

Colton Parish News

October 2025



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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



I hope you are all well and have had a good September. Back to school and sadly it appears the end to the lovely summer weather.

Please note a couple of road closures on page 25 and what looks like an interesting talk at the library in Rugeley about Palmer the poisoner on page 26. It is worth watching out for events at the library as they have some interesting and varied events.

Happy October !

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

Music Lessons

Clarinet, Saxophone, piano and
music theory

Adults and children, beginners
and more advanced.

Experienced teacher in Colton

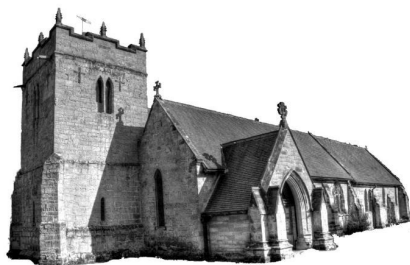
Call Karen on
07508 988 718



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

24 Moorcroft ws153ND

rachel.bayliss@outlook.com

07792 234720

Messages to Parochial Church Council

vacant

Resident priest

The Revd Lynne Dean

The New Rectory,

Bellamour Way,

Colton WS15 3JW

07736 972560 lanternlit@hotmail.com

Rector

Prebendary Simon Davis

The Vicarage

Marke Place

Abbots Bromley Ws15 3BP

01283 840242

revdsimon@gmail.com

Mrs Olive Ballard

Reader Emeritus

20 High St

Colton

Church Warden

Mrs Victoria Hawley

The Old Rectory

Bellamour Way

01889576050

07939003153

Messages to Colton Parish Council

Ms Alison Parnell

Apartment 48

Handsacre Court

Ws15 1PQ

07969266779

Colton.pc@hotmail.com



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

Ms Alison James
Apartment 48
Handsacre Court
Rugeley
Mob 07969266779
Email colton.pc@hotmail.co.uk

Nigel Parry

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Colton

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Colton

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Garren Edwards

Mob 07890103450

Email garren_edwards@hotmail.com

Richard Montbiot

Mob 07710864138

Email richard@richardmonbiot.com

Throwing Fruit

Autumn is well and truly upon us. The leaves have turned gold and red and are starting to carpet the village. It's a glorious time of year, in fact it's been a good year all round, and this has certainly been evident in the gardens and greenhouses around and about. From talking to friends they have had bumper crops of tomatoes and cucumbers.

But the thing that's impressed me the most has been the generosity, the sharing. Generous gardeners have put out boxes of apples free to passers-by. It is a shame that this wonderful spirit of generosity is not reflected in the wider world. There is currently full-blown conflict in Syria and Ukraine, and the threat of nuclear war from North Korea. War affects everyone, it's not just a local problem it is a global problem, there is no generosity of spirit within the nations.

My grandmother had a lovely saying, which she used every time I went to her complaining, about my brother's behaviour, and just in case you're wondering, my brother wasn't quite as bad as Kim Jong-un of North Korea, though my grandmother did frequently threaten to call in the United Nations when we fell out! Anyway, the saying was 'Little birds in a tree, must agree'. Which is as apt for world politics as it is for families, let me explain. As a child I used to get really frustrated at this saying, and ask her why? 'Why should birds in a tree agree?' to which she would say 'Otherwise they fall out!' Now I thought this was a bit of a cop out, just a grown up's way of not taking sides.

As a child I didn't see the wisdom, in learning to get along with people. To a child everything is black and white, the middle way, Christ's way of compromise doesn't come into play.

However, I came to learn that the saying did have an element of truth. Now my brother loved digging, I don't know why he loved digging, but he did. I wanted someone to play with, to play my games, my way. He on the other hand just wanted to dig. So bored and naughty, I climbed up a walnut tree and decided to bombard my brother below with walnuts.

At first it was kind of fun as he had no idea where the walnuts were coming from. Then he twigged and started throwing them back. Then it got serious and walnuts started flying everywhere, till there were no more walnuts I could reach. Then safe from bombardment, my brother ran to the tree, and started shaking it, walnuts reigned down. But he didn't care, he carried on shaking it, until the biggest walnut of all - me — fell out of the tree.

And that is how I know that the saying is true 'Little birds in a tree must agree!' So,

I learnt an important life lesson that 'You can't shake a tree and not expect a fallout'.

It's a pity the great nations of this world didn't, and don't, heed this advice. For surely, we should do everything we can to avoid conflict, to live in peace, to not shake the tree. Scripture advises that if you have a disagreement with someone you should take every opportunity to resolve the conflict, to maintain communication, to talk the problem through. With honesty and compassion being the watchwords.

Remembering at all times not to shake the tree, or to aggravate the situation with back biting, gossip, hurt feelings and resentment. Remembering that difference is ok, and this is the important point, and it is where we tend to fall down. For all too often we confuse difference with disagreement. In accepting difference, we remember that we are all God's children, for as Jesus taught in the Sermon on The Mount, 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God'.

Ann Roe

Observations From the Kitchen Window

The wide world beyond Colton is a pretty tumultuous place as is endlessly reported in the mainstream media and, as I understand it, on social media too. The excesses of ruling autocrats, the feet of clay of our leaders and politicians and the sheer stupidity and greed of others in the public eye can be entertaining, of great concern or both. Fortunately, those of us who live in Colton can lead our lives under the radar without the fear of too much scrutiny and consequent publicity from busy bodies or those that wish us harm.



I would, therefore, like to ask you to spare a thought for Hector. He is our black Scottie who is widely recognised within the village and is often the subject of amusement owing to his short legs hidden below his skirt of under belly hair. Because his legs are invisible, he is often likened to a hovercraft when walking. Hector favours a very simple life. It revolves around food, smells and sleep.

Food is his number one priority. Even after a full meal, there is always room for more. What he cannot find when sniffing around the edges of the kitchen floor, he will try to make up by stealing any left over food residing in Poppy's dish. If that doesn't help with the hunger pangs, he will attempt to scrounge some treats by pleading with his large soulful eyes.

One other source of sustenance has always been his walks. The act of walking is a secondary priority which he likes to take with slow and measured steps. Each tuft of grass has to be inspected from all sides and down the middle, and is then watered in! However, his primary target on a walk is to persuade any or all of the several dog walkers we meet to give him a treat for being "a good boy"! On a good day he can scrounge almost the equivalent for an additional entire meal!

He also loves it when the great grandchildren come. They know, as well as he does, where the goodies box is kept. Hector will participate in a game of "chase the Frisbee" for a short while before he goes with the children to collect his rewards. He has also discovered that when we are watching TV in the evening he will normally get a good result by simply sitting silently and immobile in front of us staring into our eyes. This wears down any resistance we might exert very effectively so that we go to open the tin containing the Cheese Thins for a quiet life.

When he is not eating, begging (or otherwise scrounging) he likes to sleep, which he does very deeply. He will only rouse himself if Poppy announces that there is a squirrel or neighbour's cat on the lawn and he will join in the pursuit down the garden in full cry..



But now Hector's life has been turned upside down. 'Er Indoors said that she could no longer feel his ribs and she was sure that he had put on weight. He looked fine to me, but what do I know about such things?! So off we trogged to the vets to use their scales. Surprise! Surprise! 'Er Indoors was right as usual! Hector had put on a substantial amount of weight and was immediately put on a diet. This would involve measured portions for his main meal, no more Cheese Thins between times, and a total ban on dog walkers giving him treats! The same rule now applies to great grandchildren which has not gone down well.

One unfortunate consequence of this new regime is that Poppy has also been made to go along with it so as to avoid problems of jealousy. She is coping OK since food is not an overwhelming priority for her, but she is obviously missing the Cheesy Thin treats, which are her favourite too!. The good news is that we have carried out an interim weight check on the vet's scales, and Hector has shed about half the excess weight. Poppy has lost weight too. So we carry on regardless!

