

THE Grapevine

March 2024

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



- Help support St Mary's, Church, Marlingford page 17
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PLUS

- Local information
- Community interest
- Church services (Benefice) page 28

Clocks go forward March 31

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: Snowdrops at St Mary's Church, Marlingford. Picture: Felicity Maton.



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The Grapevine

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

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Colour inside:

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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 eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com 172 Fairways, Queen's Hills, Costessey NR8 5GB	01603 744551
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Reader	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
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St Peter's Church, Easton

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

PCC Secretary	Anthony Perry, 7 Pegg Close, Easton	01603 882265
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Treasurer	Dave Batchelor, 9, Cleves Way, Old Costessey	01603 322987
------------------	---	--------------

St Andrew's Church, Colton

Churchwarden	Sarah Smith, Bickerston Cottage, Church Lane, Colton	01603 757865
---------------------	---	--------------

PCC Secretary	Liz Plater, Church Cottages, Church Lane, Colton	01603 880556
----------------------	---	--------------

Treasurer	Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ	judy.scrivener@ googlemail.com
------------------	--	-----------------------------------

St Mary's Church, Marlingford

Churchwarden	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	01603 880846
---------------------	--	--------------

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

PCC contact	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	Konekt 4 service from Easton to Norwich at 9.38, arriving 10.05	
Colton, The Street - Pond	09.23			
Colton, Junction Norwich Road and The Street	09.24			
Konekt 4 service from Norwich to Easton at 12.15 arriving 12.42.		Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 12.50 Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 12.55	Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	12.58
			Colton, The Street - Pond	12.59
			Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	13.04
Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 11.15 (Easton: Dereham Road Bus Shelter at 11.20)		**Additional Service from Longwater only	Colton, Junction Norwich Rd and The Street	11.23
			Colton, The Street - Pond	11.24
			Marlingford Bell	11.29

For more information, visit: ourhire.co.uk

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

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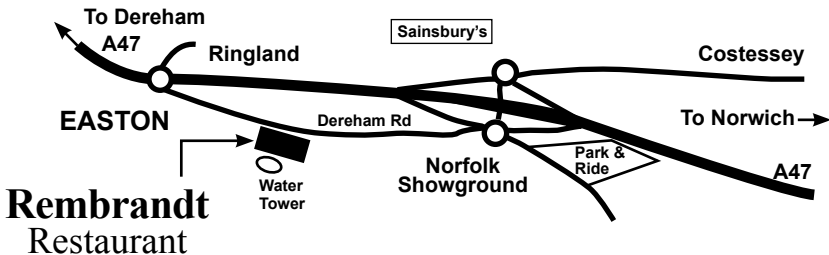
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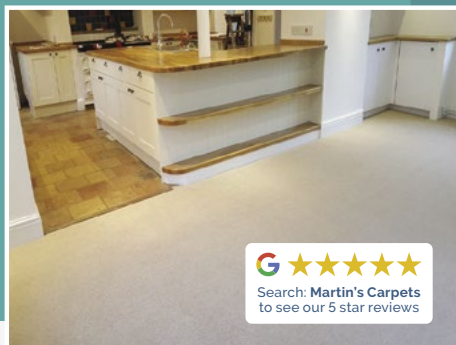
Hethersett: 01603 810022

17 Park Drive,
Hethersett,
Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,
Hingham,
Norfolk, NR9 4LJ

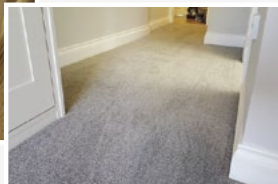
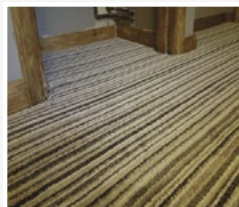
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THE Grapevine

Let's all keep our local heritage alive



St Mary's, Marlingford.

Picture: Felicity Maton

There are a few ancient buildings in our communities which have stood the test of time and could tell many fascinating stories if their walls could speak! Particularly, I'm thinking of our three lovely churches – St Andrew's, St Peter's and St Mary's, Marlingford which have stood watching over our villages for several hundred years. But it's only with the help of local residents donations and other special grants that they have not fallen into disrepair. They are still lively, community

hubs, tourist attractions and are quiet havens for anyone seeking a place to go for peaceful reflection. But without continuing support from local villagers, we may lose these wonderful places as, without essential maintenance, they fall into decay and are lost to our descendants. St Mary's, Marlingford is, even now, trying to raise money for urgent repairs on the church tower. No-one wants to lose these buildings so if you can help, see page 17 for details on how you can donate towards repair costs.

