

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 17, November 2025

Your Parish Council Needs You

As regular readers of this Newsletter, and The Grapevine will know, The Marlingford and Colton Parish Council require 7 representatives, and currently, we only have 4. We therefore wish to make this urgent appeal to those of you who have an interest in and commitment to your local community.

In particular, we would like to invite anybody who has previously served on any Parish, District or County Council, irrespective of wherever they have lived, or any committee participation, or other position of responsibility.

We urgently need to attract individuals who are willing to participate and make a difference.

Your Parish Council meets 6 times a year and addresses such items as setting the annual precept, and the upkeep and maintenance of the villages, their footpaths, amenity areas, highways, and bus services. Additionally, Councillors are required to review and recommend (or not) planning applications, for further development in our community.

If this is something of interest to you, please contact our clerk on the contact details over the page, or our Chairman, John Morse on 07760 557488 or by email to john.morse@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk

We would be happy to meet with you individually to discuss how you can contribute. Alternatively, please come and see what we do, at our next meeting, being held in Colton Village Hall, at 7pm, on Tuesday 11th November. We look forward to seeing you.

Carols in the Courtyard

With Christmas approaching, don't miss the annual Carols in the Courtyard event, to be held on **12th December from 6:30 pm**, at The Old Hall, Marlingford. It will be a festive evening with carols, accompanied by the City of Norwich Brass Band. Mulled Wine, Mince Pies Waffles will also be served, and there will be a raffle. Entry £5 for adults, with all proceeds going to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund.

Forthcoming events in Marlingford Village Hall...

The next event to be held on **Thursday 13th November at 7.30 pm**, in the Village Hall, will be a talk given by Glenn Barrett, Astrophysicist, entitled *The Winter Night Sky over Marlingford*.

Help to find your way around the night sky including the planets Jupiter and Saturn and their moons, our galaxy, the milky way, the Andromeda galaxy, the Pleiades, the pole star, the great Orion nebula, and other deep sky objects. The Leonid meteor shower, the space station and few of the many interesting objects on our moon. Please bring any astronomical questions you may have. £5. Refreshments. Raffle.

Other forthcoming events in the Village Hall include

- The return of the popular **Christmas fair** on **December 6, from 11am until 2pm**. Look forward to Refreshments and a raffle.
- **Gentle Yoga with Dom**. Open to all. Classes begin **Monday November 10th at 7pm** and repeat weekly. Classes are a chance to heal, strengthen and deeply relax. Movement, music and meditation invite participants to find their own perfect practise with no judgement or expectation. For info or booking message Dom: gentleyogadom@gmail.com 07784755039

... and in Colton Village Hall

December 6th marks the date for the annual **Christmas Bingo** and **Charity distribution**, and a **coffee morning** earlier the same day.

The Colton Fuel Allotment Charity trustees distribute the annual payment to Colton households. Each year, a payment is made to each household from income derived from the rent of a local piece of land. The three trustees decide the amount of the payment and how to distribute it. The most effective method, in the past has been at the Colton Village Hall Christmas Bingo to be held this year, on **Saturday 6th December at 6pm**. Bingo starts at 6.30 pm.

Please note, there is one payment for each household and there is a requirement that people have lived in their home for at least one year. Also, if you are asked by your neighbour or friend to collect a payment on their behalf, they must give you a note of authorisation, so that the charity can make the payment.

Colton Book Club

The recently established Colton Book Club, which meets at 7pm in the village hall on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December, which is on the third Thursday), would welcome more people to join their group. Someone from this very friendly group selects a book each month, and it is then discussed over coffee or tea, and a biscuit, at their next session.

For further information, please contact **Debbie on 07718 650012**.

Marlingford and Colton Bus Services

Regular users of the Number 808 Bus service from both Colton and Marlingford on Tuesdays and Thursdays, will be aware that, due to the later pick-up from both villages, it is almost impossible to make the connection to a bus in Easton, towards Norwich.

We are therefore pleased to report that, effective 4th November we have been advised by Norfolk County Council that the X4 service is being moved forward by 5 minutes to facilitate this connection.

If you have any questions about this service, please contact [**Daniel.yellop@Norfolk.gov.uk**](mailto:Daniel.yellop@Norfolk.gov.uk)

Budget setting

At the forthcoming Parish Council meeting, being held at 7pm on 11th November, the budget for 2026/2027 will be agreed. As part of this process, the precept for the next financial year will be set. This is the money that the parish council request from South Norfolk Council and is received from residents through their Council Tax. Those of you who have an interest in this issue, are encouraged to attend.

Continued Construction Activity on the A47

Residents who are on either or both village WhatsApp Groups will be already aware of two more forthcoming traffic issues as the construction of the A47 Dual Carriageway continues. For everybody else:

1. From 8pm Friday 14 November and 6am Monday 17 November 2025:

The A47 will be completely closed between the Fox Lane junction and Easton Roundabout as part of the upgrade to the A47. We therefore expect that most traffic, despite appropriate signage having been put in place to divert vehicles onto the recommended route via the A11 to Thetford, the A134 towards Mundford and the A1065 towards Swaffham, there is very likely to be significant increases in rat running traffic through our parish.

We have already raised the problem of unsuitable usage of our single-track roads, with the authorities. It has therefore been agreed that in the event that we see commercial vehicles, we photograph and take a note of registration numbers of any vehicle not using the designated diversion route, and pass them on to us, to forward to NCC. Similarly, NCC are speaking to bus companies about their diversion plans, and once this information is forthcoming, we will share it with you all, via WhatsApp.

After this full weekend closure, there will be a permanent 40mph speed limit in place from the Fox Lane junction to the Easton Roundabout. One lane of the dual carriageway at the Fox Lane junction will be closed in both directions.

2. From 8 pm to 6 am on 16 and 17 November 2025

There will be overnight closures between Easton Roundabout and Longwater Interchange. After this, one lane of the dual carriageway will be permanently closed at the Easton roundabout in both directions 1km to the east of the roundabout. Safety cameras will be in place within the 40mph speed limit zone.

All side road access will be closed onto the A47. Residents living directly on the A47 will be escorted through the closure by traffic marshals when access is required during the closure. Further details on this will be sent directly to those residents.

Access routes through all these closures will be maintained for the Emergency Services.

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.marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk or by E-Mail to clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk