

THE Grapevine

June 2026

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford

Make time for some breathing space

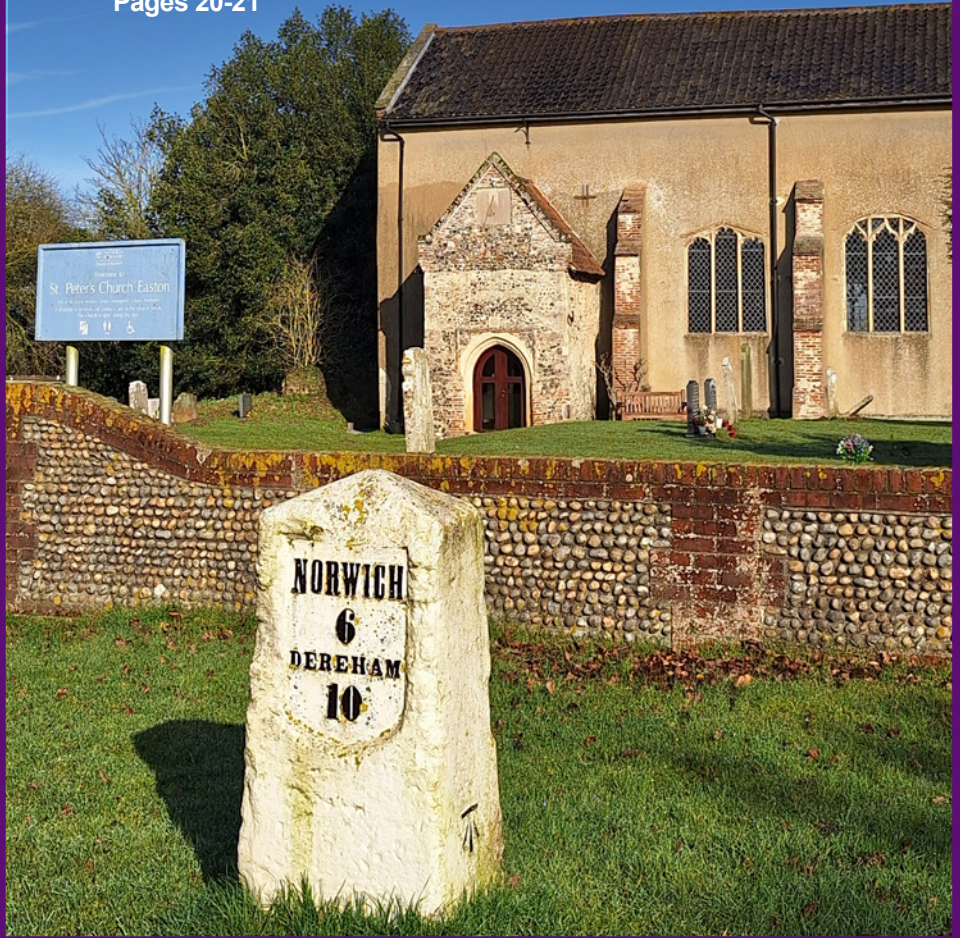
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Culture and Collaboration
Royal Norfolk Show 2026

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- 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
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wymondham 03444 111444
Relate	01603 625333
Samaritans	0330 094 5717

Doctors surgeries

Costessey, Roundwell 01603 744014
Beechcroft 01603 746683
Hethersett 01603 977477
Mattishall 01362 850227

Hospitals

**Norfolk & Norwich
incl W Norwich** 01603 286286
Julian & Hellesdon 01603 421421
Dereham, Northgate 01362 697300
Kelling 01263 710575

Police

Non urgent 101 **or visit website:**
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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

Malcolm Latarche Email:
 malcolm.latarche.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

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

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 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:

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Front cover: St Peter's Church, Easton.

Picture: Annette Hudson

Please note: information in The Grapevine is provided
 in good faith. The publication and its board cannot be
 held responsible for any inaccuracies and any opinions
 expressed are the author's own.

