

THE Grapevine

April 2024

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



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PLUS

- **Local information**
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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	Jan Hudson - 01603 880811 eastonbowls.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: Flooding on water meadows
near Marlingford. Picture: Annette Hudson.

Advertisers can supply their own
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(contact treasurer for details).
They can be high resolution jpg or
pdf files.

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:			
	£300	£400	£500

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
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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
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Treasurer	Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ	judy.scrivener@ googlemail.com
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St Mary's Church, Marlingford

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

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

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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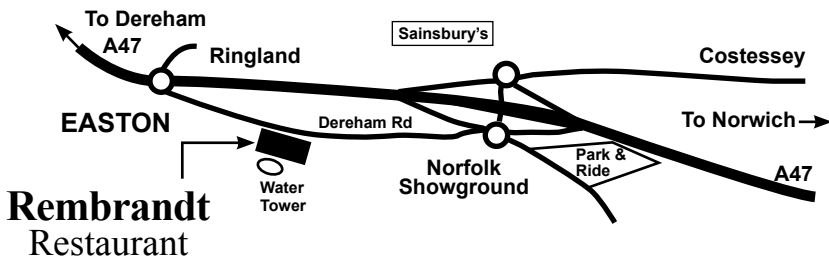
Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 4pm - 8pm

*For latest information
please see the website or phone*

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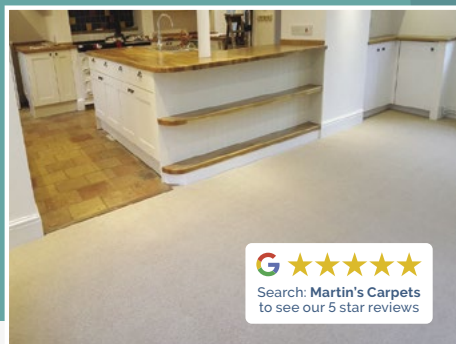
Hethersett: 01603 810022

17 Park Drive,
Hethersett,
Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,
Hingham,
Norfolk, NR9 4LJ

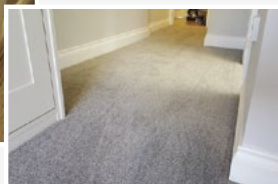
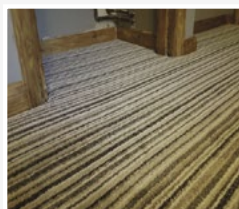
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Facebook: [martinscarpetsltd](https://www.facebook.com/martinscarpetsltd)

Customer satisfaction is our priority.

Car park work at St Andrew's completed

Colton church car park is now completed and looks very smart. All we would ask is that people don't try to do 'wheelies' on the car park until the tar and shingle settles down. Some flower planting has been carried out to jazz it up a bit and wildflower seed has been scattered in the centre section. As previously mentioned a memorial bench will be positioned overlooking the graveyard in memory of the Falgates and a thanksgiving service will be held this summer. The date for this is still to be arranged.

Judy Scrivener



Have you enjoyed reading The Grapevine this month?

The pandemic forced the Grapevine online but we really would like to produce printed copies more regularly again. Cost is a problem with rising paper and printing prices. We have some advertising revenue but it won't cover the cost of printing 10 issues a year. 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!

The Grapevine Committee

Deadline for items for the May issue: Wednesday, April 17 2024

Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton village hall

● Spring Bingo

Saturday, April 6.

Come and try your luck at our bingo night! Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.00pm. And if you're unlucky at bingo, you could be taking home a prize from the raffle!

● Village Hall Spring Clean

Saturday, April 13 - 10am

If you've a couple of hours to spare and take pride in the village, come along at 10am and lend a hand with a general tidy up in and around Colton village hall.

Coming up:

● Colton Quiz night - save the date!

Saturday May 11

An opportunity to delve into the dusty recesses of your brain along with other keen quizzers. Teams of up to 6. £4 per person. Bring your own refreshments. Doors open 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start.

● 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 residents: £7.50, others: £15.00. For more details, contact Vicky Green on 01603 881336 or email vicky@mgarchery.co.uk

Marlingford village hall

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 our centenary year.

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

April 11: Horse Racing

April 25: The Wreck of the

Gloucester

– a talk by
Julian Barnes

(Event was postponed in March)



● Easton Pop In

Tuesday's 10.00am to 11.45am

We serve tea and coffee with biscuits. Brighten up your day!

Brenda and Tony

Easton Crafters Club

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.

