

THE Grapevine

April 2026

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



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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	Marion Morse – 01603 880227 Dominic Castle – 01603 880191
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Katie Kemp 07790 276499
Colton Art Group	Rosanna Ellis – 07765 294347
Colton Carpet Bowls Club	Dennis Mickelburgh – 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	Sue Hester M: 07887 686046 susan.hester@btinternet.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

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incl W Norwich** 01603 286286
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Dereham, Northgate 01362 697300
Kelling 01263 710575

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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

Advertisers can supply high resolution jpg or pdf files of their own colour adverts to the correct sizes. (contact treasurer for details).

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

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Black & white inside:

1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
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Front cover: Snowdrops and daffodils, Easton. Picture: Tony Perry

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.

Information on local bus service connections

Norfolk County Council has announced the following **revised timetable**, which is effective from 3rd November 2025. The times listed here are confirmed by NCC Passenger Transport Department and also correspond with the timetables published on the current bus company websites.

NEW BUS TIMETABLE Service 808, on Tuesdays and Thursdays only:

From	At	Arrives	Connects to:
Marlingford Bell	09:06	Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 09:22 (or Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 09:27)**	Konect 4 service from Easton to Norwich bus station at 09:26 Arrives 10.00 (or from Longwater to Norwich at 09:33)
Colton, The Street pond	09:14		
Colton, junction Norwich Road and The Street	09:20		
		Connects with	Arrives
Konect 4 service from Norwich to Longwater at 12:15 Arriving 12:47 (or Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 12.52)	808 service from Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 12:55 (or Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 13:00)	Colton junction with Norwich Road and The Street	13:03
		Colton, The Street pond	13:06
		Marlingford Bell	13:07
Longwater Retail Park, Link Road at 11:15 (Easton: Dereham Road bus shelter at 11:20)	**ADDITIONAL SERVICE FROM LONGWATER ONLY	Colton junction with Norwich Road and The Street	11:23
		Colton, The Street pond	11:24
		Marlingford Bell	11:29

The Flexibus Service will also continue to be provided, with the service now being supplied by Our Bus. In addition to the current arrangements, there will be a new pre-booked service to N&NUH at 07:50 and 17:45. To book a bus, call **0800 0351350 or 01493 224361**

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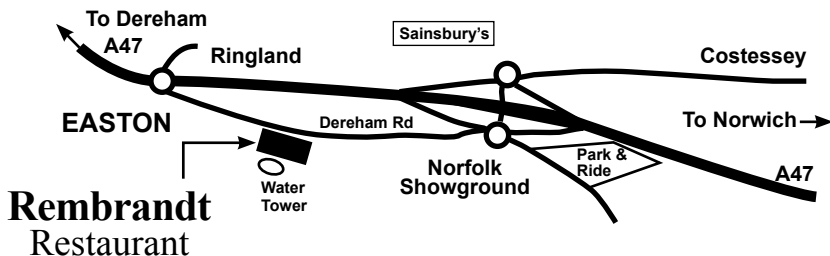
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For latest information

please see the website or phone

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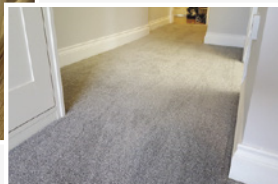
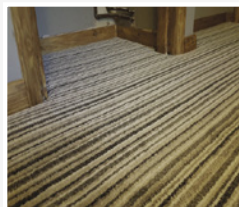
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THE Grapevine

St George – Roman soldier and Christian

Believed to have been born in Cappadocia (in modern-day Turkey), George was a Christian soldier who lived in the 3rd century and served as an officer in the Roman army under the emperor Diocletian. According to tradition, he refused to renounce his Christian faith during a period when Christians were persecuted. Because of this, he was arrested and executed around AD 303. His courage in standing by his beliefs



led to him being honoured as a martyr by the Christian church. The famous story of George slaying a dragon is a later medieval legend symbolising the triumph of good over evil. Although he lived far from England, he was adopted as the country's patron saint in the Middle Ages, especially after being promoted by Edward III in the 14th century. His life is celebrated annually on April 23.

Chatty

Where you can find online editions and how you can help keep your magazine going!

See the **Easton parish council** (eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and the **Marlingford and Colton parish council** (marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk) websites, the **Nextdoor** website and on the **Easton Matters** and **Festival Park Facebook** pages. 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.

Please consider helping to keep us publishing by making 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

It only takes a moment – Thank you!

