

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 10, April 2024

THE GOAT SHED

FRIENDSHIP TABLE

Many of you will remember that there used to be a coffee morning in Colton Village Hall, on a Thursday Morning.

We understand that there is a similar service now available at the Goat Shed.

For those of you who would like to make some new friends, or are even just a bit lonely, there is now a Friendship table, in their Kitchen, every Wednesday, between 09:00 and 11:00.

Diane and Pat look forward to welcoming you, put a smile on your face, and hopefully brighten your day.

PUB NEWS

THE MARLINGFORD BELL

Following the sudden closure of The Marlingford Bell before Christmas we are very happy to confirm that it will be re-opening from 12th April.

Mandy & Simon are looking forward to meeting customers both old and new. More details on opening times and what will be on offer to follow. Let's all get behind the new team to help them make a big success of our local hostelry.

THE BARKING BUCK

I'm sure many of our residents are now aware that the previously named Norfolk Lurcher (or even Ugly Bug, if you go back that far), has now been re-named. Mark and Rose are doing really well since its first opening, with both the hospitality and Rose's wonderful cooking making it well worth a visit.

A47 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY CONSTRUCTION – AN UPDATE

Following two separate meetings with representatives from National Highways, the first at our most recent Parish Council Meeting, and the second, at the A47/NWL Local Liaison Group (LLG) meeting the following day, we have been updated as to ongoing work at the construction site, and its effect upon roads through Colton and Marlingford.

We have been advised that mitigation is underway to deal with the continuing problem of flooding at the Honingham Roundabout. We understand that National Highways will be installing flood prevention tanks at the site. **However, to do this, we are advised that the A47 will be closed completely overnight on the 12th of April.**

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

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

National Highways has also given us an update following the rejection of Andrew Boswell's appeal, in the Appeals Court. Work will now go ahead in earnest with the construction phase of the A47 between East Tuddenham and Easton. However, the project is now running behind schedule because necessary activities such as hedge clearing, and its effect on the nesting bird population, will be delayed from the earlier construction timetable planned for wintertime.

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

THE COLTON MILLENIUM YEW (AGAIN)

Following the previous article on this subject, we are delighted to confirm that, through the good auspices of our Councillor, Debbie Perfect, we are advised that her parents, who live in Burston, have been given approval by their own Parish Council, to take a cutting from their yew tree, which had been planted as part of their own millennium commemorations, which will be grown on, and given to Colton, to replace our own tree.

We are hoping to finalize arrangements as to where the replacement will be planted and will let you have an update in our next edition of this Newsletter.

MARLINGFORD BUGLE

Following on from the success of the **Village People** WhatsApp group in Colton, which has now reached almost 50 people, Marlingford residents have now formed their own similar WhatsApp group called the Marlingford Bugle. Its aim is to be a friendly place where our Marlingford Community can share news, publicise events and just chat.

There are already just under 40 residents in the group. Should you wish to join please send a WhatsApp message to Mark Pfeiffer on 07930-335180 who will be pleased to add you to the group.

Would everybody please note however, that to join either (or both) groups, you need to already be using WhatsApp. We recently became aware of an individual who, although providing a mobile number, was unable to join because of the omission.

MARLINGFORD OPEN GARDENS 2024

On Sunday, 30th June 2024 there will be the "Marlingford Open Gardens" event. Kirstie Reader and Angell Crosland invite all Marlingford residents with a blooming border, glorious vegetable patch or a corner of a garden you are proud of be it large or small, to take part.

All proceeds to go towards our church restoration fund (St Mary, Marlingford). Please contact Kirstie or Angell on kirstiereader@icloud.com or angellcrosland@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

DEFIBRILLATORS

The Parish is fortunate that it has 2 fully functioning defibrillators, one outside Colton Village Hall and one on the front wall of the Bell in Marlingford. These devices are checked monthly and maintained by the Parish Council. In the event of an emergency and 999 is called the ambulance dispatcher can give the caller a code to open the cabinet and release the machine. Also in the cabinet is a kit including scissors and a razor.

When the machine is deployed, it talks the user through how to use it and will only issue a shock if needed. Early life support using a defibrillator can save lives.

More information on using Defibs and learning CPR can be found below.

[Understanding defibrillators-what they are and how to use them - BHF](#)
[Learn CPR in 15 minutes | RevivR | BHF - BHF](#)

A THANK YOU AND A REQUEST TO YOU....

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

As a result of Paul's departure, the Parish Council now has 3 vacancies and is looking for residents to join us. If you are interested in local issues and want to make a difference in your community, being a Councillor could be for you. If you are interested in seeing what the role entails, why not come along to one of our meetings. Alternatively, feel free to contact our Clerk, Maria Hutson on 01603 850118, or by email to marlingfordandcoltonnpc@gmail.com

MARLINGFORD CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The new cricket season will soon be upon us, and the club are always on the lookout for keen new members. They predominantly play friendlies against other village sides, with 40-over games each Sunday, from May until September, together with a midweek evening 20-over game most weeks, from May until -July.

