

# The Three Colnes Parish Magazine

Pg 8 Carols In the Lion

Pg 21 Panto Time

Pg 23 A Decade of Starlight

Pg 66 Christmas Services

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## Editorial

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All advertising enquires to be sent to Catherine.

**Readers, please remember to mention this magazine if you answer any of the advertisements.**

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*This magazine is produced for the villagers of the Three Colnes, consisting of White Colne, Colne Engaine and Earls Colne, by St. Andrew's Parish Churches.*

## Website Addresses

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# Welcome

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Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year

I hope that you all get what you want from Father Christmas this year! I need more time – as those eagle eyed readers last week would have seen by my many typos! I missed my own deadline to get copy to the proof reader, and wrote in haste, so apologies for my terrible diction, and I hope that this is not something that happens that often. This just goes to show how important all the volunteers are within the magazine, as without them we wouldn't have such a well oiled and put together publication!



So you can see what we do, I would love to introduce the team (we will try and get a team photo at some point):

Sue Kenneally (that's me) – Editor

Jonathan White – Typesetter

Catherine Doran – Advertising Coordinator

Godfrey Evans – Proof Reader

Geoff Marcoolyn – Distribution Coordinator – Colne Engine

Ray Wood (and Margaret Hill) – Distributions overseer, and Coordinator – Earls Colne

Jane Taylor (vacancy) – Distribution Coordinator – White Colne

Then, we have dozens of distributors who make sure that the magazine gets through your front door as soon as possible once printed.

We are always looking for more volunteers, proof readers, editorial content writers, feature columnists and so on, so if you wish to be a part of the team in any way, please drop me an email [threecolnesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:threecolnesmagazine@gmail.com) and I will make sure the right person gets back in touch with you.

Within this month's full colour bumper double Christmas/New Year issue, we have a plethora of fab things going on in the Three Colnes and beyond. Check out the Ploughman's lunch on pg. 36, or the Carols on the Green pg. 42. If you have ever wondered how to make Mince Meat – our recipe this month is a simple, yet very effective recipe (pg. 42) – if anyone needs their mince pies taste tested, you know where I am! We have news from White Colne (pg. 47), from the Four Colnes Horticultural Society (pg. 49) and the Heritage Museum (pg. 51) plus a full run down of all the Christmas Services throughout our three beautiful churches on pg. 66.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas, and a sparkly New Year

**Sue and the Three Colnes Magazine Team.**

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# The Three Colnes Churches



**For baptisms, weddings and funerals:** please contact The Reverend Mark Payne on 01787 220347 or [colnesvicar@gmail.com](mailto:colnesvicar@gmail.com) 20 Swallowfield, Earls Colne, CO6 2SW.  
Reverend Sharon Quilter (Associate Priest) [revdsdq@gmail.com](mailto:revdsdq@gmail.com)

**For all other matters:** please contact the Church Wardens of the Church in question:

## **EARLS COLNE**

Mr. Ray Wood & Mrs. Helen Sherfield -  
07908 138853

[ecchurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:ecchurchwardens@gmail.com)

**PCC Secretary:** Caroline Smith  
[standrewearlscolne@gmail.com](mailto:standrewearlscolne@gmail.com)

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[ecpctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ecpctreasurer@gmail.com)

Church Warden Vacancy:

St. Andrew's Church, Colne Engaine

## **WHITE COLNE**

Mr. Christopher Chamberlain  
01787 222200 [wccw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wccw@hotmail.co.uk)

## **COLNE ENGAINE**

George Courtauld - 07968 496235  
[georgecourtauld@aol.com](mailto:georgecourtauld@aol.com)

**PCC Secretary:** Candy Robson



# Pastoral Care



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# Thoughts for the month



You might expect a vicar to like Christmas. I don't like the season; I absolutely love it. Those of you who know me well will be aware that I have been announcing the number of sleeps until Christmas since... well, January probably! As I write there are 55 sleeps to go!

So, what is it about Christmas that I love?

I love that most people are a little kinder to each other, it's good to see the Christmas spirit in our communities. People are volunteering in different ways in places like the Foodbank, Community and Charity shops, Street Pastors, Soul Food, our churches, the list goes on. Maybe I'm imagining it, but it also seems that more people let you out of a junction in your car more often, more people smile, and more hold the door open for others to come through.

I also love the music. As for carols – fortunately I can't get enough of them! I'm also a bit of a crooner it has to be said, so from the middle of November 'Heart Christmas' is on the car radio and I can often be caught singing along to classics such as 'White Christmas'.

Which reminds me, I love Christmas movies, films that make you smile and feel as warm on the inside as you might be on the outside snuggled under a blanket as you watch. My favourite - well, that has to be 'It's A Wonderful Life'.

Driving down a street and seeing Christmas lights in our communities and in our homes brings such joy, and there's something very special about being sat in front of a fire whose flickering light joins that of the lights from the Christmas tree.

I love spending time with family and friends, and as lovely as receiving presents is, I much prefer to give them.

But Christmas is a polarising time for many, in part due to all the things I mention above – because that's not everybody's reality. Unemployment, ill health, bereavement, loneliness, homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, crime, asylum status, choices of heating or eating and all kinds of brokenness, can all make Christmas a really hard time, because of the contrast between the joy and expectation of the season, and the lived reality.

If we only look at the secular aspects of Christmas it will at times, in each of our lives, fall short. However, if we reach to the Christ of Christmas (the main reason for my love of this time of year) this season can be a time that has the power to transform our lives in whatever situation we find ourselves.

The coming of Jesus into our world was always part of God's plan, to choose to live and share our human life in the person of Jesus, and it's no coincidence that his earthly life begins and ends in vulnerability. Jesus was not a stranger to the mess of .....**Cont'd /**

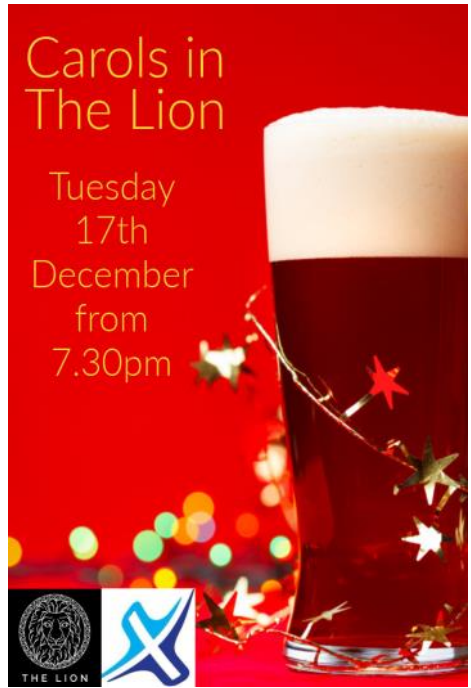
*Thoughts for the month* 

life; he was born in a manger, his family had to flee and become refugees in Egypt to protect him and themselves, and the wood of the manger was echoed in the wood of the cross thirty-three years later. Jesus brought God's physical presence into history and as a result God is able to say to you and me - "I am right with you, even in the mess."

Wherever you are as we approach Christmas my prayer for you is that you will hear, know and feel that God is with you.



