

THE Grapevine

May 2025

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



Remembering VE Day
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**Local schoolchildren
celebrate Easter**
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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
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499
Colton Art Group	Rosanna Ellis – 07765 294347
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	Sandra Bowman 01603 881538
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	01362 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: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Marlingford & Colton

Maria Hutson 01603 850118
clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk

Councillor South Norfolk District and Norfolk County

Margaret Dewsbury 01603 759693
 6, Park Avenue, Barford NR9 4BA

Location of defibrillators:

Colton - Village hall, Norwich Rd; NR9 5BY

Easton - Village hall, Marlingford Rd,
 NR9 5AD

Rembrandt Restaurant, 65 Dereham Rd.

Lower Easton, 76 Ringland Rd;

Marlingford: The Bell, Bawburgh Road.
 NR9 5HX

Printed by:

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 Drayton Industrial Park
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Advertising in The Grapevine

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

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

Colour back page:

	£300	£400	£500
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Front cover: Cattle at Drayton.

Picture: Annette Hudson.

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	Vacancy	
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St Andrew's Church, Colton

Churchwarden	Sarah Smith, Bickerston Cottage, Church Lane, Colton	07769 976173
---------------------	---	--------------

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

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

St Mary's Church, Marlingford

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

PCC Secretary	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	01603 880846
----------------------	--	--------------

Treasurer	Carol Chiles carolachiles@gmail.com	01508 578352
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St Mary and St Walstan's Church, Bawburgh

PCC contact	Lin Gibson	01603 744683
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There have been changes to local bus services

These are the changes to the timetable for the Konect Bus service to and from Easton, from and to Norwich Bus Station, which was effective from 30th March 2025.

Please note: connection times in both Easton and Longwater are tighter and that the 09:26 service from Easton is now before the 09:30 watershed, which means that a **senior citizen's bus pass will not be free, but will be charged at £1.50.**

This timetable is for Service 808 only from Marlingford and Colton, and onward connections to or from Longwater Retail Park and/or Norwich Bus Station on Tuesdays and Thursdays only:

Outward	Service 808			Connects with:		
				Konnect 4	or	X1
Marlingford Bell	09:08					
Colton: The Pond	09:13					
Colton: The Street / Norwich Road Jcn.	09:14					
Easton: Marlingford Road Bus Shelter	09:17			09:26	or	10:05
Longwater Retail Park: Pizza Hut	09:22			09:33		
Norwich Bus Station				10:05	or	10:25
Return	Service 808			Connects with:		
				Konnect 4	or	X1
Norwich Bus Station				12:15	or	12:00
Longwater Retail Park	11:15 *	or	12:50	12:47		
Easton: Marlingford Road Bus Shelter	11:20 *	or	12:55	12:52	or	12:20
Colton: The Street / Norwich Road Jcn.	11:23 *	or	12:58			
Colton: The Pond	11:24 *	or	12:59			
Marlingford Bell	11:29 *	or	13:04			

Note *: For passengers who only want to return from Longwater on the Konnect 4 (Outward) Service, which arrived at 09:33, above. The Our Bus Service will also continue to be provided. In addition to the current arrangements, there will continue to be a pre-booked service to the N&NUH at 07:50 and 17:45 from Colton and Marlingford. To book this bus, call 01603 223956

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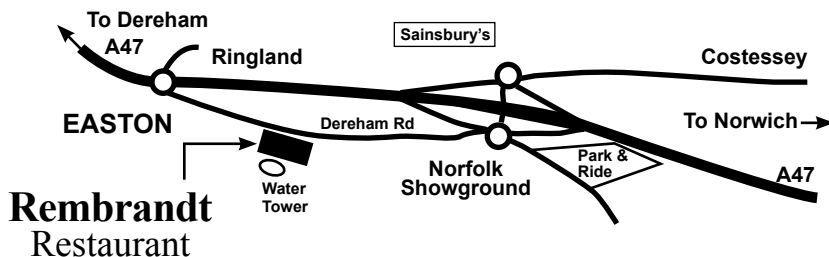
Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 4pm - 8pm

