

THE Grapevine

May 2026

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford

Marlingford student fundraising for 2027 Jamboree

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Memories of The Bell pub

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- Local information
- Community interest
- Church services
(Benefice) page 29



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 – 07885 235636 Dominic Castle – 01603 880191
Little Owls at Colton Village Hall	Minty Caldicot-Bull – 07823 325354
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
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Samaritans	0330 094 5717

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Beechcroft 01603 746683
Hethersett 01603 977477
Mattishall 01362 850227

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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

The Grapevine

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Front cover: Field of Oilseed rape,
Colton. Picture: Annette Hudson

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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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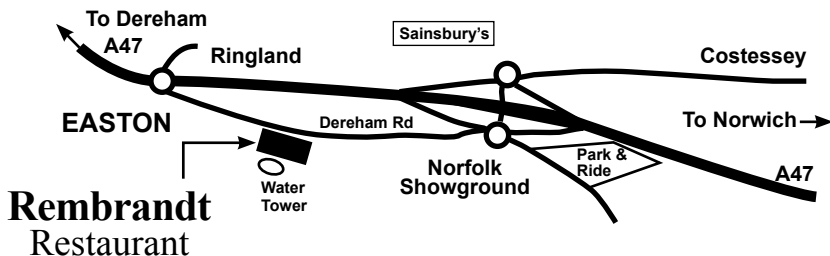
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For latest information

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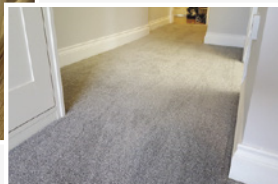
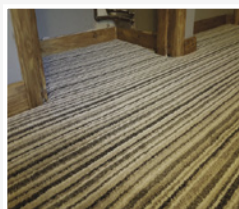
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Customer satisfaction is our priority.

THE Grapevine

Centuries of celebrating the peak of summer

The summer solstice marks the longest day and shortest night of the year, occurring when the Earth's tilt is most inclined toward the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, it usually falls around 21 June. This event has been celebrated for centuries, often linked to themes of light, growth, and renewal. Ancient monuments like Stonehenge align with the sunrise, highlighting its cultural significance. The solstice signals the peak of summer, with extended daylight hours supporting



Picture: Peter Trimming/Geograph

agriculture and outdoor life. After this point, days gradually shorten again, making it a natural turning point in the annual cycle of seasons and human activity.

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:

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It only takes a moment – Thank you!

Deadline for items for the June issue: Friday May 22 2026

Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton Village Hall

● Colton VH Quiz

Saturday May 30

Surprise yourself with how much you know in our popular general knowledge quiz. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start.

● Coffee morning plus plant and crafts sale

Saturday June 20, 11am - 1pm

There will be delicious cakes, tea and coffee or soft drinks on offer plus plants and crafts for sale and a tombola. Come along and meet friends and neighbours!

● 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**.

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

After a vote, 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

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



Bawburgh Village Hall

Talks for all

Tuesday, May 12

Dr Jan Sheldon, CEO of St Martin's, talks about the charity's work supporting homeless and at-risk people in Norwich and Norfolk, by offering them a hand up.



Find out more about this progressive and developing charity adjusting to the often complex needs of people experiencing homelessness in our region
Entrance £3 includes tea or coffee.

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

It's a full house for the Easter bingo in Colton!

Residents from Colton and surrounding villages turned out in force to support the village hall at its annual Easter bingo evening. Village stalwarts Dennis Mickleburgh and Dominic Castle did sterling work calling out the numbers. Many walked away with some tasty Easter eggs as prizes for lines and full houses – others were rewarded with some super prizes in the raffle. Half time saw cakes provided by villagers on sale with cups of tea or coffee. It was very refreshing to see friends and families, young and old enjoying an evening out together!



The evening raised an amazing £366.50 towards village hall funds.

● **Next event: General knowledge quiz on Saturday, May 30.**

Community News and Fundraising Events

Fran Bailey, 15, is aiming to raise funds to attend a Scout Jamboree and give others who are less fortunate an amazing opportunity to forge global friendships.



