

Colton Parish News

July 2025



The Colton fun run accompanied by a classic steam engine at a Colton festival held to raise money for the new Village Hall.

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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
Third Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00am
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00am
Fifth Sunday	Service format will vary	11.00am
Keep Your eyes peeled for details of special Sunday Afternoon Events		

Colton Community Choir

Invite you to come along and join our group of Jolly singers. A group of enthusiastic amateurs who enjoy singing a variety of music. We meet every Monday at 7pm at St. Marys Church Colton.

Do come and join us.



Message from your editor



Welcome to July ! Half way through the year already and racing towards the summer holidays. Lets hope this current warm weather continues .

I have included a new feature giving details of events happening at Rugeley Library after being contacted by them. There is a link below for details of all events at the Cannock and Rugeley Libraries but I have just taken a snapshot for information. I hope you find it useful.

<https://lnks.gd/2/32pdLh9>

Best wishes

fiona

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



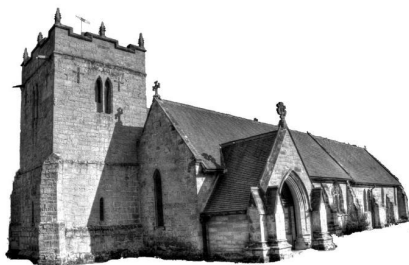
coltonparishnews@yahoo.com

Thank you Fiona O'Brien Editor

St Mary's Church Contacts

For all Funerals, Weddings, Baptism & any Pastoral Needs

Please contact Revd Lynne Dean



St Mary's Church
Colton

Church Warden

Rachel Bayliss

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Messages to Parochial Church Council

vacant

Resident priest

The Revd Lynne Dean

The New Rectory,

Bellamour Way,

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07736 972560 lanternlit@hotmail.com

Rector

Prebendary Simon Davis

The Vicarage

Marke Place

Abbots Bromley Ws15 3BP

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Mrs Olive Ballard

Reader Emeritus

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Mrs Victoria Hawley

The Old Rectory

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Messages to Colton Parish Council

Ms Alison Parnell

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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 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

Chairman

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

Clerk to the Council

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Dear Readers,

“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy day of summer...” So sang Nat King Cole In 1963. The same year as Cliff Richard (who’s amazingly 85; still sharing his Chistian Faith) sang: “We’re all going on Summer Holiday” in the film released that year, in which he drives a double-decker bus. Move over, Tom Cruise. Cliff did drive it! No CGI.

As July unfolds, it brings with it the quintessential charm of summer—those lazy afternoons under the shade of old elms, the hazy warmth that seems to wrap the world in golden hues, and the crazy bursts of laughter from children chasing kites and dreams alike... The latter (dare I say?) somewhat purple prose, mercifully, isn’t mine. It’s generated by Artificial Intelligence. I’m almost tempted to stop there. You might wish I had! But I think I need to say something a little less flowery...

Here we are, then, in July. Yes, the seventh month of 2025 already. The heart of summer, and the month of my mother’s birthday (23rd - she’d be 103) shared by my best friend from school who died in a road crash in 1971, aged 19, and is buried in St Stephen’s churchyard. We’re past the Longest Day (summer solstice) too; no prizes for spotting the first Christmas merchandise in the shops and Garden Centres!

I’m amazed that it’s 18 years, since I retired from teaching. Early. And I thought I’d struggle financially, but God has been good; I’ve “got by”. There are times when we decidedly need to take a break or call a halt to something we’ve been doing for, perhaps, many years. I’ve informed Colwich Church folk that 2025-2026 will be my last year as a Churchwarden as I’ll be on the six years’ limit, of my current stint.

Whenever I hear someone say: “There I was sat...” or “I were stood...” I want to shout: “was **sitting**...” or “were **standing**... “. Maybe I’m just pedantic. But Jesus’ ministry on earth came to an end and he, indeed, “sat down”... in heaven. His ministry on earth lasted only three years (looking back to 2022 doesn’t seem long ago, does it?) but his work was **done** and we read in the Gospels, “he was taken up into heaven and he **sat** at the right hand of God.” [Mark 16.19] What could be more final, than to “sit down”? And not just anywhere but at the “right hand of God the Father”, affirming that Jesus has equal status to the Father within the Godhead (Hebrews 1:3, 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 7:55-56) God’s right hand signifies power, authority, honour, and a place of favour. It’s often used to represent God’s ability to act, intervene, and bestow blessings. And he does indeed bless us. God is not remote and inaccessible, he is equated with the “father” in Jesus’ parable (or story) who ran to greet his “Prodigal son” when he decided to come home, even though he had squandered all that his father had given him. He was still loved and welcomed. So too is anyone who simply asks Jesus into their lives...