Parishes of Easton, Colton, Marlingford and Bawburgh

Benefice Rector	Revd Laura Montgomery eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com 172 Fairways, Queen's Hills, Costessey NR8 5GB	01603 744551
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Reader	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
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St Peter's Church, Easton

Churchwardens	Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton	01603 880255
	Margaret Seely, 8 Kennedy Close, Easton	01603 880888

PCC Secretary	Anthony Perry, 7 Pegg Close, Easton	01603 882265
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Treasurer	Vacancy	
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St Andrew's Church, Colton

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

PCC Secretary	Liz Plater, Church Cottages, Church Lane, Colton	01603 880556
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Treasurer	Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ	judy.scrivener@ googlemail.com
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St Mary's Church, Marlingford

Churchwarden	Nick Evans-Lombe , Marlingford Hall Church Road NR9 5HP	07899 767082
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PCC Secretary	Felicity Maton, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford	07484 842131
----------------------	--	--------------

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

PCC contact	Lin Gibson	07785 258519
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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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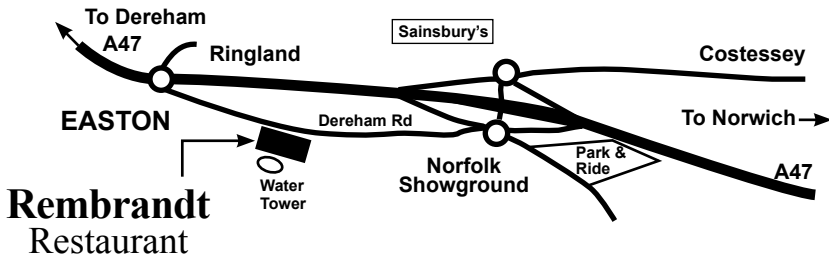
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For latest information

please see the website or phone

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www.usui-reiki-centre-norwich.co.uk

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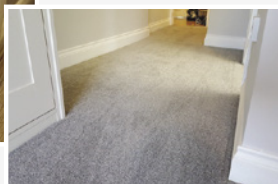
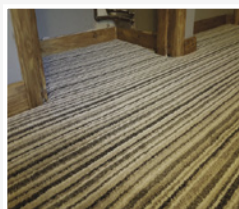
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THE Grapevine

Not just a pet – more a member of the family

This is a picture of my gorgeous pet cat and confidante, Boots. She is a true companion and a comfort if I ever feel lonely or stressed. Like many folk with pets, I talk to her all the time. She never argues or disagrees with me – just purrs benignly and snuggles into my neck. The many dog owners out there will recognise this kind of utter devotion and will further appreciate the exercise they get from walking their pooch helping them to stay active and healthy. Children can learn



Picture: Annette Hudson

important life skills from looking after pets as caring for an animal teaches responsibility, patience and kindness. Having a pet around the house is what makes it a home. I know Boots wouldn't disagree.

Annette

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 July/August issue: Monday, June 15 2026
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

YOUR

Colton Village Hall

● 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!

● An Evening with Offshoot

Saturday June 20, 7.30pm start

Join local band Offshoot for an evening of music with songs old and not so old... Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30 start. Bring your own refreshments.

● 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 Crafters

Members all enjoyed their trip to Lincoln adding to their crafty stash and getting inspiration from exhibitors. 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**.



● 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 Easton 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

Bawburgh Village Hall



Talks for all

Tuesday June 9

**Charles Lewis presents
'Nelson, the Norfolk Hero'**

Learn about Horatio Nelson, his early life and associations with Norfolk, his career at sea and his ultimate death at the Battle of Trafalgar.

7.30pm at Bawburgh Village Hall
Entry £3 a head, including tea and coffee. All welcome.

Colton Art & Craft Group

**Wednesdays
10am-12pm**

**Meet fortnightly at
Colton village hall
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**For more details
contact Rosanna Ellis
on 07765294347
rosannaellis@btinternet.com**

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Community News and Fundraising Events



Marlingford Cricket Club - stretching its boundaries

As Marlingford Cricket Club – *“the home village cricket”* – approaches its 50th year, we are expanding and changing, and are keen to invite new local talent to the club.

Presently, the MCC (that’s us...) has 30-odd players but we want to encourage and welcome even more female players to our beautiful ground. Our current women players of all ages have added incredible skills to the team and we want to maintain this momentum.

Traditionally, we have played a very full season of twice weekly friendlies (a mid-week 20/20 evening match and a Sunday 40 match) against local teams and have developed many friendships

and jovial rivalries along the way.