The Good Companions

I've joined The Good Companions

A club for OAPs

I thought I'd make new friends

But find I'm making tea.

We do have some very good speakers

Plus dice games, Bingo and more.

Sometimes there's music to dance to

Just don't end up on the floor!

You might just win on the raffle

Something good I hear you say

A cruise or a trip to Iceland

If that's your dream-

There's no tickets today!

Now I'm glad I joined

Good Companions

It's all so exciting you see

So thank you for making me welcome

And I don't mind making the tea.

A poem by CB -2024

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.

**All those interested, please
contact Janet on 01603 471144.**



Quiz Nights

Marlingford Village Hall

NR9 5HL

Friday 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

April 20

May 18

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

Community and Fundraising Events



Barford Dog Show
Sunday 28th April 2024
Gates open 10am
Judging starts 11am

Food, games and pawsome family fun!

Dog show entry £3 per class or 4 classes for £10. Register on the day.

Homemade treats from: **Delish**

Free entry for spectators!

Barford & Wramplingham Village Hall, Chapel St, Barford, NR9 4AB
Questions? Email BarfordDSS@outlook.com

All proceeds go to Barford Primary School
Registered charity number 1044208

Friends of Barford Primary School



If you know who this is...  ...you've got a head start!

COLTON VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ

SATURDAY, MAY 11

7.00 for 7.30pm start

Teams of up to six - £4 per person.
Call Vicky on 01603 881336 to book a table. Feel free to bring your own refreshments.

A test for eyes AND ears!
All proceeds towards village hall

Come and try your hand at bowls at an open day in May with Easton Bowls Club

Easton Bowls Club invites you to join us for an open day on **Saturday May 4** (2pm for 2.30pm start).

We are a small, friendly club and are always looking for new members. We play in two leagues and have at least two club competitions during the season. All are welcome from total beginners to experienced players. Don't worry if you don't have any bowls, because we have spare sets

you can use.

Please wear flat soled shoes if you have them. Refreshments will be provided on the day.

The green is accessed through the same gate as St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church on the Marlingford Road, Easton, NR9 5AD.

● If you are likely to attend, please email us at: eastonbowls.bh@btinternet.com or phone our club secretary Jan Hudson on: 01603 880811.

Pub to re-open

Villagers will be pleased to hear The Bell in Marlingford, which closed a few weeks ago, is to open for drinks only on Friday, April 12.



News from Easton Women's Institute

Many Happy Returns!

Easton WI had its 71st birthday meeting in March and we were joined by visitors from New Costessey, Hethersett, Mattishall and Bowthorpe.

We enjoyed listening to a talk about the lives of seven American songwriters of the 1940s and hearing extracts of some of their songs followed by some excellent refreshments all provided by our members.

Home comforts

A group of WI members and friends visited the HSL furniture showroom in Norwich and had a very pleasant time being shown round and given refreshments and a goodie bag to take home.



Enjoying a trip round HSL furniture showroom.

Coming up

At our next meeting on Thursday April 11, **Stewart Blackburn** will be coming to tell us about **The Royal British Legion**.

After that, on Wednesday, May 1, there will be a meeting of the Barford and District Group of WIs when the weather man **Chris Bell** will be giving his talk about **The Facts and Science of Climate Change** in Breckland Hall in Costessey at 7.30pm.

There will be a charge of £3.50 per person for this meeting.

Looking even further ahead on Thursday, May 9, Easton WI will be having a talk by the **Windmill Handbell Ringers** in Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We also plan outings including one to Wymondham Museum at the end of April.

We are always happy for other people to join us at our meetings or come with us on outings if we have enough space.

Mary Blathway

Police crackdown on uninsured vehicles

Police in Norfolk seized 1,304 uninsured vehicles across the county between January and December last year, which is an average of 3.6 vehicles every day. Uninsured vehicles pose a significant risk to other road users as if you are involved in a collision with someone who is not insured, it could leave you significantly out of pocket should you require medical care, property repairs, or other support.

All police forces submit monthly vehicle seizure statistics to MIB (Motor Insurers' Bureau), the UK organisation responsible for compensating individuals involved in a collision with an uninsured driver or a driver who fails to stop. Officers on patrol use automatic number plate recognition cameras built into police cars to detect vehicles that do not have insurance. If the driver is unable

Picture: Freepik



to provide proof of insurance, the vehicle is seized. Other consequences could include:

- six penalty points on your licence
- a fixed penalty of £300
- paying a fee to have your vehicle released.

