

Colton Parish News

March 2024

Colton Summer Festival Save the Date 21st ~ 23rd June

<p>Friday 21st</p> <p>8pm Beacon Lighting</p>  <p>Sunday 23rd</p> <p>Open Gardens</p> <p>ScareCrow competition judging</p> <p>At the Ye Olde Dun Cow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beer Festival• Prize Giving	<p>Saturday 22nd</p> <p>11 am Duck Race followed by</p> <p>Tug of War - Dun Cow v Greyhound</p> <p>Outside at Village Hall 2pm onwards</p> <p>Drinks Bar</p> <p>Bring your own Picnic</p> <p>Bouncy Castle</p> <p>Face Painting</p> <p>Welly Wanging</p> <p>Rounders etc</p> <p>Fun Dog Competition</p> <p>Bake Off – Cakes</p> <p>Colton Choir</p> <p>Interesting Stalls around the grounds</p> <p>In the Evening and inside - Ceilidh from 7-10pm</p>
--	--

Next meeting at The Greyhound Pub Tuesday 20th February at 7pm

Come along – Everyone is very welcome!

Colton Parish News is sponsored by:

The Parish Lands Trust, St. Mary's Church & the Parish Council



Church Services at St Mary's Church Colton

First Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00am
Second Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00am
	(or occasional Messy Church, keep an eye out for	
Third Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00am
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00am
Fifth Sunday	Service format will vary	11.00am

Message from your editor



This month you will see that there are a few requests for help from you all. On page 8 there is a request for help in sprucing up the village hall . Whenever I show perspective new clients around the hall I am always very proud of the way it looks and how complimentary they are and it is time now to give it a lick of paint to keep it looking so nice. I hope you will be able to give some time to help.

The next meeting to discuss the Colton Summer festival is 20/2/24 in the Greyhound at 7pm. Please come along with any ideas you may have.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

Best wishes

fiona

**All Items for inclusion in the NEXT EDITION
Must reach the Editor by 15th of THIS MONTH**



coltonparishnews@yahoo.com

Thank you Fiona O'Brien Editor

From the Rector....

Surprise! Some things catch us out unawares, which for those of us who like to plan ahead and know what is going to happen can be a bit of a shock. Surprises can delight or disturb us – and sometimes both at the same time.

This year Easter is quite early, on Sunday the 31st March. The date of Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover festival and the lunar calendar of 12 or 13 lunar months, which is why Easter dodges about from late March to mid-April and can catch us out a bit unawares. Christmas by comparison is fixed, always 25th December, and our traditions leave us in no doubt that that day is drawing near!

Easter traditions, coming at a time of year when we are looking forward to Spring rather than hunkering down for Winter are less overwhelming; something I welcome. The weeks before Easter and especially Holy Week when the church follows Jesus' journey that leads to the cross of Good Friday offer us a chance to reflect on our life and the direction we are going. The surprise is that every year as we hear about Jesus' choices they speak to our situation, inspiring, challenging and encouraging us in our own life journey.

The "moving target" of Easter keeps us on our toes, providing a bit of "dither" in our calendars that stops us becoming too settled in our ways. The good news of Jesus is not static and fixed but always on the move as it animates us to do good and excites in us a lively spirit of hope. It surprises us, delights us and disturbs us with the recognition that God has a life journey for each of us to follow and is with us in all the plans and surprises we will meet on the way.

"Alleluia, Christ is risen!"; wishing us all a surprising Easter!

Simon

St Mary's Church Contacts

All enquiries for Funerals, Weddings, Baptism & any Pastoral Needs

Please contact Prebendary Simon Davis



St Mary's Church
Colton

RECTOR

Prebendary Simon Davis

The Vicarage

Market Place

Abbots Bromley WS15 3BP

Tel: 01 283 840 242

e-mail: revdsimon@gmail.com

Church Warden

Rachel Bayliss

24 Moorcroft

Colton, WS153ND

e-mail: rachel.bayliss@outlook.com

Church Warden

Katie Brown

Admaston Farmhouse

Admaston. WS15 3NH

Tel: 01 889 500 232

e-mail: admastonfarm@outlook.com

For any pastoral needs please contact Olive
Ballard on 01889 584097 or 07342343991

Messages to Parochial Church Council

Katie Brown (Secretary)

Admaston Farmhouse

Admaston. WS15 3NH

Tel: 01 889 500 232

e-mail: admastonfarm@outlook.com

Messages to Colton Parish Council

Ms Alison James

Apartment 48, Handsacre Court
Canon Lane, Rugeley, WS15 1PQ

Tel: 07 969 266 779

e-mail: colton.pc@hotmail.co.uk

Colton WI Report, February 2024



Colton WI met on Wednesday February 14th. The meeting was open for the public to join us to hear a talk on emergency heart procedures.

Our President, Sue, opened the meeting and welcomed several members of the public before introducing our speaker, Duncan Parsonage.

