

Colton Parish News

March 2026



Colton Parish News is sponsored by:

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

St Mary the Virgin Church, Colton



Church Services		
First Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00 am
Second Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00 am
Third Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00 am
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00 am
Fifth Sunday	Service Format will vary	11.00 am
Keep your eyes peeled for details of other services and Special Sunday Afternoon Events		

For all Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and any Pastoral Needs
please contact Reverend Lynne Dean

<p>Resident Priest Reverend Lynne Dean The New Rectory Bellamour Way Colton WS15 3JW 07736 972560 lanternlit@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Rector Prebendary Simon Davis The Vicarage Market Place Abbots Bromley WS15 3BP</p>	<p>Church Wardens Mrs Rachel Bayliss 24 Moorcroft, Colton, WS15 3ND rachel.bayliss@outlook.com 07792 234720 Mrs Victoria Hawley The Old Rectory, Bellamour Way, Colton, WS15 3JW 07939 003153</p>
<p>Messages to the Parochial Church Council : Mrs Katie Brown 07814 729148</p>		

Message from your editor



The movie nights at the church are proving to be very popular. I have to say I didn't realise at first the titles were cryptic clues so missed The Salt Path but I've got it now !

I don't know about you but I'm fed up with the rain . Surely spring is just around the corner and the threatened snow is media hype !

Happy March everyone

Best wishes *Fiona*

All Items for inclusion in the NEXT EDITION

Must reach the Editor by 15th of THIS MONTH



coltonparishnews@gmail.com

Thank you Fiona O'Brien Editor

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.





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

Bank Top House

75 High St

Colton

Mob 07968823066

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Garren Edwards

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Richard Montbiot

Mob 07710864138

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Colton Crafters

At the Village Hall, Colton
1-3pm alternate Mondays

2026
calendar

9 & 23 March
6 & 20 April
4 & 18 May
1, 15 & 29 June
13 & 27 July
10 & 24 August
7 & 21
September
5 & 19 October
2, 16 & 30
November
14 December



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

Contact
Lynne Dean
07736972560
lanterlit@hotmail.com



 Rugeley and District Lions Club
In Partnership with

Colton St Mary the Virgin Church

PRESENT
Queen Elizabeth 1st



Played by Lesley Smith

Tuesday 10th March 2026

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

**AT: St Mary the Virgin Church, Bellamour Way,
Colton, Rugeley. WS15 3JW**

Tickets £10.00

OVER 18's ONLY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

PEAK HEALTH FOODS, Rugeley: Monday to Saturday

INSTAPRINT Rugeley: Tuesday and Thursdays only

St MARY'S CHURCH VICARAGE: Telephone 07736972560

PAY ON DOOR: Available on the evening

MOVIE NIGHT

Film Night in Holy Week
at St Mary's Church Colton

Come along and enjoy

"A path of travel"*

Film starts promptly at 7.00 pm
on **Tuesday 31st March 2026.**

Refreshments available:

Hot chocolate and popcorn
or bring your own.



*Due to the church licence, we are not able to state the title of the film, but a cryptic clue hopefully helps.



It is with great sadness we are sharing the news that Madeleine Barratt has sadly passed away peacefully at home on 20 January 2026.

Madeleine lived in the village for many years and worked as a secretary at the village school for over 20 years.

Madeleine moved to the village in 1969 and with her husband they built the house near to the school called Brackendale whilst living in a flat in Colton house. Once the house was built, they lived there for many years and played a big part in village life, being regulars at the Greyhound and Dun Cow pubs and joining in the many village community events over the years. Her children Jonathan and Helen also attended the village school.

Madeleine will be remembered by many families in the village as they either attended the school or their children did at the time she worked there. She loved her job and the children she supported there and seeing them and her many friends in the village in later life always brought a big smile to her face.

Her funeral was to be held on 19th February at Bretby Crematorium followed by a celebration of her life at Branston Golf Club.

Embracing the Spirit of Lent

As the seasons shift and our gardens begin to burst with fresh growth, spring announces its arrival. The snowdrops have made way for daffodils, and after enduring the greyness and constant rain of winter, there is a natural urge to throw open the windows, sweep away the cobwebs, and embark on a proper spring clean of the home.