Deadline for items for the May issue: Thursday April 16 2026
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton Village Hall

● Spring clean

Saturday, April 11

Village hall spring clean – lend a hand to keep our village hall neat and tidy! 10am - 12pm.

● Sofa SOS!

We're looking to make the hall a little more comfortable with some small sofas so if you have an old, but decent sofa going begging please get in touch! (we could also use a few small tables...) Donations gratefully received. Contact **Dominic Castle** on **01603 880191**.

Marlingford Village Hall

● Yoga on Wednesdays at 7pm from April 1

Endeavour to access your higher self with some gentle yoga classes. Instructor Dom Jarvis will aim to heal, strengthen and soothe with a six-week course which you can try for free and then pay what you can afford. Beginners are welcome and booking is open now.

**E: gentlyyogadom@gmail.com
or message 07784 755039.**

● Pilates on Wednesday at 10am from April 15

Six week beginners course with Ali. Improve core strength, flexibility, balance, posture and more. Places

are limited and all participants must complete a health questionnaire before starting. For more info, email: **ali.summerfield.cottage@gmail.com**

Easton Village Hall

● Easton WI

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

● Easton Pop In – use it or lose it!

It's been a very successful time at Pop In these days – we are getting more people who wish to have a cuppa and some companionship but we could do with some more volunteers to help serve the drinks ... Brenda and I set up the room and all the volunteers have to do is serve it up. A bit of washing up perhaps but generally it's all you have to do. We meet every Tuesday morning 10 until 12 at the village hall. Come and join us.

Brenda and Tony

● Tea & Talk (Good Companions)

After a vote last meeting it was decided to call ourselves **Tea & Talk**, so now, that is that. We meet on the last Thursday in the month at the village hall from 2 until 4 for an informal chat and a welcome cuppa, so come and join us! It's open to all,

young or old, tired and weary – just come along and have a Tea and Talk.

Tony Perry

● Easton Crafters

Easton Crafters are organising a trip to **Lincoln Craft Show** on **April 26**.

If anyone would like to go or wants more information, please get in touch with **Janet** on **01603 471144**.

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Easton Village Hall, 1.30 - 4.30pm.

Bawburgh Village Hall

Helen Murray talks:

Fishermen, Bathers and Beach Folk
Tuesday, April 14th at 7.30pm

Helen's talk this year is based on her latest book, *Fishermen, Bathers and Beach Folk*

exploring the life of the young Quaker artist, Juliet Seebohm, and the colourful lives of those she captured in her sketchbook of Cromer during the summers of 1883 and 1884. Fishermen turned swimming tutors, a bathing machine proprietor, an erudite Russian professor, the 'Old Salt,' Billy Mayes, and Juliet's Barclay cousins, all feature in rare hand-coloured drawings.

Helen will give us a unique insight into Cromer in the late Georgian and Victorian period.

Entrance £3 includes tea or coffee.

Colton Art & Craft Group

Wednesdays
10am-12pm

Meet fortnightly at
Colton village hall
£3 per session

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

If you know who this is...  ..you've got a head start!

COLTON VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ

SATURDAY MAY 30

7.00 for 7.30pm start

Teams of up to six - £4 per person.
Call 07718 265 655 to book
a table. Feel free to bring your
own refreshments.

Show us what you know!

All proceeds to the village hall

Help with 'Open the Book' at Easton school

On most Thursday mornings in term time, a small group of volunteers led by Rev Laura Montgomery go into St Peter's Academy, Easton, to do '**Open the Book**'.

This involves using the *Lion Children's Storybook Bible* to tell the children bible stories and to act them out with the help of a few children volunteers while wearing simple costumes.

We are always looking out for fresh volunteers who are willing to join in with acting or making props. There are no scripts to memorise. If you are free on Thursday mornings, maybe you could join



our friendly group? There would be a basic safeguarding check which the school carry out.

If you would like to know more please get in touch with

Sue Knight on **07876717487** or email **sueandcliff1@yahoo.co.uk**

Easton Bowls Club open day – come along!

Easton Bowls Club invites you to join us for an open day on Saturday May 9 (2pm for 2.30pm start). We are a small, friendly club and are always looking for new members.

We play in three leagues and have at least two club competitions during the season.

All are welcome from total beginners to experienced players. If you don't have any bowls, we have spare sets you can use.

Please wear flat soled shoes if you have them.