Duncan explained that he is the Managing Director of PULSE, a company that provides emergency medical training. He is a retired NHS Ambulance Service paramedic originally with Staffordshire Ambulance Service; the service, he told us, had been in the forefront of groundbreaking and lifesaving procedures, which had been adopted nationwide.

Duncan reported that 250 people a day die of sudden cardiac arrest and many of these could be prevented by speedy emergency help.

He told us that you will know if someone is in cardiac arrest if they have collapsed with no breathing or speech (give the person a hard tap to see if they respond). If the person has chest pains but talks to you then they are probably only having a heart attack and not in cardiac arrest.

If no response then lie the person on their back with the head lifted and the chin up, to prevent stoppage in the airway. Check for breath by listening for 10 seconds.

Next Dial 999, if there is a defibrillator nearby then ask for the code to unlock it. Send someone for it. Also, preferably with a mobile phone on speaker, start CPR. This is performed by placing two hands, one on top of the other, in the middle of the patient's chest, at nipple line. Align yourself above your hands and press 5cm down hard with constant, regular pressure, up and down, keeping bottom hand fingers on the patient. You can use the tune to 'Nellie the Elephant' or 'Staying Alive' to keep at the correct speed. Continue this until defibrillator arrives. Then cut through all clothing to place pads on patient. The defibrillator



machine talks you through the whole procedure. Do not remove pads until emergency services are with you.

Duncan recommended *what3words*, a method of identifying the precise location of your house. This will send emergency services to exactly the right place.

Sue thanked Duncan for his most informative talk.

We then enjoyed refreshments and Duncan judged the competition which was for a single garden bloom. He gave the prize to Polly for her beautiful pink Chamelia.

Sue made a few announcements, and the raffle was drawn.



Our next meeting is the AGM at the Village Hall on March 13th at 7.30. We will be entertained by one of our members, Lynne Richardson, who will tell us about Standard Bearing. The competition is for An item displaying the Union Jack .

We would love to see new members so anyone interested is invited to join us – you will be most welcome.

Polly Macmillan



THE VILLAGE HALL **NEEDS SOME TLC!**

Our village hall is looking a little shabby inside. Our finances do not allow us to use professional painters and decorators, so we need volunteers to help us carry out the work. We are organising a

Painting Party to which everyone is most cordially invited. Because we need to repaint not only the main hall but also the Bellamour Room and the toilets, we are setting aside the whole of the weekend of the 23rd and 24th March from 09.30 on the Saturday morning. We really would appreciate it if as many parish residents as possible could give a little of their time over that weekend to help spruce the place up! We will provide all the equipment as well as tea, coffee, biscuits and bacon baps! No need to let us know you are coming – just turn up. All help - no matter how little time you can give – would be very gratefully appreciated.

John Macmillan

Chair, Colton VHMC

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30 pm unless advised to the contrary.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and should note that their participation is limited to a maximum 20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting when questions and comments from the public are taken.

Parish Council Elected Members



Nigel Parry
Bank Top House
75 High St
Colton
mob 07968823066
email:njp5@blueyonder.co.uk

CHAIRMAN

No one elected at Annual meeting. Councillors will take turns to chair meetings

Garren Edwards
mob:07890103450
email:garren_edwards@hotmail.com

Lynne Richardson
email:lynnemrichardson54@gmail.com

Noel Talbot
22 Moorcroft
Colton
mob:07850655807
email:noeltalbot@hotmail.co.uk

CLERK to the COUNCIL

Ms Alison James, Apartment 48,
Handsacre Court, Canon Lane, Rugeley
WS15 1PQ.

Mob: 07 969 266 779
e-mail: colton.pc@hotmail.co.uk

*Please note the clerk is part time, working
the equivalent of 1 day per week*



www.coltonpc.org.uk

External Organisation Contacts

Lichfield District Council Numbers

L.D.C. Switchboard	01 543 308 000
L.D.C. Out of hours Emergency	01 543 308 999
Lichfield District Councillor (Keith Vernon)	07711758852
Environmental Health: Dog Warden, Food Licensing, Noise and Pollution Control	01 543 308 725
Dangerous Buildings	01 543 308 157
Dog Fouling, Litter and Fly-Tipping	01 543 308 999
Pest Control	0844 335 0330
Homelessness/Housing Enquiries	01 543 308 709
Trading Standards	01 283 239 913