These are all worthwhile pursuits, yet Lent invites us to take a different approach. Rather than getting caught up in the rush of daily routines, Lent encourages us to slow our pace, pay deliberate attention, and return to what is truly important.

Many of us are familiar with the tradition of giving something up for Lent. This year, however, instead of simply giving something up, consider letting go of something that fills your time. Perhaps put aside your mobile phone, except for calls, and step away from social media for a few hours each day. Breaking the 'scrolling' habit might mean more time to use for yourself and for others. Take a walk with the family, enjoy a coffee and conversation face-to-face with a friend, or visit someone you have not seen in a long while. This is an opportunity to slow down, pay attention, and focus once again on the things that matter most.

This Lent, the Everyday Faith app is focusing on the theme 'Draw Near' Each day, a fresh reflection will be offered, giving us a chance to pause, reflect, and draw closer to the creator of all we see in the natural world. Whenever we choose to set something aside, even for a short time, we often discover that freedom quietly takes its place. By clearing away the inner and outer clutter, we make space for God's grace to grow within us. Lent teaches us that real transformation is rarely sudden or dramatic. Instead, it unfolds through our consistent choices: choosing love over fear, compassion over judgement, and presence over distraction. Every simple act of honesty, generosity, or quiet contemplation contributes to the gradual emergence of hope at Easter.

Rev. Lynne Dean

St Mary's Church, Colton

EASTER CRAFTS

Palm Sunday

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH

2-4PM

With refreshments



MOVIE NIGHT

Film Night on Saturday of Holy Week
at St Mary's Church Colton

Come along and enjoy

“Proved (as in bread)”*

on Saturday 4th April 2026.

Refreshments available:

Hot chocolate and popcorn or
bring your own.



* Due to the church licence, we are not able to state the title of the film, but a cryptic clue hopefully helps!

What sometimes has 24 legs, 12 cords and thousands of chords?

Colton Community Choir!

And we would love to invite you to join us – we're small and friendly, but we would love to increase the number of legs and vocal cords in the choir!

We need ladies! Normally choirs have many more ladies than gentlemen, but at the moment, our men are outnumbering our ladies. So come on Colton ladies, come and sing with us – it's fun, you don't need to read music, the songs are well known and it doesn't matter if you think you can't sing (you probably can, but just need to exercise those vocal cords a bit more). And don't worry, our current ladies are very good, so you won't be alone!

Oh and Gentlemen... we do want you too! Even though our current men are outnumbering our ladies, we always welcome more – especially if you have a very deep voice, as this will make us sound even more fantastic!

If your heart is saying that could be fun, but your brain is saying 'I'm not good enough' or 'It's not for me', then please ignore your brain, obey your heart and come and give it a go: sit and listen for the first week or dive right in and have a sing. We would love to see you on Monday evenings at 7pm in the church. It costs just £1 per week.

Karen

PS – Please put it in your diary and give it a go! We really would love you to join us.

Observations From the Kitchen Window



I have been thinking recently about my time as a Parish Councillor. It started with me and my big mouth. For a while leading up to mid 2024 the Council had been struggling to raise a minimum of four councillors to form a quorum for their meetings. There was only a total of four of them in the first place and one of them had frequent absences in his house on the Mediterranean. I must say that I can understand the dreadful wrestling with his conscience when having to choose between a fortnight in the sun or a Parish Council meeting on a wet evening in Colton. Funny how the sun would normally win out!

Anyway, another of the councillors bearded me at a Wine Tasting evening. He explained the problem that any meeting requires a quorum of 4. Virtual meetings as a way around it are currently not permitted legally because they must be open and available to anyone from the Parish who wants to attend. This means that the sunseeker was unable (although perfectly willing) to participate via Zoom or Teams. I believed him when he alleged that it was all a bit of a doddle with not much to do and I was persuaded to throw my hat in the ring. When I told 'Er Indoors she rolled her eyes in her inimitable way. "You always said you would never get involved in this. Do you know what you are doing?" Clearly, I didn't but could not admit it!

Little did I know that I would wake up most mornings to about a dozen emails, mostly from Alison followed by all the responses from the other councillors. Alison is Clerk to the Council and has the important job of running it. I have no idea when she sleeps, but it is definitely not during the meetings!

