped or littered on the public highway or land owned by the council. Anything smaller than a black sack of waste is considered to be litter and anything larger to be fly-tipping.

What the council won't do:

- They cannot remove waste that has been dumped on private land; this is the responsibility of the land owner. (Always check that anyone you get to remove the rubbish has a licence to do so). They will, however, investigate these incidents and take enforcement action where possible.

Offences of fly-tipping or littering can be reported to South Norfolk Council on the link below, providing as much detail as you can giving the exact location, contents of the waste and how much there is.

southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/keeping-streets-clean/flytipping-littering



Artist's impression of the keep in Norwich castle.

Picture: Haley Sharpe Design

Looking forward to Norwich Castle reborn

With the reopening of the keep, the clock is being turned back 900 years transporting visitors to the heyday of Norman England as Norwich Castle becomes one of the UK's premier heritage attractions.

In 1067, William the Conqueror began the construction of Norwich Castle. It was then completed by his son Henry I in 1121 and was one of the most spectacular palaces in medieval Europe.

In summer 2024, visitors will be transported back to the 1100s to see the keep like they have never known it before. The redevelopment incorporates reinstated floors, audio visual projections, character panels, VR, multisensory elements from dressing up as a Norman king or queen to experiencing the noises and even smells of medieval life, numerous interactives and the British Museum's first medieval

gallery outside London with over 1000 artefacts, including over 50 from the British Museum, complementing the castle's own world-class collections.

The castle will also be the most accessible castle in the UK – from basement to battlements – offering accessibility to wheelchair users and pushchairs, and those with SEND requirements. Plus, larger toilets and a Changing Places facility.

A new entrance to the museum will include a magical, light-filled atrium adjacent to the Keep, setting the scene and orientating visitors on arrival. Affording spectacular new views of the keep's east façade, this will showcase the Norman keep that has become such a Norwich icon.

Other new facilities include a brand-new restaurant and gift shop.

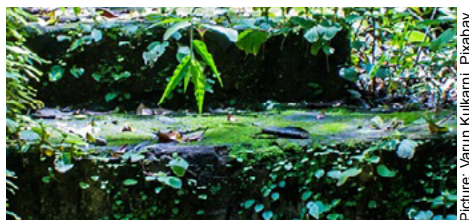
● **For more information click:**
museums.norfolk.gov.uk

Tips and tricks

- If you are registered with the Boots app to receive Advantage Points with every purchase, over 60s can receive eight points for every pound they spend instead of five. Go to the Boots Advance Points app and join over 60, Rewards.
- If you spend £10 at Boots, you can receive £5 worth of advantage points. Here's how: go to **boots.scan2recycle.com** and register. This is different from the Boots Advantage card. Collect hard to recycle items such as make-up, toothpaste tubes, many other toiletries. Log on to **boots.scan2recycle.com** and press 'Recycle your item'. This will ask you to take a photo and then follow the steps through. Once you have five items, go to Boots and locate the 'Deposit Box'. Scan the QR code and work through the instructions on your phone which will issue a voucher to your Boots Advantage card which you take to the till purchasing £10 worth of goods and you will receive £5 worth of points plus your normal advantage points.
- If you book a channel crossing with your car on Le Shuttle, you can usually travel up to one hour before or two hours after your

booked slot. Also if you want to have a more flexible crossing you can change your booking online up to 24 hours after your booked travel slot – usually at no extra cost. Much more affordable than booking a flexible slot which generally cost twice the price of a normal booking.

- If you put ordinary malt vinegar into a garden sprayer and spray on your paths and patio, it takes off most of the green and moss.



