

THE Grapevine

July/August 2026

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford



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county councillor
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Intrepid Ann's travel
adventures continue
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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
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wymondham 03444 111444
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Dereham, Northgate	01362 697300
Kelling	01263 710575

Police

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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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Editor/designer: Annette Hudson
annettegh57@gmail.com 07718 265655

Assistant Editor: Felicity Maton
f.maton@btinternet.com 07484 842131

Treasurer: Carol Chiles
carolachiles@gmail.com 01508 578352

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

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Front cover: Summer blooms

Picture: Annette Hudson

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

Parishes of Easton, Colton, Marlingford and Bawburgh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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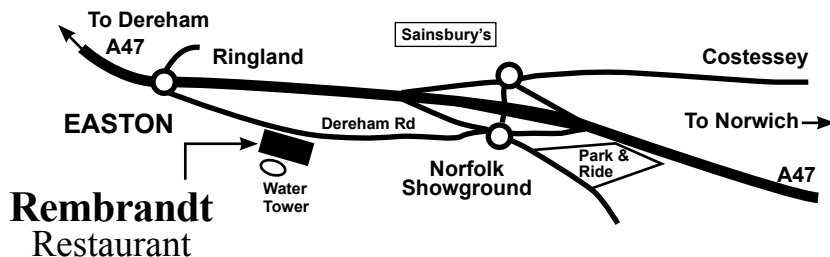
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please see the website or phone

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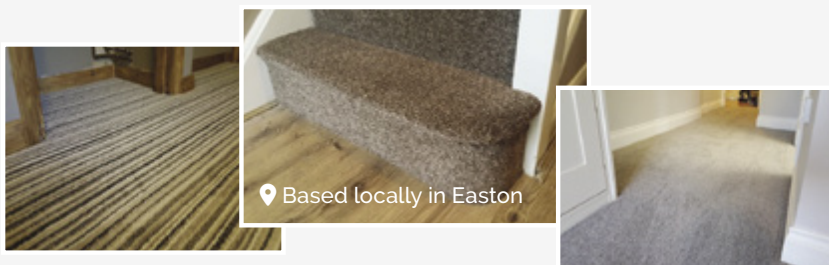
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THE Grapevine

Make the most of those warm, summer days

Unbelievably, we are already halfway through the year having already had some lovely, hot weather. Mind you – the rain I'm watching now is very welcome for the birds and the plants in my garden. Assuming the sun returns, here is a little summer-themed quiz you can sit in the garden with a cuppa and ponder over. How many of these classic songs and singers can you name? I've given you their initials ...Have a lovely summer!

Annette

- 1 – – – – – /Summertime : M J
- 2 Summer/– – – – : F S
- 3 – – – – – /Summer : J K
- 4 Summer/– – – – – : C R
- 5 – – – – – /Summer : B
- 6 Summer – – /– – : B A
- 7 Summertime/– – – – : E C
- 8 Summer/– – /– – – /– – – : T L S
- 9 Summer/– – – – – : J T & O N J
- 10 Summer/– – – – – S & C

Answers on page 13

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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The Grapevine Magazine

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Sort code: 20-99-08

It only takes a moment – Thank you!

Deadline for items for the September issue: Friday, August 21 2026
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton Village Hall

● Colton Summer BBQ plus raffle

Saturday July 18, from 6pm

Our popular annual event kicks off at 6pm for burgers and hotdogs. Get together with neighbours and enjoy the evening sunshine!

● Coffee morning and Art exhibition

Saturday August 15, 11am -1pm

Our coffee morning will incorporate a plant sale - please just bring along any plants you would like to sell. There may even be some you'd like to buy!

Marlingford Village Hall

We are going to try an outside (when possible) course of Gentleyoga, meditation, self massage and music at Marlingford Village Hall garden starting 7pm Wednesday, June 17 and running for 6 weeks. Those taking part can pay whatever they like.

Dom Jarvis
gentleyogadom@gmail.com

Easton Village Hall

● Easton Crafters

Members enjoyed a summer lunch at the Village Inn, Little Melton on June 9 and then returned to Easton Village Hall for tea and biscuits. We are having a Marie Curie tea party on August 11 between 2 and 4.

There will also be a small raffle and stalls with cakes, cards, books and jigsaws. All Welcome, please come and join us. 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



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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

Talks take a summer break during July and August. We will resume in **September**. Thanks to all who have attended!



Picture: Adrian S Pye/Geograph

Answers to quiz on page 11 : 1 In The Summertime – Mungo Jerry; 2 Summer Wind – Frank Sinatra; 3 Here Comes Summer – Jerry Keller; 4 Summer Holiday – Cliff Richard; 5 Cruel Summer – Bananarama; 6 Summer of '69 – Bryan Adams; 7 Summertime Blues – Eddie Cochran; 8 Summer in the City – The Lovin' Spoonful; 9 Summer Nights – John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John; 10 Summer Breeze – Seals & Crofts

Community News and Fundraising Events

An enjoyable evening exercising the grey cells

Operation Barbarossa, squid ink and devils on horseback all found their way into the bi-annual Colton Village Hall Quiz at the end of May. There was a very healthy turnout with six teams battling for first place. That honour went to 5 Alive, followed closely by Hot and Bothered and Wildlife Warriors. Neighbourly Drinkers



and Politically Correct put up a good fight followed by a sterling effort from the smallest team in the room, The Streets. A big thank you to Patrick and Jane for keeping the scores. The evening raised £118.68 for the village hall.

Marlingford Cricket Club - stretching its boundaries

As Marlingford Cricket Club approaches its 50th year, we are expanding and are keen to invite new local talent to the club. Presently, we have about 30 players but we would like to encourage more female players. Our current women players of all ages have added incredible skills to the team and we want to maintain this. 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.**

What a fantastic St Peter's School summer fete!

The Friends Committee of St Peter's School would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported our recent summer fete. It was a wonderful afternoon, bringing together pupils, families, staff and members of the local community for a fun-filled event. We were delighted to welcome a variety of local businesses and organisations, including Fenland Newfoundland Dogs Charity, Fritton Owl Sanctuary, Cafe 2 U, Naples Pizza Van, Bakes by Aleesha, Frosty's Ice Cream Van, the WI, Hampden Hedgehogs, representatives from the fire brigade and police whose vehicles proved particularly popular with the children, as well as watching an absolutely amazing performance from the school pupils in *Zumba with Beth*.

The event was a tremendous success with visitors enjoying the wide range of stalls, activities and attractions. Most importantly, the fete raised an amazing total of £1,690 that will directly benefit the children at



Proud owners with their dogs at the fete.



The lovely mural funded by the Friends of St Peter's.

St Peter's School. Special thanks go to Alex from Melanie Estates and Greg from Yellow Bricks for their £200 donation. Money raised by the Friends Committee helps to enhance the children's educational experience by contributing towards school trips, helping to keep costs affordable for families, purchasing revision materials and library books, and funding special projects around the school. Most recently, funds helped provide a beautiful mural in the outdoor classroom area, creating an inspiring space for learning. The Friends Committee would like to thank our volunteers, supporters, local businesses and everyone who attended. Your generosity makes a real difference to the opportunities we can provide for the children. We look forward to welcoming you again at future events.

Kerry Lawn,
Friends of St Peter's

Integrative counsellor **Charlotte Perry** based in Easton, offers our residents some wellbeing advice.



