

May 2021
online edition

The
Grapevine
your community news

Colton, Easton
& Marlingford

The Parishes of Easton, Colton, Marlingford & Bawburgh

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St Peter's Church, Easton

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The Grapevine

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Contributions for inclusion should reach the Editor by the 15th of the previous month.

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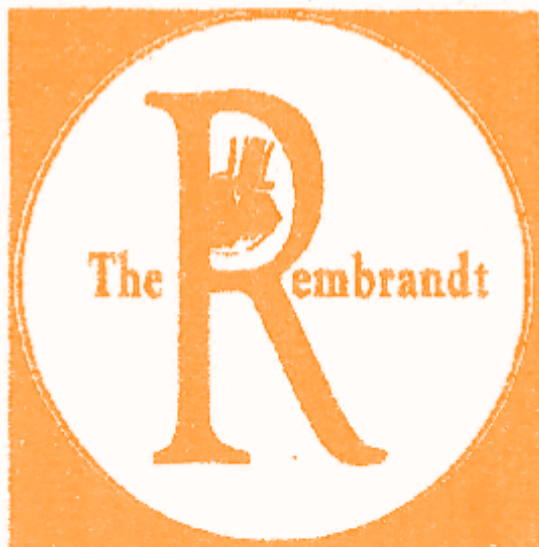
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The Rambling Vine

As I write we are, as both a Church Community and as a Nation, remembering and giving thanks for the life of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. Both at his funeral and in the coverage after his death we have been reminded what a remarkable life he has led and what a legacy he has left behind. Of course there was, rightly, a lot of talk of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and the Duke's love for young people. There was also, despite some of his gaffs, comments on his respect for all people. But one of the things I was surprised by, and had no prior knowledge of, was his love for our planet and his ideas being at the forefront of conservation work. The beautiful readings and pieces of music that he chose for his own service I felt really reflected that love of and passion for our created world, and a respect for its Creator.

Conservation of our planet has of course come to the fore in recent years with documentaries such as 'Blue Planet' highlighting the damage we are doing to our Oceans and sea life. The Collins Dictionary word of the year for 2018 was "single-use". The term came to prominence to do with the amount of plastic we use, and has quadrupled in use since 2013.



It's quite right that we should be concerned with plastic use - most plastic is made from oil, so it's not renewable, and it is almost indestructible by natural processes. Waste plastic has been found in the deepest parts of the ocean, and microscopic fragments of plastic are found in our food, with so far unknown effects on our health.

But the "single-use" question goes far beyond just plastic bags and bottles. The clothes we wear, the furniture in our homes, and the devices we use, are increasingly designed to be

discarded rather than repaired. And as we become used to throwaway items, so that affects our relationship with people, too.

What is someone on a zero-hours contract, other than a “single-use person” - someone whose services we use, without caring how they survive when they are not working for us just at that moment?

“Single-use” is a spiritual issue, striking at the quality of our relationship with the world around us and with each other.

On the material side, there are encouraging signs: the plastic bag charge, introduced in 2015, has been successful. Initiatives such as the Restart Project* are helping people repair rather than replace their devices and appliances, and putting pressure on governments and manufacturers to ensure goods are repairable.



But what about spiritually? The driver for single-use goods is economic, of course – it suits the manufacturers to have us buy new, rather than repair. Similarly, it suits some employers to only pay for the exact time their workers contribute, and to pay as little as possible for that time.

But throughout the Bible, economic justice is one of God’s key commands: people are not to be treated as disposable, but as valuable, because we are creatures made in God’s image. God repeatedly condemns those who use their economic power to abuse the poor. Jesus himself began his public ministry by quoting from the Old Testament to say he had come “to bring good news to the poor”.

As we remember the Duke's legacy let's look at what we can also do to conserve this amazing planet of ours but also how we can show our love and respect to all people. Let's look to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics but let's look far wider than that, and look for ways to re-value the people

around us, and also re-discover Jesus' greatest command "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Rev Laura Montgomery
eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Church Services in May

10am Service of Holy Communion, Colton Church
except

10am, 30th May
St Walstan's Day Open air service at St Walstan's Well, Bawburgh

6pm Zoom services every Sunday - email Rev Laura for details.

*What is The Restart Project?

The Restart Project run regular Restart Parties where people teach each other how to repair their broken and slow devices – from tablets to toasters, from iPhones to headphones. They work with schools and organisations to help them value and use their electronics for longer.

By bringing people together to share skills and gain the confidence to open up their stuff, they give people a hands-on way of making a difference. They're based in London, but their work is spreading across the world. Their motto is **don't despair, just repair!**

Right to Repair is a global movement to make sure everyone has the right to fix their products. It aims to change regulations on how these things are made in the first place, to make them easy and affordable to repair, and expand our rights after purchase.

The products we use everyday are getting harder to fix. From their community repair events, Restart know that most of the products that are brought in could be fixed, but the barriers to repair include:

- lack of access to spare parts or the price of the parts
- lack of repair documentation and tools
- product design increasingly making disassembly impossible
- Installed software in devices to prevent people fixing things



People are tired of throw-away products: they remember when appliances lasted longer. One day we will look back at the past couple of decades and just shake our heads.

Studies show that people overwhelmingly want more repairable products. Together with allies, in 2019, Restart campaigned successfully in support of groundbreaking European “Right to Repair” measures, for fridges, lamps, televisions and displays, dishwashers, and washing machines. These require that appliances can be repaired with “commonly available” tools, and that manufacturers give professionals access to documentation and parts for up to 10 years. These changes come into effect in 2021 and we will benefit from this round in the UK.

Visit <https://therestartproject.org> for more information.

Marlingford Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 18th May at 10.30 am in the Church. If anyone would like to attend please contact Felicity Maton on 01603 880846 or f.maton@btinternet.com

We would welcome inquiries about joining us on the PCC to support the mission and fabric of Marlingford's oldest building.

Felicity Maton

Marlingford & Colton Parish Council

www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Welcome to the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council section of Grapevine.

Coronavirus Support and Information – South Norfolk District Council

If you are a resident and need support relating to COVID-19 please call the Help Hub on 01508 533933.

They are currently asking people to only come into their offices for essential visits by pre-appointment. Where possible, people should contact them by phone or email or through our website.

New Councillor

We are pleased to announce that at the Parish Council meeting on 13th April John Morse, who lives in Colton, was co-opted onto the Council. After his appointment he said:

“I am delighted to have ben co-opted onto Marlingford and Colton Parish Council. My wife and I moved to the village some 13 years ago, and we have been very happy here, and look forward to contributing to the life and prosperity of the parishes. Although relatively new to Norfolk, I come from a farming family in Wiltshire and am acutely aware of the many issues specific to a rural community. I also hope that, although having retired four years ago, my business background and my interest in the academic and career attainment of our young people will hold me in good stead as I now take on this challenging opportunity”

John can be contacted on 01603 880227 or 07760 557488 emailing johnmorse1952@gmail.com

Norfolk Citizens Advice: Grants for Individuals Database

Norfolk Citizens Advice have launched their Grants for Individuals in Need database. The database is funded as part of the Coordinated Community Support Programme and is open access on the Norfolk Citizens Advice website. The database contains largely small local grant giving organisations that operate in Norfolk.

The webpage contains:

- Brief information on how to use the database
- A short video demonstration
- A tips document on maximising successful applications with hints and tips from grant organisation trustees
- A feedback link to report out of date information, suggest organisations to include, or just give feedback on your experience of using the database

Norfolk Citizens Advice has been running webinars on using the database, and if you weren't able to attend they can provide you with a recording of one of the webinars, or the resources used so you can run your own in-house.

Contact Isobel Abbott at i.abbott@ncab.org.uk for further information.

Next Parish Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting

Parish Council Meeting are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm (except August) and are currently being held virtually via Zoom. However due to the legislation regarding virtual meetings ceasing on 7th May, the May meeting and AGM will be held via Zoom on 4th May to keep residents and Councillors safe.

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Members of the public who would like to attend can do so using the link or meeting ID and passcode below.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76006226424?pwd=S1ZTczBXZyZFRG1HckhRN1g3TnQvUT09>

Meeting ID: 760 0622 6424

Passcode: AjvJS4

*Maria Hutson,
Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council,
telephone: 07759 534885
email: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com
website: marlingfordandcoltonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk*

It is with sadness we heard of the death of Vera Richardson on Friday 16th April. She was aged 92 and died peacefully at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Vera had lived in Marlingford most of her life and was known and loved by many people.



Making Pictures

Lockdown has been eased! Were we becoming used to the cloistered life and finding time to explore our hidden talents? I have been part of an Art Group for many years and enjoyed the weekly sessions at Marlingford Village Hall, partly to experiment with creating images but also for the joy of the friendship of the group.

Covid struck! Doors closed! We have kept the links going with a chat line and emails. Life has been very different and the creative urge seemed to diminish for some – but others bloomed with stunning pictures in various styles. A small selection are shared with you on the following page and we hope you enjoy them!

One of us emailed: *‘very much looking forward to seeing everyone again, let’s hope we’ll be back in our sparkly new Hall before long.’*

Felicity Maton



Sunset by Dorothy Bailey



Fresh Fruit
by Felicity Maton



My Daughter Shelly
By Sue Hester

**"Queer things happen in the garden in May.
Little faces forgotten appear, and plants thought
to be dead suddenly wave a green hand to
confound you."**

W E Johns

Easton Parish Council

www.eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Welcome to news from Easton Parish Council.

The end of the financial year was a very busy time but we have now had our accounts internally audited and will be sending them off to the external auditor for comment.

Our local Beat officer Stu Barnard attended our meeting and the issue of speeding and safety around the school was discussed and it was agreed that we would work together to find solutions to the problems of poor parking behaviour and speeding.

Crime is low within the village but the Chairman stated that one domestic violence incident was one too many.



Annual Meeting

On the 12 April we held the annual meeting of the Parish and received reports from a number of groups. The meeting can be viewed on the parish's YouTube channel.

The Chair of the Parish Council made his annual statement which covered past achievements and future ambitions for the direction our community will take. Below is an abridged version with the full version being made available on the Parish Council website.

The last year has been a difficult one and it is likely we may have lost family members, close friends or someone we know to the pandemic. This time last year our community rallied together supporting those in need, the light is now at the end of the tunnel as we move forward.



Achievements

So let us look at what has been achieved in the last few years,

- *We have a Neighbourhood Plan to help shape and focus development in our community.*
- *SNC will be paying for the building of the new village hall with a contribution from our future CIL payments. I have been working with Persimmon Homes and SNC to deliver the Hall finished within the next 2 years subject to planning approval and completion of the land transfer. It is an ambitious target but this helps to keep focused on an end goal.*
- *We sold land on Dereham Road which will bring in over one million pounds for our community.*
- *We have worked with Highways England to secure a safe crossing of the A47 when improvement works start, that will reconnect our community while stopping over 4,800 cars a day blighting the lives of the residents of Lower Easton.*
- *We are installing bollards to stop verge parking close to the school.*
- *We completed phase 1 of redeveloping the Jubilee Playing Field and will have this vital amenity completed before the start of the summer holidays.*
- *We could never stop the major development of Easton, this was decided before our time in office but what we have done is help shape its future design and layout. It will even have garages that you can park a car in, I know a novel concept in many new homes.*
- *We removed shared-space roads from the majority of the development.*

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For the Future

As of May, I will be standing down as Chair of the Parish Council and will leave it to others to take this village forward. I have learnt that you can only please 50% of the residents 50% of the time.

There have been hugely disappointing examples recently of attacks made, against myself and staff, by parishioners seemingly motivated by personal agendas, and putting their self-interests rather than others first. For the Council, it must always be “the Village first”. Easton has a Neighbourhood Plan which puts the village first because that’s what people wanted so badly and which 96% of the village supported when it was adopted in 2017.

The Parish Council will make no apologies for defending Easton against anyone - individuals, corporates, or agencies who by their words and actions think they can ignore the community they allude to support or be a part of.

It is now up to others to put the work in, to move the village forward. There are vacancies on the Parish Council.