This has certainly been an illuminating experience with far more involved than I had been led to believe. The Parish Council tends to be the body of first resort to deal with a very diverse range of issues which normally take the form of complaints, with a total disregard of whether they fall within our remit. We have the hardy perennials of overgrown hedges, fallen trees, speeding vehicles, potholes, flooding of roads and fields. Many of these issues are raised repeatedly by the usual regulars each of whom persists with his own particular hobby horse and we have to offer the unchanged answers because providing an actual result is often above our paygrade.

For example, let us take speeding vehicles. Drivers going too fast are unquestionably a potential danger especially with parked cars obscuring

visibility and especially at times when there are lots of children and dogs about. But there is nothing practical that we can do about this problem. We must refer it upstairs to South Staffs Highways or the Police. Until there is actual proof that vehicles are speeding, rather than simply appearing to do so, no controls will be put in place. Even to get this evidence we must get Highways and Police involved with permits and deal with the normal bureaucratic rigmarole. This all takes time and then the speed recording instruments have to be found and operated over sufficient period to assess the scale of the problem,



It will come as no surprise that 'Er Indoors has an effective solution to the speeding problem. In our previous house we lived on a very busy road which was the favourite of boy racers and motor bikes. No traffic calming measures were imposed and speed limits were there to be broken. 'Er Indoors donned a coat which from a distance looked like a uniform. She went out armed only with her portable hair dryer. She took up her gun slinger stance and pointed the dryer at approaching vehicles. Any driver seeing that he was within her sights immediately slammed on the brakes and just crawled by!

Then there are the overgrown hedges blocking visibility and trees and branches fallen on the road. Normally it is the landowner who has the responsibility to deal with these matters. But locating the owner and then trying to get him to deal with the problem can take for ever to resolve. Such situations must be dealt with promptly to maintain access and for safety reasons. So, we take immediate action and engage Mark Bull and his Speedy Gonzalez team to remove the obstruction. As it turns out we are damned if we do and damned if we don't. The normal response is "Why is the PC spending our council tax money on this when it is the responsibility of the landowner. It is a disgrace!" often followed by a letter to our MP!

Then we were told to "Get a Grip" on one occasion when the Brook overflowed its banks. Goodness how we all wish we have the solution to this problem of nature. Berating the Parish Council does not help at all except perhaps making the complainant feel better! Our only recourse is to work with S Staffs. They have now set aside some funds for flood relief and the action currently being undertaken is showing some results.

The PC is a challenge but rewarding when we get it right. I hope I can cope with the rush of applications to join us!!!



COLTON GARDEN & PRODUCE CLUB.

Hello once again. Our speaker, John Dean, entertained us well at our February meeting with his fascinating presentation about Wild Orchids. It was surprising to learn that we only have a very small proportion of the 35K varieties in the British Isles, and that some of them we would probably walk straight past, as they are not easily recognisable as fabulous wildflowers, but some look like weeds! For the March meeting, we have Mark Wood with a presentation on the Work of a Roof Thatcher – by all accounts, he is a very entertaining and interesting speaker, so why not come along to this event on Thursday, the 5th of March at 7.30 pm. You are welcome to join us.

The life of a gardener is not always a happy one, as our work is controlled by the weather. Rain for the past month has curtailed my exploits in the garden, so it will mean extended hours, when and if we have a few dry days. Hedges, bushes, roses and grasses will all need sorting as they should have been done in February. Fingers crossed, they may still be done before you read this! Beware of any late frost or snow, and be prepared to cover any delicate plants which may have started to shoot in any short, dry, milder spell we may experience. My roses have already shown signs of waking up, while the snowdrops, crocus, and daffodils are all showing their spring blooms – it looks as though it will be a good year for them, and they are very welcome.