***For latest information
please see the website or phone***

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Norwich, NR9 3EN

Hingham: 01953 850330

15 Norwich Street,
Hingham,
Norfolk, NR9 4LJ

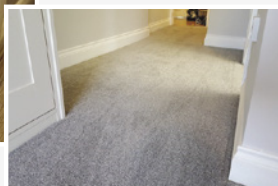
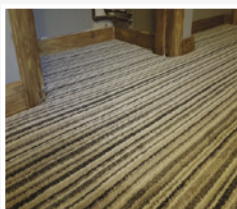
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Special memories remain precious to us

It's funny the things we remember. There are the big things - like where you were when JFK was assassinated, the scorching hot summer of '76, the great storm of October 1987, the death of Princess Diana and the collapse of the World Trade Centre towers. Family memories are probably the ones that stay with us forever. I remember when I was aged about four, trying to tell my mum as she struggled to fix a pedal on my bike that she'd got them both facing downwards. She laughs about it

now... And much later, on my first day in a new job in London having hardly ever travelled to the city, calling my mum at lunchtime for moral support from a phone in the tube station and having a violent nosebleed which promptly ended the conversation!

My mum will be 93 this year. She enjoys drawing and gardening and coming on days out with me. I tell anyone who wants to hear that my mum is amazing. Let's hear it for mums everywhere!

Annette (editor)

Where you can find our online editions

You can access each issue of *The Grapevine* online. Visit the **Easton parish council** (eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and the **Marlingford and Colton parish council** (marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk) websites, the **Nextdoor** website and on the Easton **Festival Park Facebook** page. If you would like digital copies, please send your email address to: **annettegh57@gmail.com** and you will be added to a list of subscribers.

Our printed editions are published in Dec/Jan, March, May, July/Aug and October and are distributed in Easton, Colton and Marlingford. If you enjoy reading *The Grapevine* and would like to make a donation towards the cost of more printed editions, you can do so by bank transfer:

Account name:

The Grapevine Magazine

Business account no: 20420956

Sort code: 20-99-08

Thank you!

Deadline for items for the June issue: Friday May 23, 2025

Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Marlingford village hall

● Marlingford Village Hall Talks

Thursday May 1 - 7.30 pm

By popular request we are delighted to welcome back **Glenn Barrett**, astrophysicist, to give a talk on:

Very, Very Scary Black Holes

A survival guide should you ever encounter one of these strange, exotic objects which litter our universe! What are they, how do they form?

Are they really out there?!

Refreshments/raffle/£5 entrance.

Colton village hall

● Colton Quiz

Saturday, May 31

Get those grey cells working with our general knowledge quiz.

Village hall doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of up to six.

£5 per person.

Coming up

● Afternoon Cream Tea

is on Saturday, June 14 (not June 7)

● Summer BBQ

Saturday July 19

● Help needed!

Colton village hall is a great place for the villagers of Colton to come together and enjoy the various events organised by the village hall committee. It meets every couple of

months to discuss events to raise funds to for the village hall. The committee would welcome new members with ideas for community activities that could benefit the village. **If you are interested, please contact: Dom Castle: domcastle63@gmail.com or call 01603 880191.**

Easton village hall

● Easton Good Companions

May 8: VE Day Anniversary.

Members photos and memorabilia from WWII.



May 22: Talk by Charles Lewis
Silver Darlings and Fisher Girls

We meet every two weeks at the village hall on Thursdays 2- 4pm.

Over 55s welcome.

Tony Perry

● Easton Pop In

We are open from 10.00am until 12 noon every Tuesday morning at the village hall is open to all who wish to come in and chat with a coffee or tea and a biscuit. We also would like more volunteers to make drinks for our visitors. Come and join us!