For the future, the village needs to:

- *Replace the bus shelter next to the Orbit development, repaint the bus shelter by the B&B.*
- *Design traffic calming measures for Dereham Road and Marlingford Road.*
- *Work with Persimmons to deliver phases 2 to 4 of the master plan for Easton under EAS1.*
- *Ensure delivery of the new village hall, work with Orbit to deliver its development.*

The list is extensive but if the work is put in the village will come through this change over the next ten years in line with the vision that was created within the Easton Neighbourhood plan.

Easton Covid Recovery Fund

It was announced that the Parish Council has set up the Easton Covid Recovery Fund. This fund will be designed to help village organisations that directly support the community with grants to get back up and running. We will be offering grants of amounts from £50 up to £2,500 on a match funding basis with grants under £200 not requiring match funding.

This is going to require a lot of work in the meantime to set it up so if anyone in the community has experience in this area and wants to help please get in touch. Full details of the Easton Covid Recovery Fund will be made available on the Parish Council website as soon as we can.

Contacting the Parish Council

It was announced that for personal reasons Francis has stepped down as our parish clerk to take a sabbatical but will remain as the parish's Responsible Financial Officer.

Gina Lopes will be taking over the role of Parish Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council. Gina is a very experienced professional who will cover the period Francis is on sabbatical. Gina is contracted to provide 15 hours of support per week to the parish council.

The contact number and email address will remain the same however we will be looking to change the address for written correspondence shortly. Gina will be available Monday to Friday from 9am until midday.

Email: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Telephone: 07879 379181

It has been a privilege to serve the silent majority of our community as Chairman, I wish you all well,

Stay safe, Wash Hands, Cover Face and Make Space

*Cllr Peter Milliken
Chairman Easton Parish Council*

Easton Women's Institute

Six members of the WI committee braved the cold to meet this week to discuss the way forward. We made a few important decisions and all felt much more optimistic once we had done so.

DIARY DATES!

We all agreed that if the Government regulations continue to allow groups to meet after 21st June, **Easton WI will meet for the first time after the start of the pandemic, on Thursday 8th July** to hear the speaker, Juyna Lewis tell us about “Norfolk’s Indian Queen”. The speaker is booked and as long as we have somewhere we can meet safely, this meeting will go ahead as planned. We are also planning to have a meeting in August, when we would normally not have met. We will decide what form this meeting will take later.

We also agreed that for this year we are asking our members to pay a reduced subscription of £30, which will cover the rest of this year and up to April 2022. All members should have been notified about this and how it will be collected.

It is amazing how sitting outside in the cold enables people to concentrate on the matter in hand and make decisions quickly. I do not think it is a practice we shall keep on with though!!

Meanwhile I would urge WI members to look at the postcard the Norfolk Federation are asking us to complete, outlining what we have been doing and how we have felt during the last year or more. This will make an important record that historians in the future will find



interesting and we hope, that could inform actions should this ever happen again.

One thing I would never have been involved with if it had not been for the pandemic, relates to something similar. My cousin found a stack of letters that had been written by our grandmother, who neither of us ever met, to my uncle who was stationed, first in Egypt and then in India during WW2. She wrote every week and he had kept all the letters he received from her for the rest of his life and stored them in his tool box (he was a carpenter). When sorting through his belongings after he died in 2002, my cousin Jane stored them away to be read at some point before she threw them out.



Having lots of spare hours during lockdown, Jane spent hours transcribing them all and sending them to me in instalments for my comments. They document the war years from 1939 to 1943 written every week describing the blitz in Norwich and living with the threat of bombs being dropped on your house. They spoke of food shortage, fear, grief and every other emotion that people suffered at that time. It somehow put the pandemic into some sort of perspective for both of us! It also told us what happened to our fathers, grandmother and the rest of our family which we were never told when we were young. Our Grandmother died in 1945 and did not live to see her younger son, to whom the letters were sent, return.

Let us now hope that we are set to have a much better life going forward and that the war against Covid is slowly being won.

Mary Blathway

News from Parkers Close

I was able to attend services at Bawburgh on Maundy Thursday and went to Marlingford for personal worship on Good Friday (Last Hour). On Saturday, following a recommendation, I went to Easton to view the Easter Garden made by the young children of St. Peter's School: very well created - thank you! Easter Sunday at St. Andrew's Colton was a delight with Easter Hymns sung outside before and after the service.

