

# MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 9, February 2024

## YOUR NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

We understand that, with effect from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, Norfolk News Deliveries, who have provided a valuable service for many years, will no longer be delivering newspapers to Colton and Marlingford

We were wondering that if there is sufficient interest, a consortium of neighbours be established to arrange a Rota to collect and distribute newspapers, which would be ordered from Barnham Broom Post Office.

If this is of interest, please contact us at the details below..

## COLTON ART GROUP

The Colton Art Group has grown promisingly but still has room for new members. We meet at Colton Village Hall on the first and third Wednesday of the month, from 10:00 -12:00, at £3 a session. We are a sociable group who try out new techniques but also pursue our favourites. No experience is necessary; you will be helped and encouraged by all. For more information contact Rosanna Ellis on 07765294347



## FORTHCOMING ROAD CLOSURES

Would residents please note that, from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, until 7<sup>th</sup> February, Church Lane, near to the Food Hub will be closed to traffic to enable Orsted to undertake preparatory work in connection with cable installation associated with the Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm.

The proposed diversion for all traffic, presumably including commercial vehicles going to and from the Food Hub, is via Marlingford Road Easton, into Marlingford Village, along Barford Road, and up Colton Road (Marlingford Hill) to Red Barn, then back onto Church Lane.

We believe that this is an unsatisfactory diversion, as it means that heavy traffic will pass along the unsuitable roads through Marlingford. We have written to both Orsted and Norfolk Country Council, proposing an alternative route, but, at the time of writing have not yet had a response.

Please also note that the road from Wrampingham to Wymondham will also be closed at the same time to facilitate more works, this time by Anglia Water.

## THE MILLENIUM YEW

You may already be aware that the 'millennium' yew tree which was planted to 'partner' the village sign by the pond has been taken down, and the plaque which used to be next to the tree has been stuck in the beech hedge, which was planted much more recently, cutting off access to the tree.

Several villagers have told us how upset they are that this has been done. The Parish Council will be in contact with the landowner to register the bad feeling around the village,

## MARLINGFORD CHURCH APPEAL:

As a result of a specialist survey of Marlingford church carried out last year it has become clear that significant repairs and maintenance works are urgently needed. You will perhaps already have noticed the protective cordon around the main tower due to the risk of falling masonry.

As the expense is considerable (approx. £ 100k) it will be necessary to raise funds from many sources. To this end an information event will be held at Marlingford Village Hall on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.30pm. All Marlingford residents who value this historic building are invited to attend.

Directly after this event will be the monthly quiz starting at 7.30pm. As usual teams of four are invited to take part in a very enjoyable evening. The entry fee is £ 2.50 per person. Please come along as proceeds will go towards the church repairs fund. Future quizzes will be on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March and Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April.

## MARLINGFORD VILLAGE LITTER PICK 2024.

Over the weekend of 9th / 10th March the residents of Marlingford are planning a "Get ready for Spring" village litter pick. Further details will be provided but if you are able to support this, please drop a quick note to Mark Pfeiffer at [mark.pfeiffer67@icloud.com](mailto:mark.pfeiffer67@icloud.com), ideally before the end of February so that rubbish bags, grabbers and routes can be allocated.

## FLY TIPPING

Yet again, we must report recent incidents of fly tipping in and around our villages. Although the recent road obstructions have been cleared we are asked that, in the event that this is spotted, we should in the first instance contact South Norfolk Council, who will deal with the removal, by using the website address below.

<https://forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/councilforms/Neighbourhood/FlyTipping/LocationDetails>

## UPDATE – A47 DUALLING AND COLTON ROADS

We are continuing to apply pressure regarding the problems in and around Colton, caused by the recent flooding on the A47. Adam Mayo of South Norfolk Highways visited the villages before Christmas and did express surprise as to the amount of damage done to our roads, overflowing ditches and verges. He has again reiterated that remedial action will be taken once the weather improves, however to date, we have not heard any more specific dates for the work to be carried out.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARLINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

Marlingford Village Hall will be 100 years old in 2024 and the committee is planning several events throughout the year to celebrate this significant anniversary. Please look out for the events in future editions of the Grapevine and this Newsletter. We hope as many residents of the Parish and the wider community will be able to come and support us as we remember the past century and look forward to another 100 years. The hall will continue to be available for hire during this year for any occasion. We have already held birthday parties, weddings, and other celebrations. We have a large patio area and the ability to erect a marquee as well as the usual facilities within the hall.

## COLTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall has the following planned for 2024:

- **March 2 from 10am-noon:** An early spring coffee morning. Come along and have a slice of cake and a natter with your friends and neighbours.
- **April 6; doors open at 6.30pm** We're planning Easter Bingo., eyes down at 7pm. It's old-fashioned fun and there are at least 20 prizes on offer!
- **May 18.** Quiz fans will need to put in the diary for another of Annette's great quizzes. Get a team together with your family and friends and join in.
- **July 20 from 6pm:** The big event of the year, our always-popular summer barbecue
- **September 21:** We will be hosting a beetle drive. Never done one? They're great fun, so come and have a go.
- **October 19:** We're reviving the village harvest supper, a lovely opportunity to come and share a home-cooked meal with your fellow villagers.
- **December 7:** The Christmas bingo and coffee morning will both be on and the charity payout will also be on that day

Finally, about winners. They are also hoping to run a race night on a date to be fixed.

(The above dates/times are subject to confirmation - see future editions of this Newsletter/Grapevine/posters.)

### Hall updates for 2024:

As part of their plans to improve your hall, they have some significant projects lined up for the year. They're all subject to funding, of course, but include:

#### Acoustic paneling

The hall, with the hard floor, walls, and ceiling, is an acoustically harsh place - anyone with less than perfect hearing knows it can be very difficult to hear in there, especially when it is busy. We are looking to install wall and ceiling baffles to cut the sharp, echoey sound down and make it a nicer environment to be in.

#### Car park barrier

We hope to be able to replace the bollards with a height restriction barrier which allows cars and small vehicles in 24/7, but not large vans/caravans etc.

#### Exterior paint

The hall is due to be freshened up and we plan to have the exterior painted this year.

## **AN APPEAL FOR VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Colton Village Hall is run by a small committee, and they would welcome some extra help. It's not a huge commitment - they meet about five times a year for an hour or so and obviously get involved in the events.

The Committee does this for the good of the village and to support the community and are also aware that we don't have all the good ideas! There must be a few of you who could pitch in... if you can, please get in touch.

## **COLD CALLERS**

We have been asked to remind residents to be vigilant following reports of suspected cold callers operating across the district. The incidents all followed a similar theme of a man knocking at the person's door, saying they had recently been released from prison and wanted to sell household items.

You are advised to close and lock your back door before answering the front door. If you do not recognise the person, speak through the closed and locked door.

If they are selling something or offering to do any work on your house or garden, tell them you are not interested and ask them to leave. If they persist, tell them you will call the police on 999. If you have any doubt – keep them out.

You are advised to never agree to buy goods from, or have work done, by someone that calls unannounced at your door, or approaches you on the street.

Anyone feeling threatened by a cold caller should call 999 immediately. Anyone with information about suspected rogue traders should contact police on 101, or alternatively Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **SOUTH NORFOLK VILLAGE CLUSTERS HOUSING ALLOCATIONS PLAN**

At the January Parish Council meeting, Councillor Mark Pfeiffer gave an overview of the South Norfolk village cluster's housing allocations plan. The VCHAP is a Local Plan document which, once adopted, will become part of the Development Plan for South Norfolk. The plan will identify sites for housing in South Norfolk's villages and will allocate sites for the majority of the 'at least 1,200 new homes' that are to be delivered in the district's village clusters by 2038.

There are no sites in Marlingford or Colton, however there are sites located in neighbouring Barnham Broom, Barford and Bawburgh. The Parish Council is concerned that the additional housing will increase traffic flow and pressure on services.