God “welcomes them... us... home.” Beginning just as we are in 2025 and extending into all eternity.

But, during his three years’ ministry, Jesus took breaks. He was, and is, **fully God**, but **fully human** too. He became tired, even falling asleep in a boat with his terrified friends as a storm brew on Lake Galilee. But Jesús acted, he quelled the alarm.

July is associated with holidays. And the few original “Holy Days” were set aside with a break from work. And the word “recreation” becomes “re – creation.” Breaks are essential. All work and no play and all that...

Maybe you won’t be on holiday “chasing kites” as AI suggested, although I can remember (along with my brother) trying to fly box-kites on Drigg beach near Windscale (now Sellafield in Cumbria) in July 1957, just weeks before the infamous fire in one of the nuclear reactors.

The AI passage continues: *This month, as the village relishes the vibrancy of the season, let us embrace its splendour. Let the gentle hum of bees in the garden and the distant melody of church bells remind us that summer is a time to slow down, to savour, and to celebrate.*

AI or not...it’s good advice...so enjoy July. and the holidays. “Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy day of summer...You’ll wish that summer could always be here.” And maybe you’re “going on a summer holiday... with no more worries for a week or two”... Amen to that!

In the meantime, as a 13th century English “round” goes:

*Sumer is icumen in ...Lhude sing cuccu! ... Groweþ sed and bloweþ med
le.... Summer is a-coming in... Loudly sing cuckoo! ... The seed grows and the
meadow blooms.*

I’d love to run again through the old former summery-sun buttercup meadows of my village and childhood in sandaled feet as in 1963 or even 1957, but to avoid being too “flowery”... minding the cow-pats of course!

See and hear it on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMCA9nYnLWo>

If you prefer a well-known hymn about summer, how about?

**Summer suns are glowing ...over land and sea... happy light is flowing...
bountiful and free.** See and hear on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK0ToFwDr8M>

Happy Summer Re-creation 2025!

William G Ives

Observations From the Kitchen Window



I have been thinking for a few days about what was going to be the subject matter for this contribution, and was not getting very far. I think the problem is called writer's block. The question was whence do I get the mental laxative to get my head working?! We then got the sheep back which seemed to do the trick!

Recently, we were sitting out in comfort on the patio enjoying the sun and sheltered from the breeze. The two dogs were stretched out and snoozing on the lawn with one eye half open in anticipation of a sudden call to arms if a squirrel or next door's cat had the temerity to set foot on our side of the fence. We had enjoyed two large slices of 'Er Indoors' speciality carrot and banana cake and a relaxing bottle of lightly chilled rose/ wine (Tavel is my choice). There was also the background scent of freshly baking quiches wafting out of the kitchen. What more could one want? Here we are on the Costa Colton with the current spell of sub-tropical weather and all the home comforts without the need to fight through crowded airports and deal with security and the surly officers checking bags and our bodily x-rays as we passed through the system. Nor did we have to concern ourselves when, on arrival at the other end we would have to face the gaggle of taxi touts and trinket salesmen offering souvenirs of "genuinely local, traditional artefacts" made in China. Then there is always the nagging worry whether the hotel one has already paid for in advance has actually been built!!

Here in Colton we live in a little, peaceful bubble of more or less traditional village life with all the amenities of modern living. We do not even have to go shopping. Amazon with next day delivery is just a phone call away and all the supermarkets (and others) will deliver the shopping on a daily basis. We even have the Post Office setting up each week in the Village Hall and there is a Library van that regularly calls. And of course, there are two pubs within staggering distance of home. What more could we want especially with the weather rivalling anything you can find on the Mediterranean or Caribbean, although I must concede that Moreton Brook is, questionably, a poor substitute for warm sea lapping on beaches which are often almost invisible under seething masses of white bodies!

If, from time to time, we feel that we are missing out and need to experience once more the taste of the hurly burley of what has become normal day to day living for most people, we do not have far to go. We are close to the supermarkets, the train station, and we can queue for hours in the diverted traffic on the A51 caused by the interminable road works around Rugeley. Take Aways, restaurants and health services are also conveniently to hand.



Living in a rural community there are various types of noises that fit naturally into the environment. Background sounds such as mowers or strimmers or even chain saws as residents keep their land in tidy shape. There is the bleating of sheep, lowing of cattle even the raucous din of dozens of jackdaws announcing the arrival of dawn. We can also accept the noise of tractors going about their business and distant trains. But the one highly intrusive noise that really jars when one is out relaxing in the garden is one which announces the imminent arrival of a long string of cyclists passing through. This is mainly made up of middle aged men (not necessarily dressed in Lycra!) with very loud voices. The leading pair insist on shouting to the tail end Charlies who at 100 metres further back, cannot hear a word that is being said. So the message has to be passed in relays along the line at maximum volume, no doubt with the content having undergone total metamorphosis along the way. All this involves each shouter turning his head so that he can yell over his shoulder. In this way, we, on the side lines get the full blast of what normally sounds like incomprehensible garble. Cyclists are most welcome as a species, but their lack of consideration is not!!!

Good heavens. Is that the time? The sun is out and I can hear 'Er Indoors clattering around in the kitchen making the salad and getting the oven to temperature to warm up one of the quiches she made yesterday. I have even managed to negotiate a deferral on part of my "to do" list until tomorrow when the forecast is less favourable.

Now, where did I leave that corkscrew?

Best wishes from all at Sheringham



COLTON GARDEN & PRODUCE CLUB.

Hello to you all once again. How unpredictable the weather has been – no storms or heavy rainfall we were all warned about!! But, it does look as though June will finish with a rather warm spell, so I hope you are all managing to keep your flowers and vegetables supplied with enough water – and don't forget you need liquid refreshment as well. This brings me to the meeting in June, when we all enjoyed a celebration of summer with Strawberries, Cream, Prosecco, and Pimms. The July meeting is a Garden Party to be held at the Baileys in School Lane, or at the Village Hall if the weather misbehaves, on Thursday 3rd July at 7.30 pm. Parking is very limited, so please park near the church and walk the short distance along School Lane to 'The Stables'.

Although the dry weather is creating many problems, it is very important to continue watering and feeding regularly, and harvesting any crops as they mature, so that they will continue to produce further crops. The weeds will still try to grow – hoe or hand weed borders and between crops frequently, so they do not have a chance to set seeds and steal the nutrients in the soil. The same attention should be applied to your floral plants – deadhead regularly and remove seed pods from sweet peas to prolong their flowering period. The dry weather will probably bring an increase in pests such as green or white fly, so be ready with the bug spray to stop an infestation. The runner beans are susceptible to black fly; large leaves infected can be removed, but flower buds will need to be sprayed. I am not sure if the slugs and snails will be a real problem, as they seem to be more active when it is rather wet – they will probably appear after you have irrigated your crops! There is nothing like a good snail hunt. The saucer of beer works wonders!

The newly opened flowers on the lavender should be cut for drying, as they provide the best fragrance, and hung up to dry in a cool, dark place. The Dahlias should be in full bloom by now, but new blooms will still be produced after deadheading, supporting tall varieties with sturdy stakes, and using a liquid feed when watering. As a matter of interest, most of my Dahlias have appeared after being left in the ground rather than being removed in the autumn. The dry, mild winter has been a big factor, but maybe the warmer climate is giving us ideas on how to change many years of ritual and routine. Pull the last pickings of rhubarb and remove any flower spikes that start to form, down to the base.



I am trying a different approach to growing a cucumber this year – in the greenhouse. I may regret this if the temperatures climb too high, but I will have to install my own shading system - an old duvet cover tied down at the corners, and hope this will be enough. It has worked in previous years for the tomatoes, but I will probably have to hose down the

inside of the greenhouse to increase the humidity and prevent it from overheating. I have been informed that the cucumber main stem should be trained up a support and the sideshoots pinched out after each flower or shoot – I will let you know if this works. It is better than having to construct a cold frame like my Father used!

The routine maintenance goes on. Lawn cutting, but with raised cutters so they do not burn in the hot sun. Top up the bird baths, ponds, and water features regularly during the hot weather, as it is surprising how quickly evaporation will dry them out: plus the bathing Blackbirds! Water containers, pots, and hanging baskets in the early morning or evening. Apply liquid fertilisers to all newly established plants in pots, containers, or growbags. The fruit yield will be much better. Don't forget to take care of those house plants as they also will benefit from being fed at least once a fortnight. Not much to do really – at least the harvesting will be started. If this gets published before the Colton Festival weekend, please support us – we will have a plant stall on the field behind the Village Hall - 28th June

HAPPY GARDENING – keep smiling!

***Peter Brightman - 07896521941
01889803678***

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Colton Friendship Club May Report



Karen welcomed fourteen members to the May meeting before introducing our speakers for the month.

Julia and Elaine (aka The Potty Plotters) are a couple of larger-than-life characters who have allotments next door to each other on a 108 year old site in Derbyshire, amounting to some 9½ acres. They have developed a loyal following on Radio Derby and on their podcasts for their humorous but helpful tips on gardening.