Deadline for items for the April issue: Monday, March 25
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

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

Our village hall is 100 years old this year. Our Centenary celebrations begin with an **Afternoon Tea and Cake - and Children's Treasure Hunt.** Sunday April 7, 3.00pm – 5.00pm plus a raffle.

Watch out for more events taking place throughout the year.

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

Coming up:

March 14: We have **Julian Barnwell** talking about the discovery of the shipwrecked **HMS Gloucester** off the coast of Lowestoft.



Wreck of the Gloucester. Picture: Johan Danckerts

March 28: We will be having an **Easter Dice** game.

We meet every two weeks on a Thursday afternoon at the village hall at 2.00pm. Anyone over the age of 55 is welcome. Come along for a chat and have a cup of tea and a biscuit. Come and see for yourself!

Tony Perry

● Easton Pop In

Tuesday's 10.00am to 11.45am
We serve tea and coffee with

biscuits. On **March 26** there will be hot cross buns. Everybody welcome, meet your friends or make new ones.

Brighten up your day! We look forward to seeing you there. 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.

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

Easter Bunny quiz

How many do you know?

1. I am a famous Looney Tunes rabbit whose well known phrase is 'What's up doc?'
2. I am a Disney rabbit whose best friend is Bambi.
3. I am a mischievous young rabbit always in trouble with Farmer MacGregor.
4. I'm a cartoon rabbit in a constant panic with a wife called Jessica.
5. I wear a waistcoat and even though I carry a pocketwatch, I am constantly late.
6. I am a clever little rabbit with many animal friends and feature in stories by Joe Chandler Harris and Enid Blyton.
7. I'm an invisible, six-foot tall rabbit who featured in a film with James Stewart.
8. Although I am young and small, I lead a group of bunnies on a perilous journey from their home to find a new warren.
9. I live in the woods and have a bear, a piglet and a donkey as friends.
10. I am a young boy's favourite toy that turned into a real rabbit.

Answers on page 22.

Community and Fundraising Events

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.

Quiz Nights

Marlingford Village Hall

NR9 5HL

Friday March 1

? April 5 - May 3 ?
June 7 - July 5 ?

? Doors open 7pm ?
for 7.30pm start

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

£2.50 per person

(cash please)

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

B I N G O

21 Saturdays 1
March 23

April 20 – May 18

Marlingford Village Hall
NR9 5HL

4 10

Doors open 7pm
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

£3 per session

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

rosannaellis@btinternet.com

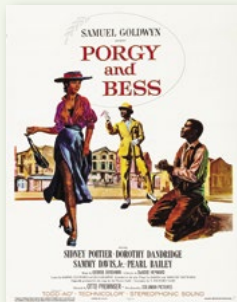
News from Easton Women's Institute

Enjoyable readings

January saw us holding our AGM which was followed by poems selected by members because they had enjoyed them and wanted to share them with others. We had poems and sayings ranging from Irish humorous verse to works by William Wordsworth and Andrew Marvell and rounded it off with some wisdom in Norfolk dialect. Thanks to everybody who contributed something.

71st birthday meeting

At our next meeting on **Thursday March 14**, we will be celebrating our 71st birthday as a WI. We have invited members from other WIs and will have a musical talk by **James Stebbings** who will talk about **The Magnificent Seven**. These are seven American songwriters who wrote songs we all know and includes George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers songs. We will also be going to Wensum Valley Hotel for a meal in February and to the HSL showroom in March to hear a talk and watch a



Poster for Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess'.

demonstration of their comfortable adjustable chairs.

Fascinating talks coming up

At our April meeting we will be having a talk about the **Royal British Legion** followed by a meeting of the Barford and District Group of WIs to be held at Breckland Hall, Costessey on **Wednesday May 1**.

The speaker will be **Chris Bell** the weatherman (pictured), talking about **The Facts and Science of Climate Change**. There is a small charge of



£3.50 for this meeting but anyone is welcome to join us there. We would like to know who intends to come as refreshments will be served after the talk and it is helpful to know numbers.

Come and join us!

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 Easton village hall.

If anyone is interested in either joining or knowing more about the WI, please do come to one of our gatherings to meet us.

Mary Blathwayt

Check on people who want to enter your home

Distraction burglars pretend to be someone they are not in order to gain entry to your home.

Common methods used by distraction burglars include:

- Pretending to be from a care agency, the council or a utility company investigating a gas or water leak.
- Seeking help to leave a note for a neighbour or even asking for a drink of water if they claim to be thirsty or unwell.
- Claiming to be in a hurry and needing to enter your home quickly.
- Working in teams, with one person distracting you while the other searches your home.

How to prevent it

There are a number of things you can do to prevent distraction burglary. Always remember “if in doubt, keep them out”:

- Use your door viewer to see

who’s there.

- If you open the door, put the chain on first.
 - Always ask for ID and check it with the company before letting somebody into your home.
 - Use the phone number advertised in the phone book or online, as the number on their identity card could be fake. For a utility company, call the customer service department. Close the door while you do this.
 - Remember that genuine callers won’t mind checks. If you feel at all unsure, schedule a time for the caller to come back when a friend or relative is there.
 - For pre-planned appointments with utility companies, a password scheme can be set up.
- If you feel threatened or in danger by the presence of the caller, call 999.

Your Local Safer Neighbourhood team

Beat Manager

Stuart Barnard Sgt 499

E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



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Beat Manager

Andrew Sneddon PC

T: 101 Ext: 5699

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

Marlingford villagers – cherish your church!

Many of you will be aware that our village church is in a need of urgent repair.

St Marys has been at the centre of our community for nearly a 1000 years. The village has often come together to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of this lovely building as you can read in the text below:

“Marlingford Newsletter – September 1986

The new windows in the church have now been completed, and look very fine. We are very grateful indeed to those parishioners who have made donations towards their restoration. Thank you very much. Our next job will be the re-decoration of the interior, and the re-plastering of the tower interior.

Roger Burt (Rector)”

38 years later, this ancient building is still used by the community for regular worship, marriages, baptisms, funerals and prayer and meditation. It is kept unlocked. It's known that there was a Saxon church here, then the Normans added an arch around the main door and the font, just inside. Restoration and additions continued. The tower was built during the 13th century. We have recently had an architect's inspection and report which lists areas for repair and maintenance –



The Norman archway.

Picture: Felicity Maton

some urgent, others over the next couple of years. The tower is in need of repairing the structure near the top without delay. There is a temporary fence around its base to protect people from falling masonry. The estimated cost of the tower work is about £25,000 so we are looking for support from residents (parishioners) to join a group to raise funds and contact grant-giving organisations. The first meeting will be held very soon, so if you feel you can help in any way, please contact me or any member of the Parochial Church Council.

Donations can be sent online to:

Marlingford Parochial Church Council

Bank code: 20 62 53

Account No: 80602698

If you wish the church to claim GiftAid, please let me know.

Felicity Maton – Churchwarden

01603 880846

f.maton@btinternet.com

Help Redwings celebrate its 40th anniversary and make a difference to rescued animals

Redwings Horse Sanctuary, the UK's largest horse welfare charity founded in 1984, is celebrating its Ruby Anniversary this year. Since its formation, more than 5,500 rescued horses, ponies and donkeys have found safety in the Sanctuary as well as countless others who have been helped in their homes through the outreach work of Redwings' field officers and welfare team. Currently the charity is responsible for over 2,000 horses and donkeys, including more than 700 rehomed to loving Guardian homes. Its headquarters remains in Norfolk, with nationwide sanctuary sites in Essex, Warwickshire, Monmouthshire and Forfar in Scotland. Redwings is planning a year of events to mark the



A visitor makes friends with a Redwings resident.



Resident Kain gets some loving attention from admirers.

milestone, kicking off celebrations by inviting supporters to take part in **The Great Big Ruby Tea Party on Wednesday April 24.**

Taking place at three of the charity's visitor centres – Redwings Caldecott and Redwings Aylsham, both in Norfolk, and Redwings Oxhill in Warwickshire – there will be an exclusive opportunity for supporters to enjoy a delicious selection of treats with three sittings throughout the day, each with their own unique menus; brunch at 10am – 11.30am, lunch at 12pm – 1.30pm and afternoon tea at 2pm – 3.30pm. All dietary requirements can be catered for upon request. Tickets cost £20 per person and can be purchased at redwings.org.uk/rubyanniversary or by calling **01508 505246.**

The charity has also developed a

free online resource pack, including bunting and posters, for supporters to host their own fundraising **Great Big Ruby Tea Party** at home, available to download at redwings.org.uk/rubyanniversary

Those celebrating at home can also purchase special **Tea & Treats** boxes, priced at £20 for one person or £40 for two, to be delivered by post, full of local tasty produce including Norfolk Tea, Redwings' exclusive Ruby Anniversary jam, marmalade and chutney, and shortbread.

