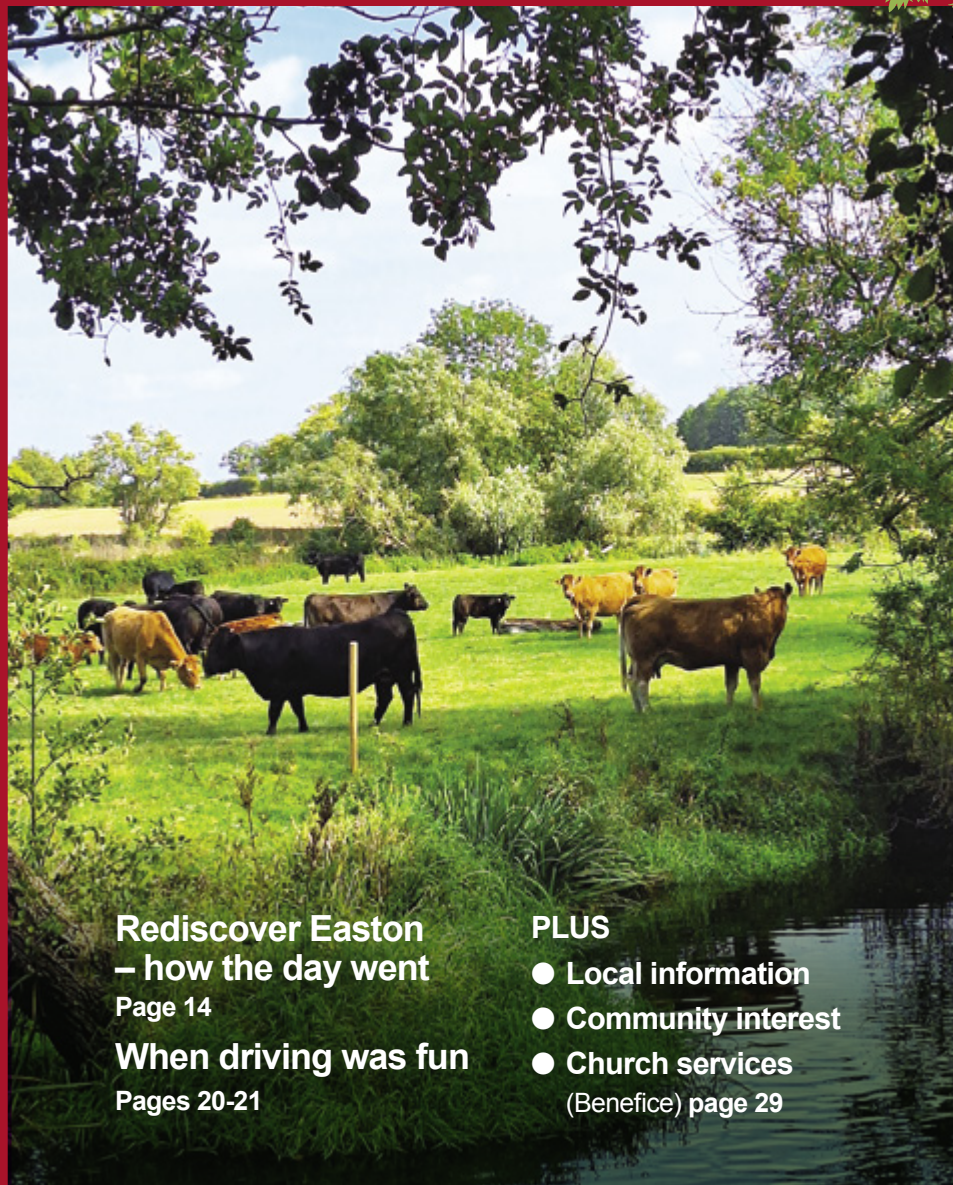


THE Grapevine

October 2026

Your community guide for **Colton, Easton and Marlingford**



**Rediscover Easton
– how the day went**
Page 14

When driving was fun
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 Community Cupboard	Harrison McClean 07544 999058
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 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

Printed by:

Saxon Digital Services, Saxon House
 Norwich NR6 5DR

E: info@saxondigitalservices.co.uk

W: saxondigitalservices.co.uk

The Grapevine

Local information	2-5
Village hall news	12-13
Community & fundraising	14-15
WI news	17
Your SNDC MP	22-23
Easton PC	24-25
Marlingford and Colton PC	26-27
Mobile library times	27
Church (Benefice)	29

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

Advertising in The Grapevine

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

Annual advertising rates 2026

Black & white inside:			
1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£50	£75	£125	£200
Black & white back page:			
	£150	£200	

Colour inside:			
1/8	1/4	1/2	Full page
£100	£150	£250	£400
Colour back page:			
	£300	£400	£500

Front cover: Cattle at Marlingford.

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

St Peter's Church, Easton

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

PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Giddings email: agidd100@gmail.com	01603 882179
----------------------	---	--------------

Treasurer	Vacancy	
------------------	---------	--

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

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

Treasurer	Carol Chiles carolachiles@gmail.com	01508 578352
------------------	---	--------------

St Mary and St Walstan's Church, Bawburgh

PCC contact	Lin Gibson	07785 258519
--------------------	------------	--------------

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	
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.