Miscellaneous Numbers

Age Concern	01 785 600 610
Bogus Callers—Staffordshire Police	01 543 686 142
Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau, Rugeley.	01 889 580 633
Citizens Advice Bureau Advice line:	www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Council for Voluntary Services	01 543 303 030
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Cruise Bereavement Line	02 083 327 227
Deer Casualty Line	07 699 745 400
Domestic Violence	01 543 676 800
Drug/Alcohol Information Line	08000 858 276
Electrical Power Loss (Western Power DistributionWest)	0800 328 1111
Gas Escape	0800 111 999
Highway Repair Hotline	0300 111 8000
Keep Britain Tidy Campaign: 'Shop-a-dropper' tip off hotline	0845 3000 630
NHS Direct	0845 4647
NSPCC Child Protection	0800 800 500
Neighbourhood Watch	See Page 39
Police non-emergency telephone number	101
Pollution (not noise) Control	0800 807 060
Rape and Sexual Abuse	02 078 371 600
Relate	01 543 304 858
Samaritans	11623
Samaritans (local numbers)	01 785 243333
Social Services	01 543 510 800
Stafford Hospital	01 785 257731
Staffordshire County Council (S.C.C.)	01 785 223 121
Staffordshire County Councillor (Richard Cox)	01 543 490 758
South Staffs Water	0800 389 1011
Sewerage problems, Severn Trent Water	0800 7834444

Colton Organisation Contacts

Colton Local nature reserve John MacMillan Tel: 01889 575394 Email:mrjkmac@sky.com	Colton Parish Council Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email: colton.pc@hotmail.co.uk
Village Hall Bookings Fiona O'Brien Tel: 07784497048 Email:bookings@coltonvillagehall.org.uk Management committee John MacMillan Tel: 01889575394 Email:mrjkmac@sky.com	Parish Lands Trust Claire Collier Tel: 07966637044 Email:clerk.cpltd@gmail.com
St. Mary's Primary School Mr John Wynn-Head Teacher Tel: 01889224506 Email:stmatysoffice@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk	Colton Community Choir Ruth Jones Tel: 01889 570724 Email: ruth46jones@gmail.com
Colton Old People's Welfare Committee Mrs Amanda Pratt Tel: 07976975960 Email: mandspratt@msn.com	Colton Women's Institute Email:secretarycoltonwi@gmail.com
Colton Produce Guild Mr Peter Brightman (Chairman) Tel: 07896521941 Email: pd.brightman@hotmail.co.uk	Colton Almshouses Email:coltonparishnews@yahoo.com
Colton History Society Mrs Gill Sykes Email: gillsykes@btinternat.com	Colton Friendship Club Mrs Judy Winter Tel: 01889 583517
Burial Ground Trustee Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email: colton.pc@hotmail.co.uk	

Observations From the Kitchen Window

You could not start to guess how much I am in serious brownie point deficit! Whether or not I was actually to blame for the incident is beside the point.



The event in question was none less than the disappearance of Hector. 'Er Indoors and I had been sitting at our desks in the office totally immersed in the riveting subject of our tax returns which were due for submission by the end of January. After two hours we started to think about lunch. Bacon sandwiches seemed like the order of the day.

Now, normally, when we rattle implements around in the kitchen and start frying bacon, it acts as a clarion call for the dogs to appear in the hope of scrounging tit bits. Poppy appeared bang on schedule, but Hector was notable by his absence. We called his name, but there was no response. Perhaps he had sneaked upstairs to find the comfort of a thick pile carpet. This was certainly forbidden territory, but it would never stop him if he thought he could get away with it and if, as usual, for the umpteenth time I had failed to close the door. No sign there either!

We searched the garage, each of the downstairs rooms, calling all the while. 'Er Indoors sent me off down the garden to see if he was watching a squirrel up a tree. Poppy came with me thinking this was all a game. Still no sign. Maybe he had got out of the front door when I opened it to receive the DPS delivery earlier. I looked down the road but could see no evidence of him holding up the traffic by the school. So I decided to get the car out and have a drive around. Fortunately, 'Er Indoors had had the presence of mind to switch off the bacon. Otherwise we would have been forced to eat a lunch that not even the worst example of the music hall characterisations of a Greasy Spoon would have been willing to serve up.

No sign of him round by the Church. Nor was he on Lower Martlin or Village Hall Field. Since Hector is very much a creature of habit, there seemed little point in driving around other areas of the village which he never habituates.

So having drawn another blank, it was back home to think again. One concern was that he was not wearing his name tag. The split ring had broken and 'Er Indoors had not fitted the new one (although that did not excuse me for not having taken the initiative to attach it to his collar).

So we started the hunt all over again. We searched upstairs and downstairs and in my lady's chamber. The garage produced no sighting. I went down the garden to the paddocks with Poppy, all the while calling his name. Absolutely nothing materialised. What to do?



This was reminiscent of an earlier crisis in the village with the disappearance of Craig and Kate's dog, Chip. Chip who is also known as the "Colton Killer" is probably the smallest dog in Colton. This fearsome beast got spooked by a gust of wind and simply vanished while out on a walk!. At the time this gave rise to much concern and a mass search party was assembled to beat the bushes around the village, only to find that Chip had rushed back to the sanctuary of home.

'Er Indoors asked if I had looked in any of the sheds and if not, why not!? I said no, because they were all locked up! Then a little niggle wormed its way into my brain. I had a vague notion that, when I went down to the veggie patch just after breakfast to view the mole traps, I had found that one had sprung. I had to go into the sheds to find a trowel to enable me to reset it. So off I trotted with keys in hand. I was not sure which of the sheds I had opened up, so I started with the nearest one. Anyway, when I had got the door open, there was Hector fast asleep on the carpet (all our sheds have carpets for some unknown reason) He got up, yawned deeply and had a good stretch. He did not seem over pleased that I had disturbed his slumber. He had not responded to my earlier calls and Poppy had been a fat lot of use in sniffing him out!