Brenda and Tony

In praise of buses and bikes

I would just like to say well done with your article about cars in the recent *Grapevine* magazine. I'm now 48 and haven't driven since 2002 due to an accident that wasn't my fault. I don't miss driving, especially as I now have osteoarthritis in both knees. Buses are cheaper than a car. I get a weekly ticket on the Excel bus for only £18. It lasts for seven days and is valid on all city-bound buses, including Dereham. I also have my bike, which is good exercise for my knees.

Carrie Miller, Easton

● Easton Crafters

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Easton Village Hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. For more information, ring **Janet on 01603 471144**



Picture: Unsplash

● Easton WI

Easton WI meets on the second Thursday of the month (except August) at Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**If you
know who
this is...**



**... you've
got a head
start!**

COLTON VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ

SATURDAY, MAY 31

7.00 for 7.30 start

Teams of up to six - £5 per person
Call Vicky on 01603 881336 to book a
table. Feel free to bring your
own refreshments.

A test for eyes AND ears!

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Barford Primary School,
Chapel Street, Barford, NR9 4AB

Friends of Barford Primary School

There was plenty to see and do at Marlingford's spring craft fair

Marlingford Village Hall was pleased to host the Spring Craft Fair on Saturday, April 12.

This vibrant event showcased a diverse array of handmade crafts, including pottery, art, jewellery, woodturning and bookbinding from local artisans. Those attending had the chance to sample the delicious cakes as well as some tasty hot dogs. The children participated in a range of craft activities producing beautifully decorated eggs and Easter baskets, and enjoyed playing out in the fine weather on an Easter egg hunt. The committee does appreciate all the hard work that contributed to the event and is grateful for the funds raised for the hall, which currently amounts to approximately £250.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the event and we have started planning for a Summer Fling later in the year.

Please look out for details in *The Grapevine* and on *The Bugle*.

Chris Whiting



Crafters' displays and villagers enjoying an array of items at the spring fair. Pictures: Felicity Maton

Could you help us to distribute the printed editions of The Grapevine?

We are very grateful to the volunteers who help distribute the printed issues of your parish magazine – but now we need more help!

Could you spare some time to help deliver in Bawburgh Road, Easton and part of Dereham Road, Easton? The printed issues are published in

Dec, March, May, July and October, so it would only be five times a year.

If so, please contact
Elizabeth Giddings on
01603 882179

or you can email:
agidd100@gmail.com
Thank you!



Bawburgh Village Hall 'talks for everyone'

Little Lifts Charity

This month's talk is by Graham and Sharon who are volunteers for the locally based charity Little Lifts. Many of us have been affected by cancer and one of its most common forms is breast cancer. Little Lifts is a 'small but mighty' charity based in Norfolk and founded by Oa who, until recently, was a Bawburgh resident. The charity provides gift boxes for people across the UK who are receiving treatment for breast cancer, to help alleviate the emotional and physical side effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment. Little Lifts is inspired by the kindness that



Oa received from her friends and family during her own breast cancer treatment. She wanted to help other people feel more prepared, supported and loved as they begin treatment.

Tuesday May 13th 7.30pm

**Entrance: £3 includes tea or coffee:
Everyone is welcome.**

Learn about Lutes

David Van Edwards is a lute maker. He will show us lutes 'under construction' and tell us how the instrument spread all over Europe until, by the Renaissance, it had become the most important instrument in the musical world.

Tuesday June 10th 7.30pm.

Police scheme to ensure your property is safe

Registration to the Keyholder Scheme provided by Norfolk Constabulary ensures peace of mind to both home and business owners, helping us to deliver an effective and secure service to you and those responsible for your property.

Where you or your keyholder are able to assist, the scheme saves you time and inconvenience, and you may reduce any damage to your property, as the scheme enables the building to be accessed and secured by a keyholder, avoiding further loss, cost or injury in case an emergency occurs.