Redwings CEO, Lynn Cutress, said: "We've grown a lot in 40 years, but something that hasn't changed is our supporters' kindness and dedication. As a charity 100% funded by public donations, it is therefore only right that we invite everyone to celebrate with us!" "All proceeds from our anniversary events go towards the care of our rescued residents, helping raise funds for the next 40 years too!" Redwings will be holding more events throughout the anniversary year including their first ever **Book Festival** at Redwings Caldecott on Saturday May 18. The day will feature a host of talks and panels from authors, including TV personality and master saddlemaker **Suzie Fletcher**, author of



Redwings resident Ruby

the Ruth Galloway novels **Elly Griffiths**, renowned children's author **Joyce Dunbar** and more.

The season of events will culminate with a 'Behind-the-scenes' tour of the Sanctuary's headquarters at Hapton in Norfolk. Not usually open to the public, the site is home to the charity's horse hospital and its largest rehoming centre. Taking place on **Saturday September 21**, the tours will showcase the care the Sanctuary offers and places will be available to book in advance. Information for each event, updated throughout the year, can be found at redwings.org.uk/rubyanniversary



Alfie, recently rescued and being urgently bandaged.



Alfie now.

Our latest amazing family trip down under was for a very special reason

Colton resident **John Morse** describes his recent visit to meet a new member of the family.

My wife and I had been lucky enough to visit Australia three times since we retired.

So far, we have been able to visit Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and the Margaret River wineries, The Gold Coast, Cairns, The Great Barrier Reef, the Tropical Rain Forest, the famous Ghan train from Adelaide to Alice Springs, and the magical world of Uluru.

However, this latest 10-day trip in January was special!

Marion and I, and my friend



The beach at Malabar.

Ted, were going to visit my first grandson, born in late November.

As on previous visits, we stayed in a comfortable apartment overlooking the sea in the village of Malabar, just south of Sydney.

The view was spectacular and the golden beach was just 10 minutes' walk away.

We were also lucky that there was a stop for the excellent bus service right outside our door which meant that we could travel around Sydney easily to see Callum and his partner Lani, and meet Samson.

I can't describe how excited I was to see this little treasure. The joy of meeting the next generation is, as I'm sure many of you will understand, truly wonderful but bringing with it the challenge of having such a wonderful addition to our family tempered by the fact that he is over 10,000 miles away. Video conferencing is fine but there is no substitute to meeting him in person.



A companion at breakfast!

Although we did manage to do a bit of sightseeing to the National Art Gallery, Botanic Gardens, Watson's Bay, and Circular Quay, where we saw the famous Opera House and Harbour Bridge, we had as much fun babysitting Samson, giving his parents their first opportunity of a couple of hours' time off to have a cup of coffee and a swim.

I discovered that, as I am what one would call comfortably upholstered, Samson seemed very happy just to sleep on my chest. For those who haven't been

to Sydney, we can heartily recommend it. There was a recent *Time Out* news article saying that, by virtue of its climate, tidiness, minimal crime, food choices and transport facilities, it was the world's best city to live in.

That said, it is a very expensive place to live. Callum and Lani's apartment is very comfortable, but very small. They said that with the arrival of Samson, they are looking to move to their own larger place. However, looking at available properties, even a modest two-bedroom apartment in an outlying



Sunrise over Malabar.

Pictures: John Morse

suburb, will set them back over \$AUS 1 million, or approximately £516,000!

So.... you might ask “who is Ted?”. When I was Samson’s age, my own grandfather gave me Ted, my first bear. Now 72 years old, he needed to find his new home and new owner. We had him restored and made ready for the trip. We even got him a ‘passport’. On the flight out, Ted managed to visit the cockpit and meet the pilot! He became quite a celebrity



Ted gets familiar with the cockpit instrument panel.

on our journey and now has pride of place down under with the fifth generation in our family.

Mobile library 2024 – March dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: March 21

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: March 20

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

Thursday: March 21

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.

Answers to Easter Bunny quiz on page 13: 1. Bugs Bunny; 2. Thumper; 3. Peter Rabbit; 4. Roger Rabbit; 5. The White Rabbit; 6. Brer Rabbit; 7. Harvey; 8. Hazel (Watership Down); 9. Rabbit (Winnie the Pooh); 10. The Velveteen Rabbit (by Margery Williams)



St Andrew's Church, Colton.