Local student Fran's mission to improve cultural ties



Hi, my name is Fran and I live in Marlingford. I have been selected to attend the **26th World Scout**

Jamboree in Gdansk (Poland) in July 2027.

The jamboree is an international event aimed to allow Scouts from across the world to make friends and learn about new cultures and nationalities. We will do lots of outdoor activities and educational workshops and will develop a sense of global citizenship. This jamboree's theme is 'Bravely', emphasizing the courage and collaboration of the event. To allow me to attend this once-in-a-lifetime experience, I must raise £3,500. The money does not only cover my trip, but also allows a percentage to be used to help fund Scouts from less fortunate areas of the world to attend.

I have already held several bake sales and am planning various other events. In May, I will be completing a 26km sponsored walk on the Norfolk Coastal path (Blakeney – Cromer). I am also organising a **Quiz Night** which will take place on **Friday, September 11** in Marlingford Village Hall (details to be advertised nearer the time). If anyone would like to sponsor me for my walk or would like to attend the quiz, please contact me on: **franbailey2010@gmail.com** Alternatively, you can use the QR code below. If you are able to help me achieve my goal, it would be much appreciated, not only by me, but also by those children across the globe who will benefit from your kindness.

Thank you.

Francesca Bailey

POLAND 2027

World Scout
26th Jamboree
Scout Mondial



W: jamboree2027.org



News from Easton Women's Institute

Helping in the community

Easton WI had a very interesting talk at our meeting in April from **Charli Mclean** about the **Easton Community Cupboard** and all the work she personally does to support people who, for whatever reason, are down on their luck. She amazed us when she spoke about the level of need in the local area and the generosity of people and organisations to help. The WI was pleased to donate items for the Community Cupboard.

In March we celebrated our 73rd birthday with a **Murder Mystery Evening** at which we were pleased to welcome guests from some of the WIs from nearby villages.

Coming up...

Looking forward to our meeting on May 14, we will be having a talk entitled ***I Saw A Mouse – a festival of church mice stories*** by **Lois Gill**.

I can assure the mouse haters amongst us that any mice the speaker brings with her are knitted ones not the real living ones! On June 9, our speaker will be **Cheryl Cade** telling us about ***Black Anna And The Forgotten Women of Norwich***. Some of us remember hearing Black Anna sing and have never forgotten her so we are really looking forward to this talk.



Black Anna – former landlady of the Jolly Butcher's pub in Norwich.

If anyone is interested in coming to either of these meetings please come along to the village hall at 7.30pm on May 14 or June 9 and join us.

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



Integrative counsellor **Charlotte Perry**, BSc (Hons), Adv. Dip, MBACP offers our residents some wellbeing advice.

Time for a gentle word about stress...

Many of us carry more stress than others realise. From work pressures and family responsibilities to the quiet weight of financial strain, or simply the relentless pace of modern life, it can be easy to keep going without really noticing how much we are holding.

Stress does not always arrive loudly. Sometimes it shows up in difficulty sleeping, feeling tearful or irritable, losing patience, overthinking, or struggling to switch off. At other times, it can leave us feeling flat, disconnected, or unlike ourselves.

We may find ourselves snapping at the people we love or feeling overwhelmed by small tasks. We may find ourselves moving through the day with a sense of heaviness that is hard to explain. Often, our first instinct is to push through. We tell ourselves to get on with it, or not to make a fuss. But paying gentle attention to how we feel is not a weakness; it is a form of self-care.

Small things can help. Stepping outside to find that first patch of genuine warmth from the sun, putting your mobile in a drawer for an hour, or simply noticing



Picture: Yanalva/Freepik

the sudden, bright green of the hedgerows. Even a brief pause, the time it takes for the kettle to boil or a neighbour's lawnmower to stop, can help us feel a little more grounded.

We don't need to wait until things become unmanageable to take our feelings seriously.