Christmas Blessings,

*Mark*



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The Lion

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# Services for December



Date	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 1st	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	White Colne	Holy Communion
	5pm	Earls Colne #	High Mass Darkness to light
Wednesday 4th	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	3:30 Express
Wednesday 11th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	BCP Holy Communion
Saturday 14th	5pm	Colne Engaine Village Green (with procession from Church)	Carols on the Green
Sunday 15th	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins
	10am	White Colne	Family Carol Service
	5pm	Colne Engaine	Candlelit Carols & Readings
Thursday 17th	7pm	The Lion, Earls Colne	Carols in the Pub
Wednesday 18th	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
	7pm	Earls Colne #	Film Night: Journey to Bethlehem
Sunday 22nd	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Holy Communion
	5pm	Earls Colne #	Choral Candlelit Carols & Readings
Christmas Eve	3pm	Colne Engaine	Crib Service
	5pm	Earls Colne #	Family Carol Service
	11.15pm	Earls Colne #	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10am	Earls Colne #	Christmas Morning Holy Communion
	10am	Colne Engaine	Christmas Morning Holy Communion
	10am	White Colne	Christmas Morning Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Halstead	TEAM SERVICE

# Services for January



Date	Time	Church	Service
Wednesday 1st	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	White Colne	Holy Communion
Wednesday 8th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	10am	Earls Colne #	All Age Worship
	11am	Colne Engaine	Plough Sunday followed by Ploughmans Lunch
Wednesday 15th	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Earls Colne	Café Church
Wednesday 22nd	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Holy Communion
	5pm	Earls Colne #	Evensong
Wednesday 29th	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion

# These services will be live-streamed on Zoom together with our Online Services on Facebook Live. Details of our Zoom link and our Facebook page can be found at [www.colnechurches.com/pew-news](http://www.colnechurches.com/pew-news)

In addition to the above services, at 9am on each Saturday morning you are invited to Morning Prayer on Facebook Live.

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# Primary School

**COLNE ENGAINE**



Colne Engaine School continues to be a busy, thriving place to be.

At the end of October, the Year 6 boys won the regional football tournament and are through to the area final! Congratulations to the team and huge thanks go to the parents who not only gave lifts to the event but got the squad together for a practice. It is only with this fantastic support that we make these things happen for our children.

November has been a month of fund-raising and supporting people within and beyond the school. Mrs Lambert organised the school's collection of shoeboxes for Ukraine. These boxes contain all manner of lovely surprises for children for Christmas as well as items for female relations.

FACES and the children have raised over £1,500 for school funds through a sponsored walk. This was a huge success, and it was sunny for the whole afternoon after days of rain! A brilliant effort by all involved. We will be purchasing lots of maths resources for the whole school with the money raised.

Also, during this month, we held a two-minute silence to remember those who fought – and are still fighting – in wars and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We talked to the children about the significance of the poppy and many of them had joined in with parades around the local area on Remembrance Sunday. ....Cont'd /

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# Primary School

COLNE ENGAINE



An important part of our work in school this month has been promoting the 'behaviour bees' and our updated guidelines for supporting children to look after each other and our school. We have created clear expectations for everyone to follow in the different areas of school, such as classrooms, playground, the office and hall. We took part in Anti-bullying Week which had a focus 'Choose Respect'. At the end of Anti-bullying Week, we wore odd socks to symbolise the fact that we are all different but all equal and an important part of the school family.

Some children were fortunate enough to attend an additional forest-school type session and had a great time making dormice (pictured right) and enjoying hot chocolate amongst other fun things! These sessions are free to us and run by volunteers so we are very grateful to be given this opportunity and if the organisation continues to receive funding, hopefully we will be able to take more groups in the new year. **Lisa Dale**, Headteacher



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# Gardening



## AUTUMN COLOURS



The colour fairies have been really busy this year, just look at all those lovely leaves on the trees and hedgerows. It is a little-known fact that every single leaf has its own number embossed on the underside, only visible to the colour fairies. Each number corresponds to a different colour - the fairies gather around the giant golden acorn cup and select random acorns that, when broken open reveal a coloured number; it is then the job of the fairies to complete the 'colour by numbers' picture before all the leaves fall and trigger their hibernation period.

Some would say this is an ancient myth that has been passed down through the generations, and as my grandad would say 'the story has grown a beard'. However, I think there could be something in it - I mean we know there are tooth fairies, flower fairies and washing and ironing fairies so why not (in my house anyway?) By comparison the story 'THEY' want us to believe (whoever 'they' are) is, in my opinion, much more of a stretch to the imagination - let me tell you what I have found out through my extensive research. (okay so it was ten minutes on google - other search engines are available!) ....Cont'd /



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# Gardening (Cont'd)



Apparently leaves contain pigments that help them to obtain food through a chemical process (that old chestnut). There are three main pigments, chlorophyll (green) carotenes (yellow) - I suppose they want us to believe that's what makes carrots orange - and anthocyanins (easy for you to say) = reds and pinks. As the nights get colder, the chlorophyll is destroyed giving the leaves a yellow tinge. If the temperature stays above freezing this encourages production of anthocyanins turning the leaves red. In dry weather and bright sunny days more anthocyanin is produced making the leaves even redder. Variations in the weather conditions creates a mix of different pigments to give varying shades of colour. I don't know about you, but I know which explanation is more believable to me. I started to look at why leaves fall but it gave me a headache. I mean, who thinks up this stuff?

A nice place to visit on a sunny Autumn day to see some lovely colours is Marks Hall Arboretum on the Coggeshall Road just outside Earls Colne. It's beautiful at any time of year but such a picture now (they have more than their fair share of fairies). There are many other places to visit, I suggested to the good lady wife a stroll around the castle at Hedingham. She didn't fancy it - never mind it's just a fort.

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# Gardening (Cont'd)



Okay, back in the garden now, let's talk propagation specifically hardwood cuttings. Once the shrubs are dormant with little or no leaves left, we can start looking for suitable cutting material. Look for straight twigs, they should be this season's growth, nice rigid stems. Make the cut just above a bud/leaf node. Depending on the length of the chosen stem you may get three or four cuttings from one piece. Make a straight cut with secateurs below the lowest bud and 4"- 6" (100-150mm) higher up the stem make a sloping cut just above a bud. The sloping cut helps identify the top of the cutting. If you have a patch of bare soil somewhere out of the way that won't be disturbed for a year, but not where the rain can penetrate, make a slit in the ground with a spade and push the cuttings in so that two thirds of each one is below the soil surface. Keep the area weed free and make sure it does not dry out, and 12 months later you should have small plants ready to pot up or transplant into place. Any deciduous shrub or fruit bush will make a good candidate for hardwood cuttings, such as blackcurrants (*Ribes nigrum*), mock orange (*Philadelphus Hydrangea*), roses (*Rosa*) and so many others. If you're not sure if it's the right type of plant, do it anyway – what's the worst that can happen?

I know I keep harping on about mulching, but it really works for me. Apart from hiding bare soil, it keeps moisture in, and during the winter protects dormant plants underground from extremes of cold. It's home to all sorts of critters and bacteria valuable to the garden. It eventually breaks down improving soil structure, it suppresses weeds, and any .....Cont'd /

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# Gardening (Cont'd)



that do grow are easily pulled up, roots and all, because of the moisture and loose structure of the soil underneath. Mulching at this time of year is much easier with less plant growth showing and the soil is moist and still has some warmth in it, a bit like shutting the door before all the heat escapes from the room. There are many types of mulch available, ornamental bark, (breaks down slowly and is generally larger pieces), straw mulch (slow to break down), or a more permanent cover is shingle and decorative stone.

My favourite mulch is woodchip, a by-product from tree surgery, a mix of small chippings from various trees and shrubs including conifer. It breaks down nicely and is cheaper than ornamental bark. You can find tree surgeons offering loose tipped transit loads locally for £75-£100. I also like a soil improver mulch, or eco compost (the material produced from the waste that is collected from our green bins). It is almost like putting a layer of compost over the ground but it hasn't got the ingredients added that make general purpose or specific composts. It is very lightweight and easy to spread, it looks attractive, and it allows moisture in so can be used all year round without the fear of preventing summer rain from reaching the plants' roots. Garden centres offer this product bagged up and some offer loose tipped delivery, again it's around £75-£100 pound per tipper load. Mulching is as good as weeding. 'Later taters', keep calm and carry on weeding, **Gary**



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## Village Hall

COLNE ENGAINE

I do hope some of you were able to attend our Christmas Shopping event on Sunday 17th November. As Trustees we do struggle at times to think of ways we can ensure all villagers know of and remember our hall and consider using the hall for any events.

We had this year, for the first time, a Halloween children's party and I was slightly alarmed when I opened up the hall to find some gruesome looking and 'blood' covered individuals. A good time was had by all.

We still have a whole day, Tuesdays, free for any regular or one-off events if anyone is interested in running an event or class.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best in 2025.