In common with many others around here we have had excellent crops of fruit this year. In particular there has been a bumper amount of quinces. Our single but ancient tree has been bending and distorting under the weight of the huge, yellow pear shaped fruits. We picked the whole quantity down to the last quince which made up two full wheel barrow loads. Quinces are totally inedible in their raw state with their dry and gritty texture. But when boiled up they make excellent jelly (great with cold meat), jam or membrillo (a bit like Turkish delight). They are also liked by horses. So we put them out on the roadside for people to help themselves. Many passers-by were totally unfamiliar with quinces and what to do with them. But over two days we shifted a whole barrow load and a half and are now working down the final batch. We do not know how many have been taken to give horses a treat, but we are relieved that they are being taken steadily for some use or other.. One thing for certain is that 'Er Indoors has stated firmly that she will not entertain converting the crop to jam or jelly herself. We still have ample stock originating from earlier and much smaller quantities in previous years.

COLTON GARDEN & PRODUCE CLUB.



Hello to you all once again. At our meeting in September, we were treated to a very entertaining and informative presentation by Peter Coxhead on the flora and fauna of the Rockies. It was surprising to learn that some of the plant species found there were also present in the Alps.

Our October meeting, on Thursday, the 2nd, is our traditional annual Harvest Supper, although the harvest this year was gathered much earlier due to the prolonged dry spell of weather. This has not stopped some of our favourite flowers from producing a super display of blooms. The roses are still blooming, some for the third flush of flowers, and the Japanese anemones are producing a late flourish of blooms. I have not seen the Fuschias produce such rapid growth and an extended season of trumpet heads for quite a long time. Be ready to protect them if we get a sudden drop in temperature, as they originate from a subtropical part of the world – varieties developed in Europe are much hardier and capable of coping with our usual winter temperatures. Even the Dahlias seem to be thriving in our changing climate, but the reservoirs are at their lowest levels since 1976!

The usual advice for October would be to clear and clean the greenhouse by washing and disinfecting the inside to rid it of any bugs trying to hibernate for the winter. The problem is, my tomatoes are still producing a healthy crop, so I will have to put this job on hold until they finish their work. Then it will be the task of lining the inside with bubble wrap to insulate it for the winter – with the temperatures last winter, I am not sure whether this was really necessary.

The shading over the outside with an old duvet cover this summer certainly was of great benefit. I will certainly leave the Dahlia tubers in the ground again as I am lucky to have a light sandy soil, but, if your soil has any clay, it is advisable to lift the tubers once they have finished flowering and store them in a cool dry environment.

I will need to clear the wildflower area of many invasive and persistent weeds to prevent them from choking the small seedlings as they start shooting. I have gathered plenty of large poppy and aqualigia seeds to add to the other early flowers. If you haven't already done so, cut down the old stems on the raspberry canes to ground level and secure the new growth to canes so they are not



damaged in strong winds. This also applies to the Autumn raspberries once they have finished fruiting, as well as any stems on blackberries. Now is also the time to remove saucers and dishes, and raise the patio pots on feet to prevent them from becoming waterlogged during the winter. There seem to be two schools of thought concerning managing Hydraengas. I have always

left the blooms on the plants over the winter, as this is a way of protecting the new buds growing just below. However, recently, a very well-known personality advocated removing the flower heads in autumn. The only advantage I can see is being able to dry the flower heads and use them in a winter dried flower arrangement.

Once you have finished harvesting your runner beans, just cut them off above ground level, and dig another trench to start putting all garden and kitchen waste in for next year's crop. Reduce the height of shrub roses to avoid windrock damage, and continue to remove any blighted leaves before they get into the soil and cause problems next season.

Autumn is well underway, and the annual problem of leaf drop is here again – rake them from lawns, borders, driveways, and paths, and put them in bin bags to rot down into leafmould. The starved lawns will benefit from a good quality weed and feed to revive the grass after the rigours of our dry summer. Don't forget to keep those weeds under control – they will always grow no matter what the weather does!

Happy Gardening to you All - Keep Smiling

Peter Brightman – 07896521941 / 0188980367

Colton WI September Report



The September meeting was our annual mini show and, upon entering the Village Hall, we were greeted with a glorious display of produce, crafts, artwork, floral displays and geraniums grown from plug plants. Potatoes had also been grown in a bucket and weighed in advance of the meeting.

Sue welcomed 20 members and guest judges Bill Brown (Photo's), Gay Lawrence (Produce) and Karen Wakefield (Floral and crafts) and also Ron Lawrence. Jerusalem was sung.