When summer doesn't feel as easy as it looks

I'll admit even I find myself caught out by mid-summer. There is a quiet, heavy expectation in these brighter months: a pressure to be constantly moving or to make each sunny evening perfect. It can make us feel out of step with the image that settles in the mind: BBQs, garden get-togethers, and the illusion that everyone else is navigating the season without a hitch. But real life rarely unfolds so neatly. For many, summer brings its own pressures. The long days can stretch our routines unexpectedly. For parents, school holidays mean a frantic scramble for childcare and tighter budgets. For those living alone, the brightness outside can make the quiet inside feel more noticeable. The pressure to always be "doing", attending every event or matching the carefree energy we see online, can leave us surprisingly worn down. Even the heat can disrupt sleep, leaving us with a shorter fuse. Feeling the weight of these demands doesn't mean we are ungrateful. It simply means we are human. We can cherish relationships and still need solitude.



Picture: Diana Parkhouse/Unsplash

We can be glad for summer and still feel the pinch it brings. Perhaps the invitation for July and August is not to make summer perfect, but to let it be real. A meaningful season doesn't require a packed social calendar. It might look like finding a few minutes of cool shade, listening to the blackbirds, or gently saying no to something that tips the week into overwhelm. These small moments of steadiness count. They don't need to be photographed or explained. Allowing the day to be exactly what it is can help us return to the life in front of us. Summer doesn't have to look effortless to hold genuine warmth. Sometimes, just letting the day be enough is exactly what we need.

Charlotte Perry,
BSc (Hons), Adv. Dip., MBACP
UKCP Accredited Psychotherapeutic
Counsellor; www.reflectful.uk

News from Easton Women's Institute

It's been a busy month!

Easton WI has been busy in June. We had our speaker about Black Anna and other forgotten women of Norwich. This gave people an opportunity to reminisce about local people and places they knew and to learn about ones they didn't. We also learnt that if we have memories that we don't want to be forgotten about in the future, we need to make sure that we tell our families about them and if possible record them.



The Coptic Church in Easton.

Also in June a second visit was made to the Coptic Church in the village. We also had a stall at the school fete. We got windswept but we did make a small amount of money. It was lovely to see so many people supporting the school on a not very nice day! Looking forward to our meeting on **July 9** at 7.30pm in the village hall, we will have a speaker telling us about the **Sea Palling lifeboat**.



Wet and windswept - the WI stall at the school fete.

Afternoon tea fundraiser

There's no meeting in August but we will be holding an afternoon tea on Thursday, August 20 at 2.30pm to 4pm to raise money for our funds. There will be games including guess the weight of the cake, a tombola and much more! Everyone is welcome to come and have a cup of tea and a cake with us for the reasonable cost of £3.50. There are visits being planned to a variety of venues but no dates have yet been set. I will write about them when I know the details. 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 is welcome to come along to one of our meetings as a visitor and see what we do.

Mary Blathwayt

He's been voted in as councillor for our district so let's get to know Malcolm

Firstly, I'd like to thank the people of Yare Valley for electing me as their county councillor – I recognise that a great many of you didn't vote for me or even vote at all, but, regardless of that, I promise to do my best for you at County Hall.

The Yare Valley division is quite diverse with areas of concentrated housing in Queen's Hills, Wymondham and Easton, and numerous small villages spread throughout the remainder. You have told me of some of the issues you face and, as a council tax payer myself for over 50 years, they are not unfamiliar to me. Indeed, I have raised some of the issues around roads and road safety myself with NCC over the years and watched with dismay as areas of countryside disappear under houses and solar farms. I am not a Nimby and recognise that some development is inevitable. Nevertheless, I would like to preserve what we have in Yare Valley and will fight to protect the area against excessive change. It is my intention to be pro-active



Not afraid to face a challenge – Malcolm sets about tackling the Maltese Fontanella Cake Extravaganza.

for residents and readily contactable. I already have a growing volume of casework and with almost 10,000 electors in the division, I expect that will grow rapidly. So – a bit about me as a person. I'm a pensioner – well, semi-retired really as I still work as a freelance maritime journalist and shipping educator. I started my career in shipping in 1972 working in London in the office of Bank Line, at the time Britain's largest privately owned shipowner. Through the following 29 years, I was active as a chartered shipbroker, ship operator and a port agent before changing career and becoming a maritime journalist in 2001. I have also authored a handful of text

books on shipping practices and marine engines.

