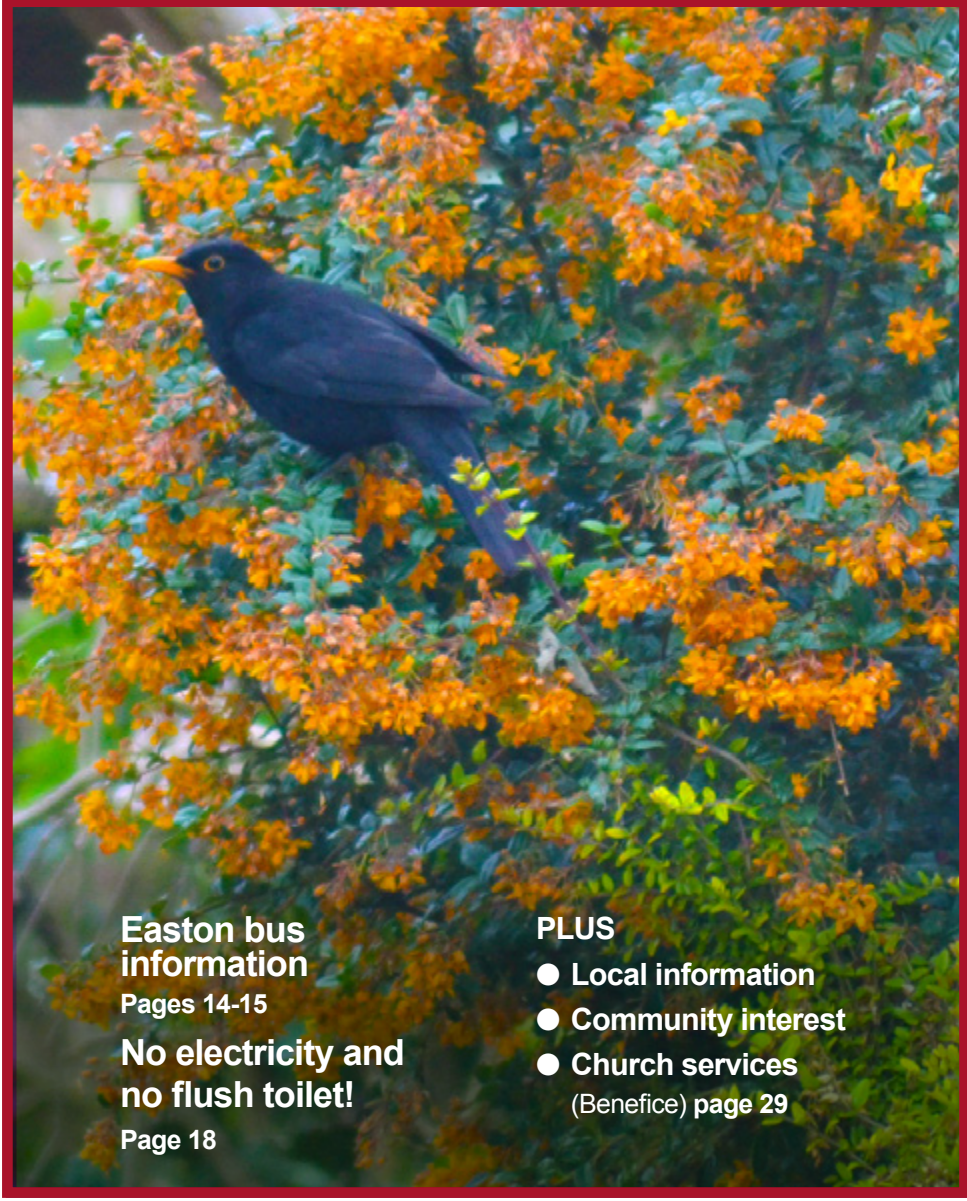
# THE Grapevine

November 2026

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



**Easton bus information**
**Pages 14-15**

**No electricity and no flush toilet!**
**Page 18**

**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<br>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<br>Avalon, The Street, Colton |
| **Easton Bowls Club Secretary** | Jan Hudson - 01603 880811<br>eastonbowls.bh@btinternet.com |
| **Easton Community Cupboard** | Harrison McLean 07544 999058 |
| **Easton Crafters' Club** | Mrs Janet Morris – 01603 471144 |
| **Easton Football Club** | Michael Cossey – 01603 880143<br>73, Marlingford Way, Easton |
| **Easton Good Companions** | Pamela Hooker – 01603 880867 |
| **Easton Gym Club** | 01603 960511<br>enquiries@eastongymnasticsclub.com |
| **Easton Judo Club Coach** | Chris Abel – 0845 388 6895<br>chris@eastonjudoclub.co.uk<br>29, Goulburn Rd, Norwich |
| **Easton Junior Football** | Gavin Tipple – 01603 731585<br>gtipple@easton-college.ac.uk |
| **Easton Sports Centre** | Colin Brzeczek 01603 731263 |
| **Easton Post Office** | Open Tues and Thurs 9am-2pm<br>01603 880007 |
| **Easton Village Hall** | Roly and Christine Chapman<br>01603 880654 |
| **Easton WI Secretary** | Sandra Bowman – 01603 881538 |
| **Marlingford Village Hall**<br>Bookings | Sue Hester<br>M: 07887 686046<br>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

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

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**carolachiles@gmail.com** 01508 578352


### Advertising in The Grapevine

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

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**Front cover:** Blackbird, Colton.
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<br>eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com<br>172 Fairways, Queen's Hills,<br>Costessey NR8 5GB | 01603 744551 |

## St Peter's Church, Easton

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Churchwardens** | Margaret Seely,<br>8 Kennedy Close, Easton | 01603 880888 |
| **PCC Secretary** | Elizabeth Giddings<br>email: agidd100@gmail.com | 01603 882179 |
| **Treasurer** | Vacancy | |

## St Andrew's Church, Colton

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Churchwarden** | Sarah Smith,<br>Bickerston Cottage, Church Lane, Colton | 07769 976173 |
| **PCC Secretary** | Liz Plater, Church Cottages,<br>Church Lane, Colton | 01603 880556 |
| **Treasurer** | Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office,<br>Norwich Road, Colton NR9 5BZ | judy.scrivener@<br>googlemail.com |