Picture: Annette Hudson

Work set to start on improvements to car park

After many months we are almost ready to start the work on the car park at St Andrew's, Colton. Planning permission has been obtained from SNDC (thanks to the parish council for their help in this) and a faculty received from the Diocese of Norwich allowing us to proceed with the work. The plan is to dig drains and then apply a surface membrane covered in shingle, bordered by low sleepers to help maintain the rural character of the churchyard. The work will probably start around March 4 – not a moment too soon as church-goers' cars

were literally 'stuck in the mud' after our February service!

As many will know, we are able to do this thanks to the generous bequest of Mr and Mrs Alan and Dorothy Falgate. Our intention is to position a bench in the churchyard dedicated to their memory.

A service will be held in church at the time of the dedication to which all will be invited. Details to follow.

Our AGM is to be held on March 17 at 11.15am when we will elect our churchwarden and PCC.

Liz Plater
Secretary to the PCC

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

Norwich Western

Link/A47 update

Parish council chairman, Councillor John Morse, recently attended a Norwich Western Link/A47 liaison meeting.

This is his report;

“Marlingford and Colton Parish Council again met with representatives of both National Highways and Norfolk County Council, responsible for the proposed Norwich Western Link, regarding the proposed dualling of the A47 between East Tuddenham and Easton. We were advised that, subject to the outcome of an ongoing hearing in the high court, National Highways expect to start construction of the new road, in early April.

We queried the issue of recent flooding at the Honingham roundabout but were advised that although it had been complex, they were confident that satisfactory mitigation measures were now in place, including the installation of silt fences, to deal with potential flooding issues.

We also raised the pressing issue of refurbishing the roads, verges, drains and potholes in our parish and the lack of response to repeated queries to representatives from Norfolk County Council Highways Department.

However, after discussing this with a senior representative from Norfolk County Council, he promised personally to look at the matter and provide us with a suitable and timely response. Regarding the Norwich Western Link project, it is understood that, subject to formal planning, further environmental impact assessments, local public consultations and appeals and project funding from the government of up to 100% of the estimated costs of £273.6 million being available, construction work is scheduled to begin in 2026 with completion expected in 2029.”

Marlingford village litter pick 2024

Over the weekend of March 9-10, the residents of Marlingford are planning a **“Get ready for Spring”**

village litter pick. To register your interest, please contact **Mark Pfeiffer** at this address **mark.pfeiffer67@icloud.com** as soon as possible. Funding has been allocated to support this through Pride in Place, clean up and bloom grant from South Norfolk Council.

Fly tipping

There has been a recent spate of fly tipping including an instance where the road was obstructed.

If fly tipping is spotted, please report it to South Norfolk using the link below:

forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/councilforms/Neighbourhood/FlyTipping/LocationDetails



Fly tipping near Marlingford.

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.

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**

Your Parish Councillors:

Cllr Ben Moye – Chairman

**Cllr Peter Milliken –
Vice Chairman**

Cllr Peter McCarter

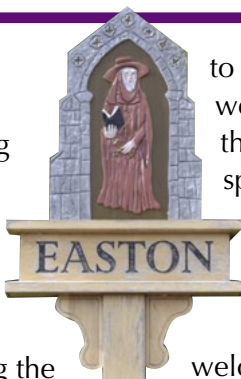
Cllr David Lewis

New community centre

The work on the new community centre is moving along and, by the time you read this article, the work on the Marlingford Road main drain connection should have been completed. We are updating the images of the progress regularly and we encourage you visit eastoncommunitycentre.co.uk

We are still awaiting approval of condition 3a for the footpath. UK Power Networks have still not provided a date to connect the site and, until we have these dates, we will not know an opening date for the community centre. We have heard of concerns from local groups who regularly use the existing village hall that they will have no storage space. To dispel any misinformation, there will be three storage areas which will be allocated on a needs basis.

The only consideration is, we do not want these spaces filled with items that are no longer used. We hear that some are worried that they will not have any place



to put cups etc, and again we want to reassure hirers there will be adequate space available. Viewing the plans will illustrate the different areas and we want to ensure the centre remains a tidy and welcoming space once in use.

If your organisation requires further information, please contact the clerk who will be happy to answer your queries.



Work is progressing on the interior and exterior areas of Easton's new community centre.