As the basis of their talk, our members were asked to answer simple questions in the form of an acrostic, using the initial letters of 'PLOTTERS.'

P is for Plotters; not 'potters' which would be a different subject entirely! It also stands for their "plotcast" which can be found on the podcast app. It features topical advice and interviews with interesting people.

L is for loofah which can be grown so easily. Leave the loofah on the vine until dark brown to black in colour. At this point take the loofah off the vine and you will find it full of seeds (274 in the demonstration model) ready for growing the following year – free seeds for all!

O is for the onions that Julia stores in the legs of her worn-out tights! And the seats can be stretched over pots of bulbs to deter any marauding squirrels or mice. The legs are ideal for storing empty plant pots which can be dispensed from the bottom.

T is for takeaway containers which are handy for germinating sweet peas. The takeaway containers must be airtight and must be able to have light go through it. Line with slightly dampened kitchen towel; add the seeds and pop in another layer of kitchen roll and spray until damp. Put on windowsill where it's light (don't water) and after a week they will start to grow. After 10 days, plant on into a 4 inch pot. This process will also work with parsnips but they will take 3 weeks to germinate. Sweet corn also works using this method. If sweetcorn is sown out directly as seed, mice etc are partial to eating it, so it's better to sow them as plants.

T is for tights - used to store onions in. Pop the onion in, tie a knot in the tights leg, then put in the second one, tie a knot etc. When ready to use the onions, snip them off one at a time. Julia stores plant pots in her tights. She slits the foot and dispenses the pots – then there are no spiders in the pots!



Additionally, you could take the toe off the tights and then cut them in 'tubes' and use to tie in tomato plants and sunflowers.

E is for erection - a word forbidden on air! Julia is addicted to greenhouses and so far has erected 32 of them either for her own use or for the benefit of others.

R is for radishes which are good starter seeds for children.

For foolproof results, seed tapes work well – they are ideal for people with arthritis, reduced sight or beginners and children. Cut to length, plant to the correct depth, water and the paper will disintegrate, allowing the seeds to thrive. Other vegetables and flowers are available as seed tapes.

S is for Sunday mornings, to serve as a final reminder of when we can catch up with all their news and gossip live on Radio Derby.

Elaine and Julia were a tonic for us all and we look forward to welcoming them back at a later date.

Members were given an update on Judy's health and our thoughts are with her as she undergoes her course of chemotherapy. Judy has now decided to step back from Friendship Club as she focuses on her health and she has asked me to take the reins.

A reminder that subs are now due, remaining at £8 per annum. On the new Programmes, there is 'TBC' alongside the 18th March 2026 – the speaker has now been confirmed as Gill Sykes who will talk about 'The Crime of Bing Poor'. You will also notice that our meal out in September will be at the Dun Cow this year – unfortunately, Marsh Farm could not fit us in this year – we have got the date reserved for next year though!



Colton WI ladies met in the Village Hall on a warm June evening to hear our speaker Jess Boydon-Juckes who is employed by the RAF Museum at Cosford. Jess told us about her job with the history projects at Cosford, and encouraged us to visit the museum, as well as the sister one in Hendon, London. She then gave us a very interesting talk about four RAF heroines. Jess explained that she interviewed the ladies concerned, or their families, to obtain first hand stories, and she told us how exciting collecting oral history from ordinary people can be. One of her projects was to interview the Military pall bearers who lifted the coffin of the late Queen from the aircraft to the hearse on its journey from Scotland to London.

The first lady in her presentation was Katherine du Plat Taylor who was a WAAF in the second World War. We heard a recording of Katherine herself explaining how she wanted to join the RAF aged 18. She worked in Operations Control on the South Coast of England, staying in Dover Castle at one time. Katherine told us how they would count the aircraft going out on raids, and then count them back in, sadly some of the aircraft didn't return.

The second lady was Jackie Moggeridge, a South African lady who learnt to fly in SA before coming over to England to join the war effort. Jackie joined the ATA and ferried new aircraft from their manufacture to the airbase they were needed. The instructions for flying these planes was scant but Jackie wasn't deterred, even flying Lancaster Bombers!! Jackie wanted to be the first lady to break the sound barrier, but there was no aircraft available to her, and finding the ATA not challenging enough, she became a commercial pilot.

Julie Gibson was the third lady who became the first official RAF female pilot in 1991. She Captained Hercules transport planes, and we were told how surprised men were that a woman could fly such massive planes.

