


Your community guide for **Colton, Easton and Marlingford**



● **Call for volunteers!**
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PLUS

- **Local information**
- **Community interest**
- **Church services**
(Benefice)

Co-ordinator needed to organise distribution of *The Grapevine*

See page 11

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	Mrs Cossey – 01603 880789 28, Woodview Road, Easton
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	Mrs Cossey – 01603 880789 28, Woodview Road, Easton
Easton WI Secretary	Mrs Cossey – 01603 880789 28, Woodview Road, Easton
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499 Penny Nixon 07714 255024
Marlingford Village Hall bookings	John Bailey – 01603 880266 M: 07986 609319 jaydeebailey@gmail.com
Community Car Scheme	Jean and Dave Ditton – 01603 880857
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wyndham 03444 111444
Relate	01603 625333
Samaritans	0330 094 5717

Doctors surgeries

Costessey, Roundwell	01603 744014
Beechcroft	01603 746683
Hethersett	01603 811323
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: Robin in the snow.

Picture: Annette Hudson



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Printed by: Barnwell Print Ltd,
Dunkirk, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6SU.
Tel: 01263 732767 W: barnwellprint.co.uk

The Grapevine

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Advertising in The Grapevine

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

Annual advertising rates 2023

Black & white inside:

1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£50	£75	£125	£200

Black & white back page:

	£150	£200	
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Colour inside:

1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£100	£150	£250	£400

Colour back page:

	£300	£400	
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Advertisers can supply their own colour adverts to the correct sizes. (contact treasurer for details), They can be high resolution jpg or pdf files.

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
----------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

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
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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

Churchwarden	Susan Knight	07876 717487
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Need a bus? Here are your local bus services

Nortrax bus services: Colton, Easton and Marlingford

This service is FREE to use. Phone Nortrax for more details on **01603 508137**.

For Norwich, use the service on Mondays and Wednesdays to connect to the Excel service at Easton.

Monday and Wednesday

Bawburgh – Church Street	9.40am	Longwater – Link Road shelter	12.40pm
Marlingford – Bell	9.45am	Longwater – William Frost Way	12.57pm
Colton – village hall	9.50am	Easton – Bawburgh Rd	1.04pm
Easton – Chez Denis	9.57am	Excel departs Norwich at	12.40pm
Excel departs for Easton at	10.05am	Excel arrives in Easton at	1.00pm
Excel arrives in Norwich at	10.25am	Easton – Chez Denis	1.05pm
Easton – opp. Bawburgh Rd	9.58am	Colton – village hall	1.11pm
Longwater – William Frost Way	10.06am	Marlingford – Bell	1.15pm
Longwater – Link Road shelter	10.08am	Bawburgh – Church Street	1.19pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Colton Village Hall	10.30am	Longwater Link Rd shelter	12.30pm
Marlingford – opp. Bell	10.35am	Longwater – William Frost Way	12.32pm
Easton – opp. school	10.40am	Easton – opp. Bawburgh Rd	12.38pm
Easton – Chez Denis	10.41am	Easton – Chez Denis	12.39pm
Easton – opp. Bawburgh Rd	10.42am	Colton Village Hall	12.40pm
Longwater – William Frost Way	10.48am	Marlingford Bell	12.45pm
Longwater Link Rd shelter	10.50am	Bawburgh – Church Street	12.50pm

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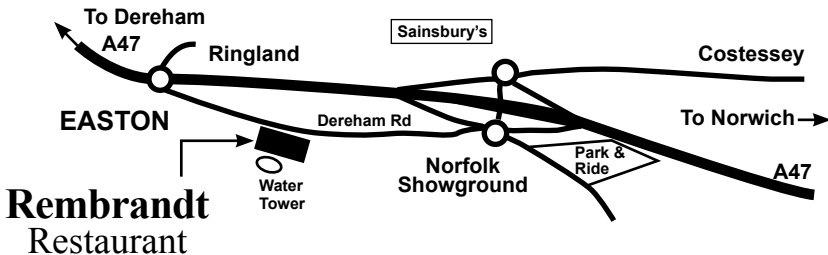
Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 4pm - 8pm

*For latest information
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01603 880010