**Geoff Marcoolyn**



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# Reverse Advent Calendar

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7	Small torches	8	Chocolate bars	9	Male/Female deodorant	10	Rice (500g bag)	11	Feminine hygiene products	12	Jar of pasta sauce
13	Male/Female shower gel	14	Tinned sponge puddings	15	Male/Female shampoo	16	Packet custard	17	Tinned vegetables	18	Tinned fruit
19	Tinned fish	20	Instant snacks i.e. Pot Noodle	21	Tinned hot snacks i.e. Ravioli	22	Rice pudding	23	Tinned Potatoes	24	UHT Milk



# Film Club



It's been a bumper year for The Film Club and we are hugely grateful to all who have attended the discussions and suggested films, and to Team Drapers for hosting us. Even if you are not able to join the discussions, we hope you like the choices for taking us into 2025.

For **December**, it's a classic Christmas story:

**The Film** - Miracle on 34th Street

**The Discussion** - Wednesday 11th December 2024 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

**The Where** - The Drapers, Earls Colne

For **January**, it's all about spreading a little joy:

**The Film** - Amélie (a 2001 production and only our second foreign language film)

**The Discussion** - Wednesday 15th January 2025 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR JANUARY ONLY**

**The Where** - The Drapers, Earls Colne

Happy Christmas with best wishes for a film-filled New Year from your Film Club Admins: Sharon ([revdsdq@gmail.com](mailto:revdsdq@gmail.com)), Kirsten ([kpt1607@icloud.com](mailto:kpt1607@icloud.com)) and Ray ([rawood@me.com](mailto:rawood@me.com)).

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# A Decade Of Starlight

---

It all started when I met a wise man in a garage.

He was about four feet tall, made of chicken wire and papier mâché, and seemed to have misplaced his two wise friends! He was in the garage that was part of the Old Vicarage in Shut Lane which over the years had been used to store all sorts of things from the church.

But the wise man didn't become part of the story, he was just the inspiration for other things that developed, things that happened without a project or a plan but came together more smoothly than if one had existed, guided by God and our love for the church and village of Earls Colne.

Earlier that summer I had cleared the brambles, ivy and elder from the roof of the partly subterranean boiler-house on the north side of the church. Standing on the newly revealed roof, just a couple of feet above ground level, I thought what a wonderful roadside pulpit it would make, close to where vehicles would be slowing down for the sharp bend round the churchyard.

So later, when I met the wise man in the garage it wasn't a big leap of faith to think about building a nativity scene on the boiler-house roof for the coming Christmas. So, I asked around to find out how difficult it would be to create a similar Mary .....Cont'd /

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# A Decade Of Starlight (Cont'd)

and Joseph, a baby Jesus, shepherds and two friends for the wise man.

“Much too complicated!”, “Too time consuming!”, “They would be ruined by the weather and never be ready for next Christmas let alone this year!” was the disappointing feedback I received.

But “Forget about the wise man, we could do it with silhouettes,” was the reply I didn’t yet understand...

Liz is a talented and creative artist and quickly drew me some sketches to show what she meant - they looked fantastic but were a fraction of the size we needed! We decided on the best height for the finished articles, so they could be clearly seen from the road and I got some suitable plywood sheets for each character. Then the real magic took place as Liz took the sketches and enlarged them onto the plywood. A shepherd with a crook, a shepherd boy with a lamb, Joseph, Mary holding baby Jesus with an ox and ass for the background as well.

Now they had to be cut out, and John, who was an experienced cabinet maker, had all the skills and tools that were necessary. In a few more days they were perfectly

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# A Decade Of Starlight (Cont'd)

finished and ready for the messy job of painting with a couple of coats of matt black paint.

Now we needed somewhere for them to come together, preferably a stable and it was about time I did something to help! So, using more plywood sheets, some rustic looking wood for the framework, and some poles from the garden centre, I built an open fronted stable across the boiler-house roof. The outside was treated with a deep brown fence paint, but the inside back panels and the inside of the roof were painted bright white to reflect the light from the two hidden LED lamps, which would back-light and frame the silhouettes.

John supplied wooden-block clamps to hold each silhouette in place and the base was covered over in straw to finish it off. It wasn't until the following year that the wise men finally arrived by the porch, with the trail lights guiding them, and visitors, round to the stable.

The Christmas star was the guiding light that led the shepherds and wise men to the stable and our nativity scene would certainly gain from having that special star above it. If you want to learn more about our unique star, check out my blog post from 2015 using the QR code.

.....Cont'd /



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## *A Decade Of Starlight (Cont'd)*

---

Nathan is a problem solving, entrepreneurial engineer, the best I know. I can't now remember when or where it was that we met and ended up discussing the technical problems of building an illuminated Christmas star, but as always it was a great discussion with lots of ideas and the exploration of wide-ranging possibilities. Could it be made big enough to be seen from the top of the tower, what colours would be possible, could we have a cross in the centre and much more. Nathan had a lot of detail to bring together but thought it was possible, and he would relish the challenge.

What I do remember is the day I saw him carrying it into the churchyard. It was huge, yet light enough for one person to carry. Nathan had thought of everything - clamps for mounting, tension wires for stability, cables, connectors and control boxes, even ropes and harnesses for hoisting it up the outside of the tower, with everything weatherproofed to the highest levels, as it would be exposed to the worst of the winter weather.

With just a little maintenance and updating we have been putting the star on the tower now for nine years. It has become a pleasant Christmas routine and I'll be there with Nathan for this our tenth year, but circumstances mean this time I will only be supervising from ground level.

Of course, other people helped too, and many more have been involved over the years. The original stable was replaced a few years ago by our wonderful Churchyard Team,



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## *A Decade Of Starlight (Cont'd)*

---

and a more flexible 'stage' on the roadside pulpit can now be used for Remembrance Day as well as the nativity stable and perhaps more uses will be developed in the future.

When the Old Vicarage was sold, the garage was cleared out and so the wise man is sadly no longer with us. But I'm left wondering if the people that made him will ever be aware of what their work inspired! **Ray**

## *Consider Volunteering?*

---

**Church cleaners needed.** We are in need of more volunteers for the monthly church cleaning which happens on the 1st Saturday morning of each month. If you are able to help, please contact Jenny Tuffen on [jenny@tuffen.co.uk](mailto:jenny@tuffen.co.uk)

## *St. Andrew's Book Club*

---

**EARLS COLNE**



St. Andrew's Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month - 2.00 pm at 8 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne.

Our Next Meetings:

- Tuesday 10th December 2024

For December, we're continuing with *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck – so don't worry if you haven't finished reading it yet!

Drought and economic depression are driving thousands from Oklahoma. As their land becomes just another strip in the dustbowl, the Joads, a family of sharecroppers, decide they have no choice but to follow. They head west towards California, where they hope to find work and a future for their family, but what is awaiting their arrival?

- Tuesday 14th January 2025

Our January book is *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.

It's spring and Lara's three grown-up daughters have returned to the family orchard. While picking cherries, they ask their mother to tell them the story they've longed to hear – the one about the film star with whom she shared a stage, and a romance, years before . . .

New members are always welcome. For further details, please contact me **Margaret Hill** on 01787 223843.



# Earls Colne Christmas Event

**SAT 07 DEC**

A celebration of Christmas & our community

---

**11am - 4pm**

## Bingo Trail

Cards available from independent High Street stores  
Collect yours and follow the trail around the village

---

**11am - 4pm**

## Earls Colne Primary School

**Village Hall Christmas Fayre:** Meet Santa (pre-book via PTA) Watch festive films with your friends & enjoy the fayre

---

**11am - 4pm**

## Four Colnes Horticultural Society

**Village Hall Craft Fayre:** Explore a variety of food & craft stalls from local producers

---

**5.15pm**

## St Andrew's Church

Carolling outside the church followed by a procession up Earls Colne High Street to the Village Hall

---

**5.30pm**

## Earls Colne Parish Council

**Village Hall Raffle, Santa, Film & Food:** Say hi to Santa, enjoy a complementary bite to eat, watch a Christmas film from 6pm, and have your raffle tickets ready for the draw at 7pm.