Our last heroine was Michelle Partington who was an RAF Paramedic who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Recordings from this very brave lady were harrowing. Michelle told us how eventually the toll of seeing so many badly wounded servicemen led to her not returning to the theatre of war after a period of leave. She suffered from PTSD and after a long time being in a dark place with nightmares and flashbacks, she eventually recovered with the help of charities, and now she works with veterans.



Sue thanked Jess for her inspiring talk and the meeting continued with refreshments.

Colton WI are entering the Staffordshire Federation Quiz on 19th June, good luck to the team members.

We are providing tea/coffee and cakes for the Colton Festival from 1pm onwards.

We have a visit to Quirky Flowers in Cheddleton on 1st July and our annual meal will be held at the Dun Cow on Wednesday 9th July.

The Group Meeting, hosted by Shanks's Sisters, is on 18th September at Armitage, the entertainment being Jane Darling singing 40's songs.

We have another curling afternoon in the Village Hall on 26th September, always fun!!!!



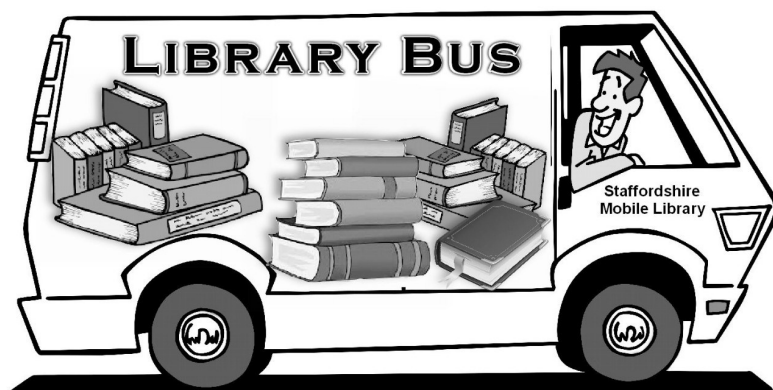
16 of us visited The Old Dairy House Garden at Trentham earlier this month and were all extremely impressed by the beautiful gardens as well as the huge Cakes!!

You can see that Colton WI have an interesting programme of events as well as excellent speakers. Why not come and give us a try, we welcome visitors for three free meetings, before hoping you will join us.



Polly Macmillan

Staffordshire Mobile Library



Calling at St Mary's School Colton on Thursdays 11:35—11:50

Dates from April 2025

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
10,24	8,22	5,19	3,17,31	14,28	11,25

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
9,23	6,20	4,18	15,29	12,26	12,26

Colton Crafters

At the Village Hall, Colton



Meeting on 2nd and 4th
Mondays of the month
1pm — 3pm

All welcome
An opportunity to meet
with fellow crafters
and enjoy crafting in an informal group



Lynne Dean
07736972560



lanternlit@hotmail.com



EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS CONTACTS

Name	Contact No or E-mail	Web site Address
Lichfield District Council		
Customer Services	01543 308000	https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/
Out of Hours	01527 406643	https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/
Waste and Recycling	0345 002 0022	https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/recycling-bins-waste
District Councillor – Keth Vernon	07711758852	
Miscellaneous Numbers		
Age Concern Advice Line	0800 678 1602	https://www.ageuk.org.uk/
Childline	0800 1111	https://www.childline.org.uk/
Citizen advice - Lichfield	0808 278 7977	https://www.casestaffs.org.uk/
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	https://crimestoppers-uk.org/
Cruise Bereavement Line	0808 808 1677	https://www.cruse.org.uk/
Deer casualty Line	101	https://www.deeraware.com/report-incident/
Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247	https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/
Drug/Alcohol Information line	0300 123 1110	https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Health-wellbeing-and-leisure/Keeping-well-and-staying-healthy/
Electrical Power Loss	105	National Grid ED (West)
Gas escape	0800 111 999	
Highway repair Hotline	0300 111 8000	https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/
NHS Direct	111	https://www.nhs.uk/
Neighbourhood Watch	Back Page	https://www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk/
Relate		https://www.relate.org.uk/
Rugeley Library	01889 869063 rugeley.library@staffordshire.gov.uk	
Samaritans	116 123	https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/
Social Services	0300 111 8010	staffordshirecares@staffordshire.gov.uk
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8010	https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/
Staffordshire County Councillor- Richard Cox	01543 490758 Richard.cox@staffordshire.gov.uk	
South Staffs Water	0800 389 1011	https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/contact-us/

Colton Organisation Contacts

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Colton Produce Guild Mr Peter Brightman (Chairman) Tel: 07896521941 Email: pd.brightman@hotmail.co.uk	Colton Almhouses Email:coltonparishnews@yahoo.com
Colton History Society Mrs Gill Sykes Email: gillsykes@btinternat.com	Colton Friendship Club Mrs Karen Hill 01889 586 379
Burial Ground Trustee Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email:colton.pc@hotmail.com	

Colton History Society May meeting.