So there was Hector as large as life and in no hurry to get back to the house. Apparently I should have been watching him all the time. Had I done so, I would have noticed him going into the shed to start mousing. However, as I understand it, even if I had I not noticed him going into the shed, I should have still been aware that he had not come out again before I locked up!!!! As usual, none of the blame for our late lunch and earlier worries was attached to Hector.

A stake in the garden with a long lead (for the dogs, of course) has a growing attraction!

Best wishes from all at Sheringham

COLTON GARDEN (PRODUCE) GUILD

It has been suggested, at a higher level, that the term 'Guild' was originally meant for a group of skilled workers who produced goods of high quality. We do not even pretend to do that in the Colton Gardening organization. We are a group of amateur gardeners who meet to share the knowledge we have accumulated during many years of experience and meet on a social basis, with others coming along to talk to us about their different experiences. With this concept in mind, should we be known as 'Colton Garden & Produce Club'? Or have you got a better suggestion? I would be interested to hear the views of anyone else, so don't be afraid to get in touch with me, or better still come along to our next meeting!! We will be entertained with a presentation about the Regeneration of Shugborough Walled Garden – THURSDAY 7TH MARCH at 7.30 pm.



We are approaching a busy time of the year in our gardens, especially if this milder weather continues – I am praying for a few frosts so I have time to regroup and do all the jobs the wet stuff has prevented me from tackling!! The Roses will need a final prune – don't be afraid to be quite severe with this task as you will be rewarded with fewer, but larger blooms. I hope you have been able to finish cutting those hedges as the birds will be very busy nesting and it won't be long before you hear the chirps of fledglings who need feeding. Now is the time to plant new perennials, soft fruits, shrubs, sweet pea plants (they need to be frost-free), seeds need sowing for early crops of salad items, runner and French beans (in pots in a cold frame, under cloches, or in the greenhouse).

No doubt the lawns will be in full growth and will need cutting, edging, raking, and feeding with a good weed and feed fertilizer. Any bare patches can be sown with seed or turf. If you are unfortunate to live in a heavy clay soil area it is a good idea to spike the ground to assist drainage and promote healthy root growth. A light spreading of lawn sand will also assist with any drainage problems. Providing it is still mild the bubble wrap in the greenhouse can be removed, which will

allow you to sow a large variety of flower and vegetable seeds. I will no doubt be encouraged to get those tomato seeds in so they crop earlier than normal. This is just one job to be done – cut off dead heads from bulbs (leave the foliage to die back naturally); cut back the winter flowering Jasmin to encourage new growth which will bear next year's flowers; prune out any wind-damaged branches on trees and shrubs. I am not sure whether it is the changing climate or just the large volume of rain, but I have lost a couple of shrubs this winter, so keep a wary eye on any shrubs that are starting to look poorly. Dig them out and put in new varieties, after you have removed the majority of the root system that has developed in their lifetime.



This is the time to keep a close eye on the vegetable patch and borders by removing established and young new weeds as the warmer damp weather will encourage them to grow vigorously. It is good practice to then mulch these areas with compost, manure, or a granular fertilizer. My runner bean trenches will be dug, lined with newspaper, kitchen vegetable waste, and a generous helping of manure before they are covered and left to mature!! Don't forget to mark where this has been done!! Soft fruit bushes and raspberries will benefit from a high-nitrogen feed. One of my important jobs will be to prepare and sow the seeds in my designated wildflower area – a real boost to morale to see the bees, butterflies, and insects feeding on the nectar through the summer months.

Last, but not least, don't forget our feathered friends. A new nesting box, clean feeding stations, and a fresh supply of water all help to keep the bird population healthy and maintain the species.

HAPPY GARDENING TO YOU ALL. Don't forget the 7th March at 7.30 pm – Village Hall.

Peter Brightman;07896521941/01889803678

**SUMMARY OF COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY (Full minutes will be available at
www.coltonpc.org.uk after approval at March meeting)**

1.Public participation

a) Rachel Bayliss, Churchwarden, attended to respond to comments recorded in recent PC minutes regarding, in particular, the maintenance of Pedley's Croft and the PC's decision not to increase its contribution to mowing costs. Rachel explained that the Church does not have external sources of income and exists primarily on donations from its congregation. Whilst it did receive a generous legacy some years ago that is ring-fenced for restoration works to the building. The church feels that it makes a valuable contribution to parish life including allowing use of Pedley's Croft for village events and ceremonies and thus is deserving of contributions to maintenance costs. The church wished to ensure there is good communication with the PC as there had always been a good working relationship in the past.