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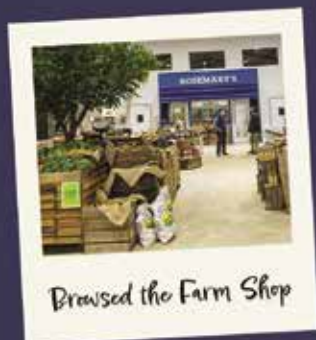
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THE Grapevine

A big THANK YOU from us to all who donated

We are thankful for a charity donation from Persimmon Housing, received for being of service to the community and for grants received from our two parish councils, Easton and Marlingford and Colton. Also thanks to those who donated online or by the envelope scheme

which raised £548. We can now produce five printed editions of *The Grapevine* for 2023.

The schedule is:

Printed and online: Dec/Jan, March, May, July/Aug, October.

Online only: February, April, June, September and November.

The Grapevine Committee



The Grapevine committee members receiving the Community Charity award cheque from Persimmon Homes.

Co-ordinator needed to help distribute magazine

A new co-ordinator is needed to organise distribution of printed copies to homes and organisations in Easton, five times a year.

After receiving the total number of copies, the job entails counting these into allocated amounts and taking them to the deliverers

around Easton.

This is a voluntary job for a car driver or cyclist able to transport bundles of magazines.

For more information, please contact **Felicity Maton** on **f.maton@btinternet.com** or telephone **01603 880846**.

Deadline for items for the February: Wednesday, January 25
Email as word doc to: **annettegh57@gmail.com**

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

YOUR

Colton village hall

● Christmas bingo and charity payout

This is happening on **Saturday December 10** this year in the village hall. All are welcome and residents of Colton village can pick up their charity payments at this event. There will be refreshments and a raffle - bring your own alcohol!

● Thursday coffee morning

All are welcome to the coffee morning every **Thursday** in Colton village hall from **10am to 12pm**. Drink and biscuits 50p. Bacon roll £1.50

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

We welcome members **every two weeks on Thursdays** at Easton village hall from **2pm - 4pm**.

Tony Perry

● Easton Pop-In

On behalf of Brenda and myself, we wish all our customers a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. On the 20th, there will be free coffee or tea with a mince pie and at 12 noon we will be having a Bring & Share lunch.

We will be closed on Boxing Day and back on January 3, 2023.

See you all for a festive get together.

Best wishes Brenda and Tony

Marlingford village hall

● Bonfire night - November 5



A glittering time was had by all as children lit sparklers and toasted marshmallows, while the damp bonfire delayed ignition until lots of visitors coaxed a soaring blaze. Bangers with onions and hot chocolate were served. Then a multiple firework put on an explosive show!

Felicity Maton

● Coming up - village hall talk

On **Thursday December 15** at 7.30pm **'Our Gal Tina'** will be giving us an evening full of fun and plenty of laughter. There will be a Christmas raffle. Entrance fee is £5.

Finally Marlingford Village Hall Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Community and Fundraising Events



Colton Art & Craft Group

Wednesdays 10am-12pm
Meet fortnightly at
Colton Village Hall
£5 per session

Next meeting
Wednesday, December 7

For more details,
contact Rosanna Ellis on
07765294347
rosannaellis@btinternet.com

Barford village hall

● Crafty Cake & Cuppa

meets in **Barford Village Hall** every first and third Wednesday in the month, **10am-12pm**. All welcome! Bring your own project or join in with the workshop/demo on the day. £3 per person. Refreshments provided.

● **Village Hall is in Chapel Street, Barford, NR9 4AB. T: 01603 759226**



Barford village hall.

Picture: Adrian S Pye.

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

AND CHARITY PAYOUT
Saturday, December 10

★ Colton Village Hall
Doors open: 6.30pm Eyes down: 7pm

PLUS RAFFLE

Refreshments at 'half-time'
Bring Your Own Alcohol
Donations of prizes gratefully received
EVERYONE WELCOME!

News from Easton Women's Institute

Fascinating lamp work

At our November meeting we learned all about the art of lamp work with Christine Chapman, which we now know is making glass beads using molten glass!

This was fascinating if slightly scary at times, given the heat needed to melt the glass!