---

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Nativity by Pat Bennett:

Incarnate Christ,  
be born in me this Christmas!

May my will be as Mary's,  
saying 'yes' to your ways;  
my mind as Joseph's,  
open to your unfolding revelation.

May my voice be as the angels',  
joyfully proclaiming Good News;  
my knees as the animals',  
quietly bent in adoration.

May my feet be as the shepherds',  
running eagerly to find you;  
my hands as the wise men's,  
offering up all that I have.

May my heart be as the manger,  
poor yet containing heaven's greatest treasure;  
my life as the stable,  
hallowed and expanded by your presence.

Incarnate Christ,  
be born again in me this Christmas!

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# Plough Sunday



Sunday 12th January  
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# Brick Meadows

## EARLS COLNE

Cutting the Anthills Meadow has been topping the to-do list this autumn and it is very hard manual work as only brush cutters can be used, otherwise the anthills will be destroyed if machinery was used. Once cut, the vegetation must be raked up - another laborious job. Jayne and I are so grateful to the "fabulous few" who have worked so hard already on this.

Whilst we were clearing the area, a small nest of dried grasses was found and after consulting local ornithologist James, we were told it belonged to a skylark. It's so encouraging that this species, which is in decline has chosen to nest here. Because skylarks are ground nesting birds, next year we will request that dogs are kept on a lead in the Anthills Meadow to protect these birds in case they choose to nest here again.

As in 2023, James again carried out a bird nesting survey for us but with the cold, wet Spring, many birds started nesting much later and due to the resulting lush vegetation, it was harder to find the nests, although making it an ideal situation for the birds. In all, James was able to find the nests of 18 different species.

Work on the wildflower project in conjunction with Four Colnes Horticultural Society has almost been completed in the lower Ryefields Meadow. The wildflower haybales from the Woodland Trust site at Fordham have been spread over the area and will hopefully have dropped their seed by now, and all that remains to be done is to remove the spent hay. This is due to happen on November 9th. Again we would like to thank Oliver Wass for the great amount of help he has given us. Hopefully there will be something to .....Cont'd /

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# Brick Meadows (Cont'd)

## EARLS COLNE

show for it next year, making all the effort worthwhile.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for a date to be set by the contractor to start work on digging out the ponds at the end of the Long Meadow. Hopefully by the time this magazine is printed there will be some progress to see.

If you have seen any of our posters, you will notice that we now have a logo. This was designed by Steve Gibbons, and we are really pleased to be able to use it for any communication. Thank you, Steve.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by the monthly work party members this year. We are grateful that they give up their time every month and occasionally more to keep the Brick Meadows accessible and a pleasant place for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to Robert, Colin, Dave, Paul, Joe and Alan.

Thanks, must also go to Robert in particular for all the extra work he does behind the scenes. He has also made the amazing benches which I know many people have appreciated, whether for picnics, to sit and chat, or simply just to enjoy the sights and sounds of this green haven which we are so fortunate to have.

**Frances Barton and Jayne Meleschko**

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## *Allotments*

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We have a number of vacant plots immediately available to residents of the Four Colnes, so if you live in Earls Colne, Wakes Colne, Colne Engaine and of course White Colne then this might interest you.

The plots vary in size and if required some of the larger plots could be divided into two smaller plots and whilst all will need some work to lick them into shape on the plus side mains water is available to the site.

If you are interested and want to take on a plot, then do not hesitate to contact us at [clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## *Gift a Cream Tea*

Gift a Cream Tea - St Andrews, Earls Colne  
Sunday 3rd November 2024 - Report

Thank you for your response to our recent Gift a Cream Tea in a box - as a result we have raised over £230 towards church funds and were able to deliver 72 boxes around the villages of Earls Colne, Colne Engaine and White Colne.

We would like to particularly thank our bakers, Rachel Fleetwood, Robert Barton, Anne Beadle, Shaun Thomas, Rosemary Johnson, Lucy Bull & Louise Dutton for their delicious scones. Also Karen, Charlotte & Harry at The Lion for providing the cream pots, Beryl Amy for jam and E.Colnes Refillery for the boxes, and last but not least our delivery drivers Mark, Helen S & Helen B. What a great team!

Watch out for more events like this next year - and if you would like to help in any way please get in touch with either of us.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas, **Suzi & Kirsten**

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# Village History

EARLS COLNE



## Open All Hours

The area of the High Street between the White Lion Inn and the blacksmith's forge on the corner of Queens Road had been the market place of Earls Colne since the middle ages. Although a regular market was no longer held, Philip Buck – recalling his childhood in the 1850s – had vivid memories of the annual fair traditionally held on Lady Day at the end of March:

*“Near the blacksmith's shop was a grand show within which might be seen the fattest lady on earth or the most noted conjurer ever known. From that point ran a row of booths open towards the doors of the houses. Gingerbread, nuts and other delicacies crowded some of the stalls; toys, cutlery and fancy articles filled others. Late at night that side of the street was pandemonium. The last time I saw the Fair was in 1867. I believe it was abolished in 1869.”*

For the rest of the year the permanent shops served village customers late into the evening until, in 1902, the local paper announced that normal closing time would be 7pm instead of 8pm except for Early Closing at 2pm on Thursdays.

## David Brown



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# Recipe Corner



Mince meat - This is the ordinary, bog-standard mince meat people use, better than what you buy in the shops, though, because it's not so syrupy sweet. I found the recipe in my grandmother's 1920s cookery book, which is annotated with her notes, although sadly there are no notes concerning the mince meat. However, I have altered it a little myself.

Method: Making mince meat is really an assembly job. Grate the apples, using a cheese grater or food processor. Juice the oranges and lemons. Grate some of the peel of the oranges and lemons (about 1 tablespoonful).

Toss everything into a large mixing bowl. Cover the bowl and wait a couple of days. Keep stirring. The dried fruit should start to absorb the liquid and swell. If the mince meat looks a little dry, add a little water. Put mince meat into jam jars to store. **Rosemary Johnson** (Note from Editor: or make some delicious mince pies!)

## Ingredients

- 1lb shredded vegetable suet (ok, beef suet if you must)
- 1lb apples (weighed after peeling and coring)
- 1 ½ lbs of dried fruit
- 12 ozs brown sugar
- 4 oranges (big oranges, not little satsumas)
- 2 lemons
- 1 tsp powdered mace
- ½ tsp of ground allspice
- 1 wineglassful of brandy

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Join us at St Andrews church with Rev. Mark Payne at 5pm with your torches and lanterns. Alternatively, meet us at the village green at 4.30pm for a Christmas singalong while we wait for the procession to arrive.



# From The Four Colnes' Magazine

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**December 1924**

## **EARLS COLNE - REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The inclement weather in the early part of November prevented our usual outdoor Service at the Memorial but the difficulty was met by a service in Church on the previous Sunday afternoon, when a large congregation was present. We are indebted to the Reverend C. H. Townsend for a very appropriate address, and to the Choir and Organist for their help. On Armistice Day "the Silence" was kept in the Church and followed by a celebration of Holy Communion.

We must also record our thanks to Lieut. Col. Lewis for his very efficient organisation of the Sale of Poppies on Saturday, the 8th, when the splendid sum of £25 12s 9d (£25 62p) was realised for Lord Haigh's Fund. The ladies, who ably assisted him, are to be congratulated on the result of their patriotic work.

## **COLNE ENGAINE - ARMISTICE DAY**

How long will it be kept up? Many people are asking. That it should be is the conviction of most people, and not merely at the Cenotaph at Whitehall or the grave of the Unknown Warrior in the Abbey. Church and State will see to that. But what of the people of Great Britain? That depends on each parish or group of people doing their bit in the way of Remembrance. We can, as a village, be thankful that something was done. That Armistice Day was near was learned, if that were necessary, by a visit paid to every house in the parish by four ladies, Mrs. Gilbert, the Misses Perkins, Proctor and Smith, inviting all to purchase poppies for Earl Haig's Ex-servicemen's Fund. Of ex-servicemen, 700,000 are unemployed; 250,000 are disabled; 5,000 are in Mental Asylums, while 2,500 officers are not, as yet on the King's Roll, just because they are ex-officers. And this six years since the Armistice itself!