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

****See page 16 for a guide to buses in Easton (NB: Correct at time of going to press)**

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**

Excel bus services for Easton (Dereham Road just before Bluebell Way junction)

Monday to Saturday daytime: bus up to every 30 minutes along the whole route.

Extra journeys at peak times.

Sundays, public holidays and evenings: bus up to every hour.



www.rembrandtrestaurant.co.uk



Fish and Chips
Restaurant * Bar * Takeaway

****Fresh fish delivered daily****

Current Opening Hours

Thursday: 4pm - 9pm

Friday: 4pm - 9pm

plus take-away 12pm - 2pm

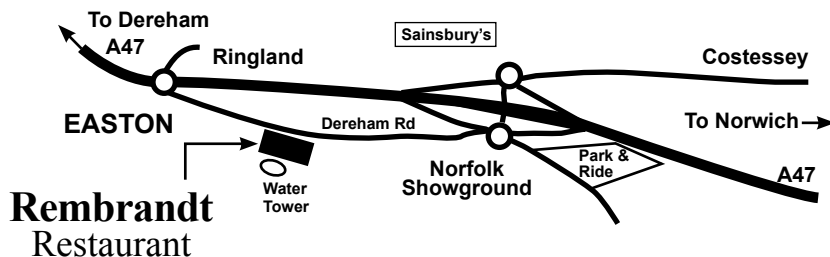
Saturday 4pm - 9pm

For latest information

please see the website or phone

01603 880010

Dereham Rd, Easton, Norwich NR9 5EH





Holidays and Day Trips by Coach

Pick Ups: Drayton, Taverham, ASDA, Castle Meadow, Thickthorn
Wymondham/Attleborough/Thetford (SR) or Dereham/Swaffham (NR)

E&OE

Join our mailing list - Follow us on Facebook - @ictravelexcursions

Our Business is all about You! Your Holiday. Your Day Out.

Relax on modern, safe coaches. Coach hosts ensure comfort and confidence

Autumn Day Trips Springfields, Spalding - 31 Oct 2026 - £30 Braitree Village Shopping - 28 Nov 2026 - £35/£27 More to come.			The Fantastic Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2026 Trips start at Attleborough Matinees 08 & 15, Evening Show 18 December Central Elevated Seats - £81 pp	
21 Nov 2026 - NEC Day Out - Something for All One Coach - Three Events			NEW! Seasonal Splendour	
National Festival of Railway Modelling £57 Adult £35 <16	Motor Cycle Live! £62 Adult £40 6-18	Festive Gift Fair 30th Year £46 Adult £43 3-16 Fun Food & Gifts!	Christmas at Chatsworth 22 Nov 2026 £85 Windsor Castle at Christmas 12 Dec 2026 £66 Hampton Court Winter Palace, Beastly Ball & Xmas Market 13 Dec 2026 £79	Park at Thickthorn P&R Just £3.00 Call for Details 
Tinsel, Twinkles, Tangos and Tea. 5 Days DBB 29 November from £575 pp Imperial Hotel Blackpool 3* Sizergh Castle (NT) Tower Ballroom + Afternoon Tea. Scenic Pennine Tour with Lunch Included, Christmasy Barton Grange Garden Centre. Plus Blackpool's Lights & Christmas Attractions.			Winchester & Bath Xmas Markets 4 days DBB 04 December from £395 pp Holiday Inn located nr. Salisbury York St Nicholas Market & Harrogate * (opt. Knit & Stitch Show) 3 Days DBB from £295 pp Old Swan Hotel 4*	

Book online: www.ictravel.co.uk - or call 01603 868680

Smile Enterprises Ltd. Va IC Travel, Reg in England No 14055912 at Unit 2, Fir Covert Road North, Felthorpe, Norwich NR10 4DT

Bluebell Health Clinic

Osteopathic Medicine Reiki and Homeopathy at Easton & Norwich

Gentle, safe, and effective treatments to bring you back to health.

For all ages, from babies to the elderly.

For all musculoskeletal pain, injuries and ailments.

Arnaud Geanty D.O. FSCCO

Deborah Harding LCPH VMTRA

Traditional & Cranial Osteopathy Reiki treatments & Homeopathy

Biodynamic Osteopathy

debhardingnhp@gmail.com

Mob: 07931 713 741

Mob: 07887 868230

www.bluebellhealthclinic.co.uk

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

First & Second Degree Reiki courses also available



Easton Clinic
2 Woodview Road
Easton NR9 5EU

Norwich Clinic
21 Charing Cross
Norwich NR2 4AX



Pain Relief Clinic

- **Back / Sciatica**
Shoulders / Neck
- **Hips / Knees / Ankles**
Tennis Elbow / Arthritis
Fibromyalgia