Picture: Varun Kulkarni_Pixabay

- Try the **Revolut** debit card when travelling. You can hold multiple currencies at the same time and convert to other currencies at any time or back to British pounds when you return from your holiday. The other advantage is that you will find it difficult to find a better exchange rate on any platform.
- If you haven't already discovered it, try **Pink Stuff** – it's amazing for cleaning pans and removing stains on any hard surfaces. If it doesn't get it out, give up as nothing else will!
- **If you have any useful Tips and Tricks you can to share, email: annettegh57@gmail.com**

The PCC of St. Andrew's Church Colton would like to express their thanks to everyone who donated their Allotment Share to the church funds which totalled £420 and is very much appreciated.

The Christmas carol service at St Andrew's was also enjoyed by all who attended and St Martin's charity has written to thank us for the donation.



19 December 2023

Dear St Andrew, Colton,

On behalf of our Trustees and the people who use our services, I write to thank you for your generous donation of £238.50 from your carol service.

We believe no-one should have to sleep rough on our streets, and donations like yours enable us to offer support and housing to people experiencing homelessness in Norwich and Norfolk.

St Martins was founded in 1972 to provide accommodation for single homeless people. Over the years we have expanded our services, yet our vision remains the same; to see the end of rough sleeping on our streets and for people to receive the assistance they need as quickly as possible.

We offer a wide variety of services including outreach support (Pathways), emergency accommodation and assessment (The Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub) hostel accommodation (Bishopbridge House, Dibden Road and St Martins House), sheltered housing (Webster Court), residential care (Highwater House), temporary accommodation and community homes. We also provide support to people in their own homes to prevent them from becoming homeless and a learning and development centre (Under 1 Roof). At any one time we support around three hundred people.

Charitable donations are vital to enable us to continue our work. Every day we help people out of homelessness – some take small steps towards independence over many years, while others move on into their own accommodation quickly.

We couldn't do this vital work without your support.

If you would like further information regarding St Martins, please visit:

www.stmartinshousing.org.uk.

You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram **@stmartinsnfhk**

Once again thank you from all of us for your much appreciated donation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jan Sheldon
Chief Executive Officer
St Martin's

The heavens opened and down came the rains!

In the last week of December we were hit by storm Gerrit and the ground became water-logged. New Year dawned and all seemed well but storm Henk approached and by January 3, 2024 the River Yare by the Marlingford Mill was flooding the roads and fields. Warnings were given via the media and roadside signs. Someone witnessed a foolish driver taking the challenge; later someone else saw an abandoned car along that road! The village wasn't quite isolated as some roads were passable by avoiding large pools. The grazing meadows which



Marlingford flood plains.

Picture: Felicity Maton

became a flood plain between Marlingford and Bawburgh, looked picturesque although it was a concern to homes with a river boundary. Now farmers wait for the ground to dry to bring on livestock or sow crops.

Felicity Maton

Mobile library 2024 – February dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: February 22

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: February 21

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

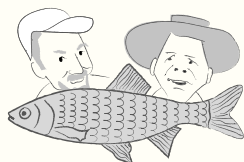
Easton –Route: CEN 423

Thursday: February 22

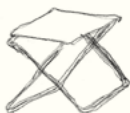
6: Parkers Close	11.15am	11.35am	NR9 5EE
8: Marlingford Road	11.40am	12.00pm	NR9 5AD
10: Marlingford Way	12.05am	12.25pm	NR9 5HB
12: Kennedy Close	12.30pm	12.50pm	NR9 5EY
14: St Peter's Drive	12.55pm	13.15pm	NR9 5HF

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquiries call 01603 222303.

Gone fishin' – with Dom and Milt



“It’s going to be a good day,” says Dom as angling’s answer to Cagney and Lacey hit the road for another day at the Basil Todd lake. “Hmmm,” says a contemplative Milton, gunning his gangsta Honda Accord (complete with baseball bat strapped belligerently to the bootlid) up to 25mph. “Hmmm.” There’s a hole in the Honda’s exhaust and it sounds like an old bomber on the final approach. Pensioner pedestrians scurry for cover, nervous eyes scanning the cloudless sky for the return of the Luftwaffe.



“I want some of those big roach,” he eventually says. “I’ve had them out of there up to a pound and three-quarters.”