Bill thanked the WI for inviting him to judge the photographic competition again this year and commented that there were some very good photos taken which made his job very difficult. When judging, he marked each photo using 5 criteria; your perception, composition, exposure and lighting, focus and print size as specified. 50 photos were submitted, and Bill went through them all with us, providing us with helpful hints and tips for future reference. Bill then awarded rosettes to the winners in each category.

Category 1 - Abandoned

1st Prize - Sonia

2nd Prize - Gwen

3rd Prize - Alison

Highly Commended - Ruth



Buildings:

Category 2 - Down the Garden Path

1st Prize - Polly

2nd Prize - Alison

3rd Prize - Polly

Highly Commended - Gwen





The Salver for the most points awarded in the photographic competition was awarded to Polly.

Sue then awarded the remaining trophies/salvers:

- The Ruth Williams Trophy (best exhibit in Show) was awarded to Polly for her tangy runner bean chutney
- The Dorothy Jones Salver (most points in produce) was awarded to Polly
- The Simcock 'Spud in a Bucket' Salver was awarded to Ruby
- Floral arrangement Salver was awarded to Ruth
- Cup for Most Points in Show was awarded to Polly

Sue thanked all members for taking part and Karen thanked Sue and the Committee for all their hard work in making the show happen.

Sue reminded members of notable dates for the diary:

- Thursday 18th September is the Group Meeting at Armitage. Jayne Darling will be singing 1940's songs. The cost of this event is £5.
- Friday 26th September will be our next Curling session in Colton Village Hall at 3pm.
- Saturday 11th October: we have been invited on a Coach trip to Liverpool by The Shanks' Sisters WI. The cost of this trip is £15.
- Wednesday 17th December will be the Christmas Meal at the Riverbank Restaurant, Stafford.
- Thursday 18th June 2026 will be the County Quiz.

Our next meeting will be on 8th October in the Village Hall. starting at 7.30pm. The Speaker will be Joy Stephens, and her subject will be 'My Time Inside.' The competition will be 'A Key.' Refreshments will be provided by Sonia J, Gwen and Jude.

New members are most welcome – come and join us!

Karen Hill Colton WI



Colton Friendship Club: July Report

Karen welcomed nineteen members and our guest entertainer, Damien, to our July meeting.

It was with great sadness that we had heard of the passing of Judy Winter, one of our founder members, just some 17 days after the passing of her beloved husband, Tony. A small tribute to Judy was read out and our thoughts remain with Rachel & Mike and Simon & Liz and their families at this very sad time.

Members were also informed of the unexpected passing of Graham Brown, another member of our Friendship Club family. Graham was always willing to lend a hand wherever possible and was a true gentleman. Our thoughts are with Linda and her family.

A one minute silence was held in memory of Judy and Graham.

Out of respect, Damien concentrated more on the singing than on his usual 'Dad jokes' – but one or two jokes were thrown in the mix! Damien started off with singing Ralph McTell's 'Streets of London' before moving on to 'Leaving on a Jet Plane' by John Denver. A cover of Joni Mitchell's 'Both Sides Now (Clouds)' was delivered before a rather poignant version of 'Hey Jude' (The Beatles) was sung in honour of Judy – members joined in heartily. The final song was an old favourite by Neil Diamond, 'Sweet Caroline.' Damien invited any members who were brave enough to come up and join him as his backing band and half a dozen of us did – and I have photograph and video evidence to prove it! (I am open to bribes!)

Damien lifted our spirits and I am certain Judy would have approved.

Colton Friendship Club: August Report

Karen welcomed fifteen members, three guests and our speaker to our July meeting, before introducing the speaker, Trevor Bevan speaking about 'Pickwick Bicycle Club – A Dickens of a Tale.'



Mr Bevan was a member of the Pickwick Bicycling Club (PBC). All members have a sobriquet from “The Pickwick Papers” by Charles Dickens, after which the club was named. His sobriquet is “The Red Nosed Mr Stiggins”.