I was also most surprised to discover an Easter Bunny had deposited an Easter Egg on my porch step including Good Wishes for Easter in my name. I grew up without the Easter Bunny tradition but always had chocolate eggs from parents and Grandmothers. My children and Grandchildren are now looked after by myself as well as their parents. It is a first for me to have an Easter Bunny offering and I am most grateful and wish to extend my thanks on behalf of all such recipients.



This week I attended the funeral of Jean Bugg a PC resident for many years and a sister to my neighbour Paul Parsons. A lovely lady who kept her garden looking good all year round. The homes of other neighbours that are no longer with us, Palmer & Jean Hoy and Joan Chapman, are now housing families with children and they are very welcome.

Fred Creed

**The month of May is the pleasant time; its face
is beautiful; the blackbird sings his full song,
the living wood is his holding, the cuckoos are
singing and ever singing; there is a welcome
before the brightness of the summer.**

Lady Gregory of Coole

Easton Good Companions Club

Our news this month sadly starts with the death of Vera Richardson who had been a member of the Club for many years. She will be sadly missed by everybody.

DIARY DATES!

We have had a Committee Meeting and it was decided that **we start again in the Village Hall on the 15th July.**

We will also arrange our **Birthday meal on the 28th July.** It will be our 66th Birthday and I believe we are the oldest Good Companions Club in Norfolk.

Hopefully this will be the start of having our monthly meetings back again as I know many of us have really missed our get-togethers.

Jean Ditton

Grapevine: *Your Community Newsletter*

- *Please help your community by forwarding Grapevine to others who would like to receive it, or if you are aware of someone nearby without email it would be wonderful if you, would print some, or all, of it and deliver it to them!* You could be bringing a message of 'someone cares' to a lonely neighbour. We hope that we will be able to resume the printed edition before too long
- **We would love to hear from you!** Send your contributions to our Editor, Clare Howard, clare@ragbagprojects.co.uk.
Copy Deadline: 18th May for the next edition, circulated 1 June.

Beat News

No Cold Calling

With more than 12,000 homes across Norfolk now in a No Cold Calling Zone, more people than ever are saying no to cold callers. Feedback shows the zones really work with a drop in the number of cold callers seen in 99% of areas. No Cold Calling Zones give householders the confidence to tell rogue traders they are not welcome and are likely to be reported to Trading Standards if they do call at homes in a zone.



Figures show that 85% of people in a No Cold Calling Zone felt able to tell a cold caller they were in a zone and should leave. Find out whether your road or street meets the criteria to become a No Cold Calling Zone at <https://tinyurl.com/ymvdwczk>

*Andrew Hudson, PC460
South Norfolk Engagement Officer, Tel: 101 Ext 2951*

Ground Nesting Birds

Please remember to keep dogs under close control and within sight. This becomes especially important over the coming months due to ground nesting birds. On the coast we have vulnerable birds including Little Terns, Avocets and Ringed Plover, all of whom nest on the ground within the stoney ridges on our beaches. Their eggs look just like the pebbles they nest between. Along our coastline, you will see there are several places cordoned off. Please do not ignore the cordons and keep your dogs out of them.

In the countryside we have Skylarks, and Lapwings can often be seen on farmland. Disturbance is as big a problem for our inland birds as much as it is on the coast, so please consider where you are walking: stick to the paths and follow signs. They are generally placed there for your safety or protection of our wildlife.

Lockdown Step 2

12th April saw the most significant easing of restrictions since the third national lockdown was introduced in January and we know these last few months have been extremely challenging for everyone, regardless of your circumstances.

The move to Step 2 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown will have come as a huge relief to many, with non-essential shops, hairdressers and gyms among those allowed to open their doors once again. It's also seen the reopening of pub, bar and restaurant gardens

Naturally, people will want to enjoy these greater freedoms, taking advantage of the chance to meet with family and friends at venues outside. We want people to enjoy themselves but to do so safely and responsibly. With restrictions having been in place for so long, there is always a bit of a concern that people can overdo it, so please go out, enjoy seeing your friends and family but be sensible and stay safe.