In recent years, we have entered local cup matches: the Wensum Cup and the Wicklewood Shield and have been finalists in both!

This year, we have decided to join the official Norfolk Over-40 mid-week evening game league and are on the lookout for new talent in that age range. Serious stuff.

We have a bar, a wonderful pavilion and are renowned for our sociability, friendliness, fielding (that resembles stand-up comedy) and are never lacking in home fixtures.

● **For more information, contact Club Captain Johnny Wyndham on 07857 420448.**

News from Barford Primary School

London Mini Marathon

On Saturday, May 25, about a third of the children (28) from Barford Primary School and their families travelled to London for this year's Mini Marathon.

The weather was warm and the children had a fantastic day starting with the excitement of the London Underground!

Warm-ups were led by Gladiator favourites Fury and Nitro which caused more excitement before the starter's horn sounded!

The older children completed 2.6km and the younger ones ran from Horse Guards Parade,

down Birdcage Walk, in front of Buckingham Palace and ending along the Mall.

Some were very competitive, leaving their adults behind and putting in amazing times. Others were more relaxed and absorbed the atmosphere, high-fiving spectators as they went round!

What a fantastic experience for all the children, topped off by raising more than £2,100 for the school.

A big thank you to Barford Van Hire for once again supporting the school and providing the team shirts.

Well done everyone!

Primary School dog show

On Sunday, May 10, the school held their third fund-raising dog show. After a very hot first one, almost washout for the second, the weather this time was ideal! People turned out from all over Norfolk and Suffolk with people arriving an hour early as they were worried about the traffic.

Thank you to the judges (one from Crufts!) who did a fantastic job and to Sue Palmer for helping organise it; without any of them, the event could not have happened.

Fun categories included waggiest tail, best rescue, lookalike owner



and dog! Simple Slice Pizza and Odelish, both local businesses, attended to provide refreshments along with the teas/coffees. Another successful fundraising event for the school. Thank you to those who joined in the fun!



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

Making room for a little breathing space

I wonder whether you ever find yourself getting to the end of the day and thinking, how did I manage to do all of that? In these months where the days are at their longest, there is often a pressure to be as productive as the garden. We juggle the school runs, the final push of the academic year for those at college or university, the endless chores and the needs of those around us, moving from one thing to the next. Even when life is not in crisis, the steady build-up of these small demands can leave us feeling surprisingly worn thin. The extra light at this time of year seems to offer us a reprieve, a natural invitation to slow down. Yet, for many of us, rest does not come easily. We may feel a twinge of guilt for sitting down while the sun is still up or worry that we are falling behind on the household to-do list. But rest is not laziness; it is the quiet work of recovery. It is how we steady ourselves so we can meet the next day with a little more patience for ourselves and those around us. Breathing space doesn't have to mean a grand plan. It might be



a few minutes spent watching a colourful bullfinch foraging at dusk, once the house is finally quiet, noticing the scent of mown grass through an open window or simply standing at the back door with a cup of tea as the village begins to quieten for the day. Sometimes, even the smallest pause can remind us that we do not have to be on alert every hour of the day. We don't need to earn our rest by reaching the point of exhaustion. A little breathing space, taken kindly and often, helps us feel more present, more settled, and more able to meet the day.

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



Some of the knitted mice in their beautiful costumes.

News from Easton Women's Institute

In May, Easton WI enjoyed a talk by **Lois Gill** entitled *I Saw A Mouse – A Festival Of Church Mice Stories*.

She told us how she, together with five other knitters, made 2,000 knitted mice to display in costume in five churches to raise funds for urgent projects. She brought some of her mice for us to see. Over £16,000 was raised in one weekend – an amazing achievement!

Who was Black Anna?

At our next meeting, on Thursday, June 11 at 7.30pm in the village hall, we will have a talk by **Cheryl Cade** about **Black Anna And The Forgotten Women Of Norwich**. If anyone would like to come and hear this talk, you will be very welcome. We are also planning visits to the Coptic Church, Dereham Accident and Rescue Service and maybe even for a game of Crazy Golf in the future!

Coming soon

Looking ahead to July, our speaker will be **George Cooper** with a talk about the **Sea Palling Lifeboat**.