## St Mary's Church, Marlingford

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Churchwarden** | Nick Evans-Lombe , Marlingford Hall<br>Church Road NR9 5HP | 07899 767082 |
| **PCC Secretary** | Felicity Maton, West Cottage,<br>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 Arrives 10.00 (or from Longwater to Norwich at 09:33) | |
| Colton, The Street pond | 09:14 | | | |
| Colton, junction Norwich Road and The Street | 09:20 | | | |
| | | **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 pages 14-15 for a guide to buses in Easton while A47 roadworks are in place.**

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.



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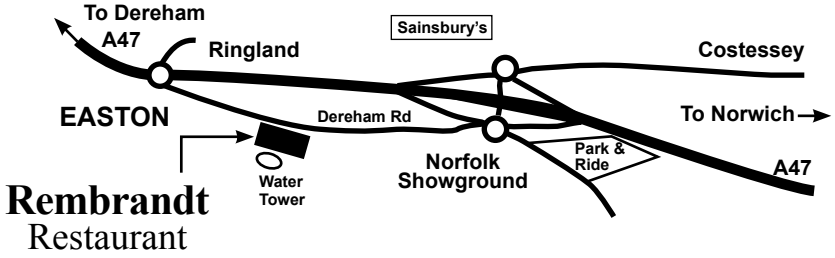
plus take-away 12pm - 2pm

**Saturday** 4pm - 9pm

***For latest information***
***please see the website or phone***

## 01603 880010

Dereham Rd, Easton, Norwich NR9 5EH



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More to come.

**21 Nov 2026 - NEC Day Out - Something for All**
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|---|---|---|
| £57 Adult | £62 Adult | £46 Adult |
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**Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2026**
**Trips start at Attleborough**
**Matinees 08 & 15, Evening Show 18 December**
**Central Elevated Seats - £81 pp**

**NEW! Seasonal Splendour**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 |

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**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. t/a IC Travel, Reg in England No 14055912 at Unit 2, Fir Covert Road North, Felthorpe, Norwich NR10 4DT

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***Traditional & Cranial Osteopathy***
***Biodynamic Osteopathy***
**Mob: 07931 713 741**
**www.bluebellhealthclinic.co.uk**

***Deborah Harding LCPH VMTRA***
***Reiki treatments & Homeopathy***
***debhardingnhp@gmail.com***
**Mob: 07887 868230**
**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

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**07827 016047**

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

**W: tsmplumbing.co.uk**
**E: office@tsmplumbing.co.uk**

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**E: nicci@know-n-sew.co.uk**
**M: 07949 632336**

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**01362 288068**
**brianlansdale@gmail.com**
**www.lansdalechimneybuildersandrepairs.co.uk**

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**benwarman9@icloud.com**

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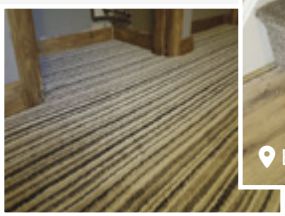
# Martin's Carpets Ltd