These comments were noted and Cllr Noel Talbot asked the church to let the PC know if there was anything they would like built into the PC's budget for 2025/26 (next year's budget already having been set).

b) 2 parishioners, attending a PC meeting for the first time, were particularly interested in the speeding issues being discussed. Safety pulling out near Bellamour Corner was a particular concern and one had written to SCC about this, the speed of vehicles near the turning into the village and the number of accidents, suggesting a 40mph speed limit there.

County Councillor Richard Cox responded that evidence is needed and that reducing the speed limit is a long and complicated process, with priority given to areas where population and traffic are high. Parishioner was asked to send details of his correspondence so that Richard Cox could follow up with Highways.

2.Payments – Included additional gritting of roads, not otherwise covered by SCC, in Colton village and at Stockwell Heath on several occasions in December.

3.Planning Matters – Recent application at Colton Lodge, Bellamour Way for change of use of coach house & barn to dwelling and other works. LDC approval given for dog exercise area for Border Collie Trust.

4.Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces

a) Flooding and highways maintenance – PC's petition was given to Richard Cox to hand in and speak about at SCC meeting later that week. Disappointingly, not as many signatures had been obtained as had been hoped, especially given the strength of feeling at the time when the village was cut off by flooding. Richard Cox had already raised the issue with his Conservative group members, acknowledging that much work was being done on potholes but emphasising that a strategy was needed to avoid communities becoming isolated. SCC's strategy for gully maintenance needs to be reviewed, given the likelihood of more bad weather events. The Cabinet member for Highways had acknowledged the points made as being "very valid". It was pointed out that an ambulance was unable to get into the village to help a parishioner after a fall, though fortunately locals were able to cope. Richard Cox had ensured that the planned closure of Colton Rd in December was deferred and commended the useful and pragmatic comments from Andy Chappell concerning the flooding under Bellamour Lane bridge, which he had forwarded to Highways.

b) State of Newlands Lane – Some patching work done but repairs still needed and Richard Cox said issue is ongoing.

c) Parking issues in the village – Local PCSO to be invited to a PC meeting to discuss, as it is a community safety issue.

d) State of Narrow Lane (at end of Heathway) – A local contractor had been asked to quote for clearing mud from middle of the road but was unwilling, as it is SCC responsibility to maintain and SCC may take issue. Richard Cox offered to ask Highways about it and whether they would have any objection to PC clearing it for pedestrians only.

e) Issue of speeding in the village – Nigel Parry had been looking into technology to monitor speeds and vehicle numbers, particularly a radar sensor on top of a lamppost. He had spoken to a contact at SCC and was awaiting a price from Eon. A more expensive option would be a speed indicator device and Richard Cox said he might be able to provide some funding for a post for that.

f) Benches near phone box and Closed Burial Ground – Quote for refurbishment works received but in meantime it appeared that someone else had done some repairs and painting of the bench by the Closed BG. Clerk to instruct handyman to undertake remaining works per his quote.

g) Parking arrangements near school at start and finish times – Reply from headteacher to PC letter said school would take action to try to discourage parents from parking too near to the brook bridge and to use roads by church instead.

5. Parish events in June

Various events now in planning for 22nd/23rd June. PC agreed to proceed with the barn dance/ceilidh on the Saturday evening with possible small charge for adult tickets. PC has already committed some funds but Richard Cox kindly offered £400 from his county councillor's community funding from April, as he had not given anything to Colton for a long time. Clerk to email to confirm attendance of fire engine.

6. Correspondence – Included correspondence between landowner and SCC about yew hedge on Bellamour Way, parishioner's email about state of Village Hall field after caravan club visit and safety for children playing (Contractor had since harrowed the field and would roll it once it had dried out) and HS2 update. Richard Cox is trying to push HS2 to make the community funds left over from Phase 1 available to those blighted by Phase 2a, where that community funding has been withdrawn. Lynne Richardson offered to contact VHMHC treasurer to see if they could try to make a case for funding for solar panels for Village Hall.

7. Miscellaneous PC matters - Interim audit completed satisfactorily, 2024/25 precept request submitted to LDC and updated PC risk assessment adopted. Another tree inspection report to be arranged as last one was in 2022.

8. Next meeting on Wednesday 6th March at 7pm

Colton Friendship Club
17th January 2024



Judy welcomed sixteen members for the first meeting of 2024, which was our annual Beetle Drive, hosted by Tony. Great hilarity followed, and the eventual overall winner was Lynne S-R. The booby prize was won by yours truly, scoring a lowly 59 points! The 'Beetles' that we had drawn were then decorated and sent in to the art class (taking place in the Bellamour room) for judging - Freda & John's collaboration was deemed the most artistic.

Judy thanked Tony for hosting the beetle drive and then the raffle was drawn.

Next month's speaker (21st February 2024) will be Janet Carleton and her topic will be 'Bringing Freedom & Dignity to the Poor'

At the meeting on 20th March Priscilla Masters (author) will be talking about 'A Novel Life' and our meeting on 17th April will be our annual luncheon (at the later time of midday – 3.30) with Holly Reynolds entertaining us – we will be accepting payment for the meal at the February meeting.