“Hmmm,” says Dom.

Basil is looking fabulous under an azure sky, the surface barely rippled by a gentle zephyr, the banks flanked by autumn’s rich shades.

“Let’s try a different spot from our default,” suggests Dom.

“We always fish from there.”

They do a slow circuit of the lake, the booming exhaust sending alarmed birds squawking from the trees and, like homing pigeons, come back to the spot they always fish from.



There are two adjacent pegs; one is wide and airy, the sort of space that you could hold a small tea dance on, or a careful game of badminton. The other is a narrow jetty, slick with goose and moorhen poo, next to a weeping willow

which exists only to snag lines and steal hooks, a multi-tentacled arboreal octopus.

It’s a cruel spot for Dom to have – a man who usually gets more tangles than fish – but them’s the breaks when Milt has made his choices.

There is further unpleasantness to deal with; last time Dom went fishing, some weeks previously, he put his gear away wet and, on opening the tackle box, is greeted by a carpet of mould, much of it new to science.

Even so, by 10am bait is in the water, chairs unfolded and coffee poured. Milt and Dom are the

only ones on the lake and the peace and quiet is almost magical. So Milt reaches for his tinny tranny and puts ‘the football’ on at an irritating volume. It is Swaziland against Papua New Guinea or something of equally no moment whatever, but it is balm to Milt as he catches up with the

serious issues of the day in his copy of *The Sun*.

An hour passes. Dom wonders if it is too early to unwrap the strong cheddar and pickle (Branston Small Chunk, if you're interested). It isn't. The sandwich is joined by a family-sized bag of Taste the Difference Pigs in Blanket seasonal crisps. They're revolting. On the wide acres of Milt's peg there is nothing doing.

On the gangplank of Dom's peg there is nothing doing.

The low sun is unseasonably warm and Dom is cosy in his many layers.

He wakes with a start when Milt appears for an update. "Nothing doing," he reports.

"Have a crisp," says Dom, proffering the bag.

"They're Pigs in Blankets flavour - delicious."

Morning slides into afternoon and there has been not so much as a touch on any of the four rods out.

The jovial bailiff and his leg-humping Jack Russell, Basil, appear to relieve our men of £24 for the pleasure of sweet FA.

"Chap just there had 18 good carp yesterday," says the custodian, indicating vaguely a spot that could have been anywhere.

With just two hours of daylight



left and the afternoon cooling, Milt suggests a move. Like a departing army our heroes gather their goods and chattels and move to a spot which may be more promising.

Or not.

Milt saunters over, shovelling a fruit pie into his face, a direct challenge following the infamous Mr Kipling incident a few weeks previously.

"I've only got the one pie, but if I had two I'd eat them both. If I had three I'd still eat them all,"



he chortles. Dom mutters something about diabetes. It's Latvia versus Fiji or whatever on the radio, and it's still nil-nil on the water. The light is going when the lake owner wanders past.

"How's it going?" he asks and is genuinely slightly startled by the news that the duo have not had so much as a tickle from a fingerling (not quite as weird as it sounds).

"Chap just there had 18 good carp yesterday," he says.

There's a snort from the reeds, followed by the sound of Milt beginning to pack up.

Chastened, the Compleat Angler and the Complete Tangler head home.

But the talk in the car is upbeat; they will catch again... won't they?



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

Councillor vacancy

There are currently two vacancies on the parish council. If you are interested in the local community and making a difference come along to a meeting and find out more about the work of the parish council. For more information on the role of a councillor, have a look on the website marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk or get in touch with the clerk – details on page 21.

Flooding

Following the recent flooding of both the A47 and roads within the parish, the council remains in regular contact with Norfolk County Council Highways. It is hoped that remedial work to the highways, filling of potholes and the clearing of flooded roads will be undertaken in due course.

South Norfolk village clusters housing allocations plan

At the January parish council meeting, Councillor Mark Pfeiffer gave an overview of the South Norfolk village clusters housing allocations plan. The VCHAP is a

local plan document which, once adopted, will become part of the Development Plan for South Norfolk.