Refreshments will be provided on the day. The green is accessed through the same gate as St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church on the Marlingford Road, Easton, NR9 5AD

If you are likely to attend please email us at eastonbowls.bh@btinternet.com or phone our Club Secretary **Jan Hudson** on **01603 880811** or **07368 816723**

News from Easton Women's Institute

Easton WI celebrated our 73rd birthday with friends from other WIs in March. We had a Murder Mystery evening led by Julie Porter which was great fun. We also had a buffet supper provided by our members and a very well supported raffle. Birthday flowers were presented to three members with March birthdays March including Clarice Kidd who had recently celebrated her 98th birthday!! A second visit to the Coptic Church is planned for May.

At our meeting on Thursday

April 9, **Charli Mclean**

(pictured) will be coming to talk to us about the **Easton Community Cupboard** and we hope to be able to donate some items for this.

On Monday, April 27, the **Barford and District Group** of WIs will be holding their spring meeting at Mattishall Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker this time will be **Matt Squance** with his talk **Drag**



and the art of Make-up. All Easton WI members and friends can come along to this meeting but please let me or Sandra Bowman (01603 881538) know if you are coming!

Further ahead

At Easton WI's meeting on May 14, our speaker will be **Lois Gill** with her talk **I Saw A Mouse – A Festival of Church Mice Stories.**

As I say in *The Grapevine* every month, we would be very happy to welcome some new members to

our WI. There has been a WI in Easton since 1953 and we would like it to continue for many more years to come.

Our programme for the next 12 months is now complete and copies are

available for anyone who is interested. Contact the WI on the number on the inside cover of *The Grapevine* to get a copy.

Mary Blathwayt

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Peaceful in any season - Colton churchyard in the snow.

Illustration: Annette Hudson

Quiet contemplation in Colton churchyard

Walking to the bench in Colton churchyard, I remember how almost twenty-five years ago we moved from the city to live here. We didn't know anyone then. We just knew that, tired of city life, this village offered peace and a slower way of life. Now, as I look at the tombstones, many names are familiar, the latest two newly dug graves being neighbours of ours who we knew well. Within this cemetery are remembered many generations of people who lived out their lives and played their roles in this village, mothers, fathers, children, a fallen hero, a lawyer, an engineer, someone gone to walk the dog, a golf ball and everywhere, flowers.

I sit on the bench in the warm spring sunshine under the budding chestnut tree and feel the breeze in my hair. It's a lovely feeling as it softly brushes my cheek. The spring equinox has just passed and the promise of summer is already in the air. Silence is everywhere but then, I hear it – the melancholy piercing song of the blackbird, so beautiful yet also sad. Ah there he is, gorgeous creature, in his plumage of deepest blue black, head to the side, looking at me, twig in his bright yellow beak. Pigeons are making a racket on the church roof and, as a feather floats gently down, I stretch out my hand to catch it....

The churchyard is a rainbow of colour, multicoloured flowers left by loved ones but mostly, a sea of yellow wildflowers which have just sprung up in the past couple of weeks; primroses, buttercups, cowslips and daffodils have replaced the snowdrops of the earlier year. It is so peaceful here. A robin is pulling out a bright pink worm from one of the newly dug graves. A great tit shrieks its distinctive call. Something smells very sweet and fragrant. Ah, it must be those hyacinths. Such a lovely, transcendental blue, Virgin Mary blue we used to call that shade of blue, like bluebells. It's too early yet for bluebells but they are already getting ready to burst though those strong and shiny green leaves that are springing up everywhere. We used to pick them on our morning walk down the lane to school to put in jam jars on the altar in the classroom. I remember how their colour and fragrance used to brighten the dull school day. In the fields beyond, it still looks lifeless with the brown remains of last year's maize stooping raggedly like a troop of thin bent old men struggling along with walking sticks. The hares love it though. They really are a bit mad in March. One is just flying past now

followed in the distance by another who is kicking his legs in the air as if in frustration, wanting his mate to slow down. It's good I don't have the dog with me. She would have been straining at the lead wanting to give chase.

After all the rain and gloom of a long drab winter, life is bursting out in this churchyard and I feel glad to be alive.

The breeze blows my hair softly
brushing my sun-warmed cheek
chasing shadows merrily among
memorial stones

like a fun filled dance of
hide and seek
breathing life into buried bones.

The spirit of Spring roams free,
caressing the barren ground
scattering warmth and
mellow light.

