

THE Grapevine

September 2026

Your community guide for Colton, Easton and Marlingford

Easton's buses

Pages 15-16

More fishing fun with Dom and Milt

Pages 20-21

PLUS

- 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
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:**
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

Malcolm Latache Email:
malcolm.latache.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

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

The Grapevine

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Advertising in The Grapevine

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

Annual advertising rates 2026

Black & white inside:

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Colour back page:

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Front cover: Cartoon (artichoke).

Picture: Felicity Maton.

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
---------------------	--	--------------

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)**	Konekt 4 service from Easton to Norwich bus station at 09:26	
Colton, The Street pond	09:14		Arrives 10.00	
Colton, junction Norwich Road and The Street	09:20		(or from Longwater to Norwich at 09:33)	
		Connects with	Arrives	
SEE NOTE BELOW *Connect 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

*** Connect 4 service:** During the A47 works, some bus times have changed.

See page 15 for information on Connect 4 service.

Check here for current timetable central-connect.co.uk/service

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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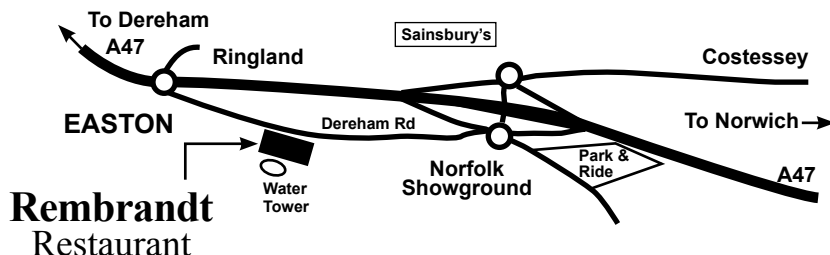
Saturday 4pm - 9pm

For latest information

please see the website or phone

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Dereham Rd, Easton, Norwich NR9 5EH





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Top Trips 2026

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Mon 13 Jul £80.00pp

Jesus Christ Superstar

starring Sam Ryder

Thu 23 Jul £99.00pp

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Fri 24 July £54.00 pp

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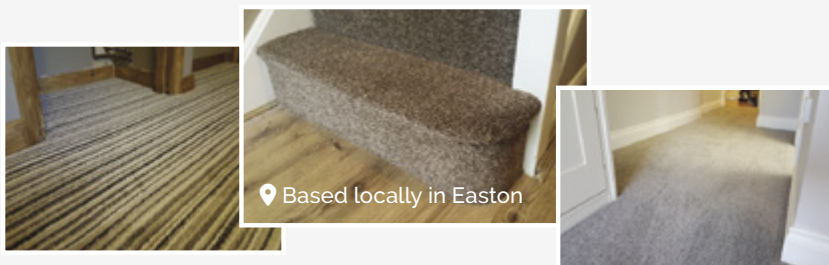
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Customer satisfaction is our priority.



After the sun, prepare for the rain!

After such a long, hot and dry period, heavy rain is likely to overwhelm hard, dry ground and drainage systems. It's wise to prepare by clearing gutters, drains and ditches, checking roofs and downpipes, and ensuring water can flow away from buildings. Gardens can be adapted with rain gardens, permeable surfaces and areas where water can safely collect. A rain garden might contain:

- Moisture-loving plants, grasses and wildflowers

- A shallow dip or basin
 - Free-draining soil and gravel
 - An overflow route for heavy rain
- They don't have to be large – even a small garden can have a rain garden near a downpipe. It can also provide valuable habitat for insects and wildlife.

Add organic matter to soil to improve its ability to absorb rainfall. Keep an eye on weather and flood warnings, particularly when travelling.

Chatty

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

See the **Easton parish council** (eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and the **Marlingford and Colton parish council** (marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk) websites, the **Nextdoor** website and on the **Easton Matters** and **Festival Park Facebook** pages. If you would like digital copies, please send your email address to: **annettegh57@gmail.com** and you will be added to a list of subscribers. Our printed editions are published

in Dec/Jan, March, May, July/Aug and October and are distributed in Easton, Colton and Marlingford.