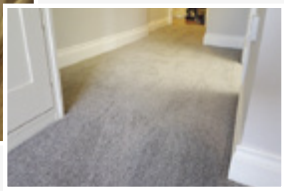

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Web: www.martinscarpetsltd.co.uk
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*Customer satisfaction is our priority.*

## We need to speak to humans on our phones!

There are many good things about the computer age – being able to book a table or appointment online, having the latest news at your fingertips or being able to shop 24 hours a day. But one huge step backwards is not being able to contact a human when you have a problem with anything. I find it ironic that our phones – a means of communication in the olden days – will not allow us to speak to a person but instead require us to select a myriad of options – none of which are connected to the problem you have and half of which direct you to a website which then asks you to 'chat' to an entitiy that can only offer a maximum of five questions before it decides to repeat the first again in an enfuriating cycle of frustration which has already lasted an hour – with no hope of a solution. Businesses – I beg you to return to human interaction before the whole of civilisation falls into an endless hole of despair.

***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 Dec/Jan issue: Wednesday, November 18, 2026**
**Email as word doc to: annettegh57@gmail.com**

# YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## Colton Village Hall

### ● Coffee morning and Art Exhibition

**Saturday, November 28**

Come along and chat to neighbours and friends while enjoying the artwork produced by the Wednesday art group at Colton Village Hall. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake available!

## Easton Village Hall

### ● Keeping your money safe

**Tuesday, November 17**
**5.30pm - 7.30pm**

**Scams and doorstep crime** – talk at 6pm. Norfolk Trading Standards, arranged through the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk and the Norfolk Against Scams Partnership. Phone scams, text message fraud, email phishing, online shopping scams and doorstep crime, and what to do if one reaches you or someone you care about.

**Free energy advice** – all evening
The Mobile Advice Centre team from YES Energy Solutions, run in partnership with Cadent, the gas network operator.
Talk to them face to face about your energy concerns.

**Evening is open and free to all** - no need to book, just come along.

### ● 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 for EVERYONE! Are you on your own? Come and join us.
Just feeling a bit lonely ? Then come on down. Feeling lost, unhappy, fed up ? You know where we are!
Every Tuesday at the village hall from 10 until 12 noon. As one member says "They're a friendly lot" – come and see for yourself.

***Brenda and Tony***

### ● Tea & Talk

Our next meeting is November 26 at the village hall from 2pm until 4pm when all are welcome. Bring your own games or just sit and chat. We need to thank **Brenda Bell** for organising a fish and chip lunch on October 22 and special thanks to Barry Millard, our Just Eat driver, for a speedy delivery. We also met on September 29 for an extra

session of Tea & Talk where a good time was had by all. Come and join us sometime.

***Tony Perry***

## Marlingford Village Hall

● **Christmas Fair** **SAVE THE DATE!**
**Saturday, December 12, 11am - 2pm**

## Bawburgh Village Hall

● **Talks for everyone**
**Tuesday, November 10 at 7.30pm**
**The Story of Chapelfield**
**Mary Fewster** tells the history of the importance of Chapelfield from the Middle Ages to the present day. Entry £3 including tea and coffee.
**All welcome**

## Fitness offer!

Did you know that Easton College Fitness Suite, has a discount for local residents of Easton and surrounding villages. ONLY £16 per month with no long-term contract and no joining fees. Become a member of the gym at Easton College and experience the refurbished facilities which are available to use before and after college as well as during weekends and holidays!
For more information about the gym or for a tour of the facilities, get in touch at **collegehire@ccn.ac.uk**

## Council responds to bus petition

Norfolk County Council has published its formal response to the petition, which gathered 1151 signatures, to save Easton's bus link to Norwich: "*We have worked with First Bus following the announcement of the road closure due to the A47 works and their Excel services are operating through Easton so that residents can get to and from the city. This potential issue has therefore been resolved*."
The full response can be read on the council's petitions page here: **norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com**
The latest letter, sent with the signatures, also raised some further points. The council has passed these to Easton's county councillor, Malcolm Latarche, and any reply will be shared in a future issue of *The Grapevine* or at the drop in at Easton Village Hall on October 22 or November 17.
Thank you to everyone who signed, on paper and online.