Jubilee playing field damage

Very sadly, the Jubilee playing field suffered damage believed to be vandalism recently. It has cost £364 of precept money coming from residents' council tax to rectify it. We would like to remind residents that this park is for use by those under 16-years-old. Please do not confront large groups for safety reasons but do call the police if you see incidents as they can deal with matters appropriately.

This area is covered by by-laws and the police can issue £100 per person fines for each by-law breached. It is important not to complain after the incident as a phone call beforehand could prevent damage and the problem could be dealt with. If damage like this continues, regrettably the park will have to be locked each day and this will have a further cost.

Highways and paths

Flooding near the path leading to the church has been brought to councillors' attention. This is a matter for Norfolk County Council Highways and can be addressed directly to them or via your Norfolk County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury. Damage to the grassed area on Dereham Road connecting to Marlingford Road has been reported to Easton Parish Council.

The organisation responsible for the damage has agreed to make the necessary repairs.

Speed limits

Villagers are reminded that speed limits exist for a reason. The 60mph limit on Dereham Road from the showground roundabout to the village boundary will shortly be reduced to 40mph. We hope to see improvements along Dereham Road and Bawburgh Road in the not-too-distant future as Persimmon Homes get ready to start development on Phase 2.

Annual allotment renewals

Allotment rents and renewals will be due at the end of March. Any unlet plots will be allocated to those on the waiting list. If you want a plot and are not already on the waiting list, please contact the clerk.

Councillor vacancies

There are still vacancies for parish councillors at Easton parish council. If you want to make a difference to your community and have time available to commit to the necessary duties of a councillor, please contact the clerk – clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Happy Easter to all

Councillors and staff wish all our residents a peaceful and Happy Easter.



The Rambling Vine



World's End

So we begin to contemplate the End
With shadowed glimpses of apocalypse.
How can we even start to understand?
The heavens shaken, and the vast eclipse
Of everything that we have ever known.
Then, suddenly revealed, the power and glory
Once-veiled in symbols of the lamb and throne,
The all-revealing climax of our story.
About that day, you tell us, no one knows
But we must wake and watch for you, look up.
Yet hidden in this warning you disclose
A tender yearning, a deep stirring hope,
And bid us, in the visions that you bring,
To see the world's end as a sign of spring.

Malcolm Guite

Let's all become part of the signs of spring

Spring is upon us and we see the buds peeking through the soil and brightening up the branches. But yet there are also snaps of cold weather, and driving rain that sends us back indoors. Spring, it seems, does not appear and dispense with winter in an instant, but pushes the boundary between the two, until one day, we will notice that winter has gone and spring has come. Resurrection can also be a bit like that. I guess that the actual



event of Resurrection is pretty instant, and yet, the impact and the unfolding of the meaning of Resurrection is something that is still pushing back the boundaries.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared to his disciples in varying ways – in a garden, on the beach, eating fish, walking along a road, breaking bread, appearing in locked rooms. They didn't fully know what his resurrection meant for them at

that time, that the Resurrection of Jesus, meant that all creation was to receive a Resurrection, including them.

And that the resurrection of all things had begun.

Jesus' Resurrection was the end of the world and the beginning of spring. It began the process of pushing back the boundaries of death and destruction in our world, and this is still unfolding today.

As we think about the Easter Story and all it means to us, remember that we are part of this unfolding

story that stretches out from that Easter morning to this morning.

The pushing forward of new resurrection life into our world which can often feel a bit 'wintery.'

It can be difficult to see the 'signs of spring' in the world around us.

But the truth is that we are part of the story, we are the 'signs of spring' in our world, the place where God has called us to be.

How will you push back the boundaries of death and destruction? How will you be a 'sign of spring' today?

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services March 2024

March		
Sunday 3	10.00am	Easton - 3rd of Lent HC
Sunday 10	10.00am	Marlingford - 4th of Lent HC Mothering Sunday
Sunday 17	10.00am	Colton - Passiontide begins HC
Sunday 24	10.00am	Bawburgh - Palm Sunday HC
Monday 25 Tuesday 26	3.00pm – 5.00pm	St Peter's Primary Academy visits St Peter's Church for Experience Easter . St Peter's Church open to the public from 3-5pm Experience Easter too!
Thursday 28	6.30pm	Colton - Maundy Thursday HC with handwashing
Friday 29	10.00am - 12.30pm	Easter Egg Hunt - outdoor classroom, Forest Park, Queen's Hills
Sunday 31- clocks go forward an hour	10.00am	Easton - Easter Day, all age HC with Easter egg hunt.

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