Please consider helping to keep us publishing by making a donation towards the cost of more printed editions.

You can do so by bank transfer:

Account name:

The Grapevine Magazine

Business account no: 20420956

Sort code: 20-99-08

It only takes a moment – Thank you!

Deadline for items for the October issue: Friday, September 18, 2026
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton Village Hall

● Beetle Drive

Saturday, September 12

Come and have some fun creating those little creatures at speed!

Doors open 6.30pm for 6.45pm start.

Easton Village Hall

● Easton Crafters

We had a very enjoyable Marie Curie Tea party on August 11 and with the help of members and visitors we raised an amazing £480. Thank you to everyone for their help and generosity. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Easton Village Hall, 1.30 to 4.30pm. All welcome, please come and join us. 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

In July, we celebrated Hilda's 88th birthday with a lovely football decorated cake. There were 33 guests to sing happy birthday to her before the family then took her to Pensthorpe Nature Reserve. During the summer we've had many



busy days with huge numbers, proving that it's fulfilling a need. Sometimes we've had as many as 32 guests, then another week only 17 but all are welcome every Tuesday from 10am until 12pm. All age groups are eligible and are made very welcome. See you there try us out just simply POP IN!

Brenda and Tony

● Tea & Talk

We meet on the last Thursday afternoon of the month from 2pm until 4pm for a cuppa and a chat. Some people bring games, some people just like to chat – it's up to you! We have a raffle – just drop by and see for yourself – it's very easy going. Nice to meet the village people and chat. All are welcome

Tony Perry

REDISCOVER EASTON

A free village fun day
Monday 31 August
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Yard sale
11 to 1

Fun day
1:30 to 4:30

Easton, NR9

Five minutes from Longwater, just off the A47

The event on Facebook

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Rediscover Easton



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eastonyardsale@gmail.com

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Facebook Rediscover Easton · Snapchat eastoncupboard
Everyone is welcome, not just Easton. Free to come, free to sell.
Organised by your neighbours at the Easton Community Cupboard.

BEETLE DRIVE COLTON VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

**DOORS OPEN 6.30PM
FOR 6.45PM START**

£5 PER PERSON

TEA/COFFEE/CAKE AVAILABLE

**NEVER DONE THIS
BEFORE...LOOKS
INTERESTIN'!**



Roll...Draw...

6	Body
5	Head
4	1 Leg
3	1 Eye
2	1 Antenna
1	Tail

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Bawburgh Village Hall

● Talks for everyone

Talks resume on:

Tuesday, September 8

with **Juyana Lewis**
telling us about **The
Witch Finder
General.**

The notorious life and
career of 17th
century, Matthew
Hopkins, who sought
out vulnerable
women accusing them of witchcraft.

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
£3 per session

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

Colton village car park gets a makeover

A little piece of the old A47 will live on in Colton, thanks to the builders of the new road.

Contractors Galliford Try have resurfaced Colton Village Hall car park at no cost to the community using crushed asphalt from parts of the old road which had been removed to make way for the new £250m dual carriageway project. A team from Galliford Try toiled in 30c heat to clear the old surface, spread the 'new' material and compact it using a road roller.

The end result is a smart and even surface which should last for years. Village hall chair Dom Castle said: "The old car park had gradually deteriorated over many years and, in wet weather, become prone to big puddles and mud which would then get trodden onto the hall and damage the floor.

"We're very grateful to Galliford Try for their work and supplying the materials, heavy equipment and staff to make the transformation. It would have been an expensive undertaking for us otherwise."

Keeley Russell, Senior Customer and Social Value Manager for the eastern region of Galliford Try, said: "We were very pleased to be able to step in and help the village hall with



resurfacing the car park. We appreciate that the A47 dualling work has had an impact in local communities and this is just one way we can show our appreciation of their patience and understanding during the works."

Easton's buses: where things stand at the moment and what questions have been asked

National Highways are dualling the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton, and the Easton roundabout has now been removed permanently. Since it closed on July 1, buses have not been able to reach the village the way they always did and the operators' own websites haven't always kept pace.

First Bus run the **Excel** route between Norwich, Dereham, King's Lynn and Peterborough that Easton has always relied on for Norwich. It can no longer come into the village properly. Instead, it picks up at a single temporary stop on Dereham Road, just before the Bluebell Way junction, then diverts by Bluebell Way and Fennel Drive to turn round. Since July 31, that has been its only Easton stop in either direction, so you must be at the stop before it makes the diversion. It sits beside the newer housing, leaving the older part of the village a long walk away.

Central Connect's services 4 and 4A come into Easton on their own separate diversion, by Bluebell Way and Bawburgh Road, and cannot serve Marlingford Road while the works continue. First Bus tickets are



accepted on the 4 and 4A, paid for by Norfolk County Council.

With every service on an altered route and both directions travelling the same way round the village, please check the destination screen or ask the driver before you board.

From Tuesday, September 1, Central Connect start a new Service 34, putting a Norwich service back on Marlingford Road. Monday to Friday, six journeys each way, first arrival in Norwich at 9.25 and the last bus home at 2.35. Central Connect have confirmed the 34 will stop anywhere along its route, including the Premier Inn and Roundwell surgery, on request to the driver as you get on.

All of this amounts to a genuine improvement on having nothing. It is not a replacement for the combined service the village had. National Highways has confirmed in writing that access cannot be kept open during the works, for around

Community News and Fundraising Events

six months, into early 2027. Norfolk County Council does not run buses and cannot order a company to run one. They are the local transport authority which means they fund and commission services where the commercial network does not meet the need. There is a petition asking them to secure a direct Easton to Norwich link. It closes on September 30 and 5,000 signatures would give the village five minutes in front of full council. Signatures count only from people who live, work or study in Norfolk and only with a full address.

Click here to sign online at norfolkcc.cmis.uk

Paper copies are available at the Easton Community Cupboard and at our monthly sessions.

Easton Community Solutions now holds monthly sessions at Easton Village Hall.

Anyone with a love for the village is welcome, simply as a space to ask questions, give views and make suggestions.

Session dates, service updates and fun day details are in the booklet delivered to Easton letterboxes in early August, on Facebook by searching Easton Community Solutions, or by getting in touch.

eastoncommunitiesolutions@gmail.com



Everyone hot but not bothered at Colton barbecue

Well, there wasn't much chance of rain at the annual Colton BBQ! Diners sat among the parched grass to enjoy mouth-watering burgers and hotdogs with onions, entertaining each other while downing a cool can of beer or soft drink. The village hall committee members

worked hard to keep the food flowing with help from Lizzie on burger duty and Sarah on general clear-up tasks. Marion kept a firm grasp on the raffle with many folk taking home prizes contributed by villagers. The event raised £292.32 for the village hall funds.

News from Easton Women's Institute



Members and friends enjoy afternoon tea.

Afternoon tea triumph

Easton WI don't have a meeting in August but we did have a very successful afternoon tea which was enjoyed by members and friends from Easton and a number of the surrounding villages. The proceeds are still being counted as I write this but I think we shall be very pleased with the result as this is our only annual fundraising event.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us in any way and to our members who, though few in number, rallied round and helped to make this such a success.

Exotic jewellery makers

Looking forward we will meet on **Thursday, September 10** at 7.30pm in Easton Village Hall to hear **Maria Pennington's talk on Fabergé**.

We would be happy to welcome anyone who is interested to join us



for this meeting.

A magical evening in store...