Vehicles are only released back to the owner once they have bought valid insurance. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the vehicle being crushed. Should the case go to court, offenders face the prospect of an unlimited fine and being disqualified from driving.

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.

Protect yourself from mobile phone theft

We are so dependent on our mobile phones these days that getting it stolen almost feels like losing a limb – after all, we keep so much personal information on them.

So it's sensible to guard against getting it stolen.

Some tips to keep your mobile safe:

- Don't leave your any of your devices unattended, out of your sight, or left on a table. Thieves can grab a phone from a table in seconds.
- Be aware of your surroundings and only use your mobile when it feels safe to.
- When you've finished using it, put it away. Sounds obvious, but so many people just walk along with their phones in their hand after using them.

Things to do now that will help if your phone gets stolen:

● Secure your phone

Use your phone's security features to stop someone using your phone if it's stolen. Choose a strong PIN, passcode, password or pattern.

● Get your IMEI number

You can find this by typing *#06# on your phone keypad. Keep a note of it somewhere other than on your



phone. The IMEI can help track the phone down if it's lost or stolen.

● Use a tracking app

Set up a tracking app on your phone so you can see where it is from another device like a laptop. Use it as soon as possible, before thieves

have a chance to disable it.

● Turn off message previews

Turn off message previews, so that thieves won't see any messages about reset or login codes when your phone is locked.

● Keep your data accessible

– Make sure your phone data is regularly being backed up, either automatically over wifi or by plugging it into a computer.
– Make sure there's somewhere else you can get access codes sent to (two-factor authentication codes) so you can access your data from another device.

– Keep important information like family and friends' phone numbers and passwords somewhere else secure, not just on your phone.

● Help setting your phone up

See your device's help pages for help with device location tracking, account recovery and message preview settings.

The Epic Sheringham Viking Festival 2024



Boat burning on the beach at Sheringham.

Picture: Chris Taylor - christaylorphoto.co.uk

If you've never heard of the Sheringham Viking Festival, then you're in for a treat. Taking place on **Saturday, April 13**, this unique festival brings together all sorts of Viking-era activities, from battles to boat-burning ceremonies. The festival is free to attend, and there is a voluntary collection to help fund future events. One of the highlights of the Sheringham Viking Festival 2024 is the traditional boat-burning ceremony. This ceremony is held in honour of the ancient Viking culture and it is a way to celebrate their spirit. The ceremony involves the burning of a Viking longship,

which is a replica of an ancient Viking vessel. It's a beautiful sight to behold. The ship's burning is meant to symbolise the ending of one's journey and the beginning of a new one. It is a powerful way to honour the Vikings and their culture. Click here for more details: [experiencesheringham.com](https://www.experiencesheringham.com) The chart below shows the main public car parks, all of which have disabled parking spaces. It will typically take 10 minutes by foot from these car parks to Beeston Common for the day time activities. Charges apply at these car parks from 8 am to 6pm.

For more details click here:
north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/your-community/view-car-parking-locations/

In addition to the car parks mentioned above, there is overflow car parking at the following locations:

- Behind Sheringham Medical Practice NR26 8RT
- At St Andrews Methodist Church NR26 8SA
- At The Lighthouse NR26 8RT
- St Joseph's Church Sheringham NR26 8RT

Location:	Chequers	Morris Street	Cliff Road	Station Approach
Postcode:	NR26 8BQ	NR26 8JY	NR26 8BJ	NR26 8RG
Tariff:	Resort	Resort	Coastal	Coastal
Spaces:	26	115	94	294
Surface:	Tarmac	Tarmac	Tarmac	Tarmac
Toilets:	No	No	No	Close by
EVCP:	No	Yes	No	No



Viking battle on Beeston Common in 2022.

Picture: Helen Steed, Geograph

Old MacDonald had a farm - AI AI Oh?

I'm fairly baffled by the mention of AI so I thought I'd try and find out exactly what it is and how it affects me on a daily basis.



The drawing program Adobe Illustrator has recently incorporated AI generation. I drew a box and asked it to generate a cow, sheep, chicken and farm. This is what it produced. The sheep must be in the barn...

Wondering who to speak to about it, I heard about **ChatGPT** which is an app 'designed to generate human-like responses in natural language conversations'. Basically, you tell it what you want it to do or ask it a question and it generates a solution. So, I thought who better to ask about AI than AI itself.

ME: In simple terms, what is AI?