Call: **01603 881376**
07787 121287

Chris Winter Bsc hons Lic Ac

**White Arch Clinic, Easton,
Norwich**

www.acu-pro.co.uk

TSM Plumbing Heating & Drainage

- **Blocked Drains**
- **Plumbing Repairs**
- **Blocked Toilets**

01603 280144
07827 016047

**29, Woodview Road,
Easton NR9 5EU**

W: tsmplumbing.co.uk

E: office@tsmplumbing.co.uk



Garment Alterations & Repairs

Bespoke Home Furnishings

Hand-Made Memory Bears

**All Sewing Projects of Any Size
Undertaken**

Call or Email Nicci

E: nicci@know-n-sew.co.uk

M: 07949 632336

A Lansdale Chimney Repair/ Builder

**9 Cherry Tree Close,
Mattishall, Dereham**

**Chimney repairs,
extensions, garden walls
paving, fireplaces**

Free estimates

Over 30 years of experience

Mobile 07799 355146
01362 288068

brianlansdale@gmail.com

**[www.lansdalechimneybuilders
andrepairs.co.uk](http://www.lansdalechimneybuildersandrepairs.co.uk)**



Book your Airport Travel

Executive Private Hire

Based in Taverham, IC Premier Travel provides an executive standard of longer distance airport transfers and similar. Get in touch now for all your airport, cruise and longer distance travel requirements for 1-8 passengers.

Local employed experienced drivers
***** 5-Star Reviews

Contact: 01603 261413

Website: www.icpremiertravel.co.uk

Email: Office@icpremiertravel.co.uk



WARMAN

Landscaping, Gardening & Groundworks

- ★ Hedge Cutting
- ★ Hedge Reductions and Removal
- ★ Strimming and Grass Cutting
- ★ Tree Work
- ★ Digger Work

For a free, no obligation quotation, contact Ben

07340 388864

01603 759629

benwarman9@icloud.com

SOOTS

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Friendly, prompt, clean & tidy service
Sweeping certificates issued, fully insured

SWEEPS INSTALLATIONS

Paul & Leon 07879 333395

pauljmay77@gmail.com



In association with
Natural Heating



REGISTERED MEMBER

www.instituteofchimneysweeps.co.uk

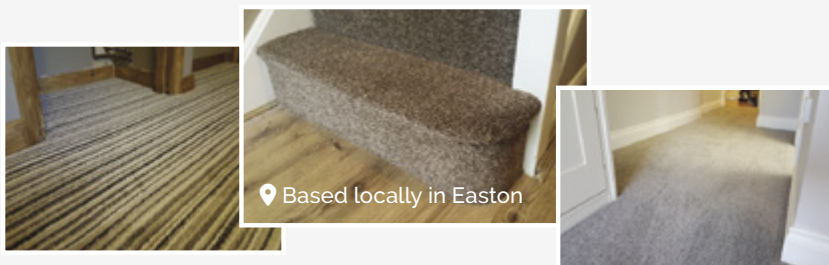
Martin's Carpets Ltd



- ✓ Home visit with samples
- ✓ Carpets and vinyls
- ✓ Floor preparation
- ✓ Furniture removal
- ✓ Door trimming
- ✓ Disposal service

FREE Measure & Estimate

FREE Fitting Service



Supplying and fitting
carpets and vinyl flooring
for over 30 years

01603 88 00 87

Mobile: 07867 51 87 48

Email: info@martinscarpetstltd.co.uk

Web: www.martinscarpetstltd.co.uk

Facebook: [martinscarpetstltd](https://www.facebook.com/martinscarpetstltd)

Customer satisfaction is our priority.



Living a rich life doesn't involve money...

Autumn is upon us which means Halloween and that dreadful tradition of Trick or Treating – an American invention I think. It didn't exist here when I was a child. I just can't condone the idea of asking someone to give you something or else something bad will happen to you – is that a good example to set a child? I think I'm alone in this – I'm the one who can't bring themselves to watch Traitors because it involves cheating and lying to your friends in order to be

crowned 'the winner'.

There's just something so uncomfortable about that! The popular idea that a 'life-changing' amount of money is the answer to all problems grates with me as well – it could also change your life for the worse. I think being true to your friends and family, treasuring your relationships and being kind to your fellow man will enrich your life far more than any amount of money ever could.

Annette Hudson

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 November issue: Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Colton Village Hall

● Decades Quiz

Saturday, October 31

It's time to get those grey cells working with the great decades quiz – something for all ages here! Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

Easton Village Hall

● Easton Crafters

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

Pop In is getting busier and busier with people enjoying tea or coffee



and a chat. There's a welcome for some people with dementia and their carers who enjoy sharing experiences, which is what life is all about. Everyone is welcome. We meet every Tuesday at the village hall from 10 until 12ish.

Brenda and Tony

● Tea & Talk

We meet on the last Thursday in every month, come rain or shine at the village hall from 2pm until 4 pm. Everyone is welcome to sit and chat or bring in games or something to do.

We are a happy group of people all ages – come and give us a try – see what you are missing! See you there.