If you would like to attend the Friendship Club but do not have transport, please contact a taxi company of your choice to bring you (and take you home), obtain a receipt and our Treasurer will refund your costs. If you require any assistance getting in and out of the taxi, let me know and I will see how we might help.

For any additional information, please contact either Judy Winter 01889 583 517 or Karen Hill 01889 586 379.

Karen Hill

Colton History Society January Meeting.

Bill Basford gave a very interesting talk on Welbeck Abbey.

Welbeck Abbey is the Nottinghamshire ancestral home of the Dukes of Portland, 4 miles S.W. of Worksop. During the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry V¹¹¹ it went into private ownership and in Elizabeth 1 reign was bought by Charles Cavendish of Chatsworth. It became the ancestral home of the Dukes of Portland later in her reign. However for his talk Bill concentrated on the eccentric 5th Duke of Portland, Lord William John Cavendish Bentinck Scott, 1800 to 1879.

Lord William, during his period of ownership of Wellbeck, created a series of tunnels and rooms under the house. He was the second of three sons who constantly worried about his health and is thought to have been disfigured in some way. He did not like to be seen in public and it is thought that he had the tunnels built so that he could come and go from his house without being seen. There were four tunnels running in all about 15 miles with an exit at the four points of the compass on the estate. They were made with brick linings and were big enough to allow a carriage and four horses to pass through. They took 6 years to construct employing 1500 men in teams of 200. Each pair of workers was given by the Duke a donkey to get them to and from work and an umbrella to keep them dry. He also constructed a library, a ballroom and a riding school all underground. There was never a ball held in the ballroom during his life such was his reclusiveness. The tunnels were lit by 5000 gas lamps run from a gas factory on the estate. The cost all told must have been phenomenal.

He would often travel by train to more distant places especially to his house in London. When he did so he was taken by his stage coach through the tunnels to the nearby station where it was put onto an open wagon attached to the back of the train with him remaining in the coach so that he did not have to meet anyone.

He had no known heirs and it is believed he never married because of what his father had told him. His father had revealed that his grandmother had a madness that was thought to be congenital and had encouraged him never to marry and he never did. However he did have a public life when he was younger. At 18 he went into the army

and at one point went missing as a young man. He left the army and at 24 became the MP for Kings Lynn. This did not last long however and at 26 he relinquished his seat to his younger brother. Between the ages of 26 and 34 he was back in the army again serving in India. At the age of 54 upon the death of his father, he became Duke of Portland as his elder brother had died. He inherited the title and the properties. Returning to Wellbeck is when his reclusive behaviour surfaced. He lived in only a few rooms in the massive house and communicated with his staff through letterboxes in the doors of these rooms issuing orders in missives posted to them. Another of his eccentricities was that he never ate anything but chicken.

However there was one mystery about his life. He would often go to his London house and not far from this house was a bazaar (like a market shop) that he would frequently visit. After his death a man challenged his estate in the courts. This person ended up negotiating an out of court settlement of 4.5 million pounds. A substantial amount of money. Was this a son? Did he have a secret wife and family in London? It remains a mystery!

Colton history Society. The next meeting will be on March 27th at 2pm. The talk is by David Wilkinson on The Origins of Stafford.

'From Staffordshire to the Outback' by Gill Sykes.

This book is about 3 Rugeley men from the same family who are acknowledged in Australia for the significant contributions they made to the development of the continent. Frederic Bonney came to live in Colton at Colton House when he returned from his years in Australia. Many of his photographs taken of the people and village of Colton and photos from his time in Australia, are in Colton history archives. The book is part history part travelogue. Obtainable from Gill Sykes 07791062558 at a cost of £6.

From Staffordshire to the Outback



The adventures of 3 Staffordshire
Men in Australia

By Gill Sykes

Colton History Society

Colton, photographs from the archives



Colton Arms Houses that stood at Stockwell Heath. They were nicknamed "The Barracks" and housed the poor of the village. This photo was taken circa 1885 by Frederic Bonney who lived at Colton House.

Mrs Gill Sykes

Email: [gillsykes @btinternet.com](mailto:gillsykes@btinternet.com)

Colton history Society. The next meeting will be on March 27th at 2pm. The talk is by David Wilkinson on The Origins of Stafford.

THE GOOD ZEST COMPANY

REFLEXOLOGY

Colton Village (Rugeley)

OR mobile treatments in the comfort of your own home.

**10%
OFF**

Price

50 mins treatment ~~£55~~

Special Offer £45

Block booking savings available



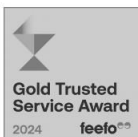
Treatment room in Colton, Rugeley

ABOUT ROSE

Rose is the founder of The Good Zest Company and also a clinical Reflexologist based in Colton. She holds the highest Reflexology qualification in the UK (Level 5) and delivers personalised treatments using organic products and her extensive knowledge.

