

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 5, April 2023

FRANK CURTIS (OCTOBER 1926 – MARCH 2023)

The Parish Council were saddened to learn of the death of Frank Curtis. Frank, formerly of Manor Barn, on the Norwich Road, was for decades, a much-respected stalwart of our community, and served on the Parish Council, for many years.

Frank will be commemorated at a private family funeral in the village, but everyone is invited to attend a Memorial Service / Celebration of life, which will be held at the Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich on Saturday, 24th June.

If any of you who knew Frank, and would like to attend, please contact his son Simon by email, or phone below.

We offer our condolences to his wife Sheila, and his family:

simoncurtis@hotmail.co.uk
07768 50 55 88.

SPEEDING ISSUES (AGAIN)

The Parish Council is again being made aware of the volume and speed of traffic passing through our villages.

Feedback from our residents has identified that the issue continues to be very significant in Marlingford.

We are therefore relocating both of our SAM2 cameras in Marlingford for the next few months. Data from each camera position will be recorded and analyzed each month, and if recorded speeds are excessive, and if pedestrians are endangered, we intend again passing the results of our investigations, to the Police, with whom we hope to address suitable mitigation measures.

We will also include summaries of our investigations in subsequent issues of this Newsletter.

ELONA'S COLTON AMENITY AREA FUNDRAISER

Now that Spring is approaching, we are keen to see increased usage of the Colton Amenity Area. We are hoping to upgrade, augment and hopefully replace, some of the equipment and, to that end, one of our younger residents, eight-year-old Elona Moore, has on her own initiative started a Just Giving page to contribute to the fundraising effort. To support Elona's efforts, please see: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/coltonplaygroundfundraising

So far, Elona has raised almost £400 towards her target of £1,000, so we encourage you all to support this excellent initiative. She has also already secured a separate, and very generous donation from Honingham Thorpe Farms, for which we are extremely grateful.

Elona is also organizing a fundraising Bake and Craft sale, in Colton Village Hall, on **Sunday, April 16th, between 10am and 12pm**. Please help by coming along to support Elona's fundraising efforts. You will also have an opportunity to win prizes which include generous donations from Norwich City Football Club, The Goat Shed, Next, Barnham Broom Hotel Golf & Spa, Viking Nurseries, Artful, Go Ape, Namco Bowling from Bowthorpe, Congo Rapids (formerly Norwich Family Golf Centre), UEA Sports Park, and Morrisons in Wymondham. We are most grateful to all these donors.

You are also invited to bring baking, your craftwork, or any other small items which could be sold to swell the coffers.

Colton residents receiving this Newsletter will also find attached a questionnaire in which we are seeking to find out the views and opinions of residents, identifying how best we may improve the Amenity Area. Further copies of the questionnaire will be available at the Bake and Craft sale, and it is also available as a download on the Parish Council website. Completed Questionnaires can either be returned at the event, by e-mail to the details below, or by hand delivery to John Morse, at Inglenook Cottage, The Street.

Whilst there are some limited funds available from within the Parish Council, we are unable to apply, for example, for Heritage Lottery funding by virtue of the very short nature of the current lease, so Elona's personal efforts are truly inspirational.

To support Elona's efforts, please contact our Clerk, Maria Hutson on 01603 850118, or by email to marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com or our Chairman, John Morse on 07760 557488 or by email to johnmorse_mcpc@outlook.com.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Don't forget to vote in the local elections on May 4th. Also, do make sure that under the new rules, you take along some form of picture ID to validate your identity. Anybody without Picture ID will not be able to cast their vote. If you have not yet registered to vote, you need to do so by April 17th. More information is available on the website www.electoralcommission.org.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Your Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 11th April, at 7pm at Colton Village Hall. This will be followed by our usual Parish Council Meeting.

At the meeting, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise any issues they may have.

The Annual meeting will also receive reports from clubs and organizations in Colton and Marlingford. This will include:

- The Parochial Church Councils from both Marlingford and Colton churches
- Both Marlingford and Colton Village Halls
- Colton Fuel Allotment Charity
- The Grapevine
- Marlingford Cricket Club

And other local groups.

We will also hear reports from the Parish, District and County Councils and the Police. You are also welcome to come along and listen to the meeting. Refreshments will be served, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

To mark the Coronation of King Charles III, residents, and families of both Marlingford and Colton are reminded of events taking place in our villages. In Marlingford, there will be a "bring your own picnic" from 1:30 pm, in the village hall. Bubbly will also be available to purchase to help celebrate the event.

In Colton Village Hall, help celebrate the coronation of King Charles III with your friends and neighbours with a celebratory free afternoon tea, from 2pm. Come along and raise a cuppa to the King!.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLOR

Whilst we continue to seek new Parish Councilors, in particular from Marlingford, where we are under-represented, we would like you to give a hearty welcome to our new colleague, Debbie Perfect.

Debbie is a relative newcomer to Colton, having moved to the village in 2022 from Buckinghamshire with her husband and son. She says she was drawn to the area for its quiet (but convenient) location and lovely local walks.

Debbie works full-time in the NHS as a Community Nurse, covering the Breckland area.

Debbie will be seen around the village walking her dogs, and plans to attend obedience and ringcraft training, and doing the odd show or two. The other good news is that Debbie enjoys baking (and eating) cakes, and spending time pottering about in the garden.

Debbie says that she looks forward to listening to and representing parishioners with regards to any concerns that may adversely affect them and/or our lovely parish and will happily spend time listening to any ideas and suggestions parishioners may have that could benefit the area.

MARLINGFORD CONSERVATION AREA

As previously advised, work is planned on Marlingford Conservation Area to continue to make it a space for all to enjoy and where wildlife can thrive. To allow this it is hoped various jobs be undertaken over forthcoming months including clearing overgrown areas and building wood piles to act as habitats for wildlife.

Help is needed from volunteers for this to be possible. If you would like to get involved, please contact the clerk on clerk@marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com to register your interest.

We would appreciate your comments on any of the issues raised in this Newsletter. Please contact any of the Parish Council, whose details will be found on the Notice Boards in both villages, or our Clerk, Maria Hutson on 01603 850118, via our website: www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk or by E-Mail to marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com