Here primrose, cowslip,
daffodils abound
and touch the darkest grave
with life.

From death springs life,
it's all around:
the plump pheasant who's
escaped the gun,
The budding trees, the pigeon,
twig in beak
The march hare leaping
towards the sun
the pulsing of my own heartbeat.

Ann Dunn

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

Tales from the schoolroom of a different era

More memories from Joan Travis (nee Smith)

My teacher, Mrs Morgan, together with her husband who, at that time, was suffering from ill health, introduced football and cricket for the boys and stoolball for the girls making use of the football field, a great asset. Coming, as she did, from South Wales, music was of importance to the curriculum and we learnt to enjoy our singing lessons, singing rounds and part songs as well as usual folk songs. As the school was Church of England biased, scripture (religious education) was an important subject. The day began with a hymn and prayer after registration and the following half hour was taken up with listening to Bible stories, learning to recite passages from the Bible – which I am still able to do to this day – learning the catechism and hymn singing.

Once a week, other duties permitting, the scripture lesson was taken by the rector. Once a year, a visiting clergyman would spend a morning at the school examining the pupils in their knowledge of the scripture syllabus. As a reward

for our efforts, we were given a half-day's holiday on that day. Each Monday morning, the scripture lesson consisted of copying a piece of religious prose or poetry from the blackboard while Mrs Morgan collected from us various monies – two-and-a-half pence from each child who took their daily third of a pint of milk, savings from as little as one penny, to be deposited in our Trustees Savings account, and our boot money. Each child was encouraged to contribute to the Boot Club and this was returned annually with the addition of a generous donation from Mr and Mrs Evans Loombe. This was to help ensure that we children were well shod for winter.

The mid-morning break followed the daily arithmetic lesson and the hour after break was taken up with various exercises in English – spelling, grammar, comprehension and dictation together with a weekly composition.

After grace at midday, we were free until 1.30pm to walk home for our midday dinner. Some children who lived a long way from the school brought packed meals which they

ate in the classroom. The afternoon sessions were taken up with various handicrafts – needlework for the girls and usually rug-making or raffia work for the boys. Some of the boys did gardening in the spring and summer. The older girls made summer dresses for themselves with the use of Mrs Morgan's sewing machine, teaching them extra skills. One early afternoon session each week was devoted to art. The final session of the day, after the mid-afternoon break, was taken up with music, games or listening to stories or chapters from well-known classics. 3.45pm heralded the end of the school day with a prayer, after which we were free to play with our friends until teatime. In spring and summer when the evenings were light, we were allowed longer playtime. We did not wander far away from

home but played in the road or on the meadows with whoever happened to be our mates at the time.

Some children from large families had various tasks allocated to them by their parents, for example collecting and chopping firewood, cleaning the family boots and shoes, washing up after the evening meal and helping generally with the housekeeping.

Winter evenings were spent reading books or comics, or playing card and board games. Bedtime by candlelight came quite early in the evening.

At about the same time as the Morgans arrived a new rector, Reverend F Bracecamp, was appointed to the living of Marlingford and Easton. Just as there were changes at the school, so he, together with the Morgans, breathed new life into the village.



Joan and John Smilth.



Major and Mrs Evans Lombe.



Joan and John with mother, Clarice.

Are you affected by the recent changes in the Renters' Rights Act?



New rules aim to improve renters' rights.

Picture: bristekjedor/Freepik

The Renters' Rights Act aims to rebalance the relationship between England's 2.3 million landlords and 11 million tenants ending a system that has left renters vulnerable to unfair treatment and insecurity. At the core of the Act is the abolition of Section 21 'no fault' evictions – a practice that has pushed thousands into homelessness. This will empower tenants to challenge poor conditions and unreasonable rent increases without fear of retaliatory eviction.

The reforms will give renters the right to end tenancies with two months' notice while protecting legitimate landlord interests through strengthened repossession grounds that support continued investment in the sector.

The act will also tackle

discrimination head-on, banning landlords and agents from refusing tenants because they have children or receive benefits, strengthening local authority enforcement and bringing the Decent Homes Standard and Awaab's Law into the private rented sector for the first time.

A new Private Rented Sector Ombudsman will also offer swift, binding resolutions to tenants' complaints. The service will offer fair, impartial and binding resolution for tenants and will have powers to compel landlords to issue an apology, provide information, take remedial action and/or pay compensation.

Overview of measures:

- Abolish Section 21 evictions and move to a simpler tenancy structure

where all assured tenancies are periodic.

- Ensure possession grounds are fair to both parties, giving tenants more security while ensuring landlords can recover their property when reasonable.
- Provide stronger protections against backdoor eviction by ensuring tenants are able to appeal excessive above-market rents which are purely designed to force them out.
- Introduce a new Private Rented Sector Landlord Ombudsman that will provide quick, fair, impartial and binding resolution for tenants' complaints about their landlord.
- Create a Private Rented Sector Database to help landlords understand their legal obligations and demonstrate compliance (giving good landlords confidence in their position) alongside providing better information to tenants to make informed decisions when entering into a tenancy agreement.
- Give tenants strengthened rights to request a pet in the property which the landlord must consider and cannot unreasonably refuse.
- Apply the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector to give renters safer, better value homes and remove the blight of poor-quality homes in local communities.

- Apply Awaab's Law to the sector, setting clear legal expectations about the timeframes within which landlords in the private rented sector must take action to make homes safe where they contain serious hazards.
- Make it illegal for landlords and agents to discriminate against prospective tenants in receipt of benefits or with children – helping to ensure everyone is treated fairly when looking for a place to live.
- End the practice of rental bidding by prohibiting landlords and agents from asking for or accepting offers above the advertised rent. Landlords and agents will be required to publish an asking rent for their property and it will be illegal to accept offers made above this rate.
- Strengthen local authority enforcement by expanding civil penalties, introducing a package of investigatory powers and bringing in a new requirement for local authorities to report on enforcement activity.
- Strengthen rent repayment orders by extending them to superior landlords, doubling the maximum penalty and ensuring repeat offenders have to repay the maximum amount.
- For more information, visit: [gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-the-renters-rights-act](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-the-renters-rights-act)

Users of heating oil should be fairly treated

Recently, many residents in our area have contacted me about the sharp rise in heating oil prices.



This increase has been linked to escalating conflicts in the Middle East and the following disruption to global energy markets.

Some households have had orders cancelled while others reported that prices went up after they had already agreed and paid, leaving them facing unexpected costs.

That is not acceptable.

I understand how worrying these sudden price increases and cancellations can be.

Heating is a basic necessity, not a luxury. Every household should have the security of knowing they are being charged fairly and are able to afford to heat their homes.

That is why I am pushing both locally and nationally to ensure transparency and fairness in the domestic heating oil market.

In response, I have taken this issue straight to the top of Government.

During the Middle East: Economic Update debate in Parliament, I asked the Chancellor what action would be taken to protect households from price gouging. I have also written to the

Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero calling for an urgent review of the domestic heating oil market.

Following this pressure, the Competition and Markets Authority has confirmed it will investigate the sector – an important step in ensuring rural consumers are treated fairly.

Locally, I have raised the matter directly with suppliers serving our area, including Goffs and CPS Fuels. I made it clear that customers must be treated fairly and that all orders should be reinstated and honoured at their agreed prices.

I am pleased to report that both companies have now confirmed they will put this right.

Goffs have confirmed that they will honour orders placed during the affected period at the original price and refund any difference where higher prices were charged.

CPS Fuels have also confirmed they will deliver orders at the price already paid, with deliveries expected within 10 to 12 working days.

This is a positive outcome and a real win for households across South Norfolk, made possible by local residents speaking up and through raising your concerns at

every level of Government and directly with the energy suppliers. However, if you are still experiencing issues with your heating oil order, please contact my office. You can speak with a member of my team by phoning my constituency office at 01603 570332 or you can email me at **ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk**. I will continue to do everything I can to ensure your household is treated fairly and that suppliers operate responsibly and transparently.

I want to reassure the residents of Colton, Easton, Marlingford, and beyond that I will keep pressing for action and monitoring this situation closely. My focus remains on protecting households in our



communities and making sure energy suppliers uphold fairness and transparency throughout these challenging times – ensuring that no household is unable to heat their home.

Ben Goldsborough MP



It's a struggle to keep warm for many during cold months.