Christmas lunch

On **Thursday December 1** we will be going to the Wensum Valley Hotel for a Christmas lunch to get us into festive mode in the way we used to before Covid came along and changed our lives.

Stuff and folly...

At our next monthly meeting on **Thursday December 8 at 7.30pm** in Easton Village Hall, we will be getting further into the Christmas spirit with entertainment by Phil Butcher and friends and their programme of *Stuff and Folly at Christmas*. They will be performing short plays, readings and anecdotes on a theme of Christmas.

We will also be welcoming visitors from neighbouring WIs to join us to enjoy a finger buffet together along with a raffle and a trading stall.



Not-so-giddy goats...

Looking forward to 2023, on **Thursday January 12**, Sam Steggles from the Goat Shed in Colton is coming to tell us about the establishment of the farm shop and of course,

about the goats!

Annual Meeting

As this is a double edition of *The Grapevine*, I will also tell you our Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday February 9**. It will be a night of quizzes and other games and a time for members to tell us about something we don't know about them or to bring along something they think we will be interested in. I should stress this is entirely voluntary – the days of WI meetings including a roll call where members were randomly selected to stand up and talk about a given subject are long gone!! Phew!

We are always happy to welcome new members and also visitors who would like to know more about the WI are welcome to come to any of our meetings.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mary Blathwayt



Volunteers Rev Laura Montgomery, Tony Perry (above as Moses) and Peter Pease perform a bible story with pupils from St Peter's C of E Primary Academy.

Lend a hand here and brighten up your week!

I spent a very entertaining morning recently at the 'Open the Book' session at St Peter's C of E Primary Academy in Easton watching local volunteers perform bible stories for the children. Youngsters are invited to take part in the tableau and both performers and audience have a great time. Indeed, audience participation was at its best when this particular story saw Moses raise his stick to part the Red Sea and the pupils duly obeyed and shifted to make a path for him and his followers to walk through. The soldiers pursuing them found themselves swallowed up by the sea as the young audience scooped swiftly back to close the path! Volunteer Tony Perry said: "The children really do enjoy it and are keen to dress up and take part. It's a joy to do"

It was Rev Penny Goodman who, two years ago, raised £175 towards acquiring a shed at the school to contain the ever-increasing number of props and costumes which volunteers Tony, Rev Laura Montgomery and church warden, Peter Pease, made use of for this particular bible story. The children learn important lessons from these stories which are relevant to our lives today. The group is lively and enthusiastic, and very keen for more volunteers to help out – so if you have a couple of hours to spare on a Thursday morning during term time and are happy to be DBS checked, contact one of these church wardens for more information:

Peter Pease – 01603880255;

Margaret Seely – 01603 880888;

Sue Knight –07876 717487

Annette Hudson

Wildlife crime - don't let them get away with it

If you're passionate about protecting the wildlife where you live, the police need you to be their eyes and ears and report any suspicious activity to them. If you have any information about wildlife crime contact them on 101.

If a crime is in progress, dial 999. Try to note down this information:

- date, time and location
- descriptions of people you saw or vehicles they were driving
- anyone else in the area who witnessed the incident/individuals.

Here's a list of animals commonly affected by wildlife crime:

Deer – Wild deer are protected by law but due to the large number of vehicle collisions involving deer every year and the damage they cause to crops, land and fencing, their population is humanely culled regularly.

Deer may be culled in season by authorised persons using the appropriate equipment during the day only. Muntjac are the only species of deer in the UK that may be culled all year round.

Deer poaching is a crime usually committed at night and poachers often trespass on private land.



Birds – All wild birds, their eggs, nests and chicks, are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. 'Wild bird' effectively applies to all native birds other than game birds. It is an offence to recklessly or intentionally disturb a rare species at or near its active nest or its dependent young.

It is also an offence to:

- intentionally take a wild bird's egg
- possess a wild bird's egg taken after the 1982 Act began
- intentionally and recklessly disturb a rare species at or near a nest with eggs or young
- have items capable of being used to commit offences.