### **Need some help around the house or garden?**

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**Graham King  
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# *From The Four Colnes' Magazine*

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January 1925

## **EARLS COLNE**

Earls Colne Vicarage, December 1924

My Dear Friends

By the time that you receive this letter you will, I hope, ALL have had a very happy Christmas and when the New Year comes, I hope it will be equally as happy.

I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking one and all alike for the kind way that they have received me as Vicar of this parish. I came here rather more than six months ago, a complete stranger to you all, but the welcome that I have met with from each one, has made me feel at home among you. It must necessarily take some time, in a large parish like ours, to get to know everyone but I hope by degrees to do so. I am glad to say that everything connected with the Church is in a satisfactory condition, the congregations are quite good, and the collections remain about the same as usual. I have not any wish to make changes to the Church services, except that instead of the occasional Choral Celebrations of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. for the future on the Greater Festivals and on the third Sunday in the month there will be a Choral Celebration at the 11 o'clock service. There are several things I should like to get done as regards the decoration of the Church, which I think would be an improvement; the first thing being the painting of the roof of the Chancel, which would make it much lighter; a suggested design has been put up which will give some idea as to what is proposed to be done. The Sunday School keeps up its numbers, but there is great need for additional teachers and a superintendent of the boy's School. I must thank the churchwardens and sidesmen, the organist and the choir, the bellringers, Sunday School teachers and others, for their invaluable help in the conduct of their services and the work of the Church generally.

With all good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR F. SUTTON

**BREW N' CHAT**

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EARLS COLNE:  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
COLNE ENGAINE:  
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OF THE MONTH  
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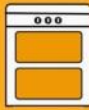
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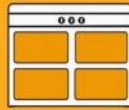
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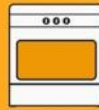
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# White Colne News

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This is being written the day before the grand re-opening of our Winter Hub in the village hall, which has received funding of £20,000 from the Big Lotteries Community Fund. This is allowing us to open with staff from November to Easter every Monday for two years. By the time you read this we should have had at least four successful Mondays and been able to welcome you all back with perhaps some new attendees too. Everyone is welcome. The Hub will continue towards Xmas, but will be closed on 30th December, re-opening on 6th January.

We have three village events to look forward to in the lead up to Xmas. On December 7th our Xmas quiz is sure to be full of fun and keep you all guessing until the end. £5 per ticket, bring your own drinks and snacks, teams of 6 but solo players and couples always welcome. 7.30pm start. Tickets available at the Hub, the café or on 07521 312778. Our quizzes raise funds for village projects – the last quiz helping to buy a new tree seat for the Meadows.

The Parish Council invites you all to our annual carols around the tree on the Green, on Saturday December 14th. Free mulled wine, hot drinks, and mince pies. Wrap up warm and come along ready to sing out, accompanied by the Colne Valley Ensemble.

Saturday December 21st 9am to midday, Village market and Café. Ideal for the very last minute gifts - there's always someone we forget!


The Stationmaster's café will only make one appearance in December, on .....Cont'd /



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 [tudorpss1@gmail.com](mailto:tudorpss1@gmail.com)



# White Colne News (Cont'd)

Friday 13th – not unlucky for us! We shall return on January 10th and 24th. The Parish Council is in talks with a professional personal trainer to bring FREE weekly fitness classes to our hall. Free because we will be applying for a grant to fund this exciting activity. Suitable for ages from 18 to 80+ and open to anyone in the valley. Although a group activity, exercises will be tailored for each individual. All equipment will be provided. As this will be grant funded, we need to prove that there is a community need so we ask you please to register your interest by emailing [chairman@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chairman@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk) or if you prefer the old-fashioned way, please drop a note into the village hall post box. Once we have identified a group then we can discuss convenient days and times. If we can get enough support the classes could start in the new year.

If you've enjoyed some of our events over the last year, please remember that none of them would have been possible without the help of our willing volunteers. New volunteers bring a fresh energy, and we are always open to new ideas for events and activities especially if you can help. If you have the odd hour available and would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch. The old saying still rings true – better for many to each do a little, rather than a few do too much!

Parish Councillors also offer their time free of charge and the Parish Council now has a casual vacancy as John Brace has stepped down. Would you like to take a seat? Full details can be found on our website [www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk) Perhaps it's time to make volunteering your New Year resolution? Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. **Jane Taylor**



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## Three Colnes Churches Rainy Day Grant Scheme

Are you in hard times?  
Fuel bills? Kid's uniform? Life Essentials?  
Do you need a helping hand?  
This support fund may be able to help.

If you live in White Colne, Colne  
Engaine or Earls Colne and would like  
to apply for a tax free grant  
then please get in touch  
with Revd Mark for an application  
form or a confidential chat.

If you are in a position to be able to  
contribute to this fund to help others,  
again please contact Revd Mark:  
01787 220347  
[colnesvicar@gmail.com](mailto:colnesvicar@gmail.com)



# Four Colnes Horticultural Society

December upon us already – how the year has flown by.

An excellent, well attended, evening was held at the Atlas Club, Foundry Lane in October. Alex Stevenson, owner of Jordans Farm, Wakes Colne, gave a talk on her farm re-wilding project, a project that is now seeing the result of several years of effort bearing fruit through a noticeable increase in diversification of insects and plant life. Rewilding is, in part, letting nature loose but also controlling some parts in order to keep a good balance between vigour and allowing the less strong insects and plants to thrive as well.

After the talk, the Brick Meadows Trustees gave an update on the work being carried out in Ryefields to promote a wildflower meadow. This has involved considerably more work and expense than in a “normal” year, so we hope it bears fruit. As we absorb the splendour of the Earls Colne Primary School Fireworks, our heads are a week ahead forward planning for the removal of all the hay spread on Ryefield. To be successful this operation will involve many willing people, some good weather and some energy. Time will tell.

After the Society AGM with cheese and wine of November 15th the next big event is the Christmas Food & Craft Fayre in Earls Colne Village Hall on Saturday December 7th.

Entry is free to the main hall which will be open from 11am until 4pm with stalls and refreshments as well as Father Christmas in the small hall courtesy of Earls Colne Primary School PTA. Membership of the Horticultural Society for 2025 can be joined or .....Cont'd /

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# Four Colnes Horticultural Society

renewed at this event which, at just £5 per person per year, gives free entry to exhibit at the Four Colnes Show, access to arranged visits and a discount on many purchases at Olivers Plants, Coggeshall Road. There will be other activities throughout the village on that day.

At a committee meeting in September, it was mentioned that the Society always had to borrow a tombola to shake up raffle tickets prior to the draw. A tombola has now been made, mostly from recycled wood and its first outing will be The Christmas Market. Make sure that you visit and buy a raffle ticket to see if you are a lucky winner.



Preparations are already well underway for the 2025 Annual Show at the Recreation Club, Schedules will be available in early spring – no excuse for not getting some practise in to enter one of the many classes. If anyone or any local business would be interested in sponsoring a class at the show, please get in touch with the Society Secretary.

Our next article will be the February issue when we can begin to look forward to a whole new growing season. Happy Christmas and good wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Secretary, Sarah Adlem, M. 0794 1131164, 110 Colchester Road, White Colne, CO6 2PP  
Email: [secretary.fchs@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.fchs@outlook.com). [www.fourcolneshorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.fourcolneshorticulturalsociety.com)

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**David Yallop, 6 Oddcroft, Colne Engaine, CO6 2ET**

# Heritage Museum

**EARLS COLNE**

Can you help the Museum?

We have several projects in progress and welcome volunteers to assist us. Due to increased footfall we are trialling longer opening hours at the weekends 12-4pm; Wednesdays 2pm-4pm.

Could you spare two hours to help us and join our very active and sociable team? You don't need to have lived in the village all your life or need a degree in history to welcome visitors – full support will be given.

The Timekeepers of Earls Colne. The parish clock situated in the church was installed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1897. With limited accessibility, its inner workings have been a well-kept secret! We are now writing its history and producing a video with an aerial view.