Tony Perry

DECADES QUIZ

Colton village hall

Saturday October 31

How much do you know about what's happened in these seven decades?

Questions on film, TV, music, politics and culture. Come and test yourself!

Teams of up to six.

£5 per person.

Call 07718 265655 to book a table. Feel free to bring your own refreshments.

Doors open 7pm
for 7.30pm start

40s
50s
60s
70s
80s
90s
00s

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

Bawburgh Village Hall

● Talks for everyone

Tuesday, October 13

A member of the Aylsham Roman Project will talk about

Getting the Community into Holes.

After finding Roman pottery in his garden and local fields, the landowner and Project Director, Peter Purdy's curiosity got the better of him.

Find out what happened next.

7.30pm at Bawburgh Village Hall

Entry £3 a head, including tea and coffee. **All welcome**

Save The Date!

Christmas Fair

Marlingford Village Hall

Saturday 12th December

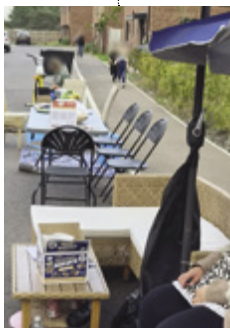
11 am - 2 pm



See you there!

Rediscover Easton: a first for the community

On Bank Holiday Monday, Easton came out for **Rediscover Easton** – a free day for the whole village organised by your neighbours at Easton Community Cupboard. The yard sale went brilliantly. Sellers set out on driveways across the village and by late morning, there were crowds of people wandering between them. One seller took over £385 and the Cupboard's 'pay what you feel' stall raised £125.40. The free bike safety checks at *The Rembrandt* were a big hit while the stocks on Festival Park green drew in young people keen to soak volunteers! The village hall had stalls, music and refreshments with makers and creatives set up there in the afternoon. Later, Heron Way closed to traffic for the street feast. Neighbours carried tables, chairs and sofas into the road. The smoothie bike gave everyone some laughs. The tombola draw and art prizes were done in the street, finishing a little early while our volunteers cleared the hall. If you won and have not yet collected your prize, get in touch or call in at Easton Community Cupboard on



Heron Way. They are on display at the Cupboard so do come and see them. Next time we will allow more setting up time, keep the afternoon together around the village hall and have backups ready for last minute cancellations. We are already in talks about sponsorship for next August's event so if you or your business would like to be involved, please get in touch. Thank you to everyone who sold, made, played, pedalled, helped and joined in. Thank you to IAM RoadSmart, our local cycle mechanic, Norwich Men's Shed, Wensum Inspire, the Scouts, St John Ambulance, Ear Candy Promotions and all our stallholders and makers. Thank you to St Peter's Church, The Rembrandt, Easton Village Hall, the Diocese of Norwich, Persimmon Homes, Orbit Housing, Westcotec, the Little Allen Library and South Norfolk Council for the loan of gazebos. Thank you to the neighbours around the hall and on Heron Way for their patience and, above all, to our small team of volunteers. The day was supported by a Keep It Going grant from South Norfolk Council.

Heartfelt thank you to Churchwarden, Felicity

Back in August, on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we had the opportunity to say a very special thank you to Felicity Maton, who recently stepped down after an extraordinary 28 years of service as churchwarden.

Over those years, Felicity has given an enormous amount of time, care and commitment to the life of the church and to the community of Marlingford. Her faithful service has included everything from preparing the church for worship and being present at countless weddings, baptisms and funerals, to representing the parish and benefice and, perhaps most important, simply being there for people and helping with the many things that quietly keep the life of a church going.

During the service, we were delighted to present Felicity with gifts made possible by contributions from people across the benefice and the wider Marlingford community, as a small expression of our enormous gratitude for everything she has given.

Felicity would also like to express her heartfelt thanks to everyone



Felicity, right with Rev Laura Montgomery.

who contributed towards her gifts. She was quite overwhelmed by people's generosity and by the warmth and appreciation shown to her. Of course, 28 years is a remarkable period of service and we are immensely grateful for all that Felicity has done.

Thank you, Felicity, for your dedication, faithfulness and care over so many years.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Community News and Fundraising Events



Catching a bus in Easton

While the A47 roadworks are on. Checked 15 September 2026.

Where to catch your bus

Dereham Road. Simple map, not to scale.

← Longwater and Norwich

Dereham →

Temporary stop

by Festival Park,
before Bluebell Way

Excel, both ways

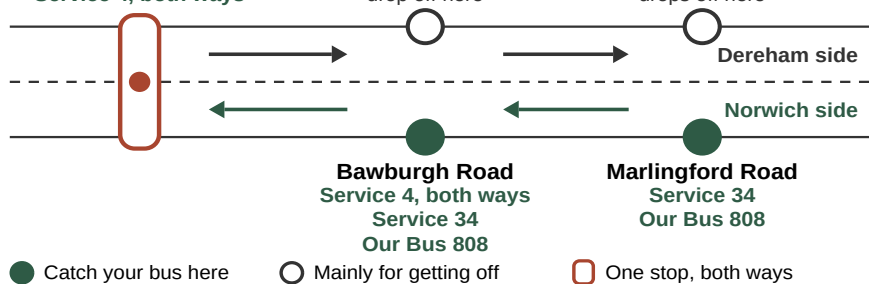
Service 4, both ways

Service 34 and 808

drop off here

Our Bus 808

drops off here



Read this first

Not every bus stops at every stop. Find your stop on the map.