He started his working life as a Mechanical Engineer before a career change with Raleigh Wholesalers and then starting his own agency. His passion was cycling and he had success in bringing on riders for the Tour de France and the Olympics. In 1972 a combination of his work and cycling experiences led to him being invited to join the PBC. The club is male only; he wasn't too worried about that as he couldn't join his wife's WI! Membership is by invitation only so, to be able to join is a huge privilege.

The PBC was formed in 1870 by six enthusiasts, just one week after the death of Charles Dickens, hence the adopted name. The aim is to promote cycling and the worthwhile task of spreading fellowship and conviviality whilst also raising money for charities. Boater hats with a hatband and ties, in the colours of the club, are worn. Membership is worldwide. Two lunches are held each year in London at which The Band of The Household Cavalry, the Blues and Royals, play the fanfares. Members are elected by ballot and include two of Charles Dickens' descendants. It is not only the oldest existing bicycling club but the oldest Dickens association.

After talking about the club, Mr Bevan spoke about the life and times of Charles Dickens. We were told that back in the sixteenth century, “Dickens” meant the devil.

Karen offered the vote of thanks before a few notes were read out:

- A reminder of the lunch at the Dun Cow on 17th September, at 12 for 12.30.
- Friendship Club will, once again, hold a Chocolate Tombola Stall at the Christmas Fayre. I would be most grateful of any donations of chocolate to be used on the stall.

The next meeting in the Village Hall will be on 15th October, at the normal time of 10.30. we will welcome back Kevin Reynolds with his talk entitled ‘The Pigeon – from the Gods to the Gutter.’

Karen Hill
01889 586 379

Colton History Society August Meeting. Vikings in Mercia.

The talk this evening was given by Dr. Charlotte Ball. She started by saying that Repton, a town in Derbyshire and the focus of her talk, nowadays is known for its school and the Anglo Saxon crypt at the parish church. However, recent archaeological discoveries have revealed that it was the site of a winter camp for a huge Viking army between 873 -4. Back then Repton was an important place in the great Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Mercia that covered most of the midland area. The first Viking raiding party had come to this country in 793 when they landed on Lindisfarne Island in Northumbria. From then on they remained a force in this country until the Norman invasion in 1066. The name Viking was not used then and they were known as Danes. The name Viking was popularized in the 19th century. Denmark which was the main country they came from, had a raiding culture but they were not poor. They were often wealthy farmers who after the summer went raiding particularly around the coast of Britain and Ireland and we now know even as far as America. Their constant raids made life fairly miserable for the inhabitants of this country with them coming mainly to carry away animals and slaves.

Repton was a site of great importance to the Anglo Saxons because it was the site of a large monastery founded by the Mercian royal family when they converted to Christianity and whose capitol was at Tamworth. The crypt of the church was where members of the royal family were buried. Consequently Repton church and the monastery was very rich. In 1970 the remains of a huge Viking camp were uncovered whilst some work was being done in the grounds of the school. The church was part of one side of this d shaped camp with the River Trent forming the other side. The river gave the camp access to an important river highway (the M1 of the Viking era!) From the evidence unearthed it was concluded that this was the winter camp of a great Viking army and was going to be the centre for the massing of forces for the first deliberate and organized invasion of England. The invasion led to the Mercian king being ousted and Danelaw being established over the eastern part of England cutting England into two halves the one side ruled by

the Vikings and the other by Anglo Saxons. The Vikings had seen Repton as a tactical place to amass their forces.

During the excavations graves were unearthed, a few within the camp that appeared to be of high status but also many others in a mass grave close by outside. One of the graves inside the camp was of a male who from the grave goods buried with him, was obviously a warrior. Around his neck was a silver necklace showing Thor's hammer, a lucky charm in response to Christians wearing a cross. Also buried with him were the bones of a Jackdaw, a symbol of wisdom and knowledge to the Vikings and a boars tusk, a symbol associated with masculinity. Modern day bone analysis particularly of teeth (strontium isotope analysis) can give clues to where the person grew up and what their diet would have been. This warrior was probably from Denmark and he had died between 873 and 882. Next to him was a grave containing a younger male. DNA analysis showed that they were related and were probably father and son. The fact that they were buried next to each other inside the camp suggests that the father at least was considered to be a great warrior. It is fascinating to see what modern methods of bone analysis can now tell us about people who died hundreds of years ago.