ChatGPT: AI (Artificial Intelligence) is like a brain for machines. It helps them think, learn and make decisions. AI can do tasks such as recognising speech, understanding language, playing games and even driving cars. It learns from data and experiences to improve over time.

ME: How long has AI been around?

ChatGPT: The concept of AI dates

back to ancient times with early philosophical discussions about creating artificial beings capable of human-like intelligence. However, modern AI emerged in the mid-20th century. The term "artificial intelligence" was coined in 1956 at the Dartmouth Conference where researchers first proposed the idea of building machines that could think and learn like humans. Since then, AI has undergone periods of intense research, development, and innovation, with significant milestones in the '70s, 80s and 90s.

ME: OK - How, for example, does my smart phone use AI?

ChatGPT: Your phone uses AI in various ways, for example:

1 Virtual assistants like Siri, Google

Assistant, or Alexa use AI to understand your voice commands, answer questions, set reminders, and perform tasks like sending messages or making calls.

2 Predictive Text When you're typing a message, AI algorithms predict the next word or phrase based on your typing history and context, making typing faster and more accurate. *(I wanted to say 'That's debatable but didn't want to interrupt Chatty's flow...')*

3 Camera Features AI is used in features like autofocus, image stabilisation, and scene recognition. It can optimise settings for better photos or even apply filters automatically.

4 Personalisation AI analyses your usage patterns, such as the apps you use frequently, the times you use them and your location, to personalise your phone's experience. This could include suggesting apps, organising notifications, or adjusting settings automatically.

5 Security AI algorithms help in biometric authentication methods like facial recognition or fingerprint scanning to unlock your phone.

6 Battery Optimisation AI can manage your phone's power consumption by learning your usage habits and adjusting settings to conserve battery life without sacrificing performance.

This all sounded positive - so I thought I'd ask about the negative...

ME: Could AI be a bad thing?

ChatGPT: Like any powerful technology, AI has the potential to be used in harmful or negative ways if not properly managed or regulated. For example:

1 Job Displacement AI automation could lead to job loss as tasks traditionally performed by humans are automated.

2 Bias and Discrimination AI systems can inherit biases from the data they are trained on leading to unfair or discriminatory outcomes, particularly in areas such as hiring, lending and criminal justice.

3 Privacy Concerns Relying on vast amounts of personal data to function effectively, raises concerns about privacy and data security.

4 Ethical Dilemmas These arise when making decisions that affect human lives such as autonomous vehicles choosing between different courses of action in emergency situations or healthcare algorithms prioritising certain patients over others.

5 Dependency and Control Over-reliance on AI systems could lead to a loss of human autonomy and control with decisions increasingly delegated to algorithms whose inner workings may be opaque or poorly understood. Maintaining human oversight and

accountability in AI development and deployment is essential to mitigate these risks. While AI has the potential to bring about significant benefits and advancements, it is crucial to address these challenges proactively through responsible research, development, and governance to ensure that AI technologies are deployed in ways that prioritise human well-being, fairness, and accountability.

ME: Could you do my homework for me? (*asking for a concerned friend...*)

ChatGPT: I can certainly understand

concepts, provide explanations or offer guidance but I am unable to complete it for you. It's important to learn and engage with the material yourself.

(*well, that's alright then...*)

ME: Thank you Chatty - may I call you Chatty?

Chatty: Of course! You're welcome!

If you have any more questions in the future, feel free to ask.

Have a great day!

Well – you couldn't wish to meet a more polite Generative

Pre-trained Transformer.

Annette Hudson

Mobile library 2024 – April dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: April 18

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: April 17

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

Thursday: April 18

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.

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman

Vacancy

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr David Woods

Cllr Mark Pfeiffer

Councillor steps down

At the March parish council meeting Paul Hammerton stepped down as a Councillor. During his time as a Councillor, Paul has been both Chairman and Vice-Chairman and played a vital role in overseeing the conservation area in Marlingford. The Parish Council would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him well in the future.

Councillor vacancies

The parish council now has three vacancies and is looking for residents to join. If you are interested in local issues and want to make a difference in your community, being a councillor could be for you. Come along to one of our meetings to see what the rôle entails. Alternatively, feel free to contact our clerk, **Maria Hutson** on **01603 850118**, or email **marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com**

A47 North Tuddenham to Easton update

Following two separate meetings with representatives from National Highways, the first at our most recent parish council meeting, and the second, at the A47/NWL

Local Liaison Group (LLG) meeting the following day, we have been updated as to ongoing work at the construction site, and its effect upon roads through Colton.