The RHS say that “Celebrations are in full swing as we leave winter’s dark days behind us. Trees decked with flowers like blushing brides, cherries, pears and forsythia lift the spirits, while below the garden is awash with spring bulbs, their jewel colours ushering in spring.” I hope the sun will shine a little light on this spectacle!! At least the daylight hours increase over time. It is now time to sow flowers and crops. As seeds develop on the daffodils and other spring bulbs, they should be removed, leaving the foliage to die back naturally. Hardy annuals such as nasturtiums, poppies and marigolds can be sown directly into the soil. Wildflower seeds can be sown in trays or modules, but I prefer to sow them directly into freshly hoed ground – if you have heavy clay-based soil, I suggest you start them in trays. Onion and shallot sets should be planted in beds, spacing them 10-15cm apart – keep the bed free of weeds. The eternal problem will be weeds!! In a warm spell of weather, they will grow very quickly, so we need to keep all vegetable beds and borders weed-free, using those compost heaps or the brown bins.



The new season beckons. Sow tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers, and aubergines in pots indoors. Window sills will be just as good as a greenhouse or conservatory – maybe easier, as they are closer to keep an eye on and ensure they have enough water. The same process can be used to start sweet peas, although some folks advocate planting these in late autumn. Dwarf French beans, runner beans, peas, and mangetout should be sown in a large pot, ready for planting out in April, but they will need protecting from hungry mice if they are in the greenhouse. Early potatoes can be planted in trenches, vegetable plots, a large pot or a tub. These will need chitting in trays before planting in soil or compost.

If temperatures increase, we will have to be vigilant in spotting the pests as they awaken from their winter hidey-holes. Mealy bugs, green and whitefly, and the ever-present slugs and snails will be eager to feed on new growth from seedlings, so be ready with the sprays, even if it is only soapy water. Remember, the slugs and snails are partial to a drop of beer in a saucer. You will find it easier to collect them and dispose of them once they are drunk! If you lifted the dahlia tubers, they will need inspecting for any rot (which should be removed), placing them in trays and covering them with some compost, so they start to produce new shoots. Basal cuttings can also be taken from some of the perennials, such as delphiniums, lupins and Japanese anemones, and set in a pot under cover.

Make sure you make good use of any indoor pots of bulbs you had to cheer you up over the last couple of months. Once they have finished flowering, they can be planted outdoors and will improve your early spring display for 2027. Cut back shrubs that flower in late summer so they produce new growth for the current year's display – Buddleja, Hydrangea, Lavatera, and Leycesteria can be pruned back hard to a short framework of stems. Delay this if there is a threat of any frosts. Once the Forsythia has finished flowering, it can also be cut back to produce new growth for next year's flowers.

Lastly, we must not forget our feathered friends, as it is the start of the breeding season. Keep those feeders and drinking stations clean for them. If you wish to put up a nesting box, make sure it is in a sheltered position, not facing the prevailing wind direction. The NT have given out directions on how to make a simple nesting box – I have a copy of this if anyone is interested.

We may be busy bees ourselves, but please ensure they have enough rich nectar plants to feed on, as they will then repay you by fertilising your crops and flowers.
KEEP SMILING – HAPPY GARDENING. PETER – 07896521941 / 01889803678



Our President, Sue, welcomed members and guests to the February meeting and Jerusalem was sung. We then had a very interesting talk from the charity Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Rosemary and Dave were accompanied by their delightful 'hearing' dog Elsa who sat quietly by Daves side as his wife, Rosemary, told us how they had become involved with this truly wonderful charity.

Dave and Rosemary had fostered puppies at 8 weeks old and then when the puppies reached 15 months they started their proper training, teaching the dogs to recognise different sounds and eventually partnering the trained dogs with deaf people. Training can take 18 months to 4 years before the dogs become proficient.



As a noise is heard by the dogs they are trained to go over to the human and nudge them on the leg. When the person feels the nudge they ask 'where is it' and the dog will take them to the door or telephone or whatever it is that made the noise. If it is a fire alarm the dogs are trained to lie flat on the ground beside their partners thus acknowledging the seriousness of the alarm.

The dogs are trained to follow hand signals too.

The dogs must be exercised every day as part of the rules of having a 'hearing' dog, and they become a vital part of independent living for a deaf person.

A member of our audience was instructed to set off an alarm at a certain part of the talk to demonstrate how a 'hearing' dog worked and Elsa acted immediately by waking from her slumber to nudge Dave's leg when she heard the alarm. Dave asked her, 'what is it' and she went over to the alarm to show him where the noise had come from. She was rewarded with a treat which she obviously enjoyed.