This brings us to August when we will be holding an **Afternoon Tea** in the village hall and I will include more details in next month's *Grapevine* but everyone will be welcome to come and have tea and cake.

Easton WI meets on the second Thursday of every month except August at 7.30pm in the village hall. We usually have a speaker and often go to visit places of interest. It has been noted that we usually end up in a café, restaurant or tea room when we go on a visit! Anyone thinking about finding out more about the WI is welcome to come along to one of our meetings as a visitor and see what we do.

Mary Blathwayt

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

A childhood spent under the shadow of war

We'll be hearing the memories of Joyce Rix in the next few issues.

In 1936, my parents, Fred and Lucy Rix, together with my sister, June, moved into their newly built bungalow, beside the blacksmith's shop, in Barford Road, Marlingford. My dad worked firstly at Boulton and Paul, employed on the construction of the R101 and later at Laurence and Scott Electromotors where he remained until his retirement in 1973.

He rarely used public transport always cycling everywhere in all weathers. He always had a piece of string tied to his cycle – if he saw anything lying around in the hedgerows that he thought he could make use of, he would then tie it to his bike to bring home. He was a real hoarder!

My mum always worked hard – first on the Colton Fruit Farm when I can remember, at a very early age, playing amongst the apple trees whilst the women picked, graded and pruned the fruit trees. She tended the sick and dying from the village, helped new mums, babysat, did sewing jobs and domestic work. My parent's bungalow stood on



Picture: Wikipedia CC

An Anderson shelter survives an air raid in Norwich.

an acre of land. At first Mr George Gardiner, a local farmer, cultivated a piece of the land, later my mum kept chickens but these all had to be destroyed when fowl pest was confirmed in the area and my parents never kept fowl again. My dad began to crop the land himself, growing chrysanthemums and tomatoes which he sold at the gate. To earn pocket money, I had to go round the village at the weekends, selling tomatoes and my reward was one penny for every pound I sold so I was never very rich! My parents were respected and well-known and were involved, not just in Marlingford activities, but in the surrounding villages. They travelled miles to whist drives, my dad was caller at bingo

sessions in several villages, was a linesman for Easton Football team until he was well into his 80s and could often be seen walking the lanes miles from home. My mum was a very popular babysitter and dressmaker. They knew everyone in Marlingford and most people in the surrounding villages. People would wave and stop for a chat if 'Pop' was working in the garden, everyone knew him. Folk were always willing to help one another in those days.

I was born just before the Second World War and, although I do not remember much of my childhood years, I do recall they were happy and simple. I had a three-wheeled bike and a lovely green, high dolls pram, both second-hand. I played around the garden in a pair of dungarees and lace-up boots. I remember standing on our garden gate, watching my sister June walk up the road to school and wishing I was going too. I had a 'mickey mouse' gas mask and have memories of wearing this horrid, claustrophobic, smelly article to run down the road to visit my mum's best friend, Freda Bird, 'Birdie', and her two children, Lionel and Pamela. My dad made an old hand cart with a few pieces of wood and two bicycle wheels and we used to go up to 'Beech Tree' and, armed



Picture: © Imperial War Museum, D 5894.

Child modelling the brightly coloured 'Mickey Mouse' gas mask

with two boards, would scoop up the fallen, autumn leaves to make into a compost heap ready for use the following spring. If the siren sounded during the night announcing an imminent air raid, mum would scurry June and I into our underground shelter. We would enter by a hole in the ground where a narrow, primitive bunk bed was ready for us two, sleepy children. I was completely unaware of any danger. My dad often worked night shifts so it was an added worry for my mum, especially when a neighbour came during the night to tell her that Norwich had once again been bombed.

● **Look out for more of Joyce's memories in the next issue.**



Children's choirs are a feature of the show.

Pictures: RNAA

Culture and collaboration is RNS 2026 theme

The Royal Norfolk Show is an annual celebration of food, farming and innovation. Each year it attracts 80,000 visitors, including 12,000 schoolchildren from across the region, showcasing cutting-edge advancements in science, technology and agriculture. With over 700 trade stands, 3,000 animals and Norfolk's largest food and drink showcase, it offers engaging activities for all ages. The Royal Norfolk Show is the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association's (RNAA) primary fundraising event to deliver charitable objectives supporting and promoting food production, farming and the countryside in Norfolk.

