

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 13, November 2024

COLTON RESIDENTS' CHARITY PAYOUT IN DECEMBER

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

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

There are several similar charities in parishes throughout Norfolk – more than ninety are registered with the Charity Commissioners. The charity is required to appoint trustees – at present there are three. Their role is to decide the amount of the payment and how to distribute it.

The most effective method, in the past has been at the **Colton Village Hall Christmas Bingo** to be held this year, on **Saturday, December 7th** at 7pm. (Doors open at 6.00pm).

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

MOBILE LIBRARY 2024 – NOVEMBER DATES

Residents are reminded that there is a mobile library for both villages. Please note however that this service is not being optimally used. It is therefore a case of "use it or lose it."

November dates are as follows:

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423

Thursday: November 28

- Mill Road at NR9 5HL between 10.40am and 10.55am
- Colton Road at NR9 5HS 11.00am to 11.20pm

Colton –Route: CEN 319

Wednesday: November 27

- Ex post Office at NR9 5DB 9.45am 10.00am

For all enquiries call 01603 222303

DEFIBRILLATOR REPLACEMENT UPDATE

You may recall that the Parish Council made an application to the Heritage Lottery, to fund replacement defibrillators for both Colton and Marlingford, and to provide CPR training for residents.

Unfortunately, our application was unsuccessful, and we are thus unable to proceed for the time being.

This issue will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in November, but we will look to identify other sources of funding, to enable us to take this initiative forward.

ANNUAL BUDGET SETTING

At the November parish council meeting, the 2025/26 budget for the parish council will be considered and agreed.

The parish council is responsible for several functions in the village including the emptying of dog waste bins, grass cutting and tree maintenance, in the play areas and Marlingford conservation area, the upkeep of other assets including play equipment, grit bins, and noticeboards.

In addition, the council currently gives grant donations to the church for the maintenance of the churchyards and a contribution towards *The Grapevine* magazine and, in 24/25, donations to the village halls.

The parish council precept, or contribution, towards financing the council budget, is part of the council tax bill that is collected by South Norfolk Council. It also includes contributions towards Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussions regarding the budget for the ensuing year.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARLINGFORD AND COLTON

Marlingford PCC's **All New Quiz** will be taking place at Marlingford Village Hall on **Saturday, 16th November**. The quiz format makes full use of the excellent multimedia facilities the Village Hall now has to offer. An exciting and challenging evening is in prospect, and we would hope for great participation from all quiz buffs in the local area. All funds will go towards the planned repairs of the church tower and roof. Doors open at 7pm and the first questions will be at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 at a price of £4 per person.

Teas and Coffees will be provided but feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles. See you there!"

Meanwhile, in **Colton**, on **Saturday November 2**, there is an opportunity to chat with villagers over tea or coffee and cake, and view, and purchase the artwork created by Colton's Wednesday Art Group. They will also be selling their own hand-made Christmas cards in aid of village hall funds. There will also be an activity table for youngsters.

Also in Colton, on Saturday, December 7th, in addition to the Fuel Allotment Payout, mentioned elsewhere, there will be the annual prize bingo event in the village hall.

Residents are encouraged to support these two events. As some of you may be already aware, the most recent planned Village Hall event, the Harvest Supper, had to be cancelled because, with the exception of the committee members and their families, only three residents signed up. The village hall values your support and plans to have an interesting programme of events in 2025.

TREES, FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

As the leaves begin to drop off the trees and with winter around the corner, now is the ideal time to ensure that trees and bushes on property boundaries are pruned and not overhanging or impeding footpaths or the highway.

Please ensure that paths running along boundaries are kept clear to allow pedestrians unobstructed access.

UPDATE ON RECYCLING YOUR BLISTER PACK WASTE

You may remember that about 18 months ago, there was a (subsequently unsuccessful) scheme, funded through a grant from South Norfolk Council to recycle tablet blister packs through the establishment of local collection boxes, and delivering them to Superdrug for onward disposal to a company called Teracycle.

We now note however that Boots are now running a pilot project to resurrect this useful scheme. We understand that this can only be done on an individual basis whereby you can deposit fifteen blister packs per month at participating stores, including the Longwater branch. If you type "*Recycle blister packs at Boots*" into a search engine, it will tell you what you need to do. If you spend £10 while in store when you make a deposit, you will receive 150 points on your Boots Advantage Card. This is in addition to their other recycling scheme whereby you can recycle five 'difficult to recycle' items, spend £10 and receive five hundred points (worth £5) on your Advantage Card.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INCLUSION.

Parish council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of alternate months at 7pm. 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 to the meeting.

Councillors look forward to welcoming residents to the next meeting on **Tuesday, November 12. In Colton Village Hall.**

WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DOES

Marlingford & Colton Parish Council consists of up to seven residents of the parish of Marlingford & Colton. Currently, we have four councillors, and therefore are in urgent need of three more volunteers.

Members are normally elected to serve by the residents of the parish every four years. However additional councillors can be co-opted onto the Parish Council, at any meeting.

The council is responsible for many things including:

- Monitoring and reporting on the general tidiness of the villages
- Management of grass cutting in public areas
- Expressing views and recommendations on local planning applications
- Monitoring and reporting on the condition of local highways and footpaths
- The provision and maintenance of
 - Litter and dog bins.
 - Colton and Marlingford Amenity areas
 - Marlingford Conservation area.
 - Parish Council notice boards in Colton and Marlingford.

Members of the Parish Council meet every odd-numbered month to discuss, report, monitor and most importantly, make decisions on matters concerning the villages of Marlingford and Colton.

We would appreciate your comments on any of the issues raised in this Newsletter. Please contact any of the Parish Council, whose details will be found on the Notice Boards in both villages, or our Clerk, Maria Hutson on 01603 850118, via our website: www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk or by E-Mail to marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com