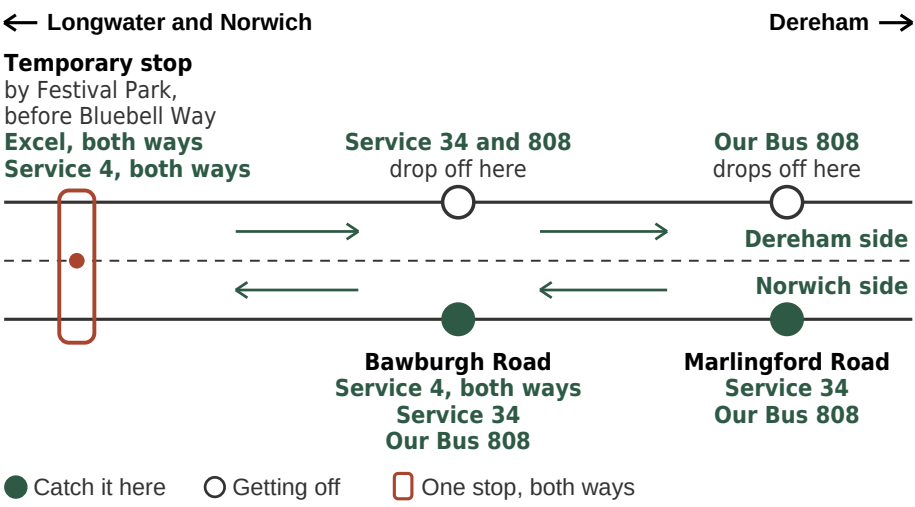
● **See page 21 for a further petition from South Norfolk MP Ben Goldsborough**

# Catching a bus in Easton

While the A47 roadworks are on. Checked 22 September 2026.

## Where to catch your bus

Dereham Road. Not to scale.




## Read this first

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

**At the temporary stop, 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.

**Service 4 calls at the temporary stop before it reaches Bawburgh Road.** If you are going by Bawburgh Road times, be at the temporary stop before the time shown.

## 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 for every Easton stop:** bustimes.org/localities/easton-norfolk

# Times, tickets and other ways to travel

Easton buses while the A47 roadworks are on. Checked 22 September 2026.

## Check the times yourself

**Online:** bustimes.org/localities/easton-norfolk shows live and timetabled buses for every Easton stop.

**By phone:** Traveline 0871 200 2233, 7am to 8pm every day. Calls cost 12p a minute plus your network charge.

**On paper:** printed times on the sheet at each stop, and on the board at Easton Community Cupboard, Heron Way.

**From the bus companies:** Excel, firstbus.co.uk/norfolk-suffolk. Services 4, 4A, 8 and 34, central-connect.co.uk or contact@central-connect.co.uk. Our Bus 808, ourhire.co.uk/bus.

## Tickets and getting home late

First Bus tickets are accepted on Central Connect Services 4, 4A and 34.

The last **Service 8** from Norwich stops at Easton if you ask the driver and hold a First Bus ticket. It leaves Norwich Rail Station at 11.30pm and the Bus Station at 11.40pm, Monday to Saturday, and at 6.50pm and 7pm on Sundays and public holidays. Central Connect have published this.

## Our Bus 808, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Goes from Marlingford Road and Bawburgh Road, Norwich side, to Longwater. Change there to Service 4 for Norwich. Coming back, it drops off on the Dereham side. Bus passes are valid on the 808. Ask the Service 4 driver about your pass for the second part. Timetable: ourhire.co.uk/bus.

## Other ways to travel

**Flexibus, pre-booked.** For the Marlingford and Colton area, including a link to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital at 7.50am and 5.45pm. Book on 0800 035 1350, and ask whether it covers your address.

**Travel Norfolk Car Scheme.** Volunteer drivers for adults who cannot use the bus, for health appointments, essential shopping and wellbeing. Ring 0344 800 8020, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, at least three working days ahead. 45p a mile, paid in cash to the driver. You need to get in and out of the car unaided.

**Drop-ins**, Easton Village Hall, Marlingford Road NR9 5AD: Thu 22 Oct and Mon 21 Dec, 5.30pm to 7pm; Tue 17 Nov, 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Everyone welcome, free.

**Live times**
every Easton stop

**Our Bus 808**
timetable

**WhatsApp**
village updates

# Colton and Marlingford are going to print!




A history of the villages of Colton and Marlingford, has been compiled by Mary and Terry Miller, who live in Runhall.
The book will look at people, properties, events and incidents from their origins to the 20th century.
The couple have done similar books for Barnham Broom, Carlton Forehoe and Kimberley, Barford and Wramplingham, and Coston and Runhall.
They both enjoy looking through archives and gathering the history to compile a real insight into bygone days – some of you may have seen their other publications.
They generously give the books to the villages so they can be sold to raise money and we are delighted they have decided to choose our villages for their research.
The book will hopefully be available to buy for Christmas at a reasonable price with all proceeds going to the church building funds as these buildings cost so much to keep going. More updates will follow as to where they can be bought but most likely in the church, village halls, pubs and at local events.
For more information, email Sarah Smith at: sarahsmith1968@btinternet.com or call 07769976173.