Earls Colne 1974-2024. We are updating the history of Earls Colne, last written in 1974 by the then Earls Colne branch of the Workers Education Association.

Other projects include A Village Trail and the scanning of important heritage documents.

**October:** We had a fabulous Halloween Evening at Colne House. Thanks for inviting us!



**November:** We were pleased to welcome a visit from Dame Priti Patel to the museum. Photos and report in the Feb issue of this magazine.

**December:** Hoping to meet you at the Village Hall for the Earls Colne Christmas Event.

**January:** Earls Colne was Nearly the Home of the First Helicopter The Con Club, York Road. Tickets £5 from Earls Colne Heritage Museum or email [chair@echm.org.uk](mailto:chair@echm.org.uk) Date to be advised. Please check FB or the website.

More information on us and our events; [www.echm.org.uk](http://www.echm.org.uk) or <https://www.facebook.com/earlscolneheritagemuseum>

All that's left for 2024 is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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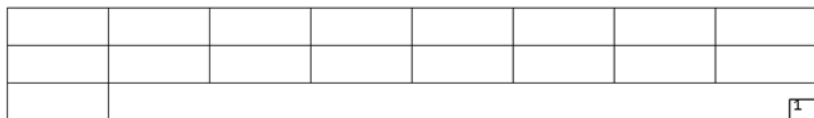
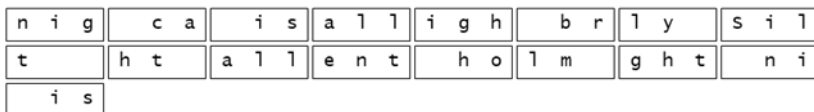
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# Puzzles

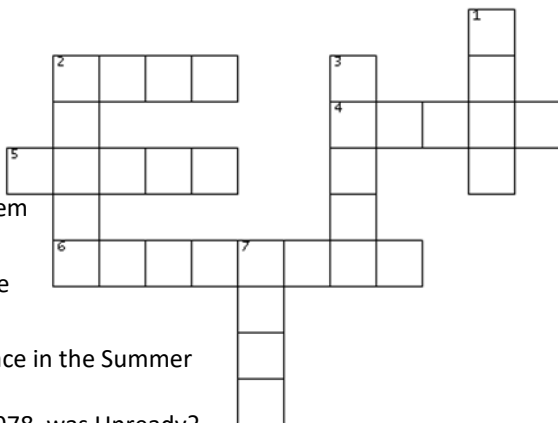
Letter Tiles. Unscramble the tiles to reveal the message. Tiles can be used once only.



## December/January Crossword

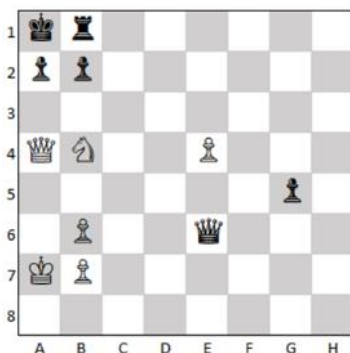
ACROSS

- Shakespearean Character and item hit with a stick in Ice Hockey
- Which Manchester rock band are reforming for concerts in 2025
- Where did the Olympics take place in the Summer of 2024
- Which English King, crowned in 978, was Unready?



DOWN

- Traditionally lucky when found in a Christmas Pudding
- The first British astronaut to visit the International Space Station, Tim....
- Even this creature didn't stir the night before Christmas
- What side of the brain deals with language?



### Checkmate in One

White turn to go.

Move:

To:

All answers on page 54



# **THREE COLNES SUNDAY LUNCH**

Sunday 16th February  
Doors Open at 12.15pm,  
Sit down at 1pm  
at Colne Valley Golf Club  
Two Course Meal  
£15 per adult, £10 per children

Book your places with Helen Sherfield,  
George Courtauld & Tom Weatherill,  
or email [colnesvicar@gmail.com](mailto:colnesvicar@gmail.com)



A fundraiser for the Three  
St Andrew's Colnes Churches



**St Andrews Church, Colne Engaine** are holding a **Bingo Night on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025** in Courtauld Memorial Hall at 7pm

Tickets £8 to include 6 fun games of line and full house Bingo (with a boozy twist) with 6 cards each. There will also be a raffle.

Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

All proceeds to St Andrews Church

## Puzzle Answers

S	i	e	n	t	n	i	g	h	t	h	o	l	y	n	i	g	h	t
a	l	l	i	s	c	a	l	m	a	l	i	s	b	r	i	g	h	t
t																		

**Checkmate in One**

Move: B4 to C2

**ACROSS**

- 2. Puck
- 4. Oasis

5. Paris

6. Ethelred

**DOWN**

- 1. Coin
- 2. Peake

3. Mouse

7. Left

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# Festival Committee

COLNE ENGAINE

## Join the Colne Engaine Festival Committee: Be Part of Something Special!

We have been putting on the Colne Engaine Festival for over 20 years! We need members from the community to step up and join us to keep this tradition going. Do you want to connect with your community, share ideas, arrange events, have fun, and make a real impact? Our festival committee is the perfect place for you!

### Why Join Us?

**Build Connections:** Get to know more people and strengthen ties within our community.

**Collaborate on Events:** Work together on putting on fun and exciting events that benefit everyone.

**Learn and Grow:** Share your ideas and learn from others in a supportive environment.

**Make a Difference:** Help create a more vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community.

### Who We're Looking For:

- Passionate and friendly community members.
- People of all ages and backgrounds.  
Individuals who want to contribute their time and talents.

### How to Get Involved:

- Come to our next committee meeting
- Visit our social media pages for more info:  
Instagram: colne\_engaine\_festival\_commtee  
Facebook: Colne Engaine Festival  
Reach out via email  
[colneengainefestival@gmail.com](mailto:colneengainefestival@gmail.com)

- Be part of a group that values connection, collaboration, and community spirit. Join us and help make our community a fun place to live. We can't wait to meet you!





## FUNDRAISING FOR ST. ANDREW'S, EARLS COLNE

Hello everyone –we've made it to December, and it's been a busy year! More on that in a moment, but first, here's a reminder of why I write these articles: we are raising funds for and promoting the life and work of St Andrew's, Earls Colne, for the benefit of the community. The church is important to all whether we attend services or not and we're really keen on having fun while we support the church and its mission.

So what have we been up to this year? Well, there's been plenty – we've had concerts, our regular Thursday lunchtime recitals, bingo nights, cream teas, our Flower Festival, the Teddy Bear Parachute Drop and barbecue, the Rock Choir came to perform, we've had our 'Christmas Starts Here' event too. A lot of effort has gone into organising and delivering these events, and happily they have been well-supported. We're already looking at 2025 to see what delights we can provide – look out for the February magazine, we'll give as much information as we can then, with greater detail as each event approaches.

But just in case you think we're all done for 2024, we're not! We have a lunchtime recital this month see page 5 for info.

For now, can I say, on behalf of our fundraising group, a huge thank you for all the support you have shown us throughout 2024!

Don't forget though, we do have regular church services too – we're a friendly bunch of people, come along, and stay for coffee afterwards

All the services in all our Three Colnes churches are listed in this magazine – there are plenty this month! If you're coming to any of our churches, whether it's for an event, a service or just quiet reflection, would you be able to bring something for the food bank, even just one tin? We'd like to help others while enjoying ourselves too!

If you would like more information about anything we're up to, or you have suggestions for events, or if you want to join our fundraising group, you can drop an email to

[ecstandrewsfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:ecstandrewsfundraising@gmail.com)

or post a message via the link on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam>

We look forward to seeing you, hopefully many times, in 2025!

**Doug McKenzie**

# Up On The Allotment



Onions (*allium cepa*), time to get planting those onion sets, set them out in rows 12" (30cm) apart and 4" (10cm) between bulbs, plant them with the tip poking out of the soil and get some sort of protection over them otherwise those pesky birds will keep pulling them out of the ground, horticultural fleece works as well as anything, it's only for a week or two while the roots get a hold, don't forget to water them in when planting. Onion sets can be planted anytime from September to November, also in March and April, but according to spud the rule used to be "set on the shortest day and harvest on the longest, it has always worked like that for me" he says.