The plan will identify sites for housing in South Norfolk's villages and will allocate sites for the majority of the 'at least 1,200 new homes' that are to be delivered in the district's village clusters by 2038.

There are no sites in Marlingford or Colton. However, there are sites allocated in neighbouring Barnham Broom, Barford and Bawburgh. The parish council is concerned that the additional housing will increase traffic flow and put yet more pressure on local services such as GPs.

Comments are going to be submitted raising these concerns.

Members of the public can find out more about VCHAP at South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan – Broadland and South Norfolk (southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) and take part in the consultation up to February 5.

The Norfolk Lurcher, Colton and The Bell, Marlingford

The parish council welcomes the reopening of the Norfolk Lurcher in Colton and wish the new owners, Mark and Rose, good luck.

But it was saddened to hear of the current closure of The Bell, in Marlingford. The pub has been the main social centre of the village for many years. For the last five years, the current landlord and staff have been doing an excellent job in creating a welcoming environment for village residents. It has become the real heart of the village. The pub stages regular charity



The Bell, Marlingford.

Picture: Felicity Maton

quizzes, with a very large turnout. At lunchtime on New Year's Eve the pub was packed when they hosted a vintage tractor run, also in aid of charity.

For a village with virtually no public transport, having somewhere for villagers to meet is important and we are all hoping that the pub will be able to re-open soon.

Parish council meetings and public inclusion

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of alternate months. Meetings are held at 7pm in either Colton Village Hall or Marlingford Cricket Club. The remaining meeting dates for 2024 are:

- **March 12** at Colton village hall.
- **May 14:** Annual parish meeting and annual parish council meeting. Venue tbc.
- **July 9** - venue tbc.
- **September 10** - venue tbc.
- **Tuesday November 12** at Colton village hall.

The agenda is published on the website a minimum of three working days before each meeting

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

Maria Hutson,

Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council,

T: **01603 850118**

E: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

W: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

Easton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Cllr Ben Moye – Chairman

Cllr Peter Milliken –
Vice Chairman

Cllr Peter McCarter

Cllr David Lewis

New community centre

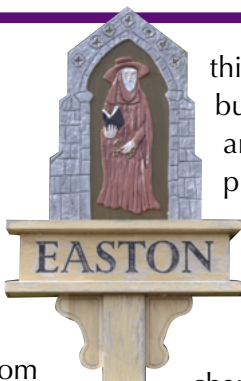
As the new community centre build progresses, you can view the latest images and videos on the eastoncommunitycentre.co.uk website

Marlingford Road will be closed near Buxton Close from February 15, 2024 for up to two weeks for the sewer connection to the community centre.

Due to cold weather, the floor screed of the main hall had to be put back to the end of January. It is then necessary to wait 54 days before the floor can be covered.

Currently, we still await planning approval for the discharge of condition 3a (footpath connection). Until that is received and the work completed, the council is unable to open the community centre for use by the public. There is also a wait for UKPN to connect the three phase electrical cable. Anglia Water plan to make its connection on the February 16, 2024.

Easton parish councillors hope to open the new centre as soon as possible. However, frustratingly



this is in the hands of others but anyone with the skills and spare time to help, please apply to the clerk.

Existing Easton Village Hall

A planning application has been submitted for change of use of the existing village hall. Considering the current growth of the village, councillors feel the proposed new use of the hall as nursery space will be a positive asset to our community. **This change of use will not affect the operation of the existing post office.**

Easton Football Club move

As a committed parish council, we consistently aim to support our local community and have provided financial support to Easton Football Club whenever called upon.

As part of the forthcoming second phase of the Persimmon development in Easton, there will be exciting new facilities available. A versatile multi-use games area, including a small football pitch,

albeit not to FA standards, will be installed and available for use. As well as these additional facilities coming to Easton, there will be amazing spaces for all the local community to enjoy.