How it works

On being informed of an incident/issue at your premises, our Command and Control System, which records incidents reported to police, will automatically alert the operator within Command and

Control System, that the location is part of the Keyholder Scheme. We will then, if required, attempt to contact you or one of your nominated keyholders.

The Keyholder Scheme also allows the police to store any gate/key safe codes or hazards at the location if required.

We will also supply a door/window Keyholder Scheme sticker for you to display if you wish.

What it costs

Non-commercial properties, including residential, schools and churches, cost £13 per year. Business premises cost £25 per year.

How to join

Complete the registration form on the norfolk.police.uk website (select Advice - Watch Schemes and Initiatives - Keyholder Scheme) and either scan/email it, or post it, to the addresses given.

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.

News from Easton Women's Institute

Blowing their tops

For the second month in a row the speaker we had booked to come to our April meeting was unable to come and see us but we found a replacement speaker who came to talk to us at very short notice.

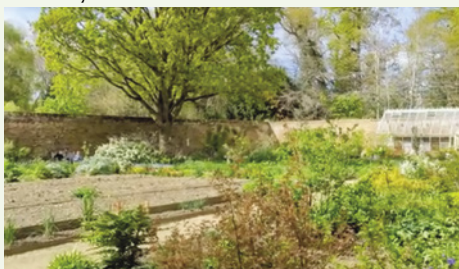
We were expecting to learn a little about forensics but instead

Dr Jess Johnson from the UEA came and explained some of the science behind volcanos, earthquakes and tsunamis!!

Everyone at the meeting thoroughly enjoyed her talk and we were very grateful for the way in which she made it clearly understandable to all of us with little scientific knowledge or none!

Coming up...

We are planning to visit the **Walled Garden** in Little Plumstead in May for a walk and a coffee.



Hopefully at our next meeting on Thursday, May 8 at 7.30pm in the village hall we will have a speaker telling us about **Lasting Powers of Attorney**.

Also, at our meeting on June 12, the speaker will have a slightly lighter topic entitled **For the Love of Cows!**



Easton WI would very much like to welcome some new members and if anyone is interested in joining us or knowing a little more about the Women's Institute please do come along to one of our meetings or contact us for a chat.

Easton WI always meet on the second Thursday of the month (except August) at Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We are a small friendly group who come from three villages. Most months we have a speaker or an entertainer and we often have visitors from other WIs to join us. We are happy to welcome visitors to up to three meetings a year but after that we will politely ask them to join us as a WI member. We also go out and about between meetings visiting places of interest. There is often eating involved!

Mary Blathwayt

VE Day – A day of victory and remembrance

Victory in Europe Day is a momentous occasion in history, celebrated annually on May 8th to mark the formal end of the Second World War in Europe.

It commemorates the surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces in 1945, a pivotal moment that brought peace to a war-torn continent and signified the ultimate triumph of the Allied powers over one of the most destructive regimes the world had ever seen. For many, VE Day represents not just the end of the conflict, but the beginning of a new chapter in European and world history.

The war in Europe had raged for nearly six years. Following the invasion of Poland in September 1939, the Allies—mainly the UK, France, and later the USA, along with the Soviet Union—had been locked in a desperate struggle against Nazi Germany. The war devastated entire populations, with millions of lives lost, cities destroyed, and entire nations occupied.

However, by 1944, the tide of war had begun to turn in favour of the Allies. The successful D-Day invasion in June 1944 and the



subsequent push through France marked the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. By early 1945, the Allied forces had made their way into Germany, and on May 7, 1945, German General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of the Third Reich at Allied headquarters in Reims, France.

Though May 7 is technically the day of Germany's surrender, the celebrations were postponed until May 8 which became known as VE Day. The delay in formalising the surrender was due to the time needed for the Soviets, who were fighting on the Eastern Front, to confirm the agreement and to ensure that German forces in the East were also surrendering. The Germans signed another surrender document in Berlin



Left: London celebrates; Top: US MPs read about the surrender. Bottom: Churchill waves to jubilant crowds.

on May 8 which was officially recognized as VE Day. However, in many countries, the celebration was observed on May 9, especially in Russia, where it was given a national holiday status.

