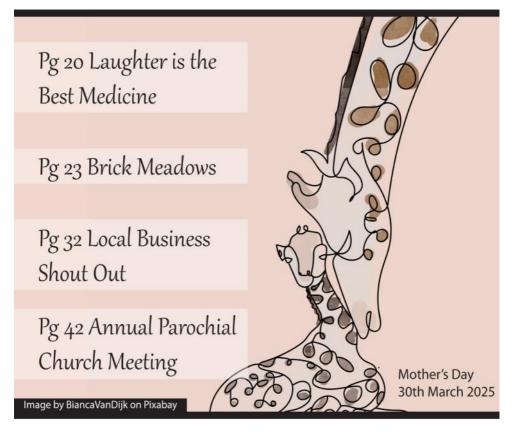
The Three Colnes Parish Magazine



March 2025





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

Contents

- 4. Welcome from the Editor
- 5. The Three Colnes Churches Contacts; Pastoral Care; Pause for prayer
- 6. Thoughts for the month;
- 7. St. Andrew's Games Club; St. Andrew's Book Club
- 8. Services for March
- 9. Messy Church; Film Club
- 10. Oral History Project
- 12. Village History Earls Colne
- 13. Fundraising for St. Andrew's Church
- 15. Colne Engaine Village Hall White Colne Village Hall
- 16-19. Gardening
- 19. Café Church
- 20-22. Laughter The Best Medicine
- 21. Brew N' Chat
- 23-24. Earls Colne Brick Meadows
- 29. The Four Colnes Magazine 1925
- 30. Colne Engaine Festival Update
- 31. Puzzle Page (answers on pg. 36)
- 32-36. Local Business Shout Out
- 38. Recipe Corner
- Correspondence Jen Skingsley;
 Choral High Mass Lent
- 40. Braintree Area Foodbank;3.30 Express
- 41. Four Colnes Horticultural Society
- 42. Rainy Day Grant Scheme; Ferriers Barn—Volunteers Needed Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 45. Essex and Suffolk DaRT bus service
- 46-47. Parish Councillors
- 48-49. Village Diary March
- 50. Useful Numbers; Advertisers' Index

Editorial

Editor: Sue Kenneally

C/O. The Vicarage, 20 Swallowfield, Earls Colne, CO6 2SW. T: 07930 372219 E:threecolnesmagazine@gmail.com All copy should be sent to Sue.

Design: Jonathan White

E:designthreecolnesmagazine@gmail.com

Advertising: Catherine Doran

T: 07747 864870

E:adsthreecolnesmagazine@gmail.com

Advertising

All advertising enquires to be sent to Catherine.

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

We welcome advertising in our magazine, the income from which helps to cover production costs. This does not imply any endorsement or approval of the products and services mentioned in the advertising.

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

www.colnechurches.com www.colne-engaine.org.uk www.earlscolne-pc.gov.uk www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

FOR THE APRIL '25 ISSUE PLEASE PROVIDE

SUBMISSIONS BY 8TH MARCH 2025

Please provide editorial in Word and advertising as .jpg file

Welcome



Well, that was February! After the seemingly endless days of January (honestly, it felt like there were at least 62 days in that month), February has flown by in the blink of an eye!

Sadly, we have seen the closure of a few familiar businesses on Earls Colne High Street, including Blooming Girls, Colne Valley Butchers, and the Fish Mongers. While it's always difficult to say goodbye to beloved local establishments, it's important that we continue to support the businesses that remain. Let's do our part to keep our high street vibrant, bustling, and full of



life. Every independent shop is more than just a business – they represent families and individuals who contribute to the unique character of our community. These shops offer more than just goods; they provide us with a personal touch and the opportunity to experience something special that you simply can't find online.

In these times of change, it's vital that we all come together and show our support. Let's keep Earls Colne a place we're proud of, where local businesses continue to thrive and contribute to the heart of our community.

Alongside supporting local businesses, we must also remember the importance of volunteers in keeping our wonderful services and events alive. Whether it's the continued success of this parish magazine, the performances of Colne Engaine Dramatic Society, or the fun filled events organized by the Colne Engaine Festival Committee, volunteers are the backbone of it all. We need more hands on deck to keep these initiatives moving forward. Every little bit of time and effort helps ensure that these fab activities remain a central part of our village life.

So, if you've been thinking about giving back or getting involved, now is the time! Let's work together to keep the spirit of community strong and thriving. If you are not sure who to contact, drop me a line and I will connect you with the local charity/ organisation looking for help.

From next month, we are starting a volunteering page in the magazine – so if you need volunteers for anything, please provide us with the opportunity information, and contact details on how someone gets in touch to put themselves forward.