We have been advised that mitigation is underway to deal with the continuing problem of flooding at the Honingham Roundabout.

We understand that National Highways will be installing flood prevention tanks at the site. **However, to do this, we are advised that the A47 will be closed completely overnight on April 12.**

National Highways has now been in conversation with the police with regard to putting in additional measures that day, to encourage HGV drivers to use the official diversion route which is across to the A11 and A1075. We have also stressed the need for National Highways to install 'Do not use your Satnav' signs while the work is being done because, despite the best efforts of the authorities, local drivers and those relying on their in-car equipment will continue to use our villages as a rat run.

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

National Highways hopes the experience they will gain from these necessary mitigation methods and their ongoing discussions with the police about future planned and emergency closures of the A47, will help them reduce as much as possible, the knock-on effect of traffic through the parish.

National Highways has also given us an update following the rejection of Andrew Boswell's appeal, in the appeals court.

Work will now go ahead in earnest with the construction phase of the A47 between East Tuddenham and Easton. However, the project is now running behind schedule because necessary activities such as hedge clearing and its effect on the nesting bird population, will be delayed from the earlier construction timetable.

Finally, we continue to press South Norfolk Council for a timetable to re-instate verges throughout the parish. Sadly, no such information has been forthcoming and so we will re-activate this in early April, once their new financial year's budgets are in place. They should have the necessary funding to start the hoped-for remedial works.

Norwich Western Link

Norfolk County Council are about to start their planning application

process and will be writing to all local parish councils to appraise them of their timetable.

At the LLG meeting, the issue of project-funding was raised.

We were advised that the government had already agreed to provide 80% of the funding, and hopefully the further 20% – originally part of the scheduled costs of the now abandoned HS2 project – will be in place soon.

However, from a question raised by an attendee at the meeting asking if the funding was secure, there was an acknowledgement that a possible change of government, following a general election might change that. In the meantime, Norfolk County Council has started negotiating with landowners along the proposed route to start compulsory purchase agreements in order to secure access. We were advised that as part of the construction, they plan to build four "green bridges", two of which are exclusively for birds, bats and mammals to cross from one side of the Norwich Western Link to the other. We are told that these bridges have worked well on other similar schemes around the country. Norfolk County Council has confirmed that, subject to completion of the relevant steps in planning which will also be

included in formal notices in the news media, and in addition to writing to the clerks of all parish councils, site works will begin in 2026 with the whole route being opened in late 2029.

Parish Precept 24/25

The parish council precept for 2024/25 has been set at £12,140. This is an increase of 11.37% from last year which equates to an extra 15p a week for a band D property. The council is very mindful to keep increases to a minimum where possible. It has allocated two grants to the village halls for £250 each. Audit fees have also risen due

to the increased complexity of auditing parish council accounts. Accounts must be audited annually and paperwork lodged with the external auditor to ensure adherence to transparency codes. Additional money has also been earmarked for councillor training. It is hoped that the parish council will be able to recruit three new councillors this year to fill the current vacancies and offer them the appropriate training. £500 has also been allocated for ensuring that the defibrillators are kept in working order with 'in date' pads and batteries.

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 annual parish meeting is being held on **Tuesday May 14** from 7pm at Colton village hall. Come and find out about what has been happening in the villages over the last 12 months. Enjoy light refreshments whilst meeting others from the villages. 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

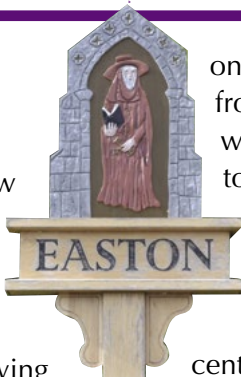
Cllr Des Fulcher

Welcome to new Easton parish councillor

Easton parish councillors were happy to welcome new member, Des Fulcher, to join the council. Cllr Fulcher has previous experience as a councillor and applied to Easton following his move to the village. Cllr Fulcher confirmed his eagerness to become involved in the community and get to know residents.

New community centre update

Councillors announced great news as they have now received the necessary funding to finish the community centre from the Public Works Loan Board, and also, the necessary permission to create a new footpath for the community centre. The footpath work will start



on April 18, 2024 and last from two to three weeks. It will require a lane closure to complete the work. The building's main drain was finished on time and Openreach connected the fibre cable to the centre. Regrettably, the council

is still waiting for UKPN to connect the necessary three-phase power supply to the building. The car park will be completed before the end of March and the landscaping will be undertaken in April. If all falls into place on time, the community centre will open mid to late May. There will be a soft opening and then a formal opening provisionally planned for June. Councillors are planning to install the myRENZbox parcel solution to enhance the community experience further.