VE Day was a day of jubilation. In London, crowds poured into Trafalgar Square and spontaneous celebrations erupted across the city. The iconic images of people dancing in the streets, waving flags, and singing “We’ll Meet Again” symbolised the joy and relief that accompanied the victory.

For many, VE Day was a bittersweet day. Although the war in Europe had ended, the world was far from healed. The aftermath of the war would be felt for decades. Europe had been ravaged, and millions were left displaced and traumatised.

The geopolitical landscape was shifting dramatically, with the Cold War looming on the horizon, setting the stage for decades of tension between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies.

Today, VE Day serves as both a reminder of the horrors of war and a celebration of the resilience of the human spirit.

While the world moved on from the devastation of World War II, VE Day remains a moment of reflection on the courage, determination, and sacrifice shown by the soldiers, civilians, and leaders who contributed to the victory. The day also serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of international co-operation and diplomacy in preventing future wars.

Continuing a series of pieces taken from the *Memories of Marlingford* book featuring stories about the village and villagers, past and present.

Here, Betty Simms recalls growing up in Marlingford.

My father was born at number 4, the far house in Colton Lane, but moved to number 2, also a house belonging to the estate, when he married my mother. My brother Charlie was born in 1918 and I was born on 3rd March 1920. I was named Ethel Eva but have always been known as Betty.

I had a happy, simple childhood and, with my playmates Dolly Baldwin, Ronnie Woodcock and Ruth Girdlestone, would amuse ourselves with hopscotch, skipping and playing in the pits at the back of our cottages. Here we would collect the tins that had been thrown away, make two holes in them and tie them to our shoes with pieces of string, then walk

around on them - like stilts. These were soon confiscated as the sharp tins would cut into the soles of our shoes. We made sure we were not caught again after returning to the pit for replacement tins.

When I was in the 'little' room at Marlingford school, I was taught by Audrey Mann who lived with Dot Sadd's mother, and then, when I progressed into the 'big' room, I was taught by Miss Wedall, who lodged with Harry Sadd.

If I skipped to school, I would be early but, should I loiter to play marbles, I would often be late. I would sometimes whip my top all the way to school too. Sometimes I would stay for a school dinner but usually ran home for a hot meal, not always meat but one of my mother's suet puddings or pancakes.



View of estate cottages in Church Road.

On Sunday, we would all go to church as a family where my father was a sidesman. Nobody worked on Sundays. The Reverend Perrin was the vicar and I was confirmed by the Reverend Bracecamp, his successor. I attended Sunday School in the little chapel in Barford Road and we enjoyed an annual outing by wagon to Earlham Park. Other outings were cycle rides to Hingham or Silfield to see my aunts, or to Wicklewood to see mum's aunt. The estate would celebrate a successful harvest by taking all the workmen and their families in the estate charabanc to Yarmouth. This was the only time I would go to the seaside. Father earned thirty shillings a week and paid half-a-crown for rent. International Stores would deliver groceries once a week. Mother paid a shilling a week all year to pay for the extras at Christmas. Milk was purchased from Norton's farm and mother made bread twice a week in an oven in the wall. Being the youngest in the family, I was first to have my weekly bath in front of the fire. I was then sent to bed while my brother Charlie had his turn in the tub, then it was the turn of my parents and our lodger. I presume the water was heated in the copper. In my father's early days, Bromfield House, in Barford Road, was a

shop. Mr Hubbard lived at the Homestead, a smallholding, also in Barford Road, and the hill and pit nearby were known as Hubbard's Hill and Hubbard's Pit.