Buses to Norwich and to Dereham leave from the same stop. Read the front of the bus, or ask the driver. **Wave clearly** so the driver stops.

Going to Norwich

Every day: Excel or Service 4 from the temporary stop. Service 4 also stops at Bawburgh Road.

Monday to Friday, about 9am to 2pm: Service 34 from Bawburgh Road or Marlingford Road, roughly every hour.

Tuesday and Thursday mornings: Our Bus 808 to Longwater, then change to Service 4.

Going towards Dereham

Excel to Dereham, King's Lynn and Peterborough: temporary stop only.

Service 4 to Dereham, via Honingham and Mattishall: temporary stop, or Bawburgh Road on the Norwich side.

Coming home

The white circles on the map show where each bus drops you off.



Live times
every Easton stop



Excel times
First Bus



Council petition
closes 30 September



WhatsApp
village updates

News from Easton Women's Institute

Easton WI met in September to hear a talk on Fabergé but unfortunately, due to a family emergency, the speaker was unable to come. After a few minutes of panic, I got together a few pieces of jewellery and a photo album, and managed to cobble together a short talk about **What I found in my grandmother's jewellery box.**

In the end, we had a very pleasant evening looking at some old jewellery and other items from the jewellery box, and talking about the people they belonged to.

We will have a speaker at our next meeting on **Thursday, October 8 at 7.30pm** and that speaker will be **Frances Middleton.** Her topic will be **Rhinos and Wrapping Paper.**

Frances has been all over the world selling goods for Fair Trade and this talk is about her experiences in Nepal.

At our meeting in November, the subject will be **Changes in Easton over the years – a photographic record.** Once again it will be me giving the talk along with my husband, Paul, who took the photos! Anyone is welcome to join us for this meeting.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings and a copy of our programme is on the board in the village hall for anyone interested



A selection of old jewellery.

to look at. Meetings are also advertised in *The Grapevine* magazine every month. Although we are a little short of younger members now, we do welcome women of all ages to join us.

I joined the WI when I was 25 and have enjoyed the things I have learned and experienced in the last 50+ years because of my membership. Just a few of these include a course about the beginnings of the internet in the late 1970s, a weekend learning about China (the country) and all things Chinese, visits to gardens, a food bank in Norwich, the RNIB headquarters and numerous other subjects and places. Also, I have made many good friends over the years who have offered support when I needed it and laughs when things have been going well!!

If you want to know more about the WI, come and meet us at one of our meetings.

Mary Blathwayt

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



One of the cottages in Barford Road.

A novel way to chat to the neighbours...

More childhood memories from Marlingford villager, Joyce Rix.

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

There was no water or electricity but we had a calor gas cooker, wash boiler, iron and lights – but only downstairs – so we had to use a candle when going upstairs to bed. There was no heating in the bedroom and often there would be ice on the inside of the window on

cold frosty mornings.

The wash boiler was kept in a shed out the back so I carried all the wet washing through the house to a communal tap in the courtyard where I would rinse in a galvanised bath and carry them back through the house to put through the mangle. Each morning, we would fill two galvanised buckets with fresh water from the outside tap and stand them in the pantry for use during the day.

We had a toilet down the bottom of the garden which was emptied when needed into a freshly dug

hole in the garden.

Our toilet was semi-detached so we could hold a conversation with our neighbour! Bath night was quite a chore, too. We would bring in the old tin bath and have only a few inches of water, heated by kettle or in a pail on the gas heater. When Mrs Bird – Birdie – moved into one of the new council houses, we would go there once a week for a bath. A daily shower or bath was not heard of then.

When our daughter was born, we had a high, hard-bodied and well sprung pram. There was no morning sleep in a heated bedroom – she was always put outside in her pram and babies never seemed to take any harm.

My husband, Geoffrey, was a tractor driver on the Bowthorpe Estate – now a new village – and only earned a few pounds so we had to budget very carefully.

Mr George Harmer, who kept the Post Office and General Stores in Bawburgh, brought our daily newspapers as well as our weekly groceries.

I would work out what we required and what we could afford, usually about one pound and four shillings a week, then order accordingly.

For example:- 21bs sugar = one shilling and eight pence;

½lb bacon = one shilling and seven pence; large packet Weetabix =



The toilet at the bottom of the garden.

two shillings and two pence; tin Heinz beans = eight pence; large packet Daz = one shilling and eleven pence.

Our daily newspapers cost two shillings a week. Mr Blyth, who owned a butchers' shop in Bawburgh, would deliver meat twice a week. There was a delivery of bread three times a week by Matthes Bakers of Norwich.