Although I'm not Norfolk born, I have a great affinity for the county having spent childhood holidays here and returning later with my own children. In my professional life I have shipped many cargoes of timber into King's Lynn and grain cargoes out from there and Great Yarmouth. I took the opportunity to move to the county in 2012 stopping briefly at Buckenham and then moving to Wramplingham. As you see, the Yare Valley region is dear to my heart.

Away from work, I have a multitude of interests. I have dabbled with art on and off all my life, I have a keen interest in photography. I enjoy walking, gardening and travel. I have just rekindled my love of angling and plan to spend some time pursuing this.

I have an eclectic taste in music, ranging from folk to classical with much in between. A few years ago, in my late 60s, I decided to try to

learn to play the bagpipes. I haven't progressed as fast as I would like but I shall persevere and, of course, I can appreciate more the skill of people who can play this 'marmite' instrument. I am also planning to build myself a hurdy gurdy in the coming months. Another odd instrument but then music can take many forms and should be fully explored to be appreciated. And if you think they're old-fashioned and niche, just try listening to the likes of Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Ally the Piper and Patty Gurdy.

I'm also an avid reader, my favourite authors have been Isaac Asimov, Wilbur Smith and more recently Diana Gabaldon who is behind the popular Outlander TV series. But I'm not limited to fiction, I'll happily pick up a book on almost any subject and as long as it is well written I can spend many hours engrossed in it.

● **Contact Malcolm on:**
E: malcolm.latarche.cllr@Norfolk.gov.uk
T: 01603 757623

Appeal from Norfolk Coroner's Service

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is trying to trace the next of kin of Mr Kim Robert West, aged 62, who lived at Sprowston, Norwich, and died on May 26, 2026. There were no suspicious circumstances leading to his death.

Despite carrying out extensive enquiries, no next-of-kin has been identified by the Coroner's Office.

● **Anyone with information relating to Mr West should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773.**

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

A very different sort of education from today

More childhood memories from Marlingford villager, Joyce Rix.

At five years old, I started school. There were two classrooms at Marlingford school. Mrs Chase, I believe from Great Melton, was the 'little room' teacher and Miss De Caux, from Colney, taught the older children. The school was heated by lovely open fires with large black fireguards to keep us safely away from the flames. On cold, frosty mornings, the frozen milk would push up the tops so they were placed near the fire to thaw. Once a week, the vicar, Canon Paine, would come into school for hymns and prayers and to hear us read from the Bible. Religious Instructions were an important part of our education and we had to learn the ten commandments and catechism by heart. The day always finished with the rendition of *Now the day is over, night is drawing near*. Learning was completely different from today's education. We learned the 'times tables' parrot fashion, arithmetic was essential and reading was taught 'The cat sat on the mat' style, but it all seemed to

sink in and was never forgotten. We took physical exercise outside in all weathers and went on nature study walks learning about the countryside first hand. We had pen-friends in Devon that we had to write to as part of our lessons. I wrote to Marjorie Jewell from Clovelly, Biddord, places that we had never visited and which seemed miles away. My sister, who was at school during the war years, can remember the huge world map that hung over the fireplace in the 'big room'. Her teacher, Mrs Morgan, would take her cane and point to places that had been the target of the most recent invasion and the class would discuss the situation. If there was a blitz during the night, pupils were allowed to be late for school the next morning. In 1947, Marlingford school closed and pupils were transferred to either Bawburgh or Barford schools. I went to Bawburgh school where Mr Steed was headmaster. He was very strict and woe betide anyone misbehaving, for the cane would be felt across the offenders posterior.

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

Intrepid Ann finds peace and sanity in this mad world by exploring another Camino route

Colton resident Ann Dunn takes on Spain's Camino once more.

The older you get the faster time seems to travel and the more insurmountable the world's problems seem to become.