I also think it's important we remember there will be people, particularly those from vulnerable groups, who are nervous and remain cautious about socialising. While the continued roll-out of the vaccination programme is a really positive step, the virus is still with us and a large proportion of the population is yet to be vaccinated. Even then, vaccination does not fully protect you from the virus. This is why it is still important people continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

Our journey on the roadmap out of lockdown has been overwhelmingly positive with most people embracing the gradual return of freedoms sensibly. Thank you as ever for your continued support to drive out this infection. Let's continue to protect ourselves and to protect Norfolk.

Assistant Chief Constable Julie Wwendth

The End of May

The fragrant air is full of down,
Of floating, fleecy things
From some forgotten fairy town
Where all the folk wear wings.

Or else the snowflakes, soft arrayed
In dainty suits of lace,
Have ventured back in masquerade,
Spring's festival to grace.

Or these, perchance, are fleets of fluff,
Laden with rainbow seeds,
That count their cargo rich enough
Though all its wealth be weeds.

Or come they from the golden trees,
Where dancing blossoms were,
That now are drifting on the breeze,
Sweet ghosts of gossamer?

Katharine Lee Bates



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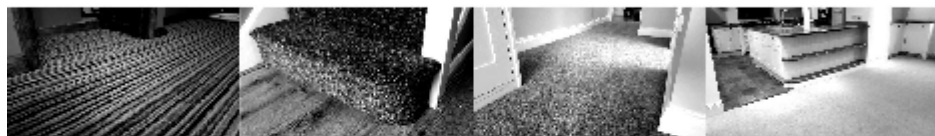
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Information for the Villages

St. Peter's VC Primary School, Easton		01603 880553
Easton College		01603 731200
Easton College Tennis Centre		01603 731302
S.N. District Councillor	Mrs. Margaret Dewsbury, 6 Park Avenue, Barford NR9 4BA	01603 759693
Norfolk County Councillor	Mrs Margaret Dewsbury (as above)	
Colton Village Hall – Bookings	Rosie Castle, Darwin, Norwich Rd, Colton	01603 880191
Colton Carpet Bowls Club	Dennis Mickleburgh, Avalon, The Street, Colton	01603 880391
Easton Badminton Club Sec	Mrs.C.Brown, 22 Marlingford Way, Easton	01603 880433
Easton Bowls Club Sec	Mrs. M. Cossey, 28 Woodview Rd, Easton	01603 880789
Easton Crafters Club	Mrs Janet Morris	01603 471144
Easton Football Club	Michael Cossey, 73 Marlingford Way, Easton	01603 880143
Easton Good Companions Sec	Pamela Hooker	01603 880867
Easton Gym Club	www.thegym4u.co.uk	01603 960511
Easton Judo Club Coach	Chris Abel, 29 Goulburn Rd, Norwich chris@eastonjudoclub.co.uk	0845 388 6895
Easton Junior Football	Gavin Tipple gtipple@easton-college.ac.uk	01603 731585
Easton Junior/Senior Netball	Karl Chapman kchapman@easton-college.co.uk	
Easton Post Office	Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am till 2pm	01603 880007
Easton Village Hall Bookings	Mrs M. Cossey, 28 Woodview Rd.,Easton	01603 880789
Easton W.I. Sec	Mrs M. Cossey, 28 Woodview Rd.,Easton	01603 880789
Marlingford Village Hall Bookings	Pauline Baker John Bailey, jaydeebailey@gmail.com	01603 881268 01603 880266
Doctors (Surgeries):	Costessey, Roundwell Beechcroft Hethersett Mattishall	01603 744014 01603 746683 01603 811323 01362 850227
Police		Non urgent 101 Emergency 999
Hospitals	Norfolk & Norwich, incl. West Norwich Julian & Hellesdon Dereham, Northgate Kelling	01603 286286 01603 421421 01362 692391 01263 713333
Community Car Scheme	Jan & Dave Ditton	01603 880857
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wymondham	03444 111444
Relate		01603 625333
Samaritans		01603 611311
Charing Cross Centre (Self help groups)		01603 620926

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