We had a large garden so grew all our own vegetables. A cylinder of calor gas was one pound and eight shillings and usually lasted a fortnight. We still managed to save one pound and five shillings a week towards clothes, holidays and any extras.

Obviously, we had no television but got great enjoyment from our radio and going for walks.

Despite the shortage of money and amenities, I think of those days as a happy and contented time.

● **More Marlingford memories in the next issue.**

When did the pleasure go out of driving?

I used to enjoy driving. My adventures on Norfolk's highways and byways began in the late 70s when my parents gave me a feeble 50cc moped to ride from Yaxham to Norwich City College. The route included sections of the A47 where trucks, vans and cars would blast past, leaving me wobbling in their slipstream at 29mph, bouncing off the kerbs. I don't think my parents liked me very much. Somehow I avoided becoming roadkill and actually began to enjoy the freedom that weedy little

step-through gave me. Once I left college and began to earn a crust as a trainee reporter with the EDP, I upped the game and a succession of bigger bikes came along. Norfolk's roads in those days were an awful lot quieter, especially in the evenings, and you could, shall we say, make progress swiftly but in relative safety. There was the occasional low-speed spill; I remember dropping the bike on Martineau Lane in Norwich in the rain and sliding across the roundabout. I stood up muddled from head to toe with



Too much traffic on narrow Norfolk lanes.

Picture: Dominic Castle

marigolds and pansies poking out of my pockets like a rural Morrissey.

Inevitably, though, a serious girlfriend came along (I mean one I was serious about; she wasn't at all serious and had a good sense of humour. She needed it; we're still married after 40 years) and with her came a car, a primrose yellow Talbot Samba, for petrolheads. Driving was less entertaining than biking, obviously, but it was still a pleasure to tootle around the county roads and beyond.

Cars became fancier and for a while it was all good fun. But it has gradually become less fun. Everything has got busier – the Department of Transport estimates that traffic has doubled since 1976 and the majority of that increase is cars and vans.

Across Norfolk, that has meant more vehicles threading through lanes barely wide enough for a horse and cart which, in turn, has seen our roadsides and verges mashed into mud as traffic squeezes through.

Speed, anecdotally at least as I can't find any simple data on it, seems to have declined as well. The info on my car says that it has travelled 18,000 miles at an average of just 31mph.

And there's less courtesy too.



Going too fast?

Drivers seem less and less inclined to acknowledge another motorist who has pulled over to allow them to pass or let them out of a junction. On the narrow lanes around our villages here, extra traffic generated by the A47 roadworks means your wing mirrors are at risk on every journey from impatient folk reluctant to ease off.

Bikers used to give a nod to passing riders – you could get a crick in the neck on busy days – but that rarely happens today. (I still ride, despite everything.)

Will it ever get better? I believe it will - but we'll have to embrace the idea of self-driving cars first. If our new AI masters allow us to travel, of course...

Dominic Castle

A big thank you to South Norfolk's school staff

As children and young people across South Norfolk head back to school, I want to wish every pupil, parent, teacher and member of school staff a very happy start to the new academic year.



The beginning of a new school year is always an important moment. For some children, it means returning to friends and familiar surroundings; for others, particularly those starting primary school, secondary school or sixth form, it marks the beginning of an entirely new chapter. Either way, it is an exciting time, full of new opportunities, experiences and possibilities.

For young people, education is about far more than simply passing exams. Schools are where children build confidence, develop friendships, discover new interests and begin to think about the future they want for themselves.

I know how much work teachers and school staff across South Norfolk put into giving young people the best possible start and I want to thank them for everything they do.

It is something I have had the privilege of seeing first hand through my visits to schools, sixth forms and colleges across our constituency. This year alone, I have visited many schools across



Picture: Magnific

South Norfolk and seen the dedication of both staff and pupils to learning and achievement. Whether it was presenting Framingham Earl's annual GCSE awards and celebrating the hard work of its young people, seeing the wonderful community work of Easton College students as they stepped up to help tackle littering in Bawburgh or being quizzed by pupils across all of my visits on everything from the role of an MP to Government policy, I leave every visit inspired by the talent, determination and resilience of our young people.

Education isn't just about the content of a textbook; it's about building confidence, discovering new possibilities and realising that you can contribute something meaningful to the world.

That is why I am so passionate about education – because it changes lives.

It certainly changed mine.

I am incredibly grateful for the fantastic schools, colleges and dedicated staff we have across South Norfolk, as well as the parents, carers and families who support young people every step of the way. Together, they help give our children not only a great education, but also the confidence, encouragement



Picture: Magnific

and opportunities they need to succeed.

Investing in the next generation is one of the most important responsibilities we have, and I am proud of the role our local schools and communities play in helping young people reach their full potential.

So, to every young person in South Norfolk starting a new school year: I hope you have a brilliant year ahead. Try something new, ask questions, make the most of every opportunity and, most importantly, believe in what you can achieve.