Major and Mrs Evans Loombe moved into Marlingford Hall in 1921. Flour was made at the mill. John Hilling lived in a little cottage tucked away in woodland by the river opposite the mill and later moved into a house in Bawburgh Road. 'Cadger' Roberts lived in a hut on the allotments and Mrs Roberts resided in the school house. Her first husband, Harry, was killed on Bank Plain by a lorry driven by an American.

I left school at 14 years old and went into service as kitchen maid with the Debars at Colney Rectory, using skills self-taught from watching my mother. I did all the 'donkey' work, rising very early to light the kitchen range at 5.30am, prepare breakfast and help in the preparation of other meals, black-lead the grates and clean the dining room. I used to put tea leaves on the carpet, brush them in one way then the other and this would clean and bring up the pile.

I 'lived in' and had my own bedroom, but my life was very strict. After a hard days work I would be in bed by nine-o'-clock.

● **There will be more of Betty's memories next month.**

Exciting new look for college gym with discount being offered for Easton residents

After a £1.7M refurbishment last year, Easton College Sports Centre's new gym is now open to the public. Renamed Easton College Centre of Excellence for Sport, the college had an external gym membership offer some time ago and after the refurbishment of the centre any locals who used to be members will be amazed at the transformation inside the building.

Principal Jerry White explains:

"We want the Centre of Excellence for Sport to be available to everyone, from elite and semi-professional athletes, to local sports teams and clubs, as well as members of the local community wanting to improve their fitness, and local businesses looking for team-building opportunities."

Leading off from the bright, new reception area are a series of new fitness suites and a number of study areas, including:

- a resistance machine room, fully equipped with the latest machines.
- a cardio room, with a selection of treadmills, steppers, stair machines, rowing machines, and static bikes
- a sports performance lab offering physiological assessments, biomechanical analysis, nutritional evaluations and health screening
- a studio for circuit training, yoga,



pilates and other exercise classes

- a functional fitness room designed to prepare users for real life movements and activities;
- multi-functional classrooms.

All these new facilities are available to hire or rent with all Easton residents receiving 20% discount off the monthly gym membership which includes access to the Resistance Machine room and the Cardio room.

Open to members from 5pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am-5.45pm on Saturday and Sunday.

● **For more information or a tour of our facilities, email: collegehire@ccn.ac.uk**

Easton residents just need to bring something with their home address on to qualify for a discount.



Local schoolchildren help celebrate Easter in the Benefice with songs and stories

Many will know that a team from the Church Benefice go into St Peter's School Easton each week to act out Bible stories. As Easter approaches we were really pleased to welcome both the KS1 and KS2 children from St Peter's to Easton Church and, the following day, all the children from Bawburgh School to Bawburgh Church.

With the help of many pupils we were able to act out both the stories of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The singing of Easter songs by both schools during the services was wonderful.

Later, on Palm Sunday at our All Age Service in Colton, we revisited the stories of Palm Sunday and

Good Friday with members of the congregation, including some young children, taking on the acting roles.

It was a very special service finishing with an Easter Egg Hunt! This edition of Grapevine will go out after Easter but we hope all in our villages had a very Happy Easter.

The next service in Colton will be on May 11 at 10am when the four churches of the Benefice will hold their AGM/APCM during the service. All are very welcome to attend and find out more about all that is happening in our churches.

***Liz Plater, Secretary to
St Andrew's Church Colton***

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mark Pfeiffer

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr David Woods

Councillor vacancies

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council currently has four councillors who dedicate their time to make the village a better place to live. There are three vacancies for additional councillors.

Potential candidates must be aged at least 18 years old and be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a qualifying EU citizen. They must also meet at least one of the following three criteria: be on the parish electoral roll, have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the last 12 months or their principal or only place of work during the 12 months is within the parish area. Training and support is offered to all councillors.

Meetings are held six times a year on Tuesday evenings.

To find out more about becoming a councillor, please contact the clerk or any existing councillor. Why not attend a meeting and see first-hand the work that is being done?

Annual Parish meeting

Each parish must hold an annual parish meeting.