Bats – The declining population of bats is protected by law and anyone convicted of offences could be fined up to £5,000 or imprisoned for up to six months. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects all 17 species of bats and their roosts in England, Scotland and Wales. It is illegal to kill, injure, harass or disturb bats or damage their roosting place, whether this is deliberate, reckless or even done through a lack of awareness. It is also an offence to

possess, sell or advertise a bat or any part of a bat.

Badgers – An estimated 10,000 badgers are killed yearly through badger baiting. Fully protected by law, badgers are one of shyest creatures in our countryside, living in underground setts, sleeping during the day, only emerging in the evening. Badgers and their setts are fully protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. You can be sent to prison and fined for:

- taking a badger
- killing a badger
- injuring a badger
- interfering with a badger sett.



Picture: Vincent van Salinge.

Badger baiting is extremely cruel and the badgers suffer severe injuries before they are killed. Dogs used for baiting are often badly injured. Badgers are also victims of other forms of illegal persecution including snaring, poisoning as well as instances of disturbance, damage and destruction of setts.

Hares – Hare coursing is a banned blood sport and an illegal activity, yet it unfortunately remains common in Norfolk. It is the pursuit of hares using hounds and usually takes place toward the end of August or start of September. The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal and anyone convicted of the offence can be fined up to £5,000 by a Magistrates’ Court. An obvious sign is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path. They are usually estate cars, four-wheel drives or vans.

Your Local Safer Neighbourhood team

Community Engagement Officer
Vicky Bailey PC 1425

T: 101 Ext: 1113
E: victoria.bailey@norfolk.police.uk



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

Beat Manager
Natasha Indans PC 1869

T: 101 Ext: 4162
E: SNTCostessey@norfolk.police.uk



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

What on earth will I do when I stop working?

Colton resident Ann Dunn tells how she coped with retirement.



When we are young and in employment, we dream of the day when we can retire, when we can be our own boss, get up when we want and pursue that lifelong dream that work always got in the way of.

For me it would be a chance to get caught up with the garden, which was always one step ahead of me, to be able to bake cakes forever and take the dog on endless walks. But it doesn't always turn out the way we planned. I was kept gainfully employed for a while because I needed to care for my mother. When she died, I was left with a sense of what do I do now? It is so easy to get used to the easy life, lying in in the mornings, listening to the radio, watching tv and reading books you always wanted to read but never had the time. But in order to keep fit and healthy both in mind and in spirit, I decided I needed to do more in my life. I needed to be proactive. Retirement is a time of great opportunity, when we have the time to achieve things that evaded us in our busy working lives.

The children have flown the nest, the world outside beckons and we need to try and stay disciplined enough to organise our lives and to remain useful and productive.

It is just too easy and comfortable to sit back and do virtually nothing, especially as we are beginning to slow down and find physical and mental activities more of a challenge.

A healthy lifestyle matters at all ages, but it has been proven that those who remain physically and mentally active into an older age usually see a reduced risk of developing heart and circulatory diseases, and dementia.

Firstly, it is important to keep moving, even light activity such as walking a few hours a week can maintain your muscles and even increase your brain function.



Picture: Unsplash

Diet is also very important because if you become obese later in life it is not good for your risk of illness and disability. It's not so much about the quantity of what you eat but the quality; eating more vegetables, less red meat and more fish is generally recommended. Positive lifestyle changes can have a huge impact on your quality of life. Now is the time to try out new things, not only keeping in contact with old friends but to make new ones, and to try new activities. If you aren't computer literate, now is the time to learn! When you are able to go online so many more opportunities present themselves. You can keep yourself up to date with what's on locally or join classes on zoom.

One great facility that I discovered was Goldster which is a website designed with retired people in mind. It was through Goldster that I first took up art, which prevented me from going insane during lockdown. They offer lots of activities such as workouts, dance, tai chi, nutrition, massage, yoga, art, creative writing, poetry, mindfulness and meditation. The main thing though is to keep positive and to enjoy the freedom that you have worked towards all your working life.

Top retirement tips

Get finances in order – Track down any old pensions, claim your state pension and check what other benefits you can claim.

Wind down gently – Ensure a smoother transition by retiring in stages. Ask your employer if you can cut back your working hours.

Prepare for ups and downs

There may be times when you feel a bit lost, which is normal. Think positively and share any concerns with others.