Picture: Freepik

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

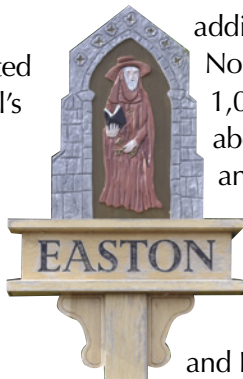
Cllr Mike Bowman

Cllr Alexis Main

County Council news

Councillor Dewsbury reported that Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnerships scheme has approved 99 new projects this year. The initiative, which has been running for 15 years, funds local improvements through a 50/50 partnership between the county council and parish councils. This year both sides contributed over £384,000 each, supporting projects such as speed monitoring signs, improved footpaths, signage, benches, village gateways and access improvements. Plans have also been submitted for a new recycling centre south of Spooner Row on the B1172. The facility will replace the current centre at Strayground Lane in Wymondham which is no longer large enough to meet demand as new housing continues to be built across the area.

The county council is also appealing for more foster carers with at least 50



additional households needed. Norfolk currently has around 1,000 children in care but only about 320 fostering households and the council says a family environment is the best setting for many young people.

Elsewhere, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has taken delivery of new water rescue boats to support emergencies on inland waterways and during major flooding events. The county has around 200 miles of inland waterways including those on the Broads.

Transport and infrastructure

To help residents travel during improvements to the A11, a Beryl bike and e-scooter network will be introduced around Wymondham and Hethersett. Bays will be installed in Wymondham, Hethersett, Cringleford and at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Residents were also updated on the

A47 improvement works near Easton. More about Beryl bikes here: [beryl.cc/scheme/norwich](https://www.beryl.cc/scheme/norwich)

Contractors Galliford Try are continuing construction and have completed significant drainage and road surface work over the winter months.

Traffic has been switched onto newly constructed sections of road to allow further work to begin. The removal of Easton roundabout is currently



Beryl bikes scheme to be introduced.

scheduled for August 2026 when traffic will be diverted onto the new dual carriageway.

At the same time, work will begin on a local access road behind Easton Church linking Dereham Road to the new road network.

Community centre progress

Councillors shared positive news about the Easton Community Centre project. The parish council has confirmed it will receive a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment of £119,922.70 in April

which will allow major work on the project to resume.

The project has also received a generous anonymous donation of £100,000 which councillors said would be ring-fenced for the community centre.

The council is also arranging for the electrical supply to be connected and has appointed a new solicitor to handle the lease agreement between the council and the community centre charity.

Village initiatives

The parish council plans to introduce Parish Online software allowing councillors to record village assets such as benches, bus shelters and dog bins on a cloud-based system. Councillors will tour the parish to log the assets so that the information can be easily accessed by future councils. Easton will also take part in South

Norfolk Council's annual community litter pick which runs from February to May. A date for the village event will be confirmed soon. Councillors thanked

Cllr P McCarter for regularly collecting litter around the parish in his own time.

Local issues

Councillors discussed several local matters including the play area at Festival Park which has been reported to flood after heavy rain. The issue will be raised with the developer,

Persimmon. A new footpath is also planned to link the Persimmon Phase 2 development with the play area. During the public session, residents asked about landscaping work at College Heights. The parish council explained that the hedge there had become overcrowded and poorly maintained, and will be replaced with a mixture of native species and bulbs. The work is being funded by a donation from Persimmon which will also carry out the landscaping. A resident also asked for an update on the archaeological dig at the site of the new allotments. The parish council has not yet received details and will contact the developer for further information.

Norfolk police update

Community Speed Watch sessions have recently taken place on

Dereham Road with more planned. Updated speed signs have also been installed along the road. Officers are continuing to monitor parking around the school and are investigating reports of screws being placed in car tyres.

Looking ahead

Future topics for discussion include adult outdoor exercise equipment, additional dog bins, parking issues around College Heights and a tree concern at Wheeler Crescent.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for

- **Tuesday, April 7 at 7pm
in Easton Village Hall.**

Residents are always welcome.

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Traffic updates message from Galliford Try

Over the last few months, we've had a long period of very wet weather. This has made the ground difficult to work on and slowed progress in several key areas, especially earthworks.

Our teams have continued working on structures and highway tasks away from public view, but works have been delayed.

Despite everyone's best efforts, we've had to review whether it's practical and safe to carry out the

Wood Lane traffic switch as planned. We've now agreed that we need to make some changes to keep our work safe, minimise the impact of the road closure and ensure works are up to the standards expected. Because of this, the planned weekend closure of the A47 from 20 to 23 March 2026 was cancelled and the traffic switch, as well as the opening of Wood Lane, will now be on 27 April 2026.