This is different to the regular parish council meetings although it is usually called by, and chaired by, the parish council chairman. Local organisations are invited to share what their group has been doing over the last 12 months. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions on any issues relating to the village.

Marlingford and Colton's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on

Tuesday May 13 at 7pm. Residents are invited to this meeting being held at Colton Village Hall.

Permanent road closure and diversion

From 8pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025 Berrys Lane will be **permanently** closed to traffic.

Access for residents will be maintained and local diversions will be in place. Dereham Road from Berrys Lane into Honingham village will also be closed to traffic and the village will be inaccessible from this direction. This closure will

allow construction of the new A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dual carriageway junction to start.

Diversion routes are as follows:

Northbound diversion route:

- Head south on Berrys Lane and turn left onto Mattishall Road
- Head east on Mattishall Road/ Norwich Road to the Honingham roundabout and turn left on the A47
- Head west on the A47 until you reach the Berrys Lane/Wood Lane crossroads

Southbound diversion route:

- Head east on the A47 to the Honingham roundabout
- Turn right onto Norwich Road/ Mattishall Lane and head west
- Turn right onto Berrys Lane and head north

● **For more info or to register for project updates, visit:**
nationalhighways.co.uk/a47tuddenham
or email:

a47NorthTuddenhamtoEastonRIS@nationalhighways.co.uk

Parish council meetings and public inclusion

Parish council meetings are held in **January, March, May, July, September and November**, normally on the second Tuesday of the month at **7pm**.

Agendas are posted on the parish council noticeboards and the website at least three days beforehand. The public are welcome to attend all parish council meetings; there is an opportunity to speak and ask questions.

Please note: if you would like an item to appear on the agenda, details must be sent to the clerk at least 10 days before the meeting. The council is unable to make a decision on anything not included

on the agenda but can discuss newly-raised matters and refer them to the next meeting.

Minutes are posted on the website: **marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk/minutes-agendas** and are available from the clerk but remain in draft form until they are agreed at the following meeting.

The next meeting will be held on;
● **May 13 at Colton Village Hall.**

Parish council contact

Maria Hutson, clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council.

T: 01603 850118

E: clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk

W: marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk

Easton Parish Council

Your parish councillors:

Chairman – Mark Caton

Vice-chair – Jan Hudson

Cllr David Lewis

Cllr Des Fulcher

Cllr Peter McCarter

Cllr Roly Chapman

Cllr Mark Cordy

Cllr Mike Jobling

Cllr Mike Bowman

Cllr Alexis Main

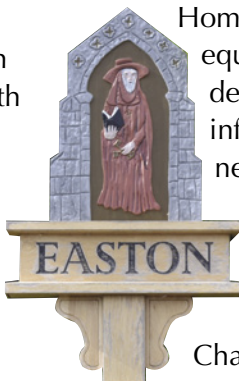
Meetings

The parish council meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the village hall. Members of the public are always welcome and there is an opportunity for you to ask questions or to make comment.

Updates from the last meeting on 1 April

Planning updates

The council discussed two key items related to the ongoing development by Persimmon



Homes. First, the Phase 2 play equipment plans were deferred due to insufficient information. Regarding the new allotment layout, significant progress has been made following consultations with allotment holders.

Changes include removing the compost area to allow for more parking, adding extra water points, reducing the number of sheds in favour of polytunnels and providing 40 fruiting trees. The anticipated move to the new site is likely to be



Housebuilding in Easton.



Current allotments.

Pictures: Annette Hudson

October 2026 with further updates expected at the next meeting.

Financial Overview

The council approved several payments including insurance for the community centre and other minor expenses. A successful application for a £500,000 loan to extend the repayment term over 50 years had been confirmed. This will help cover existing debts and support the community's ongoing projects.

Community centre project

Progress on the community centre remains steady, although there are still challenges. Discussions about the possibility of an open day were deferred due to a lack of insurance coverage though a virtual tour may be considered.