Eat well – Eat regular meals, especially if your previous pattern, while at work, was to snack.

Develop a routine – Plan in regular activities such as voluntary work, exercise and hobbies.

Exercise your mind – Challenge yourself mentally – maybe learn an instrument or a language.

Keep physically active

Aim to do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week Find out about the social and physical benefits of walking groups.

Make peace and move on

Don't spend your retirement dwelling on your working days.

For more info, visit British Heart Foundation website: [bhf.org.uk](https://www.bhf.org.uk)

Easton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Cllr Ben Moye – Chairman

**Cllr Peter Milliken –
Vice Chairman**

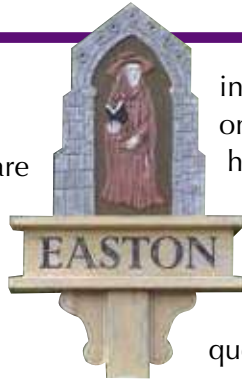
Cllr Stuart Renders

Cllr Peter McCarter

Cllr David Lewis

New Easton Community Centre

Easton parish councillors are pleased to confirm work has now started on the new community centre. A temporary entrance has been created and the main work should start on site in January 2023.



in Easton to put their name on the South Norfolk Council housing register. Orbit will be organising a 'help clinic' in our community, hopefully in January 2023, if residents have questions about eligibility for one of these properties either to rent or have shared ownership.

Easton Neighbourhood Plan

The update to the Easton Neighbourhood Plan will be open to consultation in January 2023. We will organise a public event to discuss the proposed changes which strengthen the Neighbourhood Plan and provide our community with a stronger voice within the local planning system. Hopefully the community will be able to vote on these changes in mid 2023.

Speeding

The parish council is working hard to ensure our roads are safe by liaising with the police and Norfolk County Council Highways to reduce speed in our area. Due to the amount of speeding in the village, Norfolk police traffic enforcement team has designated



Site of community centre. Picture: Peter Milliken.

Orbit Homes

Orbit homes are on schedule to have a show home open by April 2023. We are encouraging residents who wish to rent or buy

our village a priority area and is deploying mobile speed cameras on Dereham Road.

We hope to have extra speed restrictions on Marlingford Road which will include two raised crossing points near the school. The work on Bawburgh Road will hopefully start soon once Norfolk County Council Highways has agreed a Section 278 agreement with Persimmon Homes, the builders of the new SEND school. We hope the new road arrangements will make a big change to driving speeds.

Parking issues

We often receive reports of inconsiderate and sometimes illegal parking and recently, a resident highlighted another example by providing photographs of individuals parking on the grass verges around the village. Once we receive reports and images of this nature, they are immediately passed to the police if the vehicle is likely to cause an obstruction, and to Norfolk County Council Highways who may take enforcement action against the owners. **Please note it is our duty to report these matters to the appropriate authority once we are made aware of them.** We would ask residents not to park on the

verges as it creates damage and can make the area look unsightly. Residents can report these and other highway issues direct to Norfolk County Council.

New waste bins

Easton Parish Council has installed four new waste bins in the following locations: entrance to the church; entrance to the school; Bawburgh Road (end of the footpath heading towards the college); next to the village sign. We would ask residents to dispose of litter responsibly to help keep our village tidy.

Elections and councillor vacancies

In May 2023 the local elections will take place, if you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please email our clerk:

clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Easton Parish Council

The Village Hall, Marlingford Road,
Easton NR9 5AD

W: eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk



Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

**Dr Paul Hammerton,
Vice Chairman**

Cllr Mr Steve Clarke

Cllr Prof Carole Farrow

Cllr Mr David Woods

Cllr Mrs Caroline Agate

Parish council budget and donations

The parish council is now considering the budget for the next financial year.

In addition to funds being allocated for keeping the amenity areas tidy, emptying dog waste bins and ensuring the defibrillator machines have working batteries and pads, money is also allocated to local groups including funding towards *The Grapevine*, funding towards the upkeep of both churchyards and a donation to the Community Car Scheme.

The council is aware of the cost-of-living crisis and wants to ensure that the budget reflects this.