This year it is celebrating Culture and Collaboration, a theme that brings together Norfolk's deep-rooted traditions with innovation

and partnership. Visitors can experience local food and drink, livestock and equestrian events, vibrant performances, rural enterprise and advancements that are helping to shape the future of the region. The organisers have put collaboration at the heart of the programme across the showground:

- Local producers championing Norfolk's rich food & drink heritage and pioneering production.
- Celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer with activity across the show highlighting the vital work women in agriculture provide in the industry.
- International Agro Challenge in partnership with Easton college will take place at this year's show. 18 teams from across Europe will compete in a variety of activities from sheep shearing to beer barrel racing.

- Discovery Zone, operated by the Food & Farming Discovery Trust, will be educating visitors about Norfolk's connection to Mint & Mustard production by taking them on a journey from field to shop.

- Norfolk Business Zone will once again be providing a destination for networking and showcasing SME's in Norfolk

- Norfolk Rural Business Awards returns to the Royal Norfolk Show to showcase a wide range of businesses, community groups and people that help to make up Norfolk's thriving economy.

- There will be a Grand Ring programme packed with family displays and competitions; live music performances; a carnival showcasing Norfolk's diverse performing arts groups and hundreds of equestrian and livestock competitions.

To make this year's Show as accessible as possible free car parking is being offered. This year the show will support the homeless in Norfolk.

St Martin's Housing (Norwich) will encompass' The Pathways Project (Great Yarmouth) and the King's Lynn Night shelter to raise awareness across Norfolk.

Our two show charities will be: **Voluntary Norfolk** – improves the health, wellbeing, connections,



skills and employability of thousands of people in Norfolk each year, by supporting volunteers, voluntary organisations and through the delivery of commissioned services. They desperately need more volunteers to support their services so the show will be an excellent showcase for them.

Riding for the Disabled (RDA)

– Shared support between The Magpie Centre, West Norfolk Riding for the disabled and Mid Norfolk Group of Riding for the Disabled – North Tuddenham, nr Dereham.

The show takes place this year on

Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25

June. The show organisers have changed parking management companies this year to improve and hopefully minimise disruption to the local area.

- **For further information, ticket details and programme updates, visit the official Royal Norfolk Show website: royalnorfolkshow.co.uk**

Let's stand up against division and intolerance

I usually use my contribution to *The Grapevine* magazine to focus on local issues that shape the day-to-day lives of residents in Colton, Easton and Marlingford. But sometimes it is important to reflect on issues that affect communities not just here in South Norfolk, but across the country. I therefore want to take this opportunity to address the growing divisions within our society and the rise in antisemitism. As I am sure many of you will know, on April 29 in Golders Green, two Jewish men were the targets of a terrorist attack. This was a deeply disturbing act of hatred directed at British Jews, which has understandably shaken the Jewish community and caused real sense of concern across the



country. My thoughts are with those affected and with the Jewish community who will be feeling the deep impact of these events. It is my firm belief that no one should have to live in fear because of who they are or what they believe and that we must stand together as a community against actions that threatens this.

What concerns me just as much as the Golders Green attack itself is the wider pattern it reflects. Antisemitism does not appear overnight. It grows slowly, often in ways that can be overlooked or dismissed and is the result of attitudes and behaviours that have been allowed to develop over time. Prejudice can take root gradually: in the language we hear, the behaviour we tolerate and the moments we choose not to challenge.

We have witnessed the warning signs in recent years, from rising tensions on our university campuses to arson attacks, vandalism of places of worship, and incidents of intimidation directed at Jewish individuals simply because of their faith. Antisemitism is an evil, plain and simple. It has no place anywhere in our society and we must stand



Picture: Markus Spiske/Unsplash

against it. However, simply calling it out is not enough.

We must also act.

That means ensuring that every hate crime is properly reported and thoroughly investigated, that victims are supported, and that the bodies and services responsible for keeping our communities safe have the resources and backing they need to respond effectively.

Beyond that, it means all of us being prepared to confront discrimination wherever it appears – whether in our communities, our workplaces, on social media or amongst friends and family, not allowing it to go unchallenged or become normalised.

Each of us must play a role and while challenging prejudice is not always easy, it is necessary. Turning a blind eye only allows harmful

ideas to proliferate – when we speak up, we can stop them in their tracks.

At its core, this is about the kind of country we want to be. Britain is at its best when it is open, tolerant, and respectful - when people of all backgrounds, faiths and beliefs are able to live side by side in safety and dignity. Whether it is antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia or discrimination of any kind, hatred has no place in our society. If we are serious about protecting the values that bind us together, then we must be willing to confront prejudice directly, stand up for one another and refuse to allow division and intolerance to rise within our communities.

Ben Goldsbrough MP



Picture: Tony Phan/Unsplash

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

Councillors elected

The Easton Parish Council met on Tuesday 5 May at the village hall with councillors, the clerk and 12 members of the public in attendance.

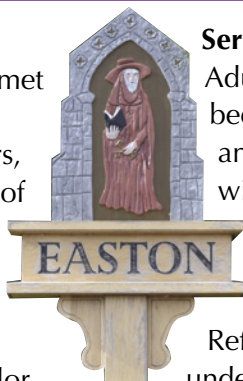
Councillor Mark Caton was unanimously re-elected as chair for the coming year, with Councillor Jan Hudson unanimously re-elected as vice-chair.

County council updates

Bird Flu: restrictions linked to bird flu have now eased, although poultry keepers are still encouraged to follow biosecurity guidance.

Help for pupils: Nine new specialist inclusion bases are opening in Norfolk primary schools this year to support children with additional needs closer to home.

Flourish Awards: Nominations are now open for the 2026 Flourish Awards, celebrating those making a positive difference to children and young people across Norfolk.



Service renamed: Norfolk Adult Learning Service has been renamed 'Adult Learning and Skills' to better reflect the wide range of practical and vocational courses available.

Library improvements:

Refurbishment work is underway at the Millennium Library until July, creating improved study and family spaces.

Award listing: Norwich Castle Museum has been shortlisted for the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2026 award.

Planning Matters

Councillors discussed several ongoing planning applications connected with the Festival Park development and other local sites. A decision on the development marketing signage for upcoming Festival Park phases has been extended until May 15, 2026. The application relating to the retention of an access gate at Lewin Farm remains under

consideration, with neighbouring parish councils supporting the proposal due to improved visibility. Several planning conditions linked to drainage, landscaping and parking for Festival Park phases have recently been approved by South Norfolk Council.

Community centre progress

Work continues on the new community centre. A draft lease has been sent to the charity overseeing the project and is currently being reviewed by Community Action Norfolk. The parish council is also seeking quotations from electricity suppliers for installation of a meter.

Public questions

Residents raised concerns about:

- Faded road markings and insufficient signage near the golf course driving range on Dunham Road. The clerk will contact Easton College and highways officers.
- The proposed footpath to Longwater which has currently been paused until completion of the A47 dualling works.

Parish assets and maintenance

Village play areas remain in good condition. The annual playpark inspection contract was awarded to Nordic Playground Institute. Outstanding fencing and track issues at the allotments will be

followed up with Persimmon Homes. The council also agreed a maintenance quote for the village bus shelters with work due to begin in June. The council also discussed flags, signage and billboards at Buxton Close. Persimmon Homes confirmed signage will be removed once 80% of properties are sold. Concerns were also raised about external lighting at the show home and a request will be made for lights to operate only during opening hours.

The parish council is arranging a public meeting with Norfolk Police and organisers of the Norfolk Show to discuss access arrangements onto the roundabout near the showground. A date is yet to be confirmed.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for:

- **Tuesday June 2 at 7pm**
in Easton Village Hall

Topics for discussion include:

- Bird spikes above children's swings
- Parking around College Heights
- A battery-powered steam washer
- Trees at the College Heights play area

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr J Morse, Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mark Pfeiffer

Cllr Deborah Perfect

Cllr Derren Wyatt

Cllr Greg Parton

New councillors

The parish council would like to welcome **Derren Wyatt** and **Greg Parton** who have joined the parish council. Derren, who lives in Marlingford, can be contacted on **derren.wyatt@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk** and Greg who also lives in Marlingford can be contacted on **greg.parton@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk** or through the clerk on the details at the end of this report

The maximum number of parish councillors that Marlingford and Colton is allowed is seven, there are two remaining vacancies. Anyone interested is encouraged to come along to the next meeting on July 7 or contact the clerk.