He plants shallots (*allium ascalonicum*) as well, they can go in from November right through to March, plant them the same as you would onion sets spacing them just a little further apart.

I am going to get some garlic in, the cloves are planted pointy side up about 1" (2.5cm) below the surface, 6" (15cm) apart with 12" (30cm) between rows, they don't like competition so keep them weed free, also if they need watering in dry spells do it at ground level because the wet leaves are prone to mildew. They should be ready to harvest in early summer, you know its time when the leaves go yellow, lift them carefully and lay them in the sun to dry for about four weeks, then they are ready for storing, did you know that when the leaves are green they can be used on salads or as a garnish, I haven't tried that yet, but I will next year.

It is a good time to plant rhubarb (*rheum rhabarbarum*) crowns now, a sheltered spot with plenty of light is what they like, plant the rhizome with the crown above ground, water in and wait for spring, simples! Laters' Taters, **Gary**

St. Andrew's

COLNE ENGAINE



**Christmas Dedicate A Star** After the popularity of this in previous years we have decided to hold the Dedicate a Star again this year to help raise funds for the major works required on our church. We are asking people to remember loved ones, or those that are no longer with us by donating £5 towards a star on the Christmas Tree of remembrance.






To purchase a star for the tree, please contact Rita Prior C/o: 1 Church View, (off Brook Street), Colne Engaine or email [ritaprior31@gmail.com](mailto:ritaprior31@gmail.com)

**All stars will be written out and hung on the Christmas tree by the 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

Christopher  
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# Parish Council



Members of the villages' Parish Councils work hard to ensure that the Three Colnes remains a beautiful and tranquil place to live. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact them.

---

## **COLNE ENGAINE** Download Parish Council Notes: [www.colne-engaine.org.uk/meetings](http://www.colne-engaine.org.uk/meetings)

### **CLLR ALAN BARNARD**

(Chairman) [alan@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:alan@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
EALC representative; Townlands Trust;  
Burches meadow liaison; Sexton's Field  
Trustee; funding for village projects,  
defibrillator warden

### **CLLR TERRY FLOYD**

[terry@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:terry@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
Tree warden; footpaths; Townlands Trust;  
Sexton's Field Trustee

### **HELEN BISCOE-DAVIS**

[helen@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:helen@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
Community engagement

### **GRAHAME WALKINGSHAW** - 01206 240772

Parish Clerk & Financial Officer  
[clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk)

### **CLLR SARAH DIGNASSE**

(Vice Chair) [sarah@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:sarah@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
Recreation ground; village school; village  
hall liaison

### **CLLR NIGEL WARWICK**

[nigel@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:nigel@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
Finance committee; Burches Meadow  
liaison; festival liaison

### **CLLR IAN MESSENGER**

[ian@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:ian@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
Finance committee; funding for village  
projects; website; I.T.; and archive liaison

### **CLLR PAT TAYLOR**

[pat@colne-engaine.org.uk](mailto:pat@colne-engaine.org.uk)  
*EALC representative; tree warden*

---

## **WHITE COLNE** [www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **CLlr. JANE TAYLOR**— 07521 312778

[chair@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chair@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
(Chairman) BALC executive; climate action,  
community energy ,community liaison, grant  
funding, village hall – managing and estate.

### **CLlr. JAMES BOND** is Vice chair .

[CLlr.jbond@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CLlr.jbond@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Highways, village green, village hall estate.

### **CLlr. PAUL BATCHFORD**

[CLlr.pbatchford@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CLlr.pbatchford@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Environment ( includes footpaths) meadows,  
river (includes flooding).

### **CLlr. DENISE DRIZEN**

[CLlr.ddrizen@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CLlr.ddrizen@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Allotments, defibrillator, village hall estate.

### **CLlr. KRIS BELL**

[CLlr.kbell@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CLlr.kbell@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Defibrillator, web site and I.T, village hall  
estate.

### **CLlr. JOHN BRACE**

[CLlr.jbrace@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CLlr.jbrace@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Highways, planning, policies, community  
garden.

### **CLlr. JOHN WILSON**

[CLlr.jwilson@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CLlr.jwilson@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Allotments, environment, planning, policies,  
river.

**JIM MORRIS** is Parish Clerk and financial  
officer

[clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## EARLS COLNE

All Members are jointly responsible for Village Environment and Planning

**NIKKI SPELLING** is the Chair and responsible for Council Strategy

[nicola.spelling@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.spelling@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**TONY CALTON** is responsible for Neighbourhood Plan and Planning

[tony.calton@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:tony.calton@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**NIK MCKEAN** is responsible for the Village Environment

[nik.mckean@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nik.mckean@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**RAY RANNS** is responsible for the Village Hall

[ray.ranns@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ray.ranns@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**JONATHAN HAPPS** is responsible for Grant Support

[jonathan.happs@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.happs@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**JUNE JEMMETT** is responsible for Finance

[june.jemmett@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:june.jemmett@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**LORRAINE BAUCKHAM-LEYS** is responsible for Compliance and Engagement

[lorraine.bauckham-leys@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.bauckham-leys@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**DEE ELLISON** – is the Parish Clerk

[clerk@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**VACANT POSITION:** Parish Clerk Assistant

[village.hall@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:village.hall@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk)

**TERRY BENNETT** is the Village Hall Caretaker

**EARLS COLNE VILLAGE COMMUNITY TEAM**

Vern Smith; Dean Cudmore; Paul Southgate and Dave Newbery.

*There are currently **FOUR** Councillor vacancies, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information*

To contact your Councillors in Earls Colne, visit their website: <https://www.earlscolne-pc.gov.uk/> and click on the Parish Council tab and select councillors. Earls Colne Parish Council Telephone: 01787 224370.

### Earls Colne Parish Council Meeting

Third Wednesday of every month (a notice will be provided in advance on all Village Noticeboards). Meetings commence at 7pm at Earls Colne Village Hall – Council Chambers

Members of the public are welcome to attend. However, due to limited capacity within the Council Chamber, and to ensure compliance with fire regulations members of the public are requested to register their intention to attend by contacting the Parish Clerk, in person, email or telephone.

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### ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Chris Siddall  
[cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk)

District Councillor Gabrielle Spray  
[cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk)

District Councillor George Courtauld  
[cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk)

MP for Witham The Rt. Hon Priti Patel  
[withammp@parliament.uk](mailto:withammp@parliament.uk)

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# The Three Colnes Diary



December	<b>COLNE ENGAINE</b>	<b>WHITE COLNE</b>	
1	Sun		
2	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba	Village hall. WINTER HUB 9am to 3pm
3	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga	Village hall. Yoga 9.30am
4	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama	Village hall. Baby massage 1.30pm; Pilates 6.45pm
5	Thu	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.45); Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit	Village hall. Sewing Bee 7.30pm
6	Fri		Village hall. Bridge Club 1.30pm; St. Andrew's Christingle
7	Sat		Village hall. Christmas Quiz 7.30pm
8	Sun		Village hall. Private hire
9	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba	Village hall. WINTER HUB 9am to 3pm
10	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga	Village hall. Yoga 9.30am
11	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama	Village hall. Baby massage 1.30pm
12	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit	Village hall. Sewing Bee 7.30pm
13	Fri		Village hall. Stationmasters Community Café 9am-12.30pm; Bridge Club 1.30pm
14	Sat		Village hall. Private hire until 2.30pm; Village green. Carols around the tree 6pm
15	Sun		Village hall. Private hire
16	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba	Village hall. WINTER HUB 9am to 3pm
17	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga	Village hall. Yoga 9.30am
18	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama	
19	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit	Village hall. Sewing Bee 7.30pm
20	Fri		Village hall. Bridge Club 1.15pm
21	Sat		Village hall. Market and Café 9am to midday
22	Sun		
23	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba	Village hall. WINTER HUB 9am to 3pm
24	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga	Village hall. Private hire
25	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama	Village hall. Private hire
26	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit	
27	Fri		
28	Sat		
29	Sun		
30	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba	
31	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga	