The budget will be confirmed at the meeting on 13th November and the precept for 23/24 set.

The precept is the portion of money from residents' council tax that is allocated to the parish council.

More information can be found on your council tax bill which will be sent out by South Norfolk Council in the spring.

Hedges and ditches

As winter approaches, please can we remind residents to make sure that any ditches on their properties are kept clear to prevent flooding.

This is essential to keep roads passable in bad weather and prevent damage to property.

The parish council also requests that hedges are kept trimmed, especially around road signs, to ensure they can be clearly seen by drivers.

Council Vacancy

Following our previous notices in *The Grapevine*, and the community newsletter, the parish council is still keen to invite interested residents to become councillors. If you are interested in local issues and want to make a difference

in your community, being a councillor could be for you.

We would be particularly keen to welcome new residents, who would like to get to know their neighbourhood and its workings.

If you are interested in seeing what the role entails, come along to one of our meetings. Alternatively, feel

free to contact the clerk, (details at bottom of page) or the chairman John Morse – T: 07760 557488 E: jmorse_MCPC@yahoo.com.

Art and Craft Club

The group first met in September, and continue to meet every other week at Colton Village Hall, 10-12. They have been making Christmas themed items ranging from felt elves to decorated boxes. After Christmas the group will try some more art-based activities with materials provided, although people are welcome to bring their own project if they prefer. There will be a small charge of £4 which includes materials and refreshments.



Decorated box.

Picture: Annette Hudson.

All are welcome, you do not need to have any art or craft experience, just come along, have a try, and enjoy the company. Next meetings: December 7, December 21. There will be a short break in the New Year with the first meeting of 2023 on January 25.

● **For more information contact Rosanna Ellis, rosannaellis@btinternet.com or 07765 294347**

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm (except August). The next meetings will be held at **Colton village hall** on

● **Tuesday December 13 2022**

● **Tuesday January 10 2023**

There will be no meeting in February 2023.

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.

Contact details for clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Maria Hutson

T: 01603 850118

E: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com

W: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our residents from Marlingford and Colton parish councillors and staff.



Make use of your excellent Community Car scheme

The Community Car scheme is run by Dave and Jean Ditton and is for residents aged 65 and over living in Easton, Marlingford or Colton. It's a great idea and a very useful service for those who need transport to doctor, dentist or the hospital. (Local buses are available for shopping trips - see page 5).

So how does it work?

If you are going to need transport, you can ring **01603 880857** to arrange the pickup, but please try to give **two to three days notice** to give time for a driver to be assigned.



The cost for you will be 30p per mile and you will pay the driver at the end of your journey.

The scheme also pays the driver 30p each mile and is supported by both parish councils and South Norfolk council.

● **The scheme is always on the lookout for new drivers in the area so if you would like to be a driver, please contact Dave Ditton on 01603 880422.**

Mobile library 2022/23 – December/January dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 317 Wednesday: Dec 21 – Jan 18

Stop no	Arrives	Departs	Postcode
18: Colton Road near Home Farm	2.10pm	2.25pm	NR9 5HS
20: Mill Road	2.30pm	2.45pm	NR9 5HU

Colton –Route: CEN 319

Wednesday: January 25

38: Ex post Office	5pm	5.15pm	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 419

Thursday: Dec 22 – Jan 19

6: Parkers Close	10.45am	11am	NR9 5EE
8: Marlingford Road	11.05am	11.25am	NR9 5AD
10: Marlingford Way	11.30am	11.50am	NR9 5HB
12: Kennedy Close	11.55am	12.10pm	NR9 5EY
14: St Peter's Drive	12.15pm	12.45pm	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.

Carols in Colton church with Cawston Brass Band

Don't miss this great opportunity to have a good sing of old favourite carols accompanied by the Cawston Brass Band. It all starts at 11am at St Andrews church, Colton on **December 18** and will be followed by mince pies and coffee. After last year's disappointment when 60 mince pies disappeared from the church, we will make sure this year they are under lock and key until needed! Everyone is welcome. If anyone would like to read a lesson then please call Sarah Smith **07769 976173** or email **sarahsmith1968@btinternet.com**



A snowy scene at St Andrews, Colton, 2013.
Picture: Annette Hudson.