Comments are going to be submitted raising these concerns. Members of the public can find out more about VCHAP at [South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan – Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) and take part in the consultation up to 5<sup>th</sup> February.

## **THE BELL, MARLINGFORD AND THE NORFOLK LURCHER, COLTON**

The Parish Council was saddened to hear of the recent closure of The Marlingford Bell. For a village with virtually no public transport, having somewhere for villagers to meet is important and we are all hoping that the pub will be able to re-open soon.

Communities in England can ask their local council to register valued local facilities, like pubs, as Assets of Community Value (ACV).

It has been suggested by CAMRA that the Parish Council should apply to South Norfolk District Council to register the Bell as an ACV. If the District Council accepts the nomination, then, should the pub be put up for sale, a local group can require a stopping of the clock for up to six months to enable a bid to be compiled to buy the pub. The Parish Council is interested to know if residents would be in favour of pursuing this suggestion.

However, The Parish Council is delighted to welcome the reopening of the Norfolk Lurcher in Colton. The pub, which opened for business just before Christmas has, under new owners Mark and Rose, undergone a significant restoration and hosted an excellent New Year's Eve party for the local neighbourhood.

Mark has just confirmed that the pub has just taken its first delivery of a real ale, appropriately named "Worth the Wait", and based upon your author's own recent experience, Rose's cooking is truly exceptional.

We do wish them well with their new venture, and we look forward to seeing residents from both Colton, Marlingford and wider afield, propping up the bar and enjoying good service, and good companionship.

## COLTON CHURCH UPDATE

Readers will probably be aware that the Colton Parochial Church Council has received planning permission to construct a new weather-proof car park. However, before work can commence, the Diocese has requested that a notice be placed in the porch for anybody to complain about the forthcoming works.

Objections should be raised by 3rd February.

## FOOD ENTERPRISE PARK LDO2 UPDATE

We are in receipt of the following from the Honingham Thorpe Food Enterprise Park (Food Hub):

*“Firstly, many apologies that we have not been in touch sooner to update you on the progress of the second Local Development Order at the Food Enterprise Park, Easton. I am aware that it has been some months since we met at the BFIC back at the very beginning of August last year. Whilst we are not yet at the point we had originally hoped to be at by the end of 2023, work on the project is still progressing.*

*“We are in the final stages of completing the Environmental Statement which will accompany the LDO. Through this work, a lot of time has been dedicated to modelling different traffic scenarios based on the progression of the planned A47 improvements. As you can imagine the ongoing challenge to the Development Consent Order on this scheme has delayed our progress. Norfolk County Highways are keen to ensure that further development at the FEP has minimal impact on the surrounding local road network particularly as it has the potential to come forward prior to A47 works commencing. Scenario planning has also taken place where the appeal against the granting of the DCO is upheld and the A47 improvements were not made.*

*“We have been advised that the hearing took place on 16 January 2024, with the final judgment handed down some weeks later at the discretion of the court.”*

## COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There are currently 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in the local community and making a difference, come along to a meeting and find out more about the Parish Council. For more information on the role of a Councillor have a look on the website <https://www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk/> or get in touch with the clerk on the details below.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INCLUSION

As previously reported, in order to make attendance at meetings less onerous, and more attractive to potential new councillors, the Parish Council will now meet bi-monthly in, March, May, July, September, and November 2024. Meetings will be held at 7pm in either Colton Village Hall or Marlingford Cricket Club.

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

- 12th March, Colton Village Hall
- 14th May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting) - venue tbc
- 9th July - venue tbc
- 10th September - venue tbc
- 12th November, Colton Village Hall

The agenda is published at least seven working days before the meeting and is published on the website and displayed on the notice boards.

At each meeting there is an opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise any issues they may have. You are also welcome to simply come along and listen to the meeting. Councillors look forward to welcoming residents to future meetings.

**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](https://www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.co.uk) or by E-Mail to [marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com](mailto:marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com)**