Precept request 2024/25

At the last meeting of the parish council held in December 2023, it was agreed to submit a precept request of £25,926.00.

Councillors were mindful of residents who may be suffering from the current cost of living crisis and wanted to keep increases to a minimum even though the council's expenditure has increased.

The agreed figure will result in a 3% increase on last year and would result in an increase of £1.28 per B and D household per annum or around 2.5p per week.

Application to Public Works Loan Board

Funding for the new community centre had been confirmed before works commenced and are now at an advanced stage. However, an unexpected twist occurred during a meeting with South Norfolk Council and attended by Easton parish councillors towards the end of last year. The report sent to SNC cabinet was a result of CIL payments several months earlier

and many items were not clear. The SNC cabinet were now in a position where they would have to borrow the money to provide the promised funds to Easton Parish Council. After some consideration, it was felt better for Easton Parish Council to make a loan application themselves to the Public Works Loan Board.

An application for a loan of £500,000 borrowing over a term of 10 years has been submitted and a decision awaited. Councillors wish to confirm the annual loan repayments will not increase the council tax precept.

Thanks and condolences

At the last council meeting councillors expressed their sincere condolences and thanks to the late Mr and Mrs Cossey who had both recently passed away.

Their great contribution and many years of service given to the community of Easton by this wonderful couple was acknowledged by all present.

Parish councillor vacancies

There are still vacancies for councillors. If you want to make a difference to your community and have time available to commit to the necessary duties of a councillor, please email the clerk:

clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk



The Rambling Vine



Reach out for help if you are struggling

This month we enter a time called Lent in the church’s calendar. Christmas and New Year are celebrations of enjoyment and looking forward. Sometimes sad events occur and we look for ways to deal with shock and grief. Revd Laura has been helping people at Queens Hills to cope with a very sad event there. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – 40 days are a season for unwinding all the things we don’t need and helping us to discover new ways

to lead happy and useful lives. Loneliness and mental wellbeing can be causes for concern – also financial pressures. We are given a message of hope and a new beginning at Easter with the endless love of God. There are contact details of church members at a church near you on page 4. Everyone is welcome to come to the four churches in our group for services or at other times for quiet meditation and prayer.

Felicity Maton

Calling all Marlingford Church 50 Club members

If you are a member and wish to continue supporting the maintenance of the church this year, please renew your direct debit at Barclays Bank:
Name: **MPCC 50 Club**

Sort code: **20-62-53**
Account no: **00378445**
Any inquiries, please contact the churchwarden, Felicity Maton on 01603 880846.

Church services February 2024

February		
Sunday 4	10.00am	Easton - Second before Lent HC
Sunday 11	10.00am	Colton - next before Lent HC - all age
Wednesday 14	10.00am	Marlingford - Ash Wednesday
Sunday 18	10.00am	Marlingford - First of Lent HC
Sunday 25	10.00am	Bawburgh - Second of Lent HC



St Mary's Church, Marlingford.

Picture: Annette Hudson

Help raise funds for Marlingford Church

This special ancient building, first on this site in Saxon times and with its Norman arch around the main door, has to be maintained for all in the community. It is now known that urgent repairs are needed, costing £100,000.

A temporary fence surrounds the tower to protect people from falling

masonry as they walk past.

Fund-raising to begin the work requires local residents to give some of their time to help the Parochial Church Council.

To find out more about the appeal, come to Marlingford Village Hall at 6.30pm on Friday, February 2, then stay for the quiz at 7.30.

Easton PCC are looking for a volunteer treasurer!

You do not need to be a member of the PCC to carry out this role.

If you are interested, please contact

**Dave Bachelor (MBE) - existing treasurer on 07920013374
or Margaret Seely (churchwarden) 01603 880888**

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For more details, contact
Carol Chiles on
01508 578352
carolachiles@gmail.com

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07961268326

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jaydeebailey@gmail.com

Sue Garcia

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