The History of Glass with a particular reference to glass made locally. Speaker Michael Priest.

Glass was thought to have been first made by man around 3500BC. It is made by heating sand, soda, ash and limestone to a high temperature turning the constituent parts into a liquid. It has been made all over the world and has helped to shape the world's culture. Words associated with it are in every day parlance in many languages. In English we have such phrases as looking glass, glassy eyed, eyeglasses. As time has gone on it has many uses; packaging, construction, electronics, medical to name but a few.

Staffordshire has played host to a glass industry for centuries as the materials for glass production are found throughout the county. There were two important glass production centers throughout the middle ages at Wolseley Bridges. Cliffs there provided the sand and limestone and there was a plentiful supply of wood in Cannock forest for the heating process. Until very recently fragments of glass could still be found on the ground in the area. One of the windows in York Minster is recorded as being made here and would probably have been a piece of Bulls Eye glass which is made by the process of blowing glass.

Archaeological evidence of glass making was found a good few years ago in Bagots Wood on the Blithfield Hall estate. Then a few years later Mr. Bannister of Lount Farm Colton, noticed some bumps in one of his fields close to the Rugeley, Admaston road. He managed to get the county archeologists to investigate and they found a number of glass making kilns on the site. So glass making obviously went on in Colton in the medieval period as well but on a smaller scale.

In later centuries a glass making industry was set up at Tutbury not far from Colton and slightly further afield but still in what was then Staffordshire, at Wordsley near Dudley, at Brierley Hill and at Stourbridge. All these companies became famous world wide for the quality of their glass ware. Hardman glass was established in Birmingham in the 1830's and became world renowned for the quality of their stained glass. They particularly flourished in the period of the arts and craft movement here in England in

the latter half of the century when the architect Pugin used it in some of his iconic buildings such as St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham. A few of Colton History society members were lucky enough to go on a visit to the factory some years ago to see the stained glass being made but sadly the company has now closed.

Two other major British glass manufacturers flourished from the 19th Century onwards. Pilkingtons Glass based in Lancashire were famous for inventing floating glass where the glass mixture was floated over a bath of mercury to create the first panes of glass. Chance Glass, a Smethwick based company also started in the 1820's and became known for producing amongst other things the special sort of glass used for lighthouse lights and installed by Stevenson in his new design for lighthouses that went on to be built all over the world. Chance glass were also responsible for creating the famous glass building the Crystal Palace where the best of British crafts and machines were displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851. There were 259000 panes of glass in the building. In 1951 Pilkingtons took over Chance Glass and now it is owned by a Japanese company.

Nowadays glass is used just as much as ever for all sorts of reasons. Packaging is still a major use but now there are newer uses for such things as windows in vehicles, phones, scientific instruments, spectacles, fibre optics, solar panels and many more.

SUMMARY OF COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY AND JUNE (Full June minutes will be available at www.coltonpc.org.uk after approval at the July meeting; May minutes already on website)

1. Annual Council in May – PC to continue without a formally elected Chair, with a councillor being appointed to chair at each meeting. Meetings to generally continue to be held on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) but subject to change if required to achieve a quorum, as still only 4 councillors with 3 vacant seats.
2. Public participation – Parishioner asked how to get glass left on road and pavement removed after recent accident near Colton Lodge. Garren Edwards suggested reporting via the My Staffs app. There was further discussion about vehicle speeds on B5013 and the number of accidents. PC has no responsibility for highways but it was agreed that **Clerk** should email County Cllr Janet Higgins restating concerns after another major accident and asking what can be done. Another parishioner asked for an update on the proposed device to record speeds on Bellamour Way. Nigel Parry said that the company now have a working prototype and so he is hopeful of getting one in place soon.
3. Payments – Now being made electronically. PC had agreed to pay a contractor to tidy up beds near the play area and around Village Hall, with an initial larger tidy up being paid for plus fortnightly visits over the summer season henceforth.
4. Planning Matters - There had not yet been any feedback on the outcome of the meeting hosted by Stowe-by-Chartley PC about the number of local solar farm applications nor from County Cllr Janet Higgins about SCC's approach to solar farms in light of Reform's stated policy. **Clerk** to seek updates.
5. Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces
 - a) Flooding and highways maintenance – Garren Edwards reported that a team from SCC had turned up to do investigatory work on the culvert under Bellamour Way. They now have better local knowledge and had managed to clear some drains too. However further investigation is needed underneath Bellamour Way, which will require the road to be closed. A ditch, on land adjacent to the Parish Lands Trust land on Hollow Lane, had been dug out to prevent water draining over the PLT land and on to the road there. On the other side of Hollow Lane a landowner had dug a ditch to take water on to his field to try to reduce flooding on the road and by the houses. **Clerk** to email