This season we will be starting with an intra-club game on Sunday, May 5th. Everybody is welcome to come along and watch (or even have a go). For over 40 years the cricket club has been at the heart of our community and has plans to give more locals the chance to get involved – watch this space.

For more information, contact John Wyndham (Club Captain – 07857420448)

COLTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Chair Dom Castle reported a good, steady year for the hall at the AGM on March 4th. The Little Owls and the Colton Art Group continue to make regular use of the facilities and there were several private hires throughout the year.

Events organized by the hall committee were popular throughout the year and helped keep the finances on an even keel.

Our plans to install acoustic paneling and a new security barrier are going ahead, thanks to generous grant aid from Councillor Margaret Dewsbury and the SNDC Pride in Place campaign, and we have ordered a bench as a memorial to Joyce Ireland for the play area, with support from Marlingford and Colton PC.

We are always looking for people who can spare an hour every couple of months to join the committee and bring some fresh ideas - could that be you?

Our next event is Easter bingo on Saturday, April 6th. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 7pm. Thereafter, please make a note of these events in your diary.

- Saturday 13th April - Hall and grounds Spring Clean
- Saturday 12th May - Quiz
- Saturday 15th June - Coffee Morning
- Saturday 23rd July - Summer BBQ
- Saturday 17th August - Night at the Races
- Saturday 21st September - Beetle Drive
- Saturday 26th October - Harvest Supper
- Saturday 7th December - Christmas Bingo

MARLINGFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Marlingford Village Hall is 100 years old this year. The centenary celebrations begin with Afternoon Tea and Cake as well as a Children's Treasure Hunt on Sunday, 7th April between 3pm and 5pm. Please come along and join us. Watch out for more events throughout the year.

Also, dates for your diary for future events in the hall, include the renowned Marlingford Quiz nights are taking place in our Village Hall monthly on 5th April, 3rd May, 7th June and 5th July. Entry Fee is still only £2.50 per person with teams of 4-6 people. Tea and coffee will be on offer and please bring along your own wine and beer.

These very popular and enjoyable evenings are helping to raise funds for the St Mary's Marlingford Fabric Fund.

PARISH PRECEPT 24/25.

The Parish Council precept for 2024/25 has been set at £12,140. This is an increase of 11.37% from last year which equates to an extra 15p a week for a band D property. The Parish Council is very mindful to keep increases to a minimum where possible. The Parish Council has allocated 2 grants to the village halls for £250 each. Audit fees have also risen due to the increased complexity of auditing parish council accounts. Accounts must be audited annually, and paperwork lodged with the external auditor to ensure adherence to transparency codes. Additional money has also been earmarked for Councillor training. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to recruit 3 new Councillors this year to fill the current vacancies and offer them the appropriate training. £500 has also been allocated for ensuring that the Defibrillators are kept in working order with "in date" pads and batteries.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INCLUSION

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of alternate months at 7pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Tuesday 14th May from 7pm at Colton Village Hall. Come and find out about what has been happening in the villages over the last 12 months. Enjoy light refreshments whilst meeting others from the villages.

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.

COLTON ART GROUP

The Colton Art Group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the village hall.

All are welcome, from beginners to the more experienced, to join our really friendly group. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm. We can provide all the materials you will need, together with some useful coaching and encouraging support.

For more information, please contact Rosanna Ellis on 07765 294347, or by email to rosannaellis@btinternet.com

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOUTH NORFOLK COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024 ARE OPEN!

The awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of residents from across the district, who go above and beyond to support others or complete incredible achievements.

All shortlisted nominees will be invited along to the awards ceremony at Glen Lodge, and the winner in each category will receive £250 to give to their chosen community group or voluntary organisation.

You can nominate an individual or group that has gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in their community in any of the following categories.

- **Young Achiever Award** - A young person (aged 18 and under) who has made an exceptional contribution to their community.
- **Community Organisation of the Year** - A community organisation who has made a significant impact to the community.
- **Business in the Community Award** - A local business or commercial organisation that has gone above and beyond to support the local community.
- **Volunteer of the Year** - An individual who selflessly devotes their time and energy to the community.
- **Environmental Champion Award** - An individual, school or community organisation who has made an extra effort to have a positive impact on the environment.
- **Connecting Communities Award** - An individual, school or community organisation that has gone out of their way to encourage communities to come together and promote inclusivity.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** - A person who has dedicated over 20 years of their life to the community, volunteering for the benefit of others and deserves special recognition for their efforts and commitment.
- **Town or Parish Councillor of the Year** - A Town or Parish Councillor within the South Norfolk District that has shown commitment and service to their community.
- **Healthy and Active Award** - An individual, school or community organisation that has gone above and beyond in facilitating healthy and active lifestyles.

You can also make a nomination by calling our team on 01603 430611.

BARFORD DOG SHOW

Although we do not usually promote events outside our parish, this may be of interest, in particular to residents who have children that attend Barford School.



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