BENEFITS OF REFLEXOLOGY

Reflexology involves gentle manipulation of the nerve endings in the feet, corresponding to organs, to release stored tension and toxins, supporting the body's natural healing process. It is non-invasive and complements traditional medicine.



Contact: Tel: 07719023882

email: rose@thegoodzestcompany.co.uk

Website: www.thegoodzestcompany.co.uk

- Anxiety
- Circulatory
- Arthritis
- Digestive issues
- Joint pain
- Respiratory
- Depression
- Pain relief
- Hormonal
- Sleeplessness
- Muscularskeletal

VILLAGE EVENTS
March 2024

Day	Date	Event	Place	Time
Tue	weekly	Tai Chi	Village Hall	10:00 am
Wed	6th	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7:00 pm
Wed	13th	WI	Village Hall	7:30
Wed	weekly	Art Club	Village Hall	10:00 am
Wed	20th	Friendship group	Village Hall	10:30 am
Thur	7th	Garden Guild	Village Hall	7:30 pm
Thur	27th	History Society	Village Hall	7:30 pm
Thur	weekly	Post Office	Bellamour room	12.00 am
Thur	Bi-Monthly	Village Hall Committee meeting	Village Hall	7:30 pm
Thur	7th	Grey bin	Kerbside	7:00 am

COLTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

**INVITE YOU TO COME ALONG AND JOIN
OUR GROUP OF JOLLY SINGERS – ALL
ENJOY A GOOD LIGHT-HEARTED SING.**

**NO PROFESSIONALS – JUST ENTHUSIASTIC
AMATEURS WHO ENJOY SINGING A
VARIETY OF MUSIC. WE MEET EVERY
MONDAY AT 7.00PM IN ST. MARY'S
CHURCH, COLTON. . THE CHOIR HAVE
PERFORMED AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS
CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE VILLAGE
HALL, THE CAROL SERVICE AT ST.
MARY'S, COLTON, AND AT LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL AT THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT.
WHO KNOWS WHERE TO NEXT!!**

!! DO COME AND JOIN US !!

MOST Splendid
Milk Delivery



Count on
us will be
there rain or shine
Please return
bottles after
using them



Semie Skimmed = Silver lid
Full Fat = gold lid

07932452535

Milk + Sundries
from 'The Cow
Shed'
Doorstep Delivery
+ Empty
Collection
£1 per delivery
2-3/week
William Hunt



Post Office Services

at Colton Village Hall

A wide range of services are available including:

Postage Stamps, Parcelforce Express, Personal and Business Banking (including High St Banking), Cash Withdrawals, Cash and Cheque Deposits, Currency Exchange, Travel Money, Car Tax and Travel Insurance.

Colton Post Office Services are supplied by Armitage Post Office & Store, Armitage. WS15 4BH. Opening Times Mon- Friday 9am - 6pm, Sat 9am - 1pm, Sunday Closed

Here every Thursday

12:00am - 2:00pm

We look forward to seeing you soon



• THE COW SHED •
COLTON VILLAGE STORE

We stock a wide variety of local and British produce.

Seasonal Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Cooked meats, Savouries and Cheeses
Homemade meals from our Dun Cow Kitchen
Store Cupboard Essentials
Household Cleaning Products
Sweets, Chocolate, Crisps and Tasty Treats
Wine and Spirits
Kindling and Firelighters
Homemade Cake and Takeaway Coffee/Tea
Greeting Cards and Food Gifts

Our Fresh Milk is in returnable glass bottles from the Fabulous
Alkmonton Dairy based near Ashbourne From 80p a bottle.
(10p reduction off your next bottle when you bring your bottle back)



THE COW SHED find us on the car park at Ye Olde Dun Cow
Open Monday - Thursday, 11-5 Friday & Saturday 11-7
Sunday 11-4





Colton Art Club



EVERY WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

COLTON VILLAGE HALL



The Art Club is run by local artist Della Welch



Come along & join in the fun!

My aim is to provide a fun, friendly & productive environment in which all skill levels are welcome & encouraged to artistically thrive; the classes are ideal for beginners, those looking to reinvigorate their practical art skills, wanting to learn to work with a new medium or to just simply have a few hours of focussed creativity each week in a relaxed & informal setting.



Our Art Club has been running since August 2016 and continues to run on a Pay-As-You-Go basis, so you can attend just on the weeks that you're able (GIFT VOUCHERS are also now available, please see full details below); each week we look at various subject matter & artistic styles & explore different media along the way.

Everyone participates at their own pace & I provide guided tuition throughout each session to encourage personal development of your own ideas & knowledge.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Simply turn up if you fancy giving the club a try or if you would like to treat someone who is interested in attending the art club, I now offer GIFT VOUCHERS which can be bought in advance for single or multiple sessions and can be used on any Wednesday.

If you'd like to purchase Gift Vouchers, please contact me.