We will also meet on **Monday, September 28** at 7.30pm when it will be our turn to host the Autumn meeting of the Barford and District Group of WIs. The speaker will be **Steve Short** who will talk about the career of **David Nixon**, the television magician in the 1960s and 70s. Steve is himself also a magician and will astound us with some magic of his own!

Intriguing...

Looking even further forward to October our speaker on the second Thursday of the month will be **Frances Middleton** who will be talking about **Rhinos and Wrapping Paper**. Anyone wishing to know what Rhinos have to do with wrapping paper is welcome to come and join us that evening!!

Mary Blathwayt

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



The Girl Guiders: Back row: L.to R. - Brenda Hart /Janet Mortimer/ Pauline Baker/ Janet Clarke /Joy Haylett
Middle row: L.to R. - Joy Mortimer/ Beryl Matthews / Jacqueline Baker /Joyce Rix Front row: L.to R. - Sylvia
Smith / Muriel Ashfield / Jill Read)

A life of horseshoes, fêtes and warm milk

More childhood memories from Marlingford villager, Joyce Rix.

The licensee of The Bell, Mr Brooks, took us to and from school.

The back seats in his car were replaced with wooden benches for us to sit on.

My sister and I always had parties on our birthday and all the children of our age would come along for sandwiches, jelly and blancmange and a piece of cake and games on the lawn. Behind the large car park at The Bell was a rough meadow

where boys from nearby villages had laid a cinder speedway track. Clive Featherby and Malcolm Flood were among the well-known riders who came here to practise and we youngsters would gather to give our support. Malcolm Flood was later killed at The Firs, the Norwich speedway track. That smell of the cinder track and roar of the powerful engines is something you never forget.

There was a Girl Guide pack in Marlingford but it was known

as the 1st Barnham Broom Group. Mrs Dolly Attewell, from Wramplingham, assisted by Velma Cousins, were our Guide Leaders and we held our meetings in the Gospel Hall in Barford Road.

I was a member of the church choir which also consisted of Mr Hilling, Janet Kirby, Pauline and Jacqueline Baker.

Major and Mrs Evans-Loombe lived at Marlingford Hall and were true gentry. They knew everyone and were actively involved in the village. Fêtes were held at the Hall, with boat trips up the river.

Many people were employed by the Evans-Loombes – my mum was a domestic help, Miss Ager was ladies maid, Miss Freestone was the housekeeper and Mr Wells was the butler. Mr George Gardiner at the Homestead was the local milkman and grazed his cattle on village pasture land. He would call with a churn of fresh, often warm, milk, measure it out with a ladle into mum's milk jug - no quibble about under measurement. Mr Bird who lived at Orchard Cottage, Barford Road, sold batteries accumulators and repaired cycles.

Next to my parent's bungalow was the Blacksmith's shop which until a few years ago still housed the old forge and anvil. I can never remember horses being shod there but have been told it



My dad, Fred Rix with his bicycle.

was once very busy.

The Post Office was at Malbreck, just across from The Bell with Alice Bailey as postmistress. Phyllis, her sister, was teacher at Easton school and also organist at Church.

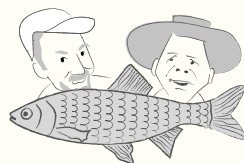
Mr George Ashworth, proprietor of Ashworth and Pike, baker, lived at Bellvue, Mill Road. It was always a great treat for us village children when Mr Ashworth dealt out brightly coloured iced cakes from a large wooden tray.

There were a lot more dwellings in Bawburgh Road than there are today hence it is still affectionately known as the 'village'.

I was married in 1956 at Marlingford Church and lived in a little one-bedroom cottage in the courtyard in Barford Road, and paid Mrs Ella Pointz a weekly rent of four shillings.

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

Gone fishin' – with Dom and Milt



Dom and Milton are out again - but is it more fashion than fishin'?

Milt has a new shirt. It is a very smart shirt and he is rightly proud of it.



Normally when he goes fishing he looks like he's strolled off the golf course after 18 holes with Tiger Woods, a polo shirt and treads the favoured sport-casual garb.