Often, a good place to start is simply by noticing that life feels like a lot right now and acknowledging that.

Charlotte Perry
Based in Easton – support to adults and couples in Norwich and online through Reflectful Counselling.

St Mary's, Marlingford gets funding boost

Grade II* Listed St Mary's Church in Marlingford is about to receive a £10,000 cash boost which will help towards essential repairs needed due to the age of the building. The church is to share in an urgent payout from the National Churches Trust of more than £800,000 designed to keep UK churches open and in use.

The £10,000 Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant from the Wolfson Foundation is given on the recommendation of the National Churches Trust.

The church is at the heart of its community – central to village life. In the past, local residents have pulled together to raise funds for urgent repairs and this windfall will be much appreciated by the villagers. The church itself boasts a rich heritage including:

- An ancient 12th century font
- Impressive tombs dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, including a great black ledger slab commemorating a Norwich physician
- A Norman doorway, leading to the 13th century tower
- Important memorials: the stained glass windows on the south side of the chancel commemorate Henry Travers Fletcher who lost his life in the accident to Submarine A8, in which 15 people died



St Mary's interior.

Picture: Mark Pfeiffer

when the vessel was submerged with its hatch open in Plymouth Sound in 1905. The memorial was dedicated by Henry's brothers. Mark Pfeiffer, designated Fabric Officer at St Mary's Marlingford, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have received this grant from the National Churches Trust.

Our beautiful church has been at the centre of this rural community for nearly 1000 years and it would be a major loss to this community if it fell into serious disrepair."

The church is open every day to the public so all can enjoy this beautiful building.

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

A popular pub at the centre of the community

Some memories here from **Chloe Paul of The Bell pub from August 1962 to December 1991**

My husband Albert and I took over the tenancy of The Bell Public House in Marlingford in August 1962 with our young son Philip. Although the picture here is a much earlier time (1890), the building had not changed much by the time we moved in.

The Bell was then a typical small village pub with outside toilets using pails and no bathroom in the house. However, work had already been done to merge the previous bar and lounge into one. After the first year, the brewery (Steward and Paterson) installed flush toilets for the customers, although still outside, and one of the bedrooms was converted into a bathroom for our use.

The customers did not get indoor toilets until 1979 when we also got a new kitchen/dining room. This allowed our downstairs living room to be taken into the bar area. However, any story about The Bell is not about the building but the lovely



customers we had, old and young. There were certainly some characters, both from near and far. Here are just a few from Marlingford itself that come to mind.

There was Ernie Bell who came in on Saturday nights and always asked if we had any 'bun pennys' in the till (ie. with Queen Victoria on) with her 'bun' hairstyle, as he collected them.

Then there was a whole clan of Fulchers who frequented The Bell including Charlie, Gerald, Marjory, Phyllis and Ted (Towser) George Gardner – a local farmer who had his two half pints at lunch time.

Wilfred Brand from the post office who used to come in for a Guinness and his tobacco, as well as a chat.



Albert Paul.



Chloe and Albert Paul (left) pictured with Norwich Brewery general manager, David Matthews.

Little Edie Rivett who used to come in with a bag to take home her Guinness, but on her way home the bag would almost be dragging on the ground.

After the Young Farmers had their meetings at Easton College, many would call in The Bell for 'one' drink before going home.

We had men's dart matches two or three times a week, crib matches and ladies darts. If we were playing away in Norwich then we would often have a fish and chip supper brought home for the whole team.

At the weekends, somebody would play the piano, such as Alf Sandford from Barford, and everyone would enjoy a sing-song. My husband Albert loved singing and customers would tease him and say "If you don't sing 'At the end of the day' we won't go home!"

On Saturday afternoons, we provided match teas for a hockey team and they would be crowded

Celebration for pub pair

WOMEN have made the greatest impression on a country pub's trade over the last quarter of a century, according to one landlord.

Reflecting on 25 years behind the bar at The Bell, Marlingford, Albert Paul said: "We have noticed a few changes over the years. In particular more women come into the pub these days — 25 years ago most of our customers were men."

Mr Paul and his wife Chloe moved to the pub in 1992.

"It's a typical village pub and, apart from a few modernisations, we've never made many alterations — our customers like the way it is," said the former head cowman.

David Matthews, Norwich Brewery general manager, presented the couple with a crystal decanter.

around our downstairs living room watching the football results on a small black and white television.

The butcher delivered twice a week. There was a baker, a fish man on Tuesdays (in cold weather he would have half a pint of 'poker' beer) and another fish man on Thursdays.

We used to have help with the gardens and hedges from Charlie Curtis, affectionately known as 'F'n' Charlie because of his colloquial language — a man who, in his late 70s, could still dig out a tree root with just his pickaxe and sheer determination.

All in all a lovely time in my life, thanks to the great customers.

In the current economic climate, we must ensure fair markets and protect the vulnerable

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran, is deeply concerning. While it is right that the Prime Minister has been clear that this is not our war, we cannot pretend that events overseas will not have consequences here at home. In an interconnected global economy, conflict thousands of miles away can still affect the price we pay at the pump, in our weekly shop and on our household bills – and that is exactly what we are beginning to see.

Oil prices have already risen significantly due to disruption in global supply routes, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz – a critical route for around a fifth of the world's oil. As a result, fuel prices here in South Norfolk and



across the UK have already begun to surge. But this is only the beginning. Higher fuel costs will cause ripples throughout our entire economy. They will increase the cost of transporting goods which, in turn, pushes up our food prices. Fertiliser, heating, logistics – all these essentials will become more expensive. Economists are already warning that this could push inflation higher than expected this year, potentially adding around 1% to UK consumer prices.

In short, even though this is not our conflict, we will feel its impact. For rural communities like ours, these pressures are even more apparent. When you rely on your car to get to work, take your children to school or to attend appointments, rising fuel costs are not just an inconvenience but a serious financial strain.

That is why we must be honest about what lies ahead. Inflation may rise in the coming months and any progress we have made in bringing costs down could come under pressure from forces entirely outside our control.

But recognising the challenge is only the first step. We must also be ready to act.



Surging fuel prices will increase transport costs across our economy. Picture: Freepik

First, we must ensure that our markets are working fairly. There can be no tolerance for price gouging or unfair practices that take advantage of crises overseas. Regulators must be vigilant, and where companies are found to be exploiting the situation, they must be held to account. I have already taken swift action on recent heating oil price increases, securing meetings with Ministers, the Competition and Markets Authority and challenging companies directly – securing commitments from local oil suppliers to honour the original prices paid for affected customers. This kind of action is exactly what we will need to see more of in the weeks and months ahead. Second, we must protect the most

vulnerable. That means ensuring support is targeted where it is needed whether through increasing energy support or local assistance schemes. I will press at all levels to ensure this support is delivered. While we cannot control events in the Middle East, we can control how we respond here at home. As ever, I will continue to raise your concerns and call for action where it is needed most. If you need support or would like to share your views, please do get in touch at ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk. I will continue working to ensure our community is supported through the challenges that lie ahead.

Ben Goldsborough MP



Satellite image of the Starit of Hormuz.

Picture: NASA GSFC/Wiki

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 Mike Jobling

Cllr Mike Bowman

Cllr Alexis Main

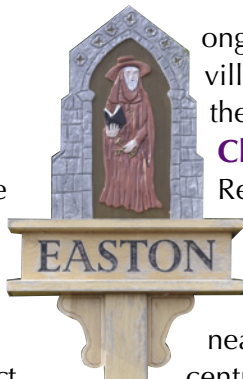
Cllr Sandra Hipperson

Parish Council update

Easton Parish Council met on Tuesday, April 7 at Easton Village Hall with councillors, parish clerk, Sue Marsh, and 15 residents in attendance. The meeting covered a range of updates including major roadworks, the community centre project and village initiatives.