- SCC for a progress report. **Clerk** to raise a number of issues with County Cllr Janet Higgins in advance of her attendance at the July meeting to enable her to make prior enquiries.
- b) Litter picking – PC agreed that early July community litter pick should be postponed pending further enquiries and risk assessment.
 - c) Overgrown hedges on Bellamour Way and on Heathway – Overgrown hedge on Bellamour to be raised again with Janet Higgins. **Clerk** to contact Bromford Housing about the Heathway hedge as it was a recurrent problem that tenants did not deal with.
 - d) Grass and verge cutting - Email from parishioner requested the PC adopt a 'No mow May' policy in 2026 for the verges from B5013 up to the Greyhound, on both sides and, in particular, the area below Pedley's Croft, where some uncommon flowers grow but have sadly been mown this year. By delaying cutting, where safe, it would give the wildflowers the chance to grow and to seed. Some conflicting views were put forward but it was agreed that **Clerk** would ask LDC if they have a 'No Mow May' policy already and clarify which verges they cut, for further discussion.
6. Burial Ground Committee – The roots of the fallen silver birch had now been removed and the ground levelled and re-seeded. A suggestion had been made to dispense with the expensive bin collection and develop a compost heap with other waste to be disposed of in another way and this would be explored to see if feasible.
7. Finance and audit
- a) Accounts for 2024/25 – These showed an overspend of about £700, which was smaller than the budgeted overspend of about £5,500 to be taken from reserves. Total funds at end March were £32,119.
 - b) Annual Return for 2024/25 – Internal auditor's report showed that all objectives for internal control were met. The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed, as were the Accounting Statements and the Certificate of Exemption. The latter would be submitted to the external auditors by the **Clerk** before end June. The Period for the Exercise of Electors' Rights would be the 6 working weeks from Monday 9 June to Friday 18 July. The Annual Return and related reports would be put on the PC website shortly.
8. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2 July at 7pm



The Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1953 with the aim of helping churches with the cost of repairs. Ride and Stride is the annual sponsored event in aid of county Historic Churches Trusts all over England. It takes place this year on Saturday September 13th.

Cyclists, walkers, drivers, public transport users are sponsored by family and friends to visit as many churches as they can between 10am and 6pm. It really is a great day out, travelling around our lovely county and meeting friends old & new! In 2024, 93 churches welcomed participants and sponsored cyclists/walkers/drivers raised just over £6,000 - Gift Aid will increase this amount. The money is used to make grants to churches for repairs and essential maintenance. Half the money raised by each participant is returned to their own church and a trophy is awarded each year to a participant: this year it will be presented whoever visits most participating churches.

Bishop Michael adds his support: 'We are blessed in this diocese with an abundance of historic churches, passed into our stewardship through the generosity and faithfulness of past generations. The Historic Churches Trust provides invaluable help in the often-costly task of maintaining and safeguarding these buildings. The annual Ride and Stride event is indispensable to its continuing ability to offer this support: it is also an enjoyable and interesting day out.'

See our website for pictures from last year's Ride and Stride Day, and please think about taking part this year– as a cyclist, walker, welcomer, sponsor – and enjoy the wonderful occasion!

For more information contact Peter Lerigo (County Organiser) on peterlerigo@gmail.com or speak to your church representative – mariehavelock@hotmail.co.uk

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust registered charity no. 240854

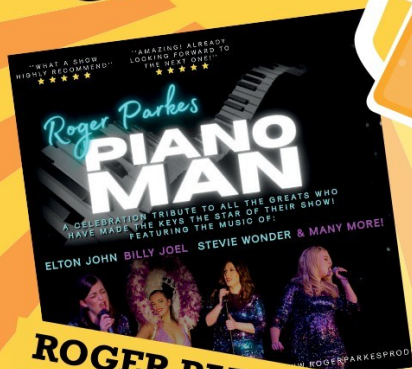
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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
B5013 Colton Road
Rugeley Trent Valley

NOTICE is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council on 12th August 2025 intends to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of B5013 Colton Road in Rugeley Trent Valley, from its roundabout with A51 Rugeley Eastern Bypass to its junction with Blithbury Road, unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works, or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

An alternative route for traffic is available and vice versa. For more information, visit: <https://one.network/?tm=143753551>.