# Beetle Drive proceeds at a hectic pace!

Colton village hall was packed with enthusiastic Beetlers last month as the popular Beetle Drive got underway. There was frantic throwing of dice and scribbling following the 'go' signal from host Vicky Green. A successful shout of 'Beetle' halted the rounds as folk totted up their scores and moved around the hall in both directions depending on whether you were a high or a low scorer.



Competitors started the second half fully refreshed after a break of 20 minutes for tea and cake.
Final winner, Justin Dye was delighted to take home a bug hotel.
The evening raised £196.51 for the village hall.

# News from Easton Women's Institute

## A magical talk

Easton WI hosted the autumn meeting of the Barford and District group of WIs where we had a talk about the life and career of the TV magician David Nixon. This was interspersed with magic and caused a lot of laughter for all but the unsuspecting audience members who were called to "help" magician, Steve Short.



The magic hat!!

## Going crazy...

On October 1, a group of us went to the golf range in Easton to play Crazy Golf before enjoying a welcome lunch. Although our golfing skills were questionable, there were a few holes-in-one!



Where did that ball go?

At our meeting on October 8, we very much enjoyed Frances Middletons talk about the people she met on her trip to Nepal and the importance of fair trade.

## AGM plus Easton as it was

Our next WI meeting will be on Thursday, November 12 at 7.30pm when Paul and I will be showing some of our photos taken in and around Easton during the 53 years we have lived here and also looking at the pile of Easton scrap books that have been kept over the years.
This meeting is also our AGM.

## Seasonal eatings...

The next thing we have to look forward to is our Christmas lunch at Wensum Valley Hotel on Wednesday, December 9 followed by our December meeting when **Saffron Summerfield** will be entertaining us with **Music from Milton Keynes to Mississippi**.

## Come and join us

We always welcome visitors to our meetings and a copy of our programme is on the board in the village hall for anyone interested to look at. Meetings are also advertised in *The Grapevine* magazine every issue. 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.
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.**

# Living with no electricity and no flush toilet

**Memories from Marlingford villager, Marty Howard**

I moved, with my parents, Leslie and Ida Wyer, and sister Cath to Chapel Farm in October 1950. Chapel Farm was a very cold, draughty house, with no electricity and no flush toilet – but with an outside closet. Happy days !! The house was rather remote, accessible across meadow land from the Bawburgh Road or by a long loke to the bottom of Bow Hill off the Watton Road. My father was a general labourer, working on the Evans-Loombe estate, under Mr Durrell the manager. Our neighbours were Mr and Mrs Smith who came from Suffolk. They kept themselves to themselves so life was lonely for my mother, but it was very peaceful there, though.

Life was also not very exciting. We used to go to the Saturday night dance in Barford and on a Sunday would sometimes go for a walk around the village. The only shop in the village was June Goodrum's and the post office, kept by Mrs Brand was a little further down the road. The Bell was very popular and we spent some lovely times there with Len and Ruby Leverett.



Leslie and Ida Wyer.

On weekdays, Cath and I had to walk past the cattle grazing on the meadows, cross a wooden bridge, over the river Yare, leave our wellies in a shed at the shop and change into shoes to catch the service 28 bus into Norwich. If the shed was still locked, we changed and left our footwear in June's outside toilet. Sometimes we would cycle up onto the Watton Road, leave our cycles at one of the cottages and catch the service 15 bus to work.

On occasions, I would cycle into work, either on the Watton Road or by the Bawburgh Road, up to the Roundwell in Costessey and along the Dereham Road.

My parents moved from Marlingford in October 1955 and by this time, my sister Cath and I had moved to a flat in Norwich.

# Tony Divey – the Triking king of Marlingford



Although Tony Divey *(pictured)* did not come to Marlingford until the early 1970s, he made quite a significant impression with his invention of the three-wheeler Triking cyclecar.
He worked on this design in a small garage in Barford Road. In August 1978, after spending 10 months creating his dream machine, his former employer and head of Lotus, Colin Chapman, and Mario Andretti went for a test drive at Hethel. Tony's red three-wheeler was a popular sight in the lanes around Marlingford and was admired all over the world, attracting buyers in Norway, Australia, Hong Kong and the Middle East.