Community centre progress

Plans for the new community centre continue to take shape. Councillors approved a quote for £5,700 to connect the electricity supply and agreed to install a temporary broadband system to support early use of the building. Discussions are



ongoing about how the existing village hall might be used once the new centre opens.

Changes at Easton College

Residents were informed of upcoming access changes at Easton College. A new gate will be installed near the animal management centre on Marlingford Road with the main entrance redirected closer to the family golf centre. The college emphasised that the changes are driven by safeguarding needs and reminded dog walkers to keep pets on leads and avoid crossing campus during busy daytime hours.

Improvements – and some removals – in village spaces

Councillors agreed to remove ageing, adult exercise equipment due to safety concerns while confirming that play areas remain in good condition aside from minor repairs to the zipwire. Elsewhere, a new dog waste bin will be installed and replacement



The new community centre. Picture: Annette Hudson

batteries for speed awareness signs have been approved.

Public participation

The public session brought forward a variety of local issues. Several residents spoke about the lack of a village shop with one long-term parishioner noting how valuable it had been in the past and suggesting a future shop could include a post office. Concerns were also raised about ongoing construction works by Persimmon, particularly around road closures, safety risks, and restricted access to allotments. Reports of delivery lorries ignoring road closure signs prompted calls for improved traffic management. Other issues included overgrown hedges encroaching onto footpaths and questions about parking pressures in certain areas of the village.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for

- **Tuesday, May 5 at 7pm**
in Easton Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Residents are always welcome.

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Here's what the parish council does

Parish councils consists of at least five residents of the parish. The maximum number allowed is 21. Members are normally elected to serve by the residents of the parish every four years.

The council is responsible for many things including:

- Monitoring and reporting on the general tidiness of the villages
 - Management of grass cutting in public areas
 - Expressing views and recommendations on local planning applications
 - Monitoring and reporting on the condition of local highways and footpaths
 - Provision and maintenance of:
 - Litter and dog bins
 - Amenity areas
 - Conservation areas
 - Parish council notice boards
- Members of the parish council usually meet once a month (with the exception of the month of August), at a meeting to discuss, report, monitor and most important, make decisions on matters concerning the villages.

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:
Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman
Mark Pfeiffer

Cllr Deborah Perfect
Cllr Derren Wyatt

Parish council update

Firstly, we are delighted to welcome Derren Wyatt onto the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council. Derren is a new resident of Marlingford and has recently moved here with his wife and two young children. Derren reports: "I wanted to give something back to the community. I bring nearly 20 years' experience in facilities maintenance, now working as a Contract Delivery Manager. I'm passionate about keeping our village a safe, welcoming place for families and encourage anyone interested to get involved, as there are great opportunities to support and shape our community". However, and as previously reported, our parish council still has three further vacancies. As you may be aware, the parish council is the voice of our community for a range of matters important to us all. We review all planning applications, liaise with Norfolk County Council regarding bus services, make contributions to local groups such as our

village hall, our churches and *The Grapevine*, and are responsible for the upkeep of the conservation and children's amenity areas. Furthermore, we formulate and approve the annual precept, which is one of the components of our council tax.

Can we again ask you all to have a think if you could spare one evening (usually 7 to 9pm on the second Tuesday of each other odd numbered month), to support this vital organisation?

We would be happy to meet with you individually to discuss how you can contribute. Alternatively, please come and see what we do, at our next meeting, which is our Annual Parish Meeting, being held in Colton Village Hall, at 7pm, on Tuesday, May 12. We look forward to welcoming you.

Norwich western link update

The Department for Transport has informed Norfolk County Council that the Norwich Western Link project to improve travel and traffic problems to the west of Norwich will remain in the Department of

Transport's Major Road Network programme. This means that nearly £1million, which the DfT agreed in principle last July, will be released to the County Council so the project team can continue their work preparing for it.