But this new shirt steers the Luton Loper into fresh sartorial territory, the Bear Grylls of Bedfordshire, if you will. It is UV resistant, he earnestly informs Dom, and has long sleeves and several pockets, including one on the sleeve which will be useful for... something.

Dom is impressed. It is a fine shirt, perfect for a day's angling under a broiling sun at Taswood lakes.

The venue is not their first choice; the Compleat Tanglers were heading for Blickling Hall but

the National Trust has made getting a fishing ticket an examination of will and patience which even the great Bear might balk at.

So our pescatorial pair set up under Taswood's trees, the air still morning cool, and set up. Their target? Anything, really.

Long summer weeks of heat tend to make fish a little lethargic and enervated, much like humans, so expectations are not high.

But Taswood's fishery management Johnnies are good at their jobs, keeping the water fresh and aerated, and the boys are pleasantly surprised to find themselves busy, floats dipping and rod-tips twitching. It's mostly bream, Dom's least-favourite catch, but they do offer some sport and Milt pulls in a good one of 4.5lbs or so.

In between catches, they share the important stuff – health updates (mostly good), holiday



news (mostly good), sporting and exercise stats (less good).

As ever, the wildlife entertains our heroes; a grass snake swims along the lake edge while a water shrew helps itself to some of Milt's bait.



There's a chap fishing nearby and Dom wanders over to ask how his day is going. It's going well - he's even caught tench, Dom's favourite - but Dom barely hears the responses because he is transfixed by the man's hat.

It's a wide-brimmed cotton effort, in a similar hue to Milt's shirt, with a chin string.

What makes it so special, though, are the twin fans fixed into the brim sending streams of cooling air to our man's neck and face. Genius. It works well, says Hat Man, who does look remarkably refreshed in temperatures now approaching 30C.

The post-lunch session becomes a



little torpid and Dom decides to check out the adjoining lake, taking a float rod and sweetcorn to see if he can winkle out a tench or two. It's a good move - first cast and he's into a powerful fish which breaks for the lily pads.

There's a tussle as the fish punches this way and that, but Dom prevails and has his tench, around 5lbs, a wily old critter, dark with age. Three more follow, not as big but worthy catches, before the clock runs out and it's time for home. On the return journey talk is of a good day's fishing, the success of Milt's new shirt and wondering where we can get a fan-hat.

Dom Castle



We should not have to fight or rely on social media to protect essential services

Residents in Easton were left facing months of disruption after First Bus announced that Excel services would stop serving the village during the A47 roadworks. The decision would have removed a vital link to Norwich and left many residents expected to travel elsewhere to access services, despite a practical diversion route being available.



From the outset, I was clear that this was the wrong decision. Removing a bus service for months and expecting residents to simply find an alternative was not acceptable, particularly in a growing village where many people rely on public transport for work, medical appointments, education and everyday journeys.

When I became aware of the

proposed changes, it was not through First Bus or Norfolk County Council. I first heard about the issue directly from residents who raised their concerns through the Easton Matters Facebook group. I want to thank everyone who got in touch, shared their experiences and helped ensure this issue could not be ignored.

However, it is simply not good enough that a decision with such a direct impact on people's ability to get to work, appointments, school, shops and essential services was made without proper communication with residents or their elected representatives.

I immediately contacted First Bus on behalf of residents, raised their concerns directly and demanded an urgent meeting to find a solution.

I also challenged Norfolk County Council over its handling of the situation and the lack of clear communication and support for those affected.

Following this pressure, First Bus has now confirmed that Excel services travelling towards Norwich will continue to serve Easton during the roadworks using a



diversion route via Bluebell Way and Fennel Drive.

This is exactly the practical solution residents were calling for from the beginning, and it represents a victory for everyone who stood up, shared their concerns and refused to accept that Easton should simply lose its service.

While I am pleased that a solution has now been found, the way this situation was handled remains deeply disappointing.