Thank you for reading the magazine, supporting our advertisers (please let them know if you found their details in here, so they know their advertisements are working) and keeping the communication flowing!

Sue

PS Don't forget it is Mother's Day on 30th March!

The Three Colnes Churches



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

PCC Secretary: Caroline Smith standrewearlscolne@gmail.com

Treasurer: Helen Brooks <u>ecpctreasurer@gmail.com</u>

COLNE ENGAINE

George Courtauld - 07968 496235 georgecourtauld@aol.com

PCC Secretary: Candy Robson

Church Warden Vacancy:

St. Andrew's Church, Colne Engaine

WHITE COLNE

Mr. Christopher Chamberlain 01787 222200 wccw@hotmail.co.uk

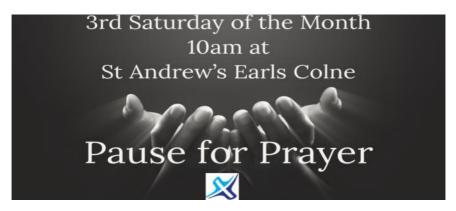


Pastoral Care



Are you lonely, bereaved, unwell, feeling low or simply wanting someone to listen? Our Pastoral Care Team are here to help. We serve the three Colnes and are happy to talk with you, in person, on the phone or via zoom.

Just call 01787 220347 or email: pastoralcare.threecolnes@gmail.com



Thoughts for the month



Hi all,

I am so looking forward to being warm again! To going out into my garden and wondering what it is that is popping up - is it a weed or something that I've planted. The only way to know for sure is that if it comes out easily I planted it! But here is something that you just can't help but admire about weeds, their sheer tenacity and resilience and ability to grow in the most inaccessible of places. We only class them as weeds because we don't want them, we see them as undesirable, unpleasing and the only reason to touch them would be to pull them out and discard them.

Now there is something about Jesus that is staggeringly amazing. He loved all those that society of the time deemed undesirable, unpleasing and absolutely untouchable. To touch someone classed as untouchable was to make yourself ritually unclean, meaning that you had to perform cleansing rituals. He saw them, talked to them and, most importantly, He touched them and in doing this, He healed them. Jesus saw the person beyond the label, beyond the affliction - there is such great healing power in just being seen and having your story heard.

No matter how you understand Jesus, as just a human, or as God entering into our messy world, he shows us to look beyond what makes someone seem broken to society, to look for the soul behind the covers -the soul that God loves, to see the person with Jesus's coloured lens. There is something special in each and every one of us, sometimes it is buried so deep maybe only Jesus can reach it, but we are, each of us, God's one shot at something and if it is to make just one other person feel seen, to love just one person, then we've done something amazing.

One of my favourite poets is the Sufi writer Rumi and if you would like to be a little radical like Jesus this is a quote I have pinned on my board:

"Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd".

Our lamps may all be different, but the light is the same.

Love and blessings,

Helen

Helen Sherfield

St. Andrew's Games Club



St. Andrew's Book Club



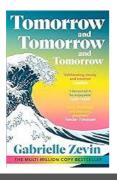
St. Andrew's Games Club, next meet-up:

Friday 7th March ● 7.00 pm Earls Colne Recreation Club

- Board Games and Table-Top Games
- Bring your own games or learn a new game

All welcome

Contact **Tony** and **Margaret Hill** on 01787 223843 for further details.



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

Our Next Meeting:

• Tuesday 11th March 2025

Our March book is: Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin.

A story of friendship and rivalry, fame and creativity, betrayal and tragedy, perfect worlds and imperfect ones. And, ultimately, our need to connect: to be loved and to love . . .

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

Margaret Hill

Green Glaze Windows, Doors & Conservatories Quality as standard at affordable prices

√ comprehensive 10 year warranty
√ free insurance backed guarantee

FOR A FREE QUOTATION CALL 01787 274475

or email sales@greenglaze.co.uk

www.greenglaze.co.uk

Come and visit us 55 High Street, Halstead CO9 2JD















ultraframe







We are a green environmentally friendly home improvement company, committed to reducing our carbon foot print.

Services for March



Date	Time	Church	Service							
	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship							
Sunday 2nd	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship							
	10am	White Colne	Holy Communion							
Tuesday 4th	3.30	Earls Colne	Luminous Pancakes							
	9.45am	Earls Colne	Ash Wednesday							
Wednesday 5th	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	3.30 Express							
Sunday 9th	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship							
Wednesday 12th	9.45am	Earls Colne	BCP Holy Communion							
Sunday16th	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion							
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins							
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship							
	6pm for 6.30pm	Earls Colne	Café Church							
Tuesday 18th	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	Messy Church							
Wednesday 19th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion							
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	St Catherine's Gosfield	TEAM SERVICE							
344	5pm	Earls Colne #	Lenten High Mass							
Wednesday 26th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion							
C	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship							
Sunday 30th	10am	Colne Engaine	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

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

8 / www.colnechurches.com



Tuesday 18th March 3.30pm – 5pm

Colne Engaine Primary School

Fun crafts, activities, celebration & dinner!