Five for a fiver

For those of you who plan to use the Park and Ride service from Thickthorn into Norwich, all day travel tickets for Park and Ride cost £3 for a single adult. £2 for concessions, £4 for two people travelling together and now five people can travel all day for just £5. From March 29th, Norfolk County Council reduced the price of group tickets on all Norwich Park and Ride Services to £5 for groups of up to five people. The reduction was made possible due to funding from the government to Norfolk County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan which was allocated £14.8 million for 2026.

Household hazardous waste days

A series of household hazardous waste days will take place at recycling centres across the county between April 10 and June 6. The nearest to our area will be the Norwich South Recycling Centre on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 June

To check which items are or are not accepted and book a slot contact: norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste
Meanwhile, plans have been submitted for a new recycling centre south of Spooner Row on the B1172. The current site on Strayground Lane, Wymondham, is not big enough to meet the current need plus there are many more new houses being built in the area.

Food waste collections

The council will start collecting food waste this month but it will be rolled out slowly as there will not be enough collection vehicles initially. The manufacturers of the vehicles and containers have not been able to keep up with the demand as the government announced that this should happen everywhere in the country.

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
E: clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk
T: 01603 850118
W: marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk

News from St Andrew's Church, Colton

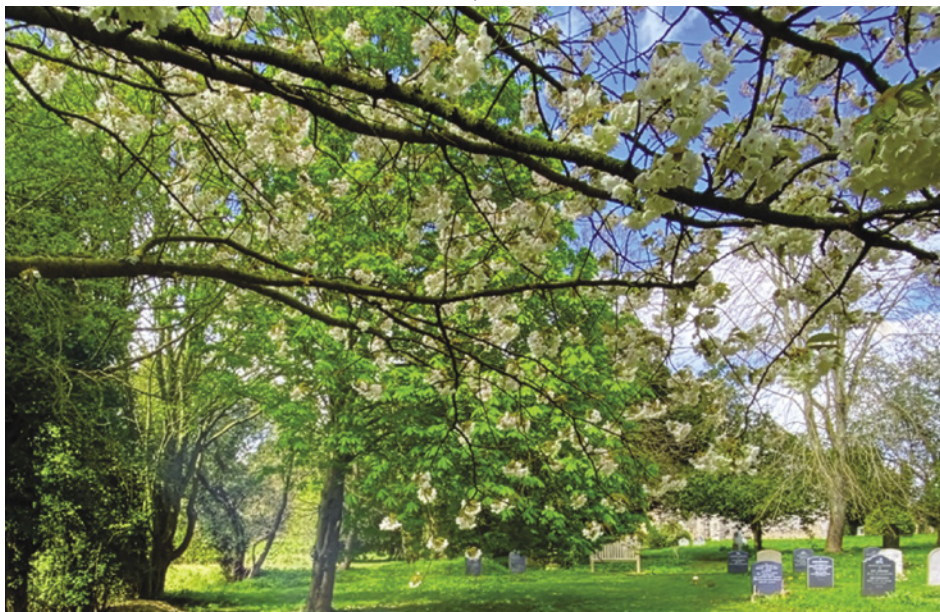
Contributors to *The Grapevine* have reminded us this spring of how beautiful the churchyard in Colton is looking – I hope all have been able to wander through and enjoy the snowdrops, daffodils, primroses and blossom.

The sight is glorious. Our thanks, as always, go to those who keep the churchyard mown and maintained. It is a demanding job for our very small team and we are immensely grateful (and would always welcome more offers of help!!!). Now the light is stronger we are enjoying looking at the newly cleaned and restored stained glass windows and window casings in the church on the north and west

facing sides. The church is always open so please take a look. May is the month when church Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) take place. After the all age service on May 10, we will be holding the Colton vestry meeting to vote for our churchwarden. As this is a civil appointment, all those listed on the village Electoral Roll are welcome to attend. Following this, the church APCM will be held during the Benefice service at Marlingford on May 17. There, we will vote for and appoint roles within the PCC.

Liz Plater

*Secretary to the PCC of
St Andrew's Church Colton*



Spring blossom in the churchyard.

Picture: Liz Plater



The Rambling Vine



We can all benefit from a little quiet contemplation.