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:
Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman
Mark Pfeiffer

CLLr Deborah Perfect

Speeding through the village

The parish council has two SAM 2 speed awareness monitors with one based in each village. These are rotated over a number of fixed points in the two villages. The machine records the speed which vehicles pass it. This information is collated and can be used to monitor both speeding hot spots and busy times of day. The parish council manages the SAM2, recharging the batteries, rotation of the SAM2 and general maintenance of the sign itself. These signs are portable, temporary, speed-reactive equipment and are deployed throughout Norfolk in response to community safety concerns. The SAM2 system provides drivers with a flashing message asking them to slow down if they exceed the posted speed limit. They are placed on brackets secured to street furniture so they can be moved from location to location to provide enhanced persuasion for drivers at perceived local problem sites. Sites were chosen by the parish council in agreement with

the county council and the manufacturer.

The machine doesn't record number plates and therefore the data cannot be used for enforcement reasons. However the data is now being shared with the local policing team and it is hoped this can be used to influence future locations where the speed enforcement team operate.

Data can be viewed here:

marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk/speed-awareness-data/

Next parish council meeting

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

The next meeting will be held on:

- **Tuesday, May 12, 7pm,**
in Colton Village Hall

There is an opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise any issues they may have.

Maria Hutson, clerk to the pc,.

T: 01603 850118

E: clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk

W: marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk



The Rambling Vine

Looking forward to new beginnings...

April is always a special month in the life of the Church and this year, it feels especially full of life, joy and promise.

As the days grow longer and signs of spring continue to appear, we also enter the most important and joyful season in the Christian year: Holy Week and Easter.

During Holy Week we walk the story at the very heart of the Christian faith. We remember Jesus' love shown in humble service on Maundy Thursday, we pause at the Cross on Good Friday, and then we arrive at the wonder and joy of Easter morning when we celebrate that death is not the end and that new life is always possible.

This year, we have many opportunities to share that journey together. We will begin with a children's art and craft morning on Wednesday April 1 at Easton Church, a chance for the younger members of our communities to explore the Easter story in creative and joyful ways. We are also looking forward to welcoming pilgrims on their way to Walsingham, reminding us that faith is something we travel together, step by step.

On Maundy Thursday we

will gather for Holy Communion at Bawburgh Church including the washing of hands and the stripping of the altar, powerful signs of love, service and the quietness that comes before the Cross.

On Good Friday at Marlingford Church, we will keep an Hour at the Cross making space to reflect on the depth of God's love. Then, on Easter morning, we are back at Easton Church to celebrate with joy and laughter, finishing with our Easter egg hunt, a small but happy reminder that the story ends in life, not loss. Easter is all about new beginnings and that feels especially fitting at this time of year when gardens are waking up and seeds are being planted. As a Benefice, we are already looking ahead to our Celebration of Harvest weekend in late September, when we hope Easton Church will be filled with flowers, fruit and vegetables grown by people in our communities. If you enjoy gardening – whether you have a large garden, an allotment, a small patch or even just a few pots on a windowsill – this is the perfect time to start sowing. Planting a seed now is an act of hope.

You place something small into the soil and, for a time, it seems to disappear. It lies hidden in the dark and it can look as though nothing is happening at all. Yet beneath the surface, new life is beginning to grow and, in time, that small seed will become something green, living and full of promise. In many ways, this is exactly what the Easter story teaches us. On Good Friday, it seemed as though everything had come to an end as Jesus was laid in the tomb and the world fell silent. But that was not the end of the story. Out of the darkness of

the tomb came the joy of Easter morning and the new life of the resurrection. Every seed we plant in spring is a small reminder that God is always at work bringing life out of what looks like loss and hope out of what seems empty. So, as we celebrate this joyful season, perhaps we can all plant something, in the garden, in a pot, or even in our hearts and watch what God brings to life in the months ahead. With every blessing for a joyful and hope-filled Easter.

Rev Laura Montgomery



Church services April 2026

April		
Thursday 2	5.00pm	Bawburgh – HC – Maundy Thursday with handwashing
Friday 3	2-3.00pm	Marlingford – Good Friday – an hour at the Cross
Sunday 5	10.00am	Easton – all age – HC – Easter Day
Sunday 12	10.00am	Colton – all age – HC – 2nd of Easter
Sunday 19	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – 3rd of Easter
Sunday 26	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – 4th of Easter

Mobile library 2026 – April dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: April 16

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

Colton –Route: CEN 319 Wednesday: April 15

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 423 Thursday: April 16

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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