Rosemary told us how Elsa will find her husband, who is deaf, if he is out of the room (Rosemary is confined to a wheelchair). If she asks 'find Dave' Elsa will find him and lead him back to Rosemary.

Sue gave the vote of thanks which was followed by refreshments and a brief business meeting.



The competition for a dog ornament was won by Janet with her beautiful sculpture of a spaniel.

Our members' resolution votes had been sent to SFWI and these will then be forwarded to

National WI to be counted at the AGM.

Colton WI are continuing with a donation to Katherine House by way of the KH lottery.

Members were reminded to bring Easter Eggs to the March meeting for donation to the Rugeley Food Bank for children at Easter. We have a curling afternoon in the Village Hall on 19th March 3pm – 5pm, at a small cost of £3 to cover the hiring of the hall. Refreshments are included.



Watch out for the WI banner on the trough at Pedleys Croft 8th March as we celebrate International Ladies Day.

We have a lot of upcoming events organised including:

Our next meeting, March 11th, the speaker being Gary Fox 'Call on Firefighters' which will be a very interesting talk I am sure. The competition that night is for A Bell. Members are requested to wear something purple or green and to wear their WI rosette if possible.

Wednesday 8th April we are inviting Kingston WI to join us for the evening to hear the talk on 'The Beatles'. Light refreshments will be served.

27 and 28th May County Show – always good to visit the SFWI marquee and see the many fabulous entries from around the counties WI's.

18th June - the WI County Quiz – Colton has a team entered.

8th July our Birthday Meal, and in October several members of our WI will be receiving 20 and 30 year membership awards.

You can see we have a varied and interesting few months ahead so why not come and join us ladies!!! You will be made very welcome.

Colton History Society. January Meeting

A Brief History of Shugborough speaker Judith Hubble.

As recorded in the Domesday survey Shugborough was originally owned by the King. It soon became linked with the neighbouring Bishton Hall holdings along with 120 acres of Cannock Chase and was held by the Bishops of Lichfield. At the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry 8th, Henry gave 60 acres of the Cannock Chase holding to William Paget. The rest of the two estates passed through several hands until eventually in 1624 the Shugborough estate was sold to a local lawyer William Anson for £1000. His grandson William demolished the existing manor house in 1693 and built a grander three story building which forms the central core of the present house.

His eldest son Thomas became MP for Lichfield. Like many well connected wealthy young men of that period, he embarked on a grand tour of Europe and came back with ideas of how he would like to emulate many of the fine architectural buildings he had encountered on his tour, on his own estate. Fortunately his younger brother George Anson had the money to help him do this.

George had amassed a great fortune during his naval career. He was famed for his circumnavigation of the world. As a senior Naval officer in 1739 he had been commissioned by the King to harass Spanish treasure ships sailing from South America. To do this he undertook a circumnavigation of the world during which time he had captured Spanish treasure galleons securing the King and himself a massive fortune. However there was a sad side to this expedition because he returned home with only a fraction of his original crew, the majority having died of scurvy. Following that he had continued to have a distinguished naval career by defeating the French in 1747. For this service he was created Lord Anson in the same year. He was subsequently created First Lord of the Admiralty and set about modernizing the navy including introducing the first naval uniform. For this he is considered to be the founder of the modern navy.

Some of his money helped his brother Thomas carry out changes at Shugborough. Thomas transformed the estate by changing the house into a fashionable neo-classical style house and grounds to emulate the Palladian houses he had seen in Italy. He added two pavilions, one on each side of the mansion, re designed the main body of the house by erecting columns at the front and built unique monuments in the grounds. It was these changes that made Shugborough more famous. He also started the "Dilattante" Society. Members of the society had to be rich and had to have been on the Grand tour. It soon bragged of 32 members!

George and Thomas had no heirs so eventually the estate passed to a nephew George Adams who adopted the surname Anson. His son was created 1st. Viscount Anson and subsequently his son Thomas William Anson who, like his predecessor was MP for Lichfield, was created 1st Earl of Lichfield in 1831. During his life he also became interested in the developments that were happening in farming and created a "Model Farm" at Shugborough, the buildings being designed by the famous architect Samuel Wyatt. The farm set about using many of the new methods. Thomas however managed to spend all the money the family had and had to mortgage the estate. His grandson managed to clear the mortgage but the estate never really recovered and was given to the National Trust in 1966 in lieu of death duties. It was immediately leased to Staffordshire County Council with the then Lord Lichfield (Patrick Anson) retaining an apartment in the house until his death in 2005. In 2016 the Council handed the property back to the National Trust who have looked after it ever since.