Everyone is invited – young & old alike: parents, children, teenagers, carers, grandparents... if you are a child, you will need to bring an adult with you

Entrance is FREE and donations are welcome Booking is essential. Please email Rev Mark to book your places: colnesvicar@gmail.com

Film Club



This month we are on to the second of our Tom Hanks trilogy. Prepare to meet the grumpiest man in the world whose only joy comes from criticizing and judging his exasperated neighbours!

The Film - A Man called Otto

The Discussion - Wednesday 12th March 2025 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

The Where - The Drapers, Earls Colne

For more information, contact Sharon (revdsdq@gmail.com), Kirsten (kpt1607@icloud.com) or Ray (rawood@me.com)

If you have watched a film that you feel would lead to a really good, deep, meaningful and engaging discussion, please let us know.



Grasscutting • Beds and Borders • Fencing • Hedging

Hard and Soft Landscaping
 Patios
 Driveways

Mini Digger Work • Turfing • Ponds
 General Maintenance

Contact David on 07976 554664 for a competitive quote.

Professional and friendly service guaranteed.

Lower Orchard Cottage, Elms Hall Road, Colne Engaine, Colchester, Essex CO6 2JL Tel: 01787 220358 Mobile: 07976 554664 david@colnevalleygroundcare.co.uk

Oral History Project



I am interested in doing some oral history recordings in the Earls Colne area as a pilot project and wondered if else would be interested in joining in?

This project would be interviews about people's lives and experiences of living and working in the village, capturing Earls Colne history in living memory. I'd likely speak to older people initially, maybe (but not necessarily) who have been here for a long time.



I've been involved with oral history recordings and interviewing for work (I work for a research company working in social history, arts and heritage) but this would be a voluntary thing for me.

I've spoken to Essex Records Office (among other helpful organisations) about having things deposited so they can be used in research, always with ethical and legal permissions in place in agreement with the people doing the recordings about how they can be used. I'm very much hoping the oral histories will complement what Earls Colne Heritage Museum is doing and may be available also through them. The Records Office need things recorded on specific equipment for sound quality and then documented before being deposited with them, so I'm looking for people interested in that side of things too.

So, if you can suggest someone who you think should be interviewed, or you're up for helping process interviews or carry them out (there would be training on both of these), do get in touch. My email is cdoran6243@hotmail.com.

Thanks, Catherine Doran.



QUAKER MEETING HOUSE EARLS COLNE

is available for hire.

A warm and friendly venue for leisure and educational groups, tea parties, children's parties and alcohol free events.

£10.00 per hour

Sunday Meeting for Worship 10.30am

Please call 01206 240929 for details.





DIRECT MAIL & CAMPAIGNS



PRINTING & DESIGN



PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

R ENVELOPE INSERTION POSTERS BRANDED CLOTHING DOOR TO DO NS FULFILMENT BROCHURES EXHIBITION STATIONERY LEAFLETS BANNER STANDS LEAFLETS BRANDED PENS AND MUCH MORE...



CONTACT US TODAY

requirements, we are equipped to assist you.



© 01255 221322



M hello@thedsgroup.co.uk



thedsgroup.co.uk



Víllage Hístory



Hold The Line. The fact that Earls Colne was recently without a Post Office for several months would have surprised our Edwardian ancestors, who were proud of their purpose-designed building in the High Street which opened in 1901. A few months later, the Parish Council started making inquiries about the installation of a telephone service. The Council provided a guarantee of at least 12 initial subscribers and the Halstead Gazette made the excited announcement of the inauguration in September 1902, a year before Halstead got on line:

"On Wednesday next, the village will be talking over the newly-installed telephone system. The switchboard is large enough for 30 subscribers if they should turn up."

However, it seems that the paper's prediction was over-optimistic. The official village Directory for 1903 shows only four numbers: the Post Office itself, the Atlas Works, the Railway Station and the Earls Colne Printing Works.

When Gordon Kelly became the Postmaster in 1953, the exchange was in his dining room and was manually operated. The family had to make sure that one of them was always on hand to deal with callers. The telephone exchange eventually moved to a building in Park Lane which is now used as the Nursery attached to the Primary School.

David Brown



St. Andrew's



FUNDRAISING FOR ST. ANDREW'S, EARLS COLNE. Hello everyone — we've had a short interlude from our regular magazine articles about our work to promote and raise funds for the life and work of St Andrew's, Earls Colne, for the benefit of the community, as the church is important to all whether we attend services or not.

In 2024, you supported our efforts so well, we had recitals, cream teas, music nights, bingo nights, a flower festival, our Teddy Bear Parachute Drop (with barbecue) and our annual event, 'Christmas Starts Here' ... all these events combined to raise nearly £7,000! That's amazing and makes a real difference to your church – thank you!!

2025's calendar might seem a bit light at the moment, but that's only because dates haven't all been fixed yet. Saturday 22nd MarchBingo night, 7pm for 7.30pm. £8 per person (includes 6 games), there'll be cash prizes and refreshments available. Come along, you can pay on the door.

Upcoming Lunchtime recitals held on a Thursday in St. Andrew's, Earls Colne: 10th April, 8th May, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August, 11th September.

Visit us during our regular church services too – we're a friendly bunch of people, come along, and stay for coffee afterwards. If you would like more information about anything we're up to, or you have suggestions for events, you can drop an email to:

<u>ecstandrewsfundraising@gmail.com</u> or post a message via the link on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam. **Doug McKenzie**





Formed in 1975, the Charity is an Educational Trust that administers funds from investments, in the form of grants to local young people.

Educational Grants Available

The Earls Coine and Halstead Educational Charity offers grants to individuals, schools and voluntary groups and is keen to encourage applications to provide support for suitable projects that would benefit local young people

Projects previously funded include: the purchase of equipment such as mini tennis nets, specialist equipment for those competing in sports or arts, first aid training, expeditions and guide/scout events

To qualify, applicants must:

- be aged between 5 and 25*
- have lived or attended school for at least one year within the Charity's area of benefit (catchment area) *
- Voluntary groups must cater for young people in this age range and be located within our catchment area



Find out more:

More information about the Charity and application forms can be found on our website – www.echec.org.uk.

Alternatively, email: - earlscolnehalstead.edcharity@yahoo.co.uk



Domestic services from new or replacement lights, switches and sockets to fuse board replacements, full rewires and more!

Commercial services including emergency lighting and smart lighting.

External services outbuilding and external power and garden lighting.

Other services earthing upgrades, LED lighting, electric heating install, bathroom and kitchen electrical works, central heating and smart wireless central heating systems.

Fault finding experts

NO JOB TOO SMALL, PLEASE GIVE SIDMAR A CALL!



Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex.
Tel: 07545 125 376 Email: sidmarelectrical@outlook.com

One of the problems that the Village Hall faced in the past was that the hall was not used very much during the school holidays except for dance class days and individual parties, to which the hall is so well suited. However, we were delighted that the hall hosted Children's Craft club activities which starting in February half term. These are being organised by Laura Cook-Abbott, https://the-craft-hub.classforkids.io and we hope these will be very popular. The Craft Hub is well known in Earls Colne providing after school craft activities each day.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please contact me through the website or on 01787 223668.

Geoff Marcoolyn

marcoolyngeoff@gmail.com

Chairman Courtauld Memorial Village Hall Tel 01787 222334 or 07776 484698

Village Hall

White Colne is a lovely village that thrives on community involvement, and volunteering plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for its residents. So what opportunities are there for individuals to give back to their community and make a positive impact.?

Community Warm Hub:

9am Monday 3rd, 10th,17th, 24th and 31st March

Station Master Arms:

9am Friday 14th and 28th March

Other groups and organisations include: W0 Helpers Group; Friends of White

Colne Meadows; and Community Garden for further information please visit our

website: https://

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk/

groups-and-organisations

COURTAULD MEMORIAL HALL

1 Station Road, Colne Engaine, CO6 2ES

FOR ALL YOUR SOCIAL NEEDS

Receptions, Discos & Dances, Children's Parties, Auctions & Fundraisers, Exhibitions, Meetings, AMPLE CAR PARKING.

www.courtauldmemorialhall.co.uk 01787 223668



Gardening



Is it weeding?

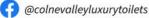
I find myself in a familiar position, on my knees arse upwards (am I allowed to say arse?) fumbling in the undergrowth, stop it you lot, I'm weeding, or am I? if you take the literal meaning wouldn't that be planting weeds, If I was nailing I would be hammering in nails, if I was taking them out I would be de-nailing, so shouldn't I be deweeding? Whatever it's called I'm doing it all the time, by making it a regular habit it keeps things under control and saves it becoming a major task, it saves money too as I often find seedlings and baby plants that would have gone unnoticed, and I transplant them around the garden filling spaces for free, happy days. With the warmer days things are really taking off in the garden, (and I don't mean the birds, or my shirt) the weeds of course, are popping up everywhere, and the lawn has had its first cut, I was lucky enough to get a nice dry day so I gave it a trim with the mower set one notch higher than I normally use, I will drop it back down on the third cut. I cleared out one of the compost bins and spread the rougher compost on the beds and stored the finer stuff ready for using in the next few weeks (luckily, I didn't disturb any hibernating wildlife). It's time to start planting summer flowering bulbs, I will be setting some alliums in the hobbits garden along with lilies, some bearded iris and, if I can persuade



Beautiful self contained luxury mobile toilet hire for any wedding, party or corporate event

Handmade to a superior finish, white porcelain hand basins, sparkling clean porcelain toilets with wooden seats, chrome fittings, wooden floors, large mirrors, lighting, silk flowers, hot water and music add a touch of class to your special day.

They arrive fully equipped with soft toilet tissue, hand towels, luxury soap, hand cream, automatic air fresheners, and a range of toiletries.



ginny@colnevalleyluxurytoilets.co.uk

www.colnevalleyluxurytoilets.co.uk

Call Ginny today on 01787 220358 or 07792 424061

Where luxury comes as standard



Gardening (Cont'd)



her, I would like to make a bit of a display with some dahlias. Alliums, lilies, and iris are all planted straight in the ground, but the dahlias work better if they are started off in pots in a cold greenhouse, I won't be putting them out until mid-May as they are not very hardy, having said that, as long as the ground is free draining and won't get waterlogged in the winter, I will leave them in the ground, it's not the cold that does for them when they are underground, it's the wet, if the ground wasn't suitable I would lift them at the end of the year and store them in a frost free shed or greenhouse. Another thing that we get more of as it warms up, slugs and snails, I am not keen on slug pellets as I worry that birds, frogs, or hedgehogs might eat affected slugs and I'm sure it can't be good for them, beer traps are effective, they do work, the only downside is emptying the trap, imagine dead slugs floating in fermenting beer for days and the resulting smell is not for those with a weak stomach, but if you can bare it, it really does work, nematodes are another natural control, these are microscopic creatures that feed on slugs under the ground as they emerge from the thousands of eggs layed by the parent slug, nematodes come in a packet, the contents are mixed with water and distributed using a watering can with a rose on it, (that's the sprinkler attachment, not a picture of a rose). Other than that, it's a case of picking up every slug and snail you see and dropping them in the green bin, by the way, the other thing I don't likeCont'd /

The people behind the business

SUZI

Founder & Boss chief buyer & designer (Niece)

BRIDGET

Head of Sales & the real boss! (The Aunt)

We look forward to welcoming you

March Opening Tuesday- Friday 10 - 5 Saturdays 10 - 4

Ziel Design

FOR LIVING 26 years of beautiful homes



39 High Street, Earls Colne CO6 2PA 01787 22 29 89

Gardening (Cont'd)



about slug pellets, they are such a fiddle to load into the gun. I still have some pruning to do, the dogwood (cornus) and willow (salix) on the banks of the pond need 'stooling', it always seems a shame to do because they look so nice with their red and yellow stems, but as they age they lose their colour and it's the new shoots that have the vivid colours, so it's a case of cutting every single stem down to two or three buds from the ground, this encourages more compact bushy growth which will make a lovely display through the winter. The stems I remove I will push in the ground along the water's edge, and they will root and grow into more bushes to be transplanted later or left to do their thing.

I will be planting onion (allium cepa) sets in the veg patch, so easy to do, just push each set into the soil leaving the tip showing, place them 4"-6" (10cm-15cm) apart and between rows, and then cover with fleece or netting, sticks, or tripwires to stop the birds from lifting them out of the ground. I'll do the same with garlic (allium sativum) and shallots (allium cepa aggregatum) although the shallots need 12" (30cm) between rows. I will be getting some broad beans in (vicia faba) sowing the seeds 2" (5cm) deep with 8" (20cm) between rows and 6"-8" (15cm-20cm) apart, depending on how the weather looks on the long range forecast I might try a sneaky sowing of salad leaves





Gardening (Cont'd)



later in the month, I'll probably pop a cloche over them anyway, just in case, I will also sow some beetroot (beta vulgaris) in rows 12" (30cm) apart, spreading the seed as thinly as I can to cut down on the thinning out later. I will be laying out the seed

potatoes (solanum tuberosum) in seed trays in the greenhouse to start off the 'chittng' ready for planting at the end of March in tubs. The Hobbit will be sowing indoors as well, normally its tomatoes (solanum lycopersicum) and peppers (capsicum annum) which she will proudly produce later in the month when they need thinning and potting on. I want to grow the peppers in the greenhouse this year hoping for bigger and more fruit, (I checked, peppers are fruit).

Laters Taters
Keep Calm and Carry-on De-weeding!
Gary





Fully qualified JIB Gold Card Electrician covering Bures and surrounding areas.

HARRY Tel: 07861 764861

Email: info@22electrical.com

Website: www.22electrical.com Facebook: 22 Electrical Ltd Instagram: 22electricalItd

Laughter - The Best Medicine

It was my late father-in-law — a former GP in Norwich — who once said that people enjoyed their illnesses. Going into hospital for a hernia operation might not be most people's idea of enjoyment. Seen from the other point of view I have always wondered how much doctors enjoy treating their patients. I grew up in North Norfolk with the children of our family doctor who confided in me that he had always wanted to be an architect but his mother had insisted he study medicine. I was, I suppose, slightly shocked when he commented that his work was distasteful to him. We shared Christmases with him and his family. I now understood why he always declined to carve the Christmas turkey. It was too close to the bone in more senses than one; too close to the day job. As a teenager I was mildly taken aback by the admission of vulnerability, and flattered that he should have shared that confidence. In the light of this I never saw the doctor-patient relationship as a one-sided obligation on the doctor to put me, the patient, at my ease; I came to the view that this worked both ways.

My first appointment with the 'Prof.' regarding my hernia was a general discussion. His nurse was busying herself in the background. He explained that the operation could be performed by key-hole surgery or open surgery. In the course of our conversation it



Laughter - The Best Medicine

was obvious that he preferred the latter. He admitted to having had treatment for two hernias. Unhesitatingly, I asked if he had performed the operation on himself. The nurse turned round at that point and said, 'He's good; but not that good.'

There was a form to fill in and a nurse checked it roughly for errors and omissions. The answer to the question about existing medication had been left blank. The explanation, 'I'm not on any medication' normally elicits two sorts of response - 'Wow! Fantastic! Well done!' or, the pencil would be put down and you would get The Look of Disbelief. In this case it was the latter. There was a follow-up meeting with another nurse and a colleague where she was required to go over the answers again for accuracy. Happily this time I got the 'Wow! Fantastic! Well done!' and was passed on to her colleague who was preparing a blood test. During the pause, I asked nurse I had been speaking to where she came from. 'I am from Romania', she replied. Her colleague, now ready for the test, said, 'I am from Romania as well', and with slightly more enthusiasm than one might have expected from someone taking a blood sample, added, 'but I am from Transylvania'.

It is hard to argue with the statement that laughter is the best medicine and the idea originates in that great canon of wisdom, known as the Bible. Modern times may have seen great leaps of knowledge, but great leaps of wisdom? Don't get me started.

Finding any book of the bible is not unlike finding a ward in Colchester General hospital. The book of Proverbs is 559 pages in but take the stairs to the 17th chapter [because the lift may be out of order] and you will be rewarded with verse 22 which reads 'A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones'.

A recent letter to The i Paper, ahead of the King's operation for an enlarged prostate gland, said simply, and with some feeling, that His Majesty would need all the sense of humour, for which he is well known.

That would be seeing it from the patient's point of view. From the point of view of the medical staff, the seriousness of their calling and the gravity of the cases they would be required to treat would suggest that a degree of levity and relief would be as necessary for them as aCont'd /



Laughter - The Best Medicine

sense of humour to the King. I spent a year in the southern French city of Montpellier where I attended courses at the Foreigners' Institute. As a student one could eat in any one of the student restaurants. If one chose to eat at the one nearest to the Faculty of Letters the conversation would be dominated by politics, engagement [involvement] and the writings of Jean-Paul Sartre. The restaurant nearest the Faculty of Medicine would be host to much rowdier behaviour with bread fights regularly breaking out between groups of medical students. It occurred to me later in life that the rigours of medical studies were possibly of a different order from revolutionary talk.

When the Prof. came to see me after the operation, he had just performed I wanted to know how it had gone from his point of view. 'Beautiful', he declared. I somehow knew I would be all right and I could now boast a beautiful hernia to go with my beautiful hearing aids and beautiful denture.

by Robin Greatorex



Colne Valley windows Your local double glazing company

Windows, Doors, conservatories, Bi-Folding Doors, Soffits, Facias and Guttering, uPVC and Aluminium, Shop Fronts, Manual and Automatic Entrances and much more!!



- ✓ Transferable 10 Year Insurance Backed Guarantee
- ✓ Over 30 Years Experience
- ✓ Free Quotation
- ✓ Local Family Run Business

For your free quotation please call us on 01787 827382





Website www.colnevalleywindows.co.uk Email: info@colnevalleywindows.co.uk

Brick Meadows

EARLS COLNE

As we expected, the meadows have remained extremely wet over the early part of the year so the prospect of any further work on clearing the ponds is rapidly receding. From 1st March to 1st September is the time when birds and animals are starting the breeding season – during that time no works on the ponds can be carried out.

Spring however is the time of year when the monthly work party gets busy as everything bursts in to life – walkers who are happy to carry a pair of secateurs with them can be of great help in keeping brambles at bay. These brambles seem to "throw" great tendrils of growth almost overnight across paths and we must find a balance between keeping paths open but still provide good cover for wildlife.

As we write this article in early February, we are already aware of birdsong being practised in the woods and undergrowth, especially on sunny still days, a lovely sound. Following the successful dawn chorus walk in 2024, we are hoping to have a repeat in 2025. Signs to advertise will be placed on entrance gates so if you missed it last year you will have another chance. Also planned is a butterfly count in order to establish the range of varieties that visit our bio-diverse area.

Even through the winter months it has been good to see that the seats and paths are still very well used – it is the appreciation of these users that spurs us on as trustees, together with our work party members, to keep this Village Green Haven open and accessible to all.

We hope that another sector of the village will be using the Brick Meadows, this year-the school children, now that they have a gate which opens directly intoCont'd /

Steve White Electrical Services

Part P Domestic Installer

Fully qualified, insured and guaranteed

- Extra sockets/lights
- Fuse board changes
- Power Showers
- Fault finding/repairs
- Outside power to garden/garage
- Immersion Heaters

FREE ESTIMATES 01787 281254 or 07920 841041

Brick Meadows (Cont'd)

EARLS COLNE

the area. It would be very satisfying to give an opportunity to those children who don't normally have access to green space. Access without hindrance would be the envy of many schools across the country and we wish to do all that we can to encourage the reconnection between people and nature.

Users of the Meadows will notice that we have recently blocked the original access from The Long Meadow onto The Chase as there is now a new pedestrian gate a little further up which is more user friendly. We have planted Hawthorn to fill the gap in the hedge.

Also, a new metal gate and fencing are to be installed at the Park Lane entrance to the meadows adjacent to the school grounds to replace the wooden gate which is rotting. We have applied for a grant which will hopefully cover this cost.

Frances Barton and Jayne Meleschko

Trustees

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK ROOFING



ROOF REPAIRS -TRADITIONAL TILING – FLAT ROOFS Fascia, Soffits, Guttering – Carpentry. Cladding

EARLS COLNE - 01787 224496 - 07795 554442

essexandsuffolkroofing@gmail.com

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



09:00AM - 5:00PM Sat

09:30 - 12:00pm

Contact Us!

01787 334040

47a High Street, Halstead

Essex CO9 2JD

Learn More: https://sarala.co.uk





01787 22 44 00 | design@apogeeprint.com | **f 0 b**



- Bespoke gates,
- · Hardwood or Treated softwood
- · Made to measure
- · Supply only or Supply and Fit
- 01787 224848









Riverside Business Park, Station Road, Earls Colne CO6 2ER

Daniel Robinson & Sons

your local

Independent Family Funeral DirectorsEst. 1892

dly helpful & professions

Friendly, helpful & professional service at your time of need

Prepaid funeral planning or free recording of your Funeral Wishes

Chauffeur driven funeral fleet

Excellent facilities in the very heart of the community

31 High Street - HALSTEAD - CO9 2AA 01787 475533 www.drobinson.co.uk







History - Four Colnes 1925

THE FOUR COLNES MAGAZINE - MARCH 1925. Not much news appears in the March 1925 magazine for Earls Colne, Wakes Colne and Colne Engaine apart from their 1924 church accounts. However, White Colne has the following article:

WHITE COLNE - CONFIRMATION

There are many persons to whom the idea of Confirmation is rather a mental stumbling block than want of belief in the acceptance of the teaching of Holy Scripture. How does it occur? First from the neglect of teaching the little ones that God-parents were exhorted, when they "stood" for a child, "ye are to take care that this child be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the ten Commandments in the vulgar (i.e. English) tongue and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose." We know that that instruction is rarely given. Second - boys and girls grow up to see their parents seldom if ever attending a place of Worship. Third - By the time they are 16 or 17 they think themselves "too old". Confirmation in ages long ago was administered immediately after Baptism, and now the Bishops of the Anglican church are not unanimous as to the age a child should be, before being Confirmed. I now address Adults, and say to them forget the past, improve the present by studying, not merely reading the Baptismal Service as you find it in the Prayer Book. The Order for Confirmation and the Office of Holy Communion. The texts I give you, as bearing on Confirmation are Hebrews VII. 1; Acts VIII. 14-17; Acts XIX 5-6. You can make use of all these means as an end to self-preparation, and after that seek council and guidance from your Clergyman, but above all, use Prayer - Prayer in your own words for the Grace of the Holy Spirit to lead you into the way of peace. Liz Pottinger