COLTON PARISH



CPLT Financial Grants Toward Hospital Travelling & Patient Aid

Colton Parish Lands Trust invite applications from all residents of Colton Parish for grants toward transport costs for outpatients undergoing planned and regular courses of treatment or for next of kin visiting in-patients for a prolonged stay in hospital.

Applications can be made to the Clerk via the contact details below and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Claire Collier – 07966 637044

e-mail: clerk.cplt@gmail.com

COLTON PARISH



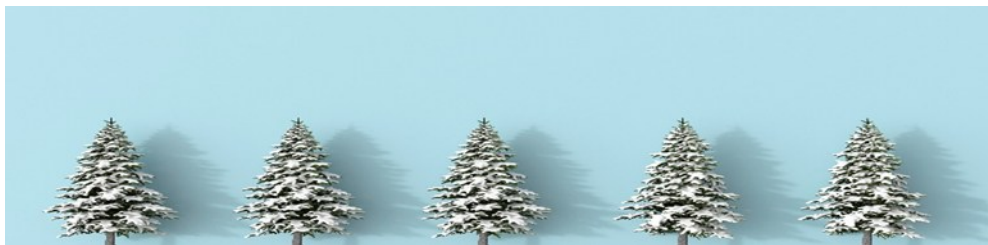
CPLT Financial Grants Toward Education

Colton Parish Lands Trust invite applications from all residents of Colton Parish for grants towards further education or education related projects.

Applications can be made to the Clerk via the contact details below and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Claire Collier – 07966 637044

e-mail: clerk.cplt@gmail.com



This year's Christmas Fair will be on Sunday November 30th from 12.00 to 3.00 . All the usuals will be on offer including Shirley's bags. (Shirley would be grateful for any donations for the bags which please take to her house – leave at the back door if no one is home)

The raffle is being co-ordinated by Fiona O'Brien who would welcome donations for prizes. She is happy to collect , just drop her an email on coltonparishnews@gmail.com, or drop off at Evergreens Hight st.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Hosted by Colton Old People's Welfare Committee

We would like to ensure that our guest list is up to date for this year's CHRISTMAS LUNCH. (Sunday December 14th)

So, if you are 65 or over and live in Colton Parish and haven't been to our lunch before, please let us know as soon as possible so we can add you to our invitation list. Maybe you have had a birthday this year, or moved into Colton Parish.

We will be delivering invitations in November, and look forward to hearing how many of you will join us, so we can Set a place for you.

Amanda Pratt 15 Heathway. 07976 975 960
Yvonne Wilson 88 High Street. 01889 586 689
Rypd.wilson@btinternet.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

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.com
Village Hall Bookings Fiona O'Brien Tel: 07784497048 Email:bookings@coltonvillagehall.co.uk Management committee John MacMillan Tel: 01889575394 Email:mrjkmac@sky.com	Parish Lands Trust Claire Collier Tel: 07966637044 Email:clerk.cplt@gmail.com
St. Mary's Primary School Mr Jon 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 Karen Hill 01889 586 379
Burial Ground Trustee Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email:colton.pc@hotmail.com	

SUMMARY OF COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER (Full minutes will be available at www.coltonpc.org.uk after approval at the October meeting)

1. Public participation

- a) Parishioner attended to seek update re speeding issues and overgrown hedge on Bellamour Way. Also raised concerns about safety on Bellamour Way at school drop off and pick up times. Concerned about visibility for cars travelling from the village towards the bridge due to all the parked cars and about lack of supervision of road crossing.

It was explained that PC had previously agreed with school and PCC that parents could park on the road by the church and walk across. PC agreed that **Clerk** should raise concerns again with the school and ask for a reminder to be given to parents, as it was the beginning of a new school year. Also to request that any cars being left all day should be parked off Bellamour Way.

- b) Parishioner had spoken to a police officer who agreed that the overgrown yew hedge on Bellamour Way was an obstruction.

PC said it was for SCC to take action and this had been raised with County Cllr Janet Higgins.

- c) Another parishioner asked if there was any knowledge about reports that fields around the village had been bought for gravel extraction.