Tony, right, in his red three-wheeler.

## A little more about Triking...

Triking Sports Cars was founded as Triking Cyclecars Ltd by former Lotus employee Tony Divey (1930 - 2013). He built the first Triking in the late 1970s because he was unable to acquire a Morgan.[1] It featured a steel space frame with alloy panels and a glass-fibre bonnet, and was powered by a Moto Guzzi V-twin motorcycle engine. Its popularity led to production.
In 1990, Divey designed a new tubular front end and a one piece glass-fibre 'body'. Triking Cyclecars Ltd was dissolved in 2006 upon Divey's retirement and was reformed in 2009 by Alan Layzell, a Triking employee.

# Our council must act to improve bus services



Colton, Easton and Marlingford residents deserve a reliable bus service and clear, accurate information when their journeys are disrupted. Unfortunately, First Bus's handling of local services has fallen well short of the standard our community should expect and I am determined to hold the company to account.

You may recall that in my article for the July edition of *The Grapevine* magazine, I raised concerns about the disruption caused by the A47 roadworks and the impact on Excel Bus Services. Since then, further concerns have emerged about First Bus's handling of services to Easton. The company stopped serving the villages without putting an adequate replacement service in place. When I sought an urgent meeting to discuss the situation, I was instead told that Norfolk County Council would provide a funded shuttle bus. The council subsequently confirmed that this information was incorrect. I find this deeply concerning. I must be able to rely on accurate information when helping constituents, particularly when residents are trying to establish how they can travel. Being given incorrect information about a replacement service only adds to the uncertainty and risks leaving people without a viable way to get around.

For those without access to a car, losing a bus service is far more than an inconvenience. It can mean struggling to get to work or school, missing medical appointments, finding it harder to reach shops or becoming isolated from friends and family. These consequences must be



taken seriously whenever services are disrupted or routes are changed. However, Colton, Easton and Marlingford are not alone in facing these problems. Across South Norfolk, I have received a growing number of complaints about late and cancelled buses, services that fail to turn up, route withdrawals, timetable changes and poor communication.

I no longer believe these can be dismissed as isolated operational problems. They raise serious questions about First Bus's overall performance, its communication with passengers and local authorities, and whether it is providing the reliable service our communities need.

I have raised these concerns directly with First Bus, Norfolk County Council and the Minister for Buses and Local Transport. I have also called on the council to undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of First Bus's performance, including its handling of road closures and diversions, its communication with passengers and the impact of service changes on local communities.

My position is clear: I have lost confidence in First Bus as the provider of our local bus services. I am calling on Norfolk County Council to use the powers available to it to remove First Bus as the operator and work towards an alternative where appropriate. Public transport is an essential service and decisions must put the needs of passengers and communities first.

Changing an operator is not a decision to be taken lightly. However, persistent failures must have consequences and residents deserve to see meaningful action to restore confidence in their bus services.

That is why I have launched a petition calling for reliable, affordable bus services across South Norfolk and for First Bus to be replaced. You can sign the petition here: **surveymonkey.com/r/BringBackOurBuses**

Every signature helps demonstrate the strength of feeling across our communities and reinforces the case for meaningful change.

I want to thank everyone who has contacted me and shared their experiences.

Please be assured that I will continue pressing First Bus and Norfolk County Council for answers and action. With your support, we can make the strongest possible case for the reliable bus service Colton, Easton and Marlingford residents deserve.

***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**

## Community centre update




Work on the community centre is progressing well. The path outside is almost finished and plumbing work is around 90% complete while the air conditioning, fire alarm and outstanding electrical work have been finished.
The kitchen flooring has been replaced and repairs have been carried out to the washroom floors.
The former changing rooms are being repurposed as storage space to help address the shortage of storage within the building.
The council agreed to accept quotations for the new kitchen (£12,768), meeting room furniture (£5,632.65) and a commercial vacuum cleaner (£138.99). The draft lease agreement is currently with the parish council's solicitor for amendment.
Unfortunately, there is a problem with the community centre's solar panels. Although the system is up and running, all the batteries have failed due to their age and the warranty is now invalid because they have not been in use. The council is looking at the available options. It is also considering the options for a dementia café for the village and possible uses for the community centre. The council will continue considering how the community centre can best serve the village and its residents.