Dog fouling

Although we are very fortunate in having a vast majority of very responsible dog owners in our villages, there has nonetheless been an increase in dog fouling along our public footpaths. Dog faeces and filled bags are being left on footpaths. In some areas

there are numerous bags being left. This is a health hazard, especially if inadvertently stepped in. The filled bags will not decompose adding to the littering problem further.

Dog waste can contain harmful parasites such as *Toxocara Canis*, which may cause toxocariasis – a condition that can lead to serious illness and even blindness, especially in young children. Leaving dog waste in public places is unsightly and unhygienic and can contaminate soil and



Picture: Melissa197/Pixabay

waterways, affecting both people and wildlife. The link below can be used for reporting someone not clearing up dog waste.

forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/pub/Nuisance.ofml

The parish council has provided five dog waste bins in the village which are emptied weekly. If there isn't a dog waste bin nearby, you can still bag the waste and place it in your general household wheelie bin.

Please do not leave bagged waste discarded in verges, kerbs or hanging on trees or bushes.

Grass and hedge cutting of amenity areas.

The parish council is pleased to announce that Norse has taken on the contract cutting of the amenity area grass and trees along with



maintaining the meadow area in Marlingford. Due to a break between contractors, it is hoped that, over the next few weeks, the areas will be cut and looking good ready to welcome visitors to the amenity areas.

The parish council would like to thank **Justin Ritchie** for his time and effort over recent years undertaking this maintenance.

Parish council meetings and public inclusion

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

The next meeting will be held on:

- **Tuesday, July 7, 7pm, in Marlingford Village Hall (please note change of venue)**

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.

Maria Hutson, clerk to the pc
E: clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk
T: 01603 850118
W: marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk

The Rambling Vine



The beautiful round tower church at Wramplingham.

Picture: Annette Hudson

Discover a rich, local heritage in our churches

This summer, the Church of England is encouraging people to rediscover the ancient practice of pilgrimage through its **Pilgrim Places** initiative, running from May 25 until the end of August, under the social media hashtag **#pilgrimplaces**.

When we hear the word 'pilgrimage', many of us imagine walking hundreds of miles across dramatic countryside towards somewhere like Walsingham or Canterbury Cathedral. Certainly, as I discovered last year, those long journeys still have great value and

meaning. Yet recently, a historian I know through the East Anglian Pilgrimage Network reminded me that historically pilgrimage was often much more local than we might imagine.

In the past, people would often journey to the next village church for a patronal festival, a saint's day celebration or a local shrine. In other words, pilgrimage was woven into ordinary life.

Village churches themselves were places of pilgrimage. People journeyed not necessarily for

distance, but for encounter: to pray, to reflect, to seek healing, to give thanks or celebrate or simply to step aside from everyday life for a while. That thought has stayed with me. Many people have lived in our villages for years and may only really know the church in their own village. Others may be newer to the area and perhaps have never stepped inside one of our churches at all. Yet across our Benefice, our churches are open during the day. They hold centuries of prayer within their walls, rich local history and heritage, beautiful churchyards alive with nature – but perhaps most important, they offer spaces of stillness and peace in an increasingly busy world. Pilgrimage does not have to mean an exhausting trek with walking boots and backpacks. Sometimes it may simply mean choosing to visit a church you have never been inside before. Sitting quietly for 10 minutes. Lighting a candle. Walking slowly through a churchyard. Noticing beauty. Making space to pray, or simply to breathe.



The Pilgrim Places initiative also includes a series of short reflections focused on the lives of saints, designed to accompany people through part of the summer. These resources can be found through the Church of England website and via the #pilgrimplaces campaign online. Perhaps this summer, whether close to home or while away on holiday, you might consider making a small pilgrimage of your own. You may discover that holy places are nearer than you think.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services June 2026		
June		
Sunday 7	10.00am	Easton – Holy Communion – 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

Mobile library 2026 – June dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: June 11

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: June 10

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
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Easton –Route: CEN 423 Thursday: June 11

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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