The order will come into operation on 15th August 2025 and the said works (which will take place overnight between the hours of 20:00 and 06:00) will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 16th August 2025.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the vegetation removal works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Date: 31st July 2025
Kate Loader, County Solicitor
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH
Ref: 4440046
Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000
<https://one.network>

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Recognised by the NHS, Clinical Reflexology is commonly used to relieve stress, manage pain, and enhance overall well-being. Research indicates that it may help reduce anxiety, improve sleep quality, and elevate mood. While it should not replace medical treatment, Reflexology is appreciated for its ability to enhance quality of life and complement traditional medical practices, as more people seek natural, integrative and drug free health options.



Rose is a skilled Clinical Reflexology Practitioner running a successful clinic in Colton (Rugeley). She is listed on the NHS website as a recognised practitioner and holds membership in the Association of Reflexologists.

To arrange an appointment contact:

EMAIL:

ROSE@THEGOODZESTCOMPANY.CO.UK

TEL OR TEXT: 07719023882

WEBSITE:

WWW.THEGOODZESTCOMPANY.CO.UK

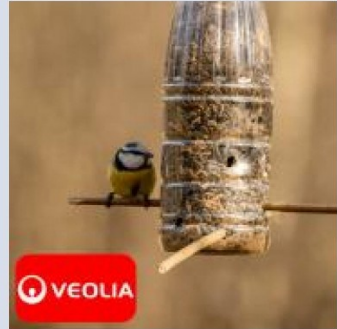
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Weekdays and Saturdays.

Based in Colton Village
(WS15 3FF). Due to demand
Home visits & evenings no
longer available

What's on at Rugeley Library – July 2025

Veolia Family Drop-in at Rugeley Library

Join Dan Myatt from Veolia who will be helping us see the wonder of waste with some fun interactive crafting sessions where he will be helping us make bird feeders from old milk bottles, helping us tour the Energy Recovery Facility with VR headsets where Staffordshire's non-recyclable household waste is processed and turned into energy.



All you need to bring along is your imagination and your need to learn

Tuesday 29th July

10am-11am

Free, Booking essential

Please contact Rugeley Library on (01889) 869063 or e-mail rugeley.library@staffordshire.gov.uk for further details or to book

Rescue ME

Pop up Shop at Rugeley Library

Pick up home furniture and décor, toys, bric-a-brac and more... Giving items a new life!

10am-2pm

August 22nd

September 19th

October 17th

November 14th

December 12th

Email: wastesavvy@staffordshire.gov.uk for more information or contact Rugeley Library on (01889) 869063 or e-mail rugeley.library@staffordshire.gov.uk



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Colton Art Club



EVERY WEDNESDAY

10am–1pm

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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



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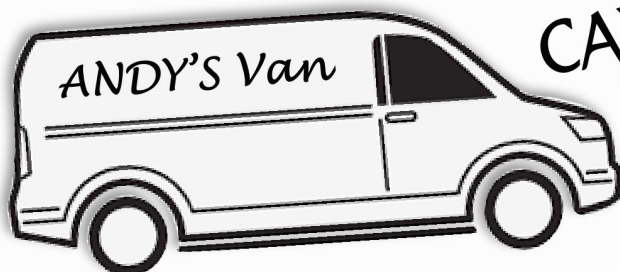
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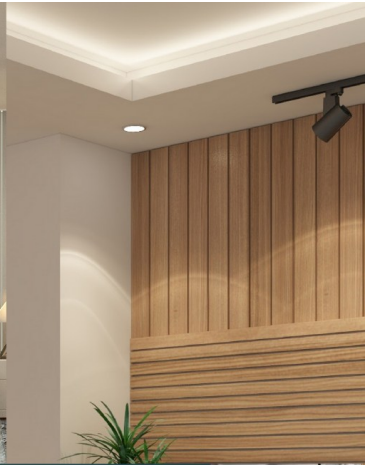
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	Tony Winter	01 889 583 517
	Gwen Johnson	01 889 586 469
	Karen Hill	01 889 586 379

Hollow Lane Bank Top & Hadley Gate	David Bradbury	01 889 585 519
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High Street	Robin Woodward	01 889 585 811
	Graham Nun	01 889 585 368

Moor Croft	Dave Stebbings	01 889 586 792
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Heathway	Jean Freeman	01 889 576 546
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Fair Meadows	Carol Sanders	01 889 582 503
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