## Highways and road safety

The council agreed to apply for two replacement SAM2 speed-monitoring cameras through the Parish Partnership scheme.
There was also an update on the A47 works. A closure of Church Road is planned to allow junction alterations to take place, preventing Persimmon from using the road entrance near the allotments.
Work on the new link road and footbridge is progressing well with the expectation that the new link

road will open by Christmas. Residents should also be aware of upcoming A47 closures and diversions which could lead to increased traffic on local lanes across the Yare Valley area.
The county council has also been trialling a new pothole repair machine in South Norfolk. The trial, which took place in September, is intended to explore ways of improving road maintenance. If successful, a longer-term trial may follow.

## Parish council changes and finances

The council formally noted the resignation of Councillor S Hipperson and thanked her for her contribution to both the parish council and the village.
A new laptop for the parish clerk was approved, along with a separate budget of £5,000 for a laptop, printer and other IT equipment for the new community centre.
The council appointed Faye Haywood of The Virtual Auditor as its internal auditor for the 2026/27 financial year. It also agreed to adopt the National Association of Local Councils' Civility and Respect Pledge, demonstrating its commitment to respectful and constructive working.

## Updates from district and county councils

District Councillor Margaret Dewsbury reported on several initiatives including free Community Climate Action Training and new signs intended to deter fly-tipping.
County Councillor Malcolm Latarche reported that local government reorganisation has been put on hold. Work towards devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk is continuing, with a potential mayoral strategic authority anticipated in May 2027.
Residents were also encouraged to take part in consultations on recycling services and the draft environmental delivery plan for Norfolk.

## Next meeting

Updates on the allotments, the grit bin and the proposed community hub have been deferred until the November meeting which is scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, November 3 at 7pm in Easton Village Hall**

Residents are welcome to attend and hear about the issues affecting the village and the council's ongoing work.

**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**

## Hedges, roads and footpaths

As we move into the cooler months and nesting season is over, now is a good time to trim back hedges. Please ensure that hedges and trees are not over-hanging roads, that paths are free from obstructions and that vegetation is trimmed keeping road signs clear.

## Budget setting

The November meeting will see the budget for 2027/28 discussed and agreed. Following this, the precept for the year will be set. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions around the budget as well as other issues. The agenda will be posted on the Marlingford and Colton parish council website and on the noticeboards at least three days before the meeting.

## Marlingford Conservation area

The parish council is delighted that Justin Ritchie has installed new gates at the entrance to Marlingford conservation area. An upgrade was needed and the new gate has ensured that the area is kept safe for all users.

## Traffic issues

Dereham Road / Church Lane junction will be closed for two months to enable the road to be realigned to connect Easton to the access road, (the old single carriageway A47), on the south side of the new dual carriageway. This work, which we understood was to take place towards the end of the A47 construction in 2027, has now been brought forward due to the progress being made on the entire project.

**The diversions are as follows;**

**The Eastbound route –** to include commercial vehicles leaving The Food Enterprise Zone

- Head west (turn right) from the FEZ onto Church Lane
- Turn left, past Red Barn, on to Colton Road and proceed down the hill towards Marlingford
- In Marlingford, turn left onto Barford Road
- Continue onward onto Bawburgh Road
- Continue onto Long Lane
- Turn Left towards Dereham Road, past Bawburgh Golf Club

and the Costessey Park and Ride, before joining the Dereham Road at the Longwater Roundabout.

- Note also: traffic rat-running from the Mattishall Road and Honingham Road through Colton will also turn right at the T-junction from Norwich Road to Colton Road and follow the rest of the above diversion.

**The Westbound route –** for commercial and all other traffic (principally to the FEZ) coming through Easton from the Longwater interchange, is as follows:

- Turn left onto Marlingford Road, towards Marlingford village. Note this passes Easton School!
- Turn right onto Barford Road
- Turn right onto Colton Road
- Turn right at Red Barn, onto Dereham Rd / Church Lane

More information about the road works can be found here: **nationalhighways.co.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvements/**

## Village communication

While we will continue to advise residents of important ongoing issues via our bi-monthly newsletter and in *The Grapevine*, it would be beneficial if as many of you who do not currently access either the Marlingford Bugle or The (Colton) Village People WhatsApp groups, join one or both of them. That way, we can advise you more quickly of any updates such as traffic issues and other pertinent matters. The groups are also a great way to let you advise everyone else if there are traffic problems or any other issues which may affect your neighbours.

If you would like to do so, please email your mobile phone number to our chairman, John Morse, on **john.morse@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk** who will be pleased to add you to either of the databases.

## Fly Tipping

Illegal dumping of waste on public or private land or in water is a growing concern.

Everyone has a legal duty to dispose of their waste correctly.

It is a criminal offence to dump waste without authorisation.

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste on public or private land/water, ranging from garden and household rubbish to large domestic items and construction or decorating projects.