The news becomes difficult to listen to as it seems mankind has learnt little from mistakes of the past and you seem powerless to be able to do anything about it.

It could be easy to let despair and depression take over, so we have to keep as healthy and active as possible and make the most of the little joys in life as they happen.

For me, I find meaning in life in watching spring approach, hearing the birds sing, being with friends and family and observing my grandchildren grow and play. Most of all, I experience my joie de vivre return when I walk the Camino de Santiago. I have done this now six times, ranging in length from six weeks, when I walked the entire Camino Frances alone, to one week this April when I walked with my daughter Catriona. This was the third year in a row that I have walked with her and it has become one of the highlights of my year. Walking the Camino is not easy, especially if the terrain is difficult



Ann and Catriona start their walking adventure.

or the weather bad but these things pale into insignificance when you experience the joy of living in the moment, especially when accompanied by a person you love. This year, the weather was perfect for walking and we had chosen a beautiful and relatively easy route on the Camino Frances.

When we left on April 11, the war in Iran was escalating, there was no sign of peace in Ukraine and no end in sight to the unbearable suffering of the people of Gaza and other faraway countries.

It was significant that that we began our journey with a visit to the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, where

we viewed Picasso's monumental work, Guernica, which is an anti-war mural depicting the horrific suffering caused by the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War, focusing on the pain of innocent civilians, particularly women and children. It seems so relevant today.

Arriving in Astorga where our walk was to begin, we first visited the cathedral followed by Gaudi's palace, an experience uplifting to the soul. His work here is so simple and beautifully designed, in contrast to the magnificence of the nearby cathedral.

Feeling blessed and rested, we started to walk. From now on we lived in the moment, talking, laughing, singing or being silent in contemplation of the beautiful countryside. On the paths and in the hostels where we stayed, we met people of all ages and backgrounds, most wanting to communicate, eat and share experiences together. As we walked, we experienced the colourful blossom of purple heather



Communal meal at a hostel.



The Gaudi Palace, Astorga.

and yellow broom alive with bees; spring flowers, iridescent beetles with turquoise legs, emerging caterpillars, pale green budding trees, croaking frogs, harmonious choirs of birds and the warmth of the spring sun on our faces. As we were served afternoon tea at one hostel in a Benedictine abbey, we were joined by a monk, originally from Togo in Africa. This monk radiated joy and we spent some time talking to him and sharing our views on life. His life was simple but fulfilled. He said that for him there was no tomorrow, yesterday was gone, never to return and tomorrow too will never come but will become today and so we must make the most of every moment we are alive. Surrounded by people of all persuasions laughing and talking together, you couldn't help but feel that this was

how life should be lived. As we walked on through the beautiful Spanish countryside, every day we would find a quiet place to have our mindfulness moments when we would meditate on the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and feeling of our surroundings. At one stop, we even thought we could hear the humming of the mycelium beneath us, i.e. the so-called 'wood-wide-web' that connects all living things beneath the earth but we came to the conclusion that it was probably the overhead electricity cables. Still, it was a nice thought. At the Cruz de Ferro, we reached the highest point of our walk. At this place, pilgrims lay a stone usually carried from their homeland to signify the meaning of their journey or to remember a departed loved-one. We laid our stones. I placed one in memory of a recently deceased friend and Catriona, laid a stone and a shell which she had kept from our last Camino together. Along the way, we would stop to



Stones left by pilgrims at the Cruz de Ferro.

have tapas and drink some welcome beer or wine. Each day we arrived footsore and tired at our hostel, glad to reach our destination. Each day had been filled with joy and ended by sharing time with like-minded people.

I think this is what joy is. We may not always be aware of it at the time but we know, with hindsight, that we have experienced it.

My daughter lives far away from me and leads a busy, productive life. The days we spend together each year walking on the Camino de Santiago are our special days together, our bonding time. And for both of us, it helps us cope with the world and love it, despite the pain and sorrows that are abundant. It gives us belief in the inherent goodness of people and hope that someday goodness, peace and joy will prevail against the evil that exists. We return to our daily lives, enriched by our experience and already planning next year's route

Ann Dunn



Spring in Leon, North Western Spain.

Offering the young an insight into political life

Applications are now open for my very first South Norfolk Summer School: a two-day programme designed to give young people across South Norfolk a hands-on insight into politics, Parliament, campaigning and public service. I am delighted to be hosting the event this July at Wymondham Rugby Club.



Taking place on July 27 and 28, the Summer School is open to students in Years 11, 12, and 13 who live in the South Norfolk constituency. Across the two days, participants will hear from guest speakers, take part in interactive workshops and discussions, and gain practical experience designing and developing their own campaign. Participants will also have the opportunity to take part in a range of engaging sessions delivered by people working across politics, local government, and community organisations.

Alongside learning more about the role of an MP and how decisions are made, they will also develop valuable skills in advocacy, teamwork, leadership, and public engagement. The aim of the programme is simple: to help young people better understand

how politics and public life work, while also building confidence and transferable skills that will benefit them in the future.

Whether you, or a young person you know, is already interested in politics, passionate about community issues, or simply looking to gain new experiences and strengthen your CV or university applications, I would strongly encourage you to apply. One of the things I care most about as South Norfolk's MP is ensuring young people feel empowered, listened to and are able to shape the future of their communities. Too often, politics can feel distant or inaccessible, particularly for younger generations. I hope this Summer School will help open that world up and show young people that there are many ways to make a positive difference, both locally and nationally.

● **To apply, please email me at ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk with a short supporting statement explaining why you would like to attend. Applications are now open and places are limited and, if applications exceed capacity, spaces will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Ben Goldsborough MP

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

SAM 2 Data and A47 update

Over the weekend of May 29 to June 1, road closures on the A47 due to construction work meant that the volume of traffic through Colton increased significantly. The SAM 2 camera outside Colton Village Hall usually records between 250 and 300 cars per day travelling west along Norwich Road.

On Saturday May 30, it recorded 2,700 cars and not much less on Sunday May 31!

The parish council will continue to monitor the situation and retain a dialogue with the police and the construction company.

All SAM 2 data can be viewed at Speed Awareness Data – Marlingford and Colton Parish Council.

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 meetings will be held on:

- **Tuesday, July 7 at 7pm, in Marlingford Village Hall**
- **Tuesday September 8 at 7pm in Colton Village hall**

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



Marlingford Village Hall.

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

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

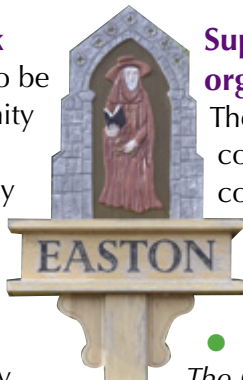
Community centre work

Good progress continues to be made on the new community centre project. The draft lease agreement is currently with Community Action Norfolk for comment, while electricity has now been connected to the building. Work is underway to arrange a supplier and install a meter. The charity registration paperwork has been submitted and the council is awaiting a response.

Annual accounts

Councillors reviewed and approved a number of important year-end financial documents, including the Asset Register, Internal Auditor's Report, Annual Governance Statement, and Accounting Statement for the financial year ending March 31, 2026.

The council also approved a range of payments covering parish services, maintenance works, and community support.



Supporting local organisations

The council agreed to continue supporting local community groups through donations and grants. Funding approved included:

- £1,000 donation to *The Grapevine Magazine*
- £316.34 donation to the Easton Car Scheme

In addition, councillors approved a further £1,000 grant to Easton Bowls Club towards the purchase of new access steps which will improve safety and accessibility for members and visitors.

Play areas and allotments

Councillors were pleased to report that all play equipment remains in good condition. The annual independent playground inspection has been booked for mid-June.