December **EARLS COLNE**

1	Sun	Village Hall 10am Jesus Loves You
2	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
3	Tue	St. Andrew's Book Club Meeting: 2pm at 8 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne (p.20); Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
4	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.45); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilates
5	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
6	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
7	Sat	
8	Sun	Village Hall 10am Jesus Loves You
9	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
10	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
11	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.45); Film Club 6.45pm (p.20); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilates
12	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
13	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
14	Sat	
15	Sun	Village Hall 10am Jesus Loves You
16	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
17	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
18	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.45); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilate
19	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
20	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
21	Sat	
22	Sun	
23	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
24	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
25	Wed	
26	Thu	
27	Fri	
28	Sat	
29	Sun	
30	Mon	
31	Tue	

# The Three Colnes Diary

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25

January	<b>COLNE ENGAINE</b>	<b>WHITE COLNE</b>
1	Wed	
2	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit.
3	Fri	
4	Sat	
5	Sun	
6	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba
7	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga Village hall. NCT 6.30pm
8	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama Village hall. Pilates 6.45pm
9	Thu	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.45); Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit Village hall. Sewing Bee 7.30pm
10	Fri	Village hall. Bridge Club 1.30pm
11	Sat	Village hall. NCT 6.30pm
12	Sun	
13	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba Village hall. Paint and Pallett 6.30pm
14	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga Village hall. Yoga 9.30am; NCT 6.30pm
15	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama Village hall. Pilates 6.45pm
16	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit Village hall. Sewing Bee 7.30pm
17	Fri	Village hall. Stationmasters Community Café 9am-12.30pm; Bridge Club 1.30pm
18	Sat	
19	Sun	
20	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba
21	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga Village hall. NCT 6.30pm
22	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama Village hall. Pilates 6.45pm
23	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit Village hall. Sewing Bee 7.30pm
24	Fri	Village hall. Stationmasters Community Café 9am-12.30pm; Bridge Club 1.15pm
25	Sat	
26	Sun	
27	Mon	Village Hall - 7pm Zumba Village hall. Dance & Craft Holiday club 9am 3pm
28	Tue	Village Hall - 8pm Yoga Village hall. Dance & Craft Holiday club 9am-3pm; Paint and Pallett 6.30pm
29	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama Village hall. Pilates 6.45pm
30	Thu	Village Hall - 7.45pm Keep Fit Village hall. Sewing bee 7.30pm
31	Fri	Village hall. Stationmasters Community Café 9am-12.30pm; Bridge Club 1.30pm



January

**EARLS COLNE**

1	Wed	
2	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group.
3	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
4	Sat	
5	Sun	Village Hall 10am Jesus Loves You
6	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
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25	Sat	
26	Sun	
27	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
28	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
29	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.45); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilate
30	Thu	
31	Fri	

## Useful Numbers

### Councils

Braintree District Council 01376 552525  
Colchester Borough Council 01206 282222

### Doctors

The Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery, Halstead  
01787 475944  
The Pump House Surgery, Earls Colne  
01787 222022

### Schools

Colne Engaine C of E (Aided) Primary School  
01787 222717  
Earls Colne Primary School & Nursery  
01787 222205  
Honywood Community Science School,  
Coggeshall 01376 561231  
The Ramsey Academy 01787 472481

### Essex Police

Braintree Police Station 0300 333 4444

### Village Amenities

Colne Engaine Village Hall 01787 223668  
Earls Colne Village Hall 01787 224370  
White Colne Village Hall 07585 558047  
Colne Engaine Village Shop and Post Office:  
01787 220163  
White Colne Village Market 07870 652321

### Village Groups

Colne Engaine Village Archive 01787 222080

### Youth Groups

1st Earls Colne Brownies 01787 224175  
1st Earls Colne Girl Guides 01787 220065  
1st Earls Colne Rainbows 01787 224913  
Scouts [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)  
[1stearlscolnescoutgroup@gmail.com](mailto:1stearlscolnescoutgroup@gmail.com)

If you are an officer of a club or group in one of the Three Colne Villages and would like to place information about the group's activities and events in the magazine for free, please contact the Editor (pg. 2).

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## About this bus service

Demand Responsive Transport (DaRT) is an alternative way of providing access to key services in rural areas.

Instead of using fixed routes with fixed stops and times, DaRT customers book journeys with the operator in advance and are picked up from an agreed point – often their own home, a bus stop or local place of interest. You can use it:

- to go shopping
- attend a health appointment
- get to/from work, school or college
- visit friends

Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd will also need to know:

- Your name
- Your telephone number
- Any specific requirements, such as if you are a wheelchair user or if you have difficulty walking

### Return journey

It is advisable to book your return journey at the same time of your initial booking otherwise you will need to give 2 hours' notice for your return journey.

Remember to be ready when you are due to be collected.

This service is funded by Essex County Council and operated by Arrow Taxis.



**Essex and Suffolk  
DaRT**  
01621 874411



### When does it operate?

DaRT 3 operates between 0600 and 2000, Monday to Saturday. Unlike a bus service there is no set route and timetable.



### How do I book a journey?

Telephone Essex and Suffolk DaRT on 01621 874411 and explain:

- Where you would like to go
- Where you would like to be collected from
- What time you need to go (please give at least 2 hours notice before travelling)



### How much will it cost?

Distance	Adult (age 16 or over)		Child (age 5 to age 15 inclusive)	
	Single	Return	Single	Return
Less than 2 miles	£2.50	£3.50	£1.50	£2.00
Between 2 and 5 miles	£4.50	£6.50	£2.50	£3.50
More than 5 miles	£5.50	£8.00	£3.00	£4.50

**Concessionary pass holders – valid after 0900  
Monday to Friday and all day Saturday**



### How can I pay?

You can pay on the bus or by debit/credit card over the telephone.

### DaRT 3 covers the parishes of:

Alphamstone	Ashen	Belchamp Otten	Belchamp St. Paul	Belchamp Walter
Birdbrook	Borley	Bulmer	Bures Hamlet	Colne Engaine
Earls Colne	Foxearth	Great Henny	Great Yeldham	Greenstead Green
Halstead Town	Lamarsh	Liston	Little Henny	Little Yeldham
Middleton	Ovington	Pebmarsh	Pentlow	Ridgewell
Stambourne	Steeple Bumpstead		Tilbury Juxta Clare	Toppesfield
Twinstead	Wickham St. Paul	White Colne		

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE THREE COLNES CHURCHES

FRIDAY 6th

CHRISTINGLE BY THE CAMPFIRE

6pm at White Colne Village Hall:

SATURDAY 14th - CAROLS ON THE GREEN

5pm at Colne Engaine Village Green (Procession from Church)

6pm at White Colne Village Green

SUNDAY 15th

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE -

10am at White Colne Church

TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS -

5pm at Colne Engaine Church

TUESDAY 17th

7.30pm CAROLS IN THE LION

SUNDAY 22nd

TRADITIONAL CHORAL LESSONS & CAROLS

5pm at Earls Colne:

CHRISTMAS EVE

CRIB SERVICE -

3pm at Colne Engaine:

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE -

5pm at Earls Colne

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION -

11.15pm at Earls Colne

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am at Earls Colne, Colne Engaine & White Colne

Christmas Morning Service





# HERITAGE

SALES  
LETTINGS  
LAND & NEW HOMES  
MORTGAGES

## Earls Colne

54 High Street  
Earls Colne  
CO6 2PB  
01787 722000



## Coggeshall

3b Church Street  
Coggeshall  
CO6 1TU  
01376 566890

[www.essexheritage.co.uk](http://www.essexheritage.co.uk)



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET

# LETS CHANGE THE WAY WE SHOP



Every day store cupboard essentials, cleaning products, fresh coffee, cakes & wine, and sourdough every Tuesday & Friday

Tuesday to Friday  
08:30 - 16:30  
Saturday 09:00 - 15:00

Ecolnes Refillery  
75 High Steet,  
Earls Colne  
[www.ecolnes.com](http://www.ecolnes.com)



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