Picture: Vilius Kukanaukas/Pixabay

Take time to find strength in peace and prayer

A couple of weeks on from Holy Week – the busiest week of the year for vicars (yes, even busier than the run-up to Christmas!) – things are beginning to feel a little more settled again.

Looking back, I suspect that had I been writing this in the thick of it, I would have been rather rushed off my feet. But after the gift of a few days’ rest following Easter, I find myself a little more restored.

By the time you read this, we will be into May and enjoying a Bank Holiday weekend. Hopefully, like the rest of you, I’ll be watching the garden grow and maybe even enjoying a bit of sunshine again...

Reflecting on that intense period has made me think about how the way we spend even a short amount of time can change our perspectives and attitudes quite profoundly.

During a particularly busy or pressured week, if anybody asks me to do anything extra, I’m quite unlikely to receive it well, and it’s even possible that I might be ever so slightly snappy!

But ask me a fortnight later and I’ll be happy to talk it over. I won’t be a different person, but my responses will be very different because of how I am spending my time. I may be trying to carry a sense of love, peace, and gentleness, but I know

that when I am stretched, if I am not careful and prayerful, I am just as likely to be carrying anxiety and a bit of impatience.

There is a saying I quite enjoy: “you spill what you carry”. If you bump into me one day, and I happen to be carrying some gorgeous, scented oil, then that is what I will spill on myself and on you.

If I am carrying the water I just mopped my kitchen floor with... then both you and I will come away from the encounter pretty grubby. We would both be unclean and unhappy.

What I spill is likely to affect me as much as it does you. What overflows or spills from me may be beautiful or polluting – and the same is true for all of us. Jesus says it isn’t what we eat or wear that makes us clean or unclean, but what we carry within ourselves.

“A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

But when life is busy or demanding, it’s not always easy to focus on or “refill” the good. Which is why, for Christians, and for people of many other faiths, daily prayer is so important. It enables us to find a wisdom and a patience beyond our



Picture: Kalemangostari/Freepik

own resources, to bear with people and situations we find difficult, and to act with courage when our natural inclination may be to take the path of least resistance. For those who don’t profess a faith, many find meditation and mindfulness enable them to carry a sense of peace and perspective. Others find a similar sense of renewal through running, gardening, or painting. Spending even a short amount of time in quietness and prayer (or meditation, or fishing if that is your thing) isn’t just good for you – it’s

good for everybody you bump into, and for the whole community. We all need to balance ourselves before we can carry the right attitude of heart and mind into our encounters with other people. So, this spring, I encourage you to spend some time

doing the things which enable you to carry peace, patience, love and gentleness in your heart. And if I do the same, then when we do bump into each other, neither of us will have cause to regret it!

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services May and June 2026

May		
Sunday 3	9.45am 10.00am	Easton – Vestry meeting Holy Communion – 5th of Easter
Sunday 10	9.45am 10.00am	Colton – Vestry meeting All age – HC _ 6th of Easter
Sunday 17	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – 7th of Easter. APCM
Sunday 24	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – Pentecost. Whit Sunday
Sunday 31	11.00am	Bawburgh – HC – Trinity. St Walstan’s Day Service taken by the Dean of Norwich, the Very Revd Dr Andrew Braddock. Procession to St. Walstan’s Well for final prayers and blessing followed by bring and share lunch at Bawburgh Village Hall.
June		
Sunday 7	10.00am	Easton – HC – 1st after Trinity
Sunday 14	10.00am	Colton – All age HC – 2nd after Trinity
Sunday 21	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – 3rd after Trinity
Sunday 28	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – 4th after Trinity

Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for quarter ending March 2026

	Number	Member	Amount
First	39	Jane Knights	£50.00
Second	33	Marie Colman	£35.00
Third	24	Hilary Barrett	£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. If you wish to donate your winnings to the church, email the treasurer.

Mobile library 2026 – May dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: May 14

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: May 13

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 423 Thursday: May 14

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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