Residents should not have had to fight to protect an essential service, nor should they have had to rely on social media to discover major changes affecting their daily lives. First Bus should have properly explored alternatives before announcing the withdrawal of the service, and Norfolk County

Council must reflect on whether it did enough to support residents and ensure their concerns were properly addressed.

If you are still experiencing problems with Easton bus services, please get in touch and let me know. You can email me at ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk or call my constituency office on 01603 570332 to speak with a member of my team. We will do everything possible to support you. While it is disappointing that residents were put in this position in the first place, the strength of Easton's collective voice has been clear. I am proud that we were able to play our part in delivering this outcome, and I will continue fighting for the reliable public transport Easton deserves.

Ben Goldsborough MP



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

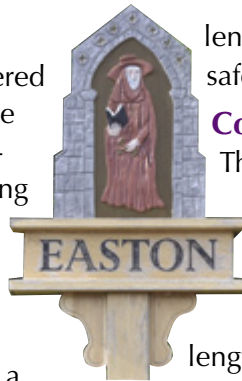
Cllr Alexis Main

Cllr Sandra Hipperson

Planning matters

The parish council considered two planning matters. There was no objection to a non-material amendment relating to the proposed development on land north and south of Dereham Road, concerning the location of a sub-station, an additional service-vehicle parking space and updated materials.

However, the council objected to the proposed mixed-use development at the former Rembrandt Restaurant site on Dereham Road which includes a retail store, five apartments, parking, landscaping and associated works. A formal response will be submitted to the planning department. The council also welcomed proposals to reduce the speed limit on Marlingford Road and Hall Road to 30mph while asking that the restriction apply along the full



length of both roads to improve safety for all road users.

Community Centre update

The draft lease is currently with the parish council's solicitor for amendments, while electricity has finally been installed following a lengthy process. The charity behind the centre is also planning an AGM to consider proposed changes to its name and constitution.

Buses and the A47

Transport remains a major concern for the village, particularly during the A47 roundabout works. Following discussions with Norfolk County Council and First Bus, a temporary arrangement was agreed allowing westbound services to continue normally, while the eastbound bus makes a single stop at Festival Park, at Bluebell Way/ Fennel Drive. There were some initial problems with the temporary bus stop

signage and its location. The situation will continue to be monitored with a view to improving the service. The parish council has also contacted bus operators regarding the temporary arrangements affecting services into Norwich. A temporary bus stop will be located on Dereham Road with the location to be publicised. The council stressed that bus services are vital to Easton and will continue to press operators for information and improvements.

Roads, potholes and the grit bin

Residents are encouraged to report potholes and other road defects through Norfolk County Council's reporting system so that they can be logged, assessed and prioritised. The parish council also discussed the long-running issue of a grit bin for Marlingford Way.

Following confusion over funding and responsibility, the council agreed to purchase the bin itself and will contact the Highways Department to obtain permission for its installation.

Residents were also asked to report any damage to roads, verges and footpaths resulting from diversions associated with the A47 dualling works so that remedial work can be assessed and planned.



Play areas

Annual inspections of all the village play parks have now been completed. Overall, the reports were described as very positive, although a small number of issues require attention. The parish council agreed to allocate £600 towards repairs.

Local government changes

Both South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council are involved in judicial review proceedings concerning the government's proposed three-unitary-authority model. The legal process is still at an early stage. A new AI digital assistant is also now available on the South Norfolk Council website to help residents find information and support.

Easton Parish Council



The Coptic Church.

Picture: Annette Hudson

Caring for our community

The meeting also heard about the upcoming August Bank Holiday Fun Day and there was also mention of a Galliford Try open day. The council was pleased to note that the building work at the Coptic Church had been completed. The parish council continues to monitor overhanging trees beside the St Peter's footpath and will contact South Norfolk Council regarding the matter. The next parish council meeting is scheduled for:

● **Tuesday, September 1 at 7pm**
in Easton Village Hall

E: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: eastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mobile library 2026 – September dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: September 3

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: Sept 2, Sept 30

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

Thursday: September 3

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.