No one had any firm knowledge of this.

2. Planning Matters – Application received for extension/alterations at Newlands Cottage, Newlands Lane, Blithbury, Rugeley. Approval given for various works at 27 High Street, Colton. Clerk also reported that the proposed Moreton Brook solar farm off Lea Lane, Newton had received ‘Conditional approval’ from East Staffs Borough Council.

3. Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces

- a) Flooding and highways maintenance - SCC investigations of the culvert under Bellamour Way and Hollow Lane drainage had been discussed with 2 representatives from SCC’s Flood Resilience team at a constructive meeting immediately prior to the PC meeting.
A summary of that meeting is as follows:
Flood Resilience team has funding from central government, primarily to prevent internal flooding but is now involved in a new project

funded by DEFRA to make Staffordshire and the Black Country more resilient to flooding. This had enabled recent CCTV surveys on Bellamour Way and identified the problem with the culvert under the road. PC explained the impact on the parish, in terms of reduced road access, of poor highway drainage and maintenance, the brook flooding and the issues with the culvert. During the recent road closure on Bellamour Way, some repairs to the road were done but councillors thought the work team had not been adequately briefed and had done a good but 'sticking plaster' job only. It was feared that there is damage to the underlying culvert and that water will simply find another weak spot to come out next time there is heavy rain.

SCC had suggested a trash screen for the culvert to prevent items entering and blocking the culvert. But it would need to be on private land, which required the agreement of the landowner. PC said it would be prepared to take on the maintenance to keep it regularly cleared. SCC said it may be possible to install a camera or other devices to alert when clearing is required and when water levels have risen significantly upstream.

The issues with the deep flood in the dip on Hollow Lane were also explained and the poor surface up at Newlands Lane, which had often been the only exit route from the village. SCC had spoken to PLT who had worked with the farmer to clear ditches near its land to try to reduce water flooding on to Hollow Lane. Also SCC will speak to another landowner as they believe there is a pipe through the field which is not draining as it used to. SCC should be able to put in some funding and have some technical options which may help. SCC wants to get community involvement. PC said that resolving the issue at Hollow Lane is the priority to ensure at least 1 route out of the village. Repairing the culvert is also important.

The Flood Resilience team now have a member who will be focusing on this project, seeking funding, getting internal SCC agreement and then looking at availability of contractors. The Flood Resilience team hoped to be able to report back on progress in a few weeks' time.

- b) Improving the appearance of the parish - Some of the responsibilities for mowing, between SCC, LDC and PC, had been clarified and a clearer map would be drawn up. This would enable PC to draw up a better specification and seek quotes for its grass cutting next year, including the Burial Grounds.

- c) Speeding on B5013 Colton Rd/Admaston Road and recent accidents – Meeting arranged by County Councillors with Deputy Police Commissioner, local MP and local parish councils on site on 12th September. Garren Edwards would represent Colton PC and his suggestion that there should be a speed limit of 40mph from Fogg Cottages to Bellamour Corner and a 50mph limit thereafter, with average speed cameras, was supported by PC.
4. Colton Summer Festival - Accounts showed a net cost of just under £500 but Clerk had completed an application to SCC's Community Fund. Meeting organised the previous evening to review the Festival and talk about options for next year had been poorly attended. A further meeting would be organised after Christmas to see if more interest could be raised and then a decision would be taken whether to organise an event next year or not.
5. Parish Magazine costs - PC approved to pay its requested 1/3 contribution of £1,485 for this year. Whilst PC believed it was important to continue to make a paper copy available, as many did not have internet access, it had raised with PCC whether savings could be made e.g. in paper quality, reduced number of copies. PCC were due to discuss at their meeting that evening.
6. Correspondence – Included notices of temporary road closure order for Blithbury Road from Tuesday 30th September to Thursday 2nd October and for Moor Lane, Stockwell Heath on Wednesday 8th October. Clerk pointed out that details of any road closures received at short notice are put on the Colton Residents Facebook group.
7. Request for donation for snowdrops – Request made by parishioner for donation to planting in village in memory of Tony and Judy Winter. After discussion, PC agreed to make a donation of £75, subject to permission for planting in the verges being given by Highways.
8. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 1st October at 7.30 pm approximately (to follow Burial Ground Committee meeting starting at 7pm)

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
Blithbury Road
Rugeley

NOTICE is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council on 14th October 2025 intends to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Blithbury Road in Rugeley, from its junction with Hollow Lane and continuing to its junction with B5013 Colton Road, unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to properties on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

An alternative route for traffic is available and will be signed on site. For more information, visit: <https://one.network/?tm=GB145435539>.