It harms the environment and wildlife, poses risks to public health, damages watercourses and farmland, attracts vermin, blights local areas, and is expensive to

clean up – sometimes running into thousands of pounds annually. People who fly-tip can face fixed penalties of up to £1,000 for smaller offences; heavy fines (up to £50,000 in Magistrates' Court and unlimited in Crown Court); and imprisonment for up to 5 years.
You can take most household waste to one of Norfolk County Council household recycling centres.
Some private individuals or companies also offer waste collection or disposal services.
As the householder, it is your responsibility to ensure your waste is not fly-tipped. Here is how:

- Ask to see their Waste Carriers Licence issued by the Environment Agency. If they cannot supply this, do not use them.

To check a licence, you can call the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506.

- Ask where they will be taking your waste to dispose of it.
- Keep a record of any paperwork they give you, including their name, address, and waste carrier licence number.

By law you are responsible for any waste removed on your behalf, so if you pay or allow someone to take away your waste and it is fly-tipped, you are responsible.
If you breach the Household Waste Duty of Care Regulations 2005, you could face a fine of up to £5,000.To report Fly-tipping click here; **forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk**



Fly-tipping pictured in the Marligford/Colton area in January 2024. Picture: Annette Hudson

## 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 meeting will be held on:

- **Tuesday, November 10 at 7pm in Marlingford Village Hall**

There will be discussions around the ongoing traffic problems as well the setting of the budget for 27/28.

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 the next meeting.



Marlingford Village Hall.

**Maria Hutson,** clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council,
**T: 01603 850118**
**E: clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk**
**W: marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk**

## Mobile library 2026 – November dates

**Marlingford – Route: CEN 423 Thursday: November 26**

| 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: November 25** | | |
| Ex post Office | 9.45am | 10.00am | NR9 5DB |
| **Easton –Route: CEN 423** | **Thursday: November 26** | | |
| 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.**



Autumn in Colton. Picture: Annette Hudson

# Remember to take time to appreciate the 'now'

November is a bit of an odd month, isn't it? The excitement of summer is a distant memory, the harvest celebrations are behind us and Christmas is still (despite what the shops might have us believe!) a little way off. The clocks have gone back, the evenings are drawing in and the trees that looked so glorious a few weeks ago are rapidly becoming bare.

November can feel like a month of waiting. Waiting for Christmas, waiting for the days to get longer, waiting for something a little more exciting to happen.

We seem to spend an awful lot of our lives waiting for the next thing. We look forward to holidays, birthdays and special occasions. We tell ourselves that things will be better when we're less busy, when the weather improves or when we've finally got through that enormous list of things that need doing. And there's nothing wrong with having things to look forward to. But I sometimes wonder whether, in our eagerness to get to the next exciting moment, we risk overlooking the ordinary days in between.

Because, when you think about it, most of life happens in those ordinary days.

It's in the conversations over a cup of tea, the unexpected kindness of a neighbour or simply finding a moment to sit down and enjoy a bit of peace and quiet.

We tend to think of the significant moments in life as the big occasions: weddings, births, achievements and milestones.

But the Bible reminds us that God is just as interested in the ordinary as the extraordinary.

Jesus spent much of his ministry

in everyday situations. He shared meals, visited people's homes, talked with strangers and noticed people whom others overlooked. Again and again, it was in the midst of ordinary life that something remarkable happened.

Perhaps that's a useful thought for November.

We don't have to wait for Christmas, or a special occasion, or for everything in life to fall neatly into place before we can appreciate what we have. Nor do we need every day to be productive, exciting or memorable.

Some days will be difficult. Some will pass without anything particularly noteworthy happening at all. But that doesn't mean they are without value.

As we move through these darker, quieter weeks of the year, perhaps we can resist the temptation to wish them away and pay a little more attention to the life that is happening right now.

After all, if we spend our whole lives waiting for the next big thing, we might miss an awful lot of living along the way.

***Rev Laura Montgomery***

## Harvest craft celebration at St Peter's Church, Easton

Many thanks to all who came and supported our harvest weekend. Floral arrangements from the students of Easton College with very informative display boards enhanced our beautiful church, together with very creative balloon art and some AMAZING fruit and vegetable animal creations made by younger members of our community.

There was also homemade soup, cakes plus tea and coffee.

A total amount of £300 was raised for the church. Once again grateful thanks to all who helped, created and visited.

**Margaret Seely, Churchwarden**

| 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 |

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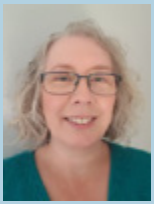
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