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

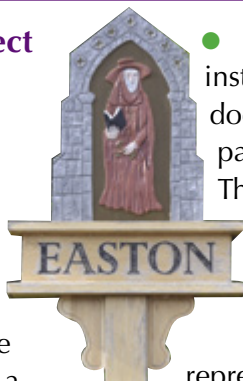
Cllr Sandra Hipperson

Community centre project moves forward

The community centre project continues to make progress. The draft lease agreement is currently with the parish council's solicitor for amendments and the charity responsible for the centre will arrange a further meeting to discuss proposed changes to its name and constitution.

Councillors approved quotes for several interior improvements:

- Flooring: £4,086.10
- Internal blinds: £1,646.00
- Removal of the front doors, installation of deadlocks and replacement doors: £2,294.16



- Alterations to a stud wall, installation of an internal door and making good the paintwork: £1,760.00
- The council is now obtaining further quotations and instructing contractors to carry out the interior works. These developments represent another important step towards completion

Planning matters

An update was received on a non-material amendment to the Easton Phases 3 and 4 developments north and south of Dereham Road. The changes relate to location of a proposed electricity substation, an additional car parking space for a service vehicle and an updated materials schedule. The amendment had been approved by South Norfolk Council and the decision was noted.

Finance and village maintenance

Repairs identified in the annual report are nearing completion.



Cllr M Bowman will contact the manufacturer regarding the zip wire and roundabout and report back to the council.

The council also discussed the request for an additional grit bin. Highways has responded that it does not support the proposal. The clerk will contact Highways again to respond to the reasons given and continue to pursue the matter.

Reports from county and district councillors

Norfolk County Council is due to trial an innovative pothole repair machine in South Norfolk during the first week of September. The trial aims to explore ways of improving road maintenance. Residents were also reminded that preparations for the winter flu vaccination programme are under way. Adults can check their eligibility and arrange appointments through the NHS website: nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine/.

The report also covered proposed electricity bill discounts for households living within 500 metres of eligible new or significantly upgraded electricity transmission infrastructure. Qualifying households could receive up to £250 per year for 10 years subject to the relevant

projects receiving approval and construction beginning. Other announcements included the development of 127 new social rent homes in east Norwich and the planned removal of weekday restrictions on free bus passes for disabled people in England from April 2027.

Parishioners' concerns

A resident raised concerns about a dead branch on an oak tree overhanging a footpath. The clerk will contact Highways and UK Power Networks to investigate the matter and seek appropriate action.

Dementia Café

Councillors held a detailed discussion about establishing a dementia café in the village. It was agreed that further information would be gathered before the matter is brought back to the next parish council meeting.

Looking ahead

Items proposed for the next meeting's agenda include an update on the Community Hub and the A47.

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for:

● **Tuesday, October 6 at 7pm**
in Easton Village Hall

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

Community speed watch

Speeding continues to be an important issue for residents.

Norfolk Community Speed Watch has been set up so volunteers can monitor the speed of vehicles and highlight locations where they're concerned about speeding. Once a location has been suggested, it will be assessed if it's a good and safe place for monitoring to happen. To start a Community Speed Watch scheme, a dedicated team of at least six volunteers is needed to conduct speed monitoring sessions, record data and participate in training. All volunteers must be trained which typically involves legal guidelines and procedures, codes of conduct, data protection and data reporting. Anyone caught speeding will be sent a letter informing them of their offence.

The data is monitored so action can be taken against repeat offenders or those severely breaking the speed limit. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the clerk by October 31 to register your interest. If there's enough interest,

the parish council will initiate supporting volunteers.

Parish councillor vacancy

Marlingford and Colton Parish Council is looking for two new councillors to join our team. If you care about our community and want to help shape its future, we'd love to hear from you.

People become councillors for many reasons including; to make a difference to their local community and be involved in its future shape; ensure that their parish is able to access the services it deserves; represent the views of local people and make sure they count.

No specific qualifications are needed to become a councillor – life experience is the most important quality to bring to the role with members representing all sections of the community. For more information please contact the clerk (see p 27 for contact details)

Highway issues

Highway issues such as potholes, missing signage, flooding, worn road markings and mud on the

road are generally the responsibility of Norfolk County Council. Please log any issues direct with Norfolk County 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 November 10 at 7pm at Marlingford 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



Marlingford Village Hall.

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

Mobile library 2026 – October dates

Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: October 1 and 29

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: October 28

Ex post Office	9.45am	10.00am	NR9 5DB
----------------	--------	---------	---------

Easton –Route: CEN 423

Thursday: October 1 and 29

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.

The Rambling Vine



You are invited to become part of Creative Church at St Peter's, Easton.

Ringling the changes by trying something new

October always feels like a month of change. The long days of summer have gone, the evenings are drawing in, leaves are beginning to turn and we find ourselves settling back into familiar routines after the summer. But sometimes a change of season is also a good opportunity to try something new.

Back at Easter, we tried something a little different at St Peter's, Easton. Alongside our Easter celebrations, we offered craft activities for children and families and, on Easter Day, our service was followed by an Easter egg hunt. We really weren't sure what the response would be. We were blown away.

It was wonderful to see so many people from the local community

coming through the doors, particularly families and children. There was a real sense of fun and welcome: people talking, making things, exploring the church, sharing food and simply enjoying being together.

It also made us think.

Church life has changed enormously over the years and family life has changed too.

Sunday mornings are busy.

There are sports clubs, activities, family commitments and, frankly, sometimes everyone simply needs a slower start after a hectic week!

If we want the church to be a place where children and families can feel that they belong, perhaps we also need to be willing to explore

different ways of gathering together. So this autumn we are trying something new.

Beginning on October 14, we are launching Creative Church which will take place at St Peter's, Easton, on the second Wednesday of each month at 5pm.

Creative Church will be informal, relaxed and designed particularly with children and families in mind. There will be a simple shared picnic tea, creative activities, stories, opportunities to explore themes of faith and life together, and we will finish with a short service. Nobody needs to know what to do, behave in a particular way or already be part of church. Just come along and join in. Of course, trying something new

always involves a certain amount of uncertainty. We don't know exactly how Creative Church will develop or who will come. But perhaps that is part of the adventure. The Church has always had to find new ways of sharing an old story: the story of God's love for the world and for each one of us. The message doesn't change, but the ways in which we gather, worship, learn and build community can.

Our experience at Easter reminded us that sometimes, all it takes is an invitation and an open door.

So, as the evenings draw in this October, we are opening the doors again and trying something new.

We would love you to come and be part of it.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Church services October 2026

Sunday 4	10.00am	Easton – Holy Communion – 18th after Trinity
Sunday 11	10.00am	Colton – HC – 19th after Trinity
Sunday 18	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – Luke the Evangelist
Sunday 25 Clocks go back	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – Last Sunday after Trinity

Church services November 2026

Sunday 1	10.00am	Easton – Holy Communion – All Saints Day
Sunday 8	10.45am	Colton – Remembrance Sunday – HC – Third before Advent
Wednesday 11	5.00pm	Easton – Creative church – Remembering
Sunday 15	10.00am	Marlingford – HC – 2nd before Advent
Sunday 22	10.00am	Bawburgh – HC – Christ the King – next before Advent
Sunday 29	10.00am	Colton – Holy Communion with Advent hymns and readings – St Andrew's Day



PDF Heating Services



GasSafe Registration
No.578773

www.pdfheatingservices.co.uk
e:info@pdfheatingservices.co.uk
m:07899808113



Air Source Heat Pumps
Oil Boiler Service & Installation
Gas Boiler Service & Installation
Natural Gas & LPG
Domestic & Commercial
Heating System Upgrades
Heating System Cleansing
Unvented Hot Water Cylinders
Bathrooms & En-Suites



NORFOLK
EARWAX NURSE

Mobile Earwax Removal Service

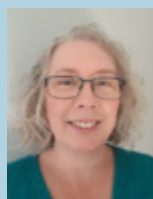
Microsuction & Irrigation from the comfort of your own home.



Registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Council



Regulated by the Care Quality Commission



Call: 07718 650012
www.norfolkearwaxnurse.uk



**Affordable, reliable heating oil
with no hidden fees.**



**Affinity
Fuels**

www.affinityfuels.co.uk

01603 881888

**SAVE up to
2p per litre!**

Colton based, owned by
the UK's largest farming co-op.
Trusted for generations to supply
millions of litres of fuel each year.

Marlingford Village Hall

Available for meetings,
interest groups, activities
and private parties.

Plenty of parking available.

Tables and chairs will
accommodate up to 60 people.

Crockery, glasses and
cutlery available for hire.

Booking Details

Please contact

Sue Hester

susan.hester@btinternet.com

T: 07887 686046



Ladies Golf
= Barnham Broom

**READY TO JOIN A VIBRANT,
WELCOMING GOLF COMMUNITY?**

Friendly & Competitive

2 x 18 Hole Courses

5 Hole Academy

PGA Pro - Coaching

Driving Range & Large Short Game Area

CONTACT US TODAY TO FIND OUT MORE

01603 757522

GC.LADIESCAPTAIN@BARNHAM-BROOM.CO.UK

M.S. Shingles Ltd Building Services

Professional local service with over 25 years experience

All Building Works undertaken

Free No Obligation Estimates

Call Mark on Mobile: 07799 691414

The Oaks, Barford Road, Marlingford, Norwich NR9 5HU

Ivan Fisher

Independent Funeral Homes Ltd

Established 2005



Always here when you need us, 24 hours a day

Ivan and his team have proudly served our community for over 20 years. As a family-run business, we remain independently owned and dedicated to upholding the highest standards of funeral care with warmth, dignity, and personal attention.



www.ivanfisher.co.uk



info@ivanfisher.co.uk

AYLSHAM: 01263 735161
The Old Bank, 2-4 Norwich Road,
Aylsham, Norfolk, NR11 6BN

HETHERSETT: 01603 810022
Norton House, Park Drive,
Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3EN

HINGHAM: 01953 850330
The Old Dairy, 15 Norwich Street,
Hingham, Norwich, NR9 4LJ