The community centre website has been updated with the latest time-lapse video and, so far, over 2000 images have been added showing the progress of the building to date, please click here:

eastoncommunitycentre.co.uk



Aerial view of the exterior progress.



Work on the interior of the centre.

Easton Parish Council intends to employ a caretaker and a cleaner for the centre. Initially, employment will be on a part-time basis and, long-term, the opportunity may become full-time with flexible working hours. These new opportunities will be advertised shortly and if you are interested, please email your CV to our clerk for consideration.

Allotments annual renewal

Allotment rents are frozen this year as councillors have considered the cost-of-living crisis at this time. Renewal invoices will be issued to existing tenants during the first week of April. Cllr Fulcher has agreed to take the lead on the allotments and will be visiting the sites and reporting on unkempt plots. If you are no longer using your plot, please contact the clerk so unwanted plots can be reallocated as we have several residents on the waiting list.

Highways, speeding and parking

Disappointingly, speeding through the village continues to happen

and, in response, the police team recently targeted Easton. Shockingly, nine motorists were caught speeding in Easton within a 40-minute window! The police confirm they will be increasing their efforts to educate people on the danger of driving too fast in a residential area.

Bawburgh Road will be upgraded during the school summer holidays with Marlingford Road being upgraded in 2025/26. It is hoped the new measures will reduce speeding on these roads, especially near the schools.

Residents are requested to take care when parking and to avoid parking on the grass verges around the village. Several verges continue to be damaged due to cars leaving tyre marks and ruts when verges are wet. Some verges may recover in the warmer weather but others will need attention.

Please be considerate when you park your vehicle.

Annual parish meeting

The **Easton Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **May 7, 2024** at **6.00pm**. The annual council meeting will be on the same day at 3.30pm. Agendas will be published on the council website and noticeboards nearer the time. All residents are welcome to attend.

The Rambling Vine

Love your neighbour – we pray for peace



The city of Jerusalem with Dome of the Rock in the foreground.

Picture: Restaurandocoracoes/Pixabay

As we have just celebrated Easter, I have been remembering that nearly thirty years ago, I visited the Holy Land, as it was called then. I joined a group led by a priest and his wife who had been there several times. We knew there had been wars and invasions over history but this was a time of relative peace and co-operation. Landing at Tel Aviv, we found our escorts and baggage handlers were Palestinians. Our first base was Jerusalem, just outside the old city walls.

Tourists were welcomed to walk up steps and over the wall to the temple site, a holy place for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Looking over the walls, we realised the strategic high position of this part of Jerusalem.

We walked the via Dolorosa (the Way of Sorrows), where Jesus had been taken, carrying his cross through the city and out to the place of crucifixion and were taken under the city to tunnels, possibly prisons during Roman times. We went to a Chapel of Peace

overlooking Jerusalem.
 Another day took us to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity, built over the site where was located, it is believed, the stable where Jesus was born.
 Travelling across country to the Dead Sea, some of us tried to swim but the health-giving minerals in the water keep you buoyant and I bobbed around like a cork!
 A long bus journey to our final base north by the Sea of Galilee: too cold to swim but a trip on an old-style fishing boat was wonderful. Fresh fish was eaten that day. One of our group was baptised in the River Jordan.

An excursion to Masada was arranged: a high plateau, reached by enthusiastic walkers up a steep incline or (my choice) an elevator hanging off the hillside.
 It had been used as a refuge by Israeli people hoping to escape the invading Romans who put them under siege and eventually they died or were killed.
 It was a most special visit to a region that has seen world-changing events, but old differences have not found reconciliation as I write.
 I pray, like so many others, for a lasting resolution.

Felicity Maton

Church services April 2024

April		
Sunday 7	10.00am	Easton Second of Easter HC
Sunday 14	10.00am	Colton Third of Easter All age HC
Sunday 21	10.00am	Marlingford Fourth of Easter HC
Sunday 28	10.00am	Bawburgh Fifth of Easter HC

Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for quarter ending March 2024

	Number	Member	Amount
First	50	Lettie Broom	£50.00
Second	1	Keith Saunders	£35.00
Third	8	Sharon Attewell	£25.00

Congratulations and thanks to the membership which helps with the upkeep of the church. Prizewinners please email treasurer carolachiles@gmail.com with bank details to receive your prize money.

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