An update was also received regarding the allotments. Representatives from Persimmon Homes recently met with



Easton Village Hall.

councillors and allotment holders to discuss outstanding issues. A list of actions has been provided to Persimmon and the council is awaiting further updates.

Village maintenance

Broken signs and damaged fence panels at the end of Dunham Road will be raised with Persimmon Homes. The council will also seek an update from Persimmon regarding unfinished groundwork at Adams Walk.

Councillors approved the purchase of a battery-powered steam cleaner to help maintain play equipment. Tree pruning work at College Heights was approved, subject to consideration of the nesting season.

Public participation

One parishioner highlighted concerns about faded road markings near the golf centre. Another resident reported receiving threatening messages via social

media from a councillor, with other attendees stating they had experienced similar issues. The parish council was clear that such behaviour is neither accepted nor condoned and advised that any concerns should be reported to the appropriate monitoring officer.

Next meeting

Items suggested for discussion at the next meeting include:

- Painting of the walkway near the golf centre
- An update on the A47 Easton roundabout
- Provision of a grit bin
- Overhanging trees along St Peter's Footpath
- A proposal for a Dementia Café

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for:

● **Tuesday July 7 at 7pm**
in Easton Village Hall

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Rambling Vine



Inside St Edmund's Church, Costessey.
Picture: Annette Hudson

Our beautiful churches are great places to find stillness in a fast-paced world

During the summer months, many of us find ourselves visiting churches. Perhaps we pop into one while on holiday, wander through a churchyard on a sunny afternoon or take a few moments to look around an ancient building that catches our eye.

Yet it raises an interesting question: why do churches matter?

For some people, churches are places of worship and prayer.

For others, they are part of our history and heritage. They are often among the oldest buildings in a community, standing for hundreds of years while generations have come and gone around them. They connect us with the stories of those who lived here before us.

Churches also mark many of life's important moments. Baptisms, weddings and funerals take place within their walls. Even people who rarely attend a service often have memories linked to a local church: a christening, a family wedding, a Christmas service or visiting the grave of someone they loved.

One of the things I have noticed while visiting churches around the country is that people are drawn to them for many different reasons. Some come to admire the architecture or history. Some seek a quiet place away from the noise and busyness of everyday life. Others come looking for a sense of connection: with family, with the past or perhaps with something beyond themselves. In a world that often feels fast-paced and constantly changing, churches offer something increasingly rare: stillness. Step through the door of an old church and you often find a place where the pace slows, where there is space to sit, reflect and simply be. Of course, a church is more than a building. It is also a community

of people seeking to follow Jesus and serve their neighbours. Yet the building itself plays an important role. It stands as a visible reminder that some things endure. Long after trends, fashions and headlines have faded, the church remains, quietly witnessing to faith, hope and the importance of community. Whether you are a regular worshipper, an occasional visitor or someone who simply enjoys walking through a churchyard, perhaps this summer you might take a moment to step inside a church if you pass one. You may find history, beauty and peace. You may discover a story you never knew. And you may find that these ancient buildings still have something to say to us today.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services July/August 2026		
July		
Sunday 5	10.00am	Easton – Holy Communion – 5th after Trinity
Sunday 12	10.00am	Colton – All age HC – 6th after Trinity
Sunday 19	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – 7th after Trinity
Sunday 26	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – 8th after Trinity
August		
Sunday 2	10.00am	Easton – HC – 9th after Trinity
Sunday 9	10.00am	Colton – HC – 10th after Trinity
Sunday 16	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – The Blessed Virgin Mary 11th after Trinity
Sunday 23	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – 12th after Trinity
Sunday 30	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – 13th after Trinity

Mobile library 2026 – July/August dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: July 9, August 6

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: July 8, August 5

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

Thursday: July 9, August 6

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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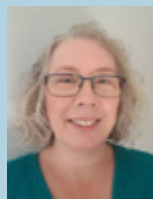
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