Everyone's first class is half price at £7.50 (inc. Gift Vouchers), full fees apply thereafter

- All materials provided (just bring an apron)
- Refreshments provided

Just come along or for more info please contact Della Welch;

mrswelchsartclub@gmail.com or 07792 741219



COLTON & COLWICH TAI CHI

T'ai Chi

for better health



**EVERY TUESDAY AT
COLTON VILLAGE HALL
10 - 11 AM**

£5 PER SESSION (BOOKED ONLY)

For enquiries and booking, please contact Andrew or Gloria
on **01889 808449** or **07941 650255**
or visit the website for more information

www.ColwichTaiChi.org.uk

BORDER COLLIE

TRUST

G.B.

Acres Fold Boarding Kennels

AT BORDER COLLIE TRUST (G.B.)

BORDER COLLIE

TRUST

G.B.

Heathway, Colton
Near Rugeley, WS15 3LY
Tel: 01 889 577 058

Please call or visit for a brochure or
Visit our website

www.bordercollietrustgb.org.uk

for full details of the boarding kennels and our current costs.

Open 7 days a week 9.00 am to 12.00 pm & 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm

ALL PROFITS TO BORDER COLLIE TRUST

Registered Charity 1053585

Durrant

Funeral Service Ltd

"Our family caring for yours at a time of need"

We are a family run funeral service with over 40 years
experience.

We can arrange Burials & Cremations to suit all

Budgets from £2500 for a Cremation inc all statutory fees.

(We will price match any quotes you have for the same service)

81 Fernwood Drive, Rugeley

01889 574593

(24 hours a day)

Mobile Foot Care

Jane Knight RGN. MCFHP. MAFHP

- Corns
- Verrucae
- Calluses
- Ingrowing toe nails
- Nail trimming & filing
- Reduction of thick nails
- Treatment of fungal infections
- Consultation & advice



01 889 590 114



07 791 625 378

Dec20

Cathedral Chem-Dry



Cleaning carpets & upholstery locally, regularly & professionally

33 Darnford Lane,
Lichfield WS14 9RW

Website: www.cathedralchemdry.co.uk

Tel: 01543 418811

Mobile: 07817038349

M&S Window Cleaning

Provide a 5 Star Rated Window Cleaning Service



A Trusted Trader with over 1,400 likes on Facebook & Over 130 5 Star Reviews & Recommendations on Facebook

We are reliable and affordable, our services are easy to book and guaranteed to meet all of your requirements

★ Gutter Cleaning & Unblocking

★ UPVC Fascias

★ Soffitt & Gutter Cleaning

★ Gutter Repairs

★ Conservatory Cleaning

★ Block Paving & Drive Cleaning

★ Window Cleaning

★ And More!



01 889 800 545



mandscleaning@live.co.uk

Ask for
ANDY



07 870 740 371



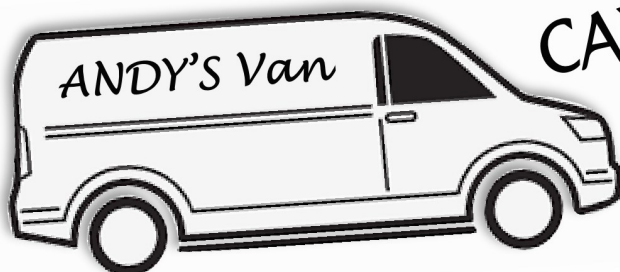
M&S Window Cleaning

Text address & postcode, we will contact you & arrange time & date to visit

Jan 2021

MAN WITH A VAN

CALL ANDY!



07 870 740 371



01 889 800 545

Single Items

Full Loads

Sheds Empties

House Clearance

Garage Clearance

Rubbish Removal

Aug 2020

Local Odd Job Man with a van!

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Gardening

**Garden
Clearance**

Jet

washing

Bin Cleaning

Tip runs

**Blinds
Fitting**

Gutter cleaning

**Furniture
collections**

Floor laying

**Shed repairs
including roofing**

**Indoor & Outdoor
painting & decorating**

Rubbish bag removal

carpet removals

End of tenancy cleaning

**Single small/medium
pick ups and deliveries**

**Fence walls
& shed painting**

*If its not on the list still
give me a call :*

Del 07949411547





Neighbourhood
Watch

**Emergency
Dial 999**



Neighbourhood
Watch

**Non
Emergency
Dial 101**

Contact your local Co-ordinator

LOCATION	COORDINATOR	CONTACT NUMBER
Bellamour	Andy Chappell	01 889 582 794
Bellamour Way	Peter Magee	01 889 578 289
	Tony Winter	01 889 583 517
	Gwen Johnson	01 889 586 469
	Karen Hill	01 889 586 379
Hollow Lane Bank Top & Hadley Gate	David Bradbury	01 889 585 519
High Street	Robin Woodward	01 889 585 811
	Graham Nunn	01 889 585 368
Moor Croft	Dave Stebbings	01 889 586 792
Heathway	Jean Freeman	01 889 576 546
Fair Meadows	Carol Sanders	01 889 582 503