Colton Friendship Club Report January 2026

Karen welcomed fifteen members to the first meeting of 2026 before hosting a Beetle Drive. After six rounds, Judith Yates was declared the winner.

The details of the next three meetings are:

- ❖ Wednesday 18th February, when Andy French will talk about 'The Man Who Never Was'
- ❖ Wednesday 18th March, when Gill Sykes will talk about 'The Crime of Being Poor'
- ❖ Wednesday 15th April 2026, which will be our annual buffet luncheon with entertainer & Ukelele player 'Gabriella.' **Please note that this meeting will not start until midday, finishing at 3.30pm. The cost of the luncheon will be £5, payable in advance, either at the February or March meeting.**

Colton Friendship Club always welcomes new members. For any additional information, please contact me on the telephone number below.

Karen Hill
01889 586 379

SUMMARY OF COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY
(Full minutes will be available at www.coltonpc.org.uk after approval at the March meeting)

1. Public participation - Parishioner, who has been trying to arrange planting of memorial snowdrops, referred to minutes of previous PC meeting where PC had said that the licence from Highways was not acceptable because it placed responsibility on PC to take over maintenance of the relevant verges. Parishioner asked if that was the only aspect of concern to PC in the licence and meeting chair, Noel Talbot (NT), confirmed that was the case. (The licence cannot be signed by an individual and therefore it would need to be signed by PC). Parishioner therefore proposed to go back to the SCC contact to request that the PC's mowing responsibility is removed. This on the basis that there are already daffodils in those verges and SCC still take responsibility for the mowing. Snowdrops were deliberately chosen as they flower before the daffodils and therefore should not affect mowing. County Cllr Janet Higgins (JH) and District Councillor Keith Vernon were present and agreed that planting the snowdrops was a nice idea and they hoped that it could be possible. **Clerk** agreed to copy recent correspondence with SCC on this topic to Janet Higgins, so she could make enquiries at SCC.

2. Chair's Announcements – A letter had been received from a parishioner, after issue of the agenda, commenting on foliage overhanging Hollow Lane. One councillor had had the chance to quickly check the situation before the meeting and did not think it was of particular concern. **All Cllrs** were asked to look before the next meeting and **Clerk** to put on March agenda. JH offered to pursue if it was thought to be a Highways responsibility. PC had recently arranged urgent removal of a fallen tree on the road.

3. Planning Matters

- a) Application for change of use for Stables off Jonghams Lane for Conversion, alteration and extension of stable block to form 1 dwellinghouse – PC had submitted a response of no objections. However, District Councillor Keith Vernon said there had been an objection and he had been asked to call this application in so it will go before LDC's Planning Committee.
- b) Application for Land at Newlands Lane, Malt House Farm, Stockwell Heath – Prior Notification: Conversion of agricultural building to form 6 dwellings with associated operational development – PC had submitted concerns about additional traffic due to state of Newlands Lane and regular flooding in the vicinity, also lack of light impact assessment for wildlife and community. Clerk had checked the LDC website a few days before the meeting and LDC's arboricultural officer had said they required additional information.

4. Highways, Footpaths and Open Spaces

- a) Flooding and highways maintenance - SCC's FAIR team had sent an update that works at Hollow Lane were currently scheduled to start on 16th March. PC agreed that details of the works, when available, could be publicised via the parish magazine, residents page on Facebook and PC website and that there was no need for another community meeting at this stage. It was noted that any flood waters had generally subsided quickly and Hollow Lane had not been flooded so far this winter. Drains blocked on Newlands Lane had meant additional flood water joined the brook.
- b) Speeding issues – Re speeding on B5013, a further meeting had been arranged for 27th February to discuss ownership of the car park at the reservoir

and potential measures there. JH is unable to attend that meeting but would continue to pursue the issues. The 3 County Cllrs involved are paying for speed counts on the affected roads in their areas (JH for B5013 between Admaston Bank and Moor Lane) and it had been pointed out that the counts should be early summer and include evenings when the racers are active. Nigel Parry (NP) said that the electronic monitoring device suggested for Bellamour Way is still in development so would not be available in the foreseeable future.