UK Veterans can have their say in online survey

Hearing from our veteran community is vital and that is why the government has launched a UK-wide Veterans' Survey. This is the first-ever exercise to collect feedback from the veterans' community across the UK coordinated by the Office for Veterans' Affairs and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The online survey was launched on 10 November and will be live for 12 weeks. The survey gives ex-UK armed forces personnel and their families the opportunity to provide direct feedback to the government

on their experiences, access to and use of services for veterans. Responses to the survey will help us better understand the experiences, needs and well-being of our veteran community, and guide future action. It is important we hear a wide range of views and we would like to encourage as many ex-UK armed forces veterans and their families to share feedback as possible. Your views matter, so please take part today.

● **Type 'Veterans Survey' in search on the ONS website to take part.**

The Rambling Vine



Patience is such an asset in a frantic world

The church is now in the season of Advent leading up to Christmas: while most of the world has been hurtling towards Christmas for some time, the church has just begun waiting, watching and preparing for the arrival of our Lord, born as a baby in Bethlehem.

We don't generally enjoy waiting – whatever they say about British people, we don't like queuing, or anything that keeps us hanging around or slows us up. That's why speed cameras were invented, because fast is never fast enough for some people.

Once there were January sales – they gradually crept to Boxing Day, and now we have 'Black Friday' well before Christmas.

Advent is about waiting, so perhaps it's not surprising that it's not

popular. We, along with the world around us, would rather hurry on to the good bit. I doubt I'd get much support if I suggested that we should hold our Christmas Carol services after the 25th of December when the church's Christmas season actually starts!

I'm sure you can remember doing maths problems which ask: if it takes one farmer with a tractor one day to plough a field, how long does it take two farmers, each with a tractor? The answer, we imagine, is half a day, but some things can't be hurried like that.

When Mary hears from the Archangel Gabriel that she is going to have a baby, she knows she will have to wait nine months and nothing will speed that up. As Mary waits for her baby to be

Church services December 2022 - January 2023

December 2022		
Sunday 4	10.00am	Easton
Sunday 11	10.00am	Bawburgh
	4.00pm	Queen's Hills Forest Church, Christingle in Creation
Friday 16	6.00pm	The Old Hall, Marlingford , Christmas Carols in the Courtyard
Sunday 18	11.00am	Colton with the Cawston Band
	6.00pm	Bawburgh Carols by Candlelight with Crib
Thursday 22	10.00am	Colton Prayers and Holy Communion
Christmas Eve Saturday 24	3.00pm	Marlingford Crib Service
	4.30pm	Easton Christingle
Christmas Day Sunday 25	10.30am	Marlingford all age Family Service
January 2023		
Sunday 1	10.00am	Easton
Epiphany Sunday 8		Colton all age service
Sunday 15	10.00am	Marlingford
	3.00pm	Queen's Hills Forest Church
Sunday 22	10.00am	Bawburgh
Sunday 29	10.00am	Colton a Celtic service with a global focus

born, so we also have to wait, and in Advent, we join her for the final month of her pregnancy. We dislike waiting, I suspect, because we often think of time waiting as time wasted. If we look at it as time watching, and time preparing, then it can feel quite different. Advent gives us time to

prepare not just the turkey and the pudding, but our hearts, minds, and souls. Then when the day arrives, when Jesus is born, we will be at the right place in the story, the most important story ever told, of how God became a baby so that he could become part of our story.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Be sure and put this date in your diaries for 2023

The PCC of St Peter’s Church, Easton are excited to announce they will be holding a Flower Festival with a Songs of Praise service on **May 13 and 14** to celebrate the Coronation.

The theme will be ‘Royalty’ and we welcome floral contributions from across the Benefice.

More details to follow.

Rev Laura Montgomery



Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for quarter ending December 2022

	Number	Member	£
First	33	Marie Colman	£50.00
Second	11	Christine Kent	£35.00
Third	42	Julian Mobbs	£25.00
Bonus	20	Sue Hester	£10.00

If you wish to continue supporting maintenance of the Church in 2023 please renew your direct debit at Barclays Bank 20-62-53, MPCC 50 Club, account no. 00378445.

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