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

A47 update

Work continues on the improving the A47 between Easton and North Tuddenham. News and up to date information on road closures can be found by clicking the link below

nationalhighways.co.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvements/

Speeding



The parish council continues to collect data on speeding in the villages through the use of SAM 2 devices.

At the September parish council meeting the most recent findings will be discussed and the next

steps that can be taken.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the meeting. See information below.

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 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



Colton 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



The Rambling Vine

Celebrating a particularly special harvest

There is something wonderfully reassuring about harvest.

Every year, the familiar signs appear: hedgerows heavy with blackberries, apples ripening on the trees, fields changing colour as crops are gathered and gardens producing more than we know what to do with! But this year, harvest feels a little different.

As I write this in the middle of August, the blackberries are already ripe, my apples are ready to pick weeks earlier than usual and I have a fully ripened pumpkin in the garden which I am now hoping will survive until the end of September!

After a summer of intense heat, many crops have matured early, while others have struggled with the conditions.

For farmers, this is much more than an interesting change in the seasons. Unpredictable weather, heatwaves, drought and flooding can mean damaged crops, reduced yields and difficult decisions.

Harvest is therefore a good time to give particular thanks for our farmers and growers whose skill and hard work put food on our tables often in increasingly challenging circumstances.

It is also a time to think about how we care for God's creation – and how we share the abundance we have with others.

Celebration of Harvest

This year we are holding a Celebration of Harvest at St Peter's Church on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September, from 10am–3pm.

The church will be decorated, with craft activities for children and refreshments available for a donation. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the displays and celebrate the season with us. We would particularly love to involve the children and growers of our benefice.

Children's competition: We are inviting children to make an animal out of fruit and vegetables, and bring their creations to church on Friday, September 25 to be included in our harvest display. The winner will be announced at our Harvest Songs of Praise.

We can't wait to see what imaginative creations appear!

Growers' competition: If you have grown an unusual, enormous, tiny or wonderfully wonky vegetable, please bring it along for our competition. And if your garden

or allotment has produced more fruit or vegetables than you know what to do with, we would be very grateful for donations to help decorate the church.

We will bring the weekend to a close on Sunday, September 27 at 3pm with our Harvest Songs of Praise and Harvest Festival.

We will sing favourite harvest hymns, give thanks for God's provision and celebrate together. We are also asking everyone who comes to bring a donation for the food bank so that our celebration of abundance can become an opportunity to share with those who have less.

Harvest reminds us that we are dependent upon one another, upon

the land and, ultimately, upon God. This year, perhaps more than ever, it is an opportunity to notice how precious those gifts are – and to give thanks for them.

Do come and join us. Bring your children, bring your wonky vegetables, bring something for the food bank – and come and celebrate harvest with us!

Rev Laura Montgomery



Church services September 2026

Sunday 6	10.00am	Easton – Holy Communion - 14th after Trinity
Sunday 13	10.00am	Colton – HC - 15th after Trinity
Sunday 20	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC - 16th after Trinity
Sunday 27	10.00am	Marlingford – HC - 17th after Trinity
	3.00pm	Easton – Harvest Songs of Praise

Marlingford Church 50 Club - Winners of the draw for quarter ending:

	June		September		Amount
	No.	Member	No.	Member	
First	1	Keith Saunders	15	Matt Browne	£50.00
Second	7	Jane Knights	4	Hamish Broom	£35.00
Third	44	Henry O'Gorman	3	Trevis Chiles	£25.00

Congratulations and thanks to the membership which helps with the upkeep of the church. Prizewinners email the treasurer carolachiles@gmail.com with bank details to receive your prize money. If you wish to donate your winnings to the church, please email the treasurer.



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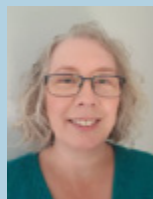
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