- c) Other Highways issues - In addition to the road closure notice for Newlands Lane in early February, 3 other road issues had recently been raised with JH by email and were discussed:

Stoneyford Lane – JH had driven to the meeting that way and agreed it is awful. Highways said that temporary repairs had been made to urgent potholes on 23 January, per road closure notice received. But weather and resource issues had delayed permanent repairs. JH would pursue and said that SCC had allocated additional money to tackle the backlog of repairs to rural roads.

Junction of High St and Newlands Lane – Highways said a temporary repair of the pothole there had been made on 23 January but a more permanent repair requires resources and that heavy agricultural vehicles and flooding mean the repairs do not last! Highways also said they did not have a record of a gully on their maps. They asked to be sent photos whenever it is flooded.

JH stressed that issues should be reported on the Highways online system as often as possible, as the more reports, the higher the priority that will be given. She is pushing for more action but it is difficult to get priority for rural areas.

Flood water on Admaston Rd – Highways said an officer had inspected in January and raised a request for appropriate works. JH would let PC know when scheduled. It was stressed that it is an unlit road and drivers are unable to see the flood water, especially if approaching at speed from the direction of Abbots Bromley, hence it is dangerous.

In conclusion, JH commented on how difficult it is to get action at SCC.

5. Other Parish Council matters

- d) Maintenance of parish defibrillators – NT had spoken to the landlord at the Dun Cow about moving the defibrillator outside the pub to enable it to be available for use at any time. A box would be needed to enclose it as it came from HS2 without one so further enquiries are being made.
- e) Parishioner request for lights in the village for Christmas - Some parishioners had suggested that there should be some more attractive festive lights, as in other local villages. NP had made some enquiries and had arranged a site meeting with a local company to find out possibilities and costs. It was suggested that a member of PCC be invited to be involved in the site meeting before further discussions.
- f) Whether a Colton Festival should be held in 2026 – Public meeting arranged for 24 February to decide.

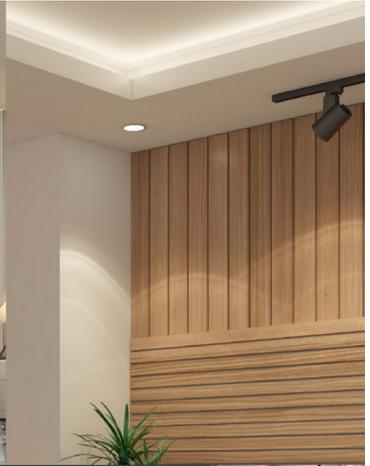
6. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 4th March at 7pm

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

<p>Colton Local nature reserve John MacMillan Tel: 01889 575394 Email:mrjkmac@sky.com</p>	<p>Colton Parish Council Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email:colton.pc@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Village Hall Bookings Fiona O'Brien Tel: 07784497048 Email:booking@coltonvillagehall.co.uk</p> <p>Management committee John MacMillan Tel: 01889575394 Email:mrjkmac@sky.com</p>	<p>Parish Lands Trust Claire Collier Tel: 07966637044 Email:clerk.cplt@gmail.com</p>
<p>St. Mary's Primary School Mr Jon Wynn-Head Teacher Tel: 01889224506 Email:stmarysoffice@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk</p>	<p>Colton Community Choir Ruth Jones Tel: 01889 570724 Email: ruth46jones@gmail.com</p>
<p>Colton Old People's Welfare Committee Mrs Amanda Pratt Tel: 07976975960 Email: mandapratt@msn.com</p>	<p>Colton Women's Institute Email:secretarycoltonwi@gmail.com</p>
<p>Colton Produce Guild Mr Peter Brightman (Chairman) Tel: 07896521941 Email: pd.brightman@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Burial Ground Trustee Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email:colton.pc@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Colton History Society Mrs Gill Sykes Email: gillsykes@btinternat.com</p>	<p>Colton Friendship Club Mrs Karen Hill 01889 586 379</p>



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