The order will come into operation on 20th October 2025 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 30th November 2025.

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

Date: 2nd October 2025
Kate Loader, County Solicitor
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH
Ref: 4450595
Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000
<https://one.network>

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
Moor Lane
Hamley Heath

NOTICE is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council on 30th September 2025 intends to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Moor Lane in Hamley Heath for its entire length, unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to properties on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

An alternative route for traffic is available and will be signed on site. For more information, visit: <https://one.network/?tm=144655383>.

The order will come into operation on 8th October 2025 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 8th October 2025.

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

Date: 18th September 2025
Kate Loader, County Solicitor
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH
Ref: 4447562
Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000
<https://one.network>

Dr William Palmer of Rugeley by Steve Booth



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Tuesday 14th October
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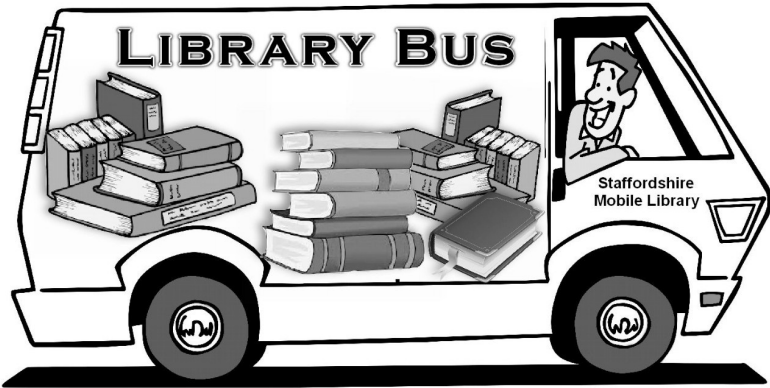


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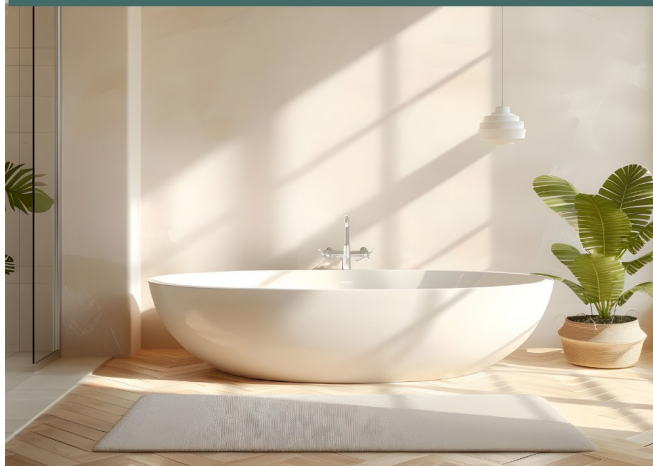
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Our Art Club has been running since August 2016 and continues to run on a Pay-As-You-Go basis, so you can attend just on the weeks that you're able (GIFT VOUCHERS are also now available, please see full details below); each week we look at various 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)
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Just come along or for more info please contact Della Welch;

mrswelchsartclub@gmail.com or 07792 741219



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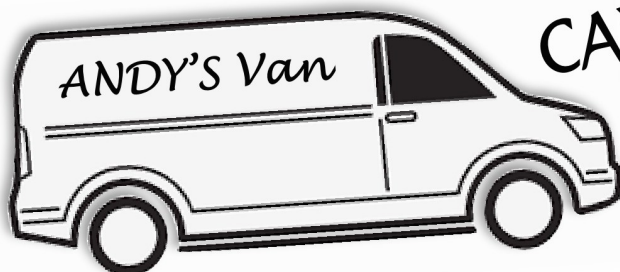
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