Festival Committee Update

The recent Festival Committee meeting in January was productive, with several new faces joining the group to see what it's all about. It was refreshing to see members of the community coming together to share their ideas and enthusiasm for the future of our beloved village events.

During the meeting, there was a sense of optimism and consensus about continuing the tradition of the bi-annual village festival. Discussions weren't limited to just the festival itself; matters covered the committee positions being (and still to be!) filled as well as other smaller events held throughout the year that keep the spirit of community alive.

As I write this, we hope to get together again next week (mid Feb) to discuss how we move forward and hope to update further in the next edition of the magazine.

Get in touch today, if you would like to know more about joining the committee.

Email: colneengainefestival@gmail.com

Alex

EARLS COLNE TAXIS 01787 474666

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE 1998
TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES
4 & 6 SEATER AVAILABLE
LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE
AIRPORTS; STATIONS; HOSPITALS
MOST MAJOR CARDS ACCEPTED
Web: www.earlscolnetaxis.co.uk

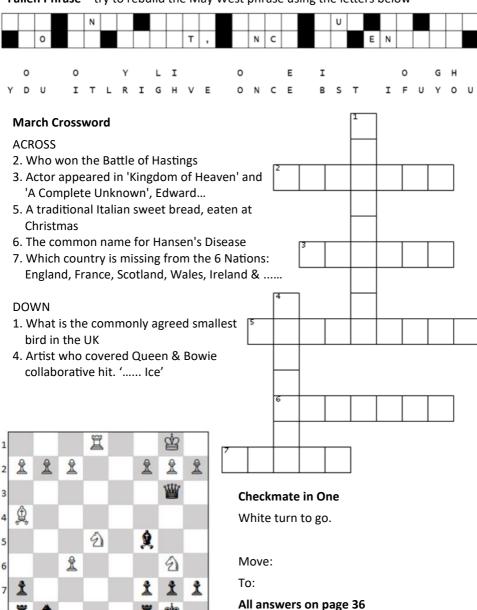
Puzzles

C

D E

G

Fallen Phrase – try to rebuild the May West phrase using the letters below



By George Rust

Local Business Shout Out

Company Name: Freshwell Low Carb Community

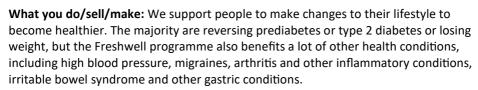
(a community organisation)

Contact Name: Daryl Clark

Phone: 07901 918209

Email: daz.lowcarbcommunity@gmail.com
Website: https://lowcarbfreshwell.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

groups/382235179606729



What made you get involved with this programme? The Freshwell programme was recommended to me, so off I popped to a wellbeing hub and there I met our local

JMAC INTERIORS Specialist Painters & Decorators Est. 1997

Specialist Painters

Specialist Painters

Est. 1997

Greshwe

- All Interior and Exterior Work Undertaken
- Specialist in Period & Listed Properties
- Wallpaper Hanging to the Highest Standards
- Restoration of Ornate Cornices & Ceiling Roses
- References Available
- Fully Insured



Contact: Jeff Macdonald Tel: 07778 031505 - 01787 224674 Email: jmacinteriors@aol.com www.jmac-interiors.co.uk



Local Business Shout Out Cont'd

health coach who explained all about the programme. Sadly, the hub had to close but I was asked to continue as a group leader on a volunteer basis, and the Freshwell Low Carb Community was born!

It all started when Dr David Oliver and Dr Kim Andrews, based at the Freshford Surgery in Finchingfield began their programme in 2020 to help those with pre-diabetes, type 2 diabetes, high BP/cholesterol and to lose weight. The programme is Qismet approved. They produced the Freshwell App and Freshwell Food Scanner available FREE for everyone (have a look in the Apple or Android stores – the icon is a green leaf). Their PCN Health Coach started a wellbeing hub in Halstead and from there the Freshwell Low Carb Community was formed by volunteers. The FB group page only had 200 back then which has now grown to 3.5k worldwide!

What is your favourite part of volunteering for Freshwells? Meeting people! I am retired but constantly 'work' towards making our community happy, helpful and here. I love