District and county updates

County and District Councillor Margaret Dewsbury provided updates on various initiatives. These included enhancements to the Park and Ride service, the installation of new EV charging points in the county and progress on devolution and local government reorganisation. She also highlighted the progress on leisure-centre upgrades and community-driven litter pick initiatives.

Public Forum

The public forum included discussions about the heavy lorry traffic on Marlingford Road and reassurances about the financial viability of the village hall. The council was praised for its ongoing work on behalf of the community.

Asset maintenance

Several maintenance issues were discussed including the installation and repair of dog bins, damage to a driveway at College Heights and work on the trees and shrubs south of Stern Close. Councillors had also recently repaired damage to the fence at Jubilee Park.

New clerk appointment

Finally, the council welcomed **Sue Marsh** as the new Parish Clerk, Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer. The appointment was approved and salary terms were agreed.

Annual Parish Meeting and the next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 6 at 6pm** at the village hall. This will be followed by the May meeting of the parish council.

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Rambling Vine



This beautiful 14C Missal depicting The Pentecost originates from East Anglia.

Seasonal festivals that inspire and guide us

As spring turns to summer, we can look ahead to two joyful celebrations in our church calendar: the Festival of Pentecost and the Feast of St Walstan, our much-loved local saint.

Pentecost, which falls this year on Sunday, June 8, celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. In wind and flame, in words and wonder, the Spirit transformed fearful followers into

bold witnesses of God's love. It is a powerful reminder that the Church is not a building or an institution, but a living community, inspired and renewed by God's presence among us.

Similarly, the life of St Walstan speaks to us of quiet faithfulness and humble service. Born into nobility, Walstan chose instead a life of simplicity, working the land and caring for those around him.

His story continues to inspire a deep connection between faith, nature and community – values we still hold dear here in our villages. You are warmly invited to join us for our St Walstan's Day Service on Sunday, June 1 at 11am in the church. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch at

Marlingford Village Hall – a chance to enjoy food and fellowship with friends old and new.

As we celebrate both the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost and the quiet faithfulness of Walstan, may we be inspired to live with open hands and open hearts.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services May/June 2025		
May		
Sunday 4	10.00am	Easton – 3rd of Easter Holy Communion Outdoor all age service - bring a picnic and blanket.
Sunday 11	10.00am	Colton – 4th of Easter - HC including Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Easton Benefice (Monday, May 12 Bank Holiday)
Sunday 18	10.00am	Marlingford – 5th of Easter - HC
Sunday 25	10.00am	Bawburgh – Ascension HC
June		
Sunday 1	11.00am	Bawburgh – St. Walstan's Day - HC. Procession to St Walstan's Well for prayers and blessing followed by bring and share lunch at Marlingford Village Hall
Sunday 8	10.00am	Easton – Whit Sunday, Pentecost HC
Sunday 15	10.00am	Colton – Trinity - HC. All age service
Sunday 22	10.00am	Marlingford – 1st after Trinity - HC
Sunday 29	10.00am	Easton – St. Peter's Day HC

Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for quarter ending March 2025

	Number	Member	Amount
First	41	Robert Foster	£50.00
Second	12	Dorothy Bailey	£35.00
Third	28	David Eagle	£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 or if you wish to donate your winnings to the church.

Mobile library 2025 – May dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: May 15

Stop	Arrives	Departs	Postcode
Mill Road	10.40am	10.55am	NR9 5HL
Colton Road near Home Farm	11.00am	11.20pm	NR9 5HS

Colton –Route: CEN 319 Wednesday: May 14

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 423 Thursday: May 15

Parker's Close	11.30am	11.50am	NR9 5EE
Marlingford Road	11.55am	12.15pm	NR9 5AD
Marlingford Way	12.20am	12.40pm	NR9 5HB
Kennedy Close	12.45pm	13.05pm	NR9 5EY
St Peter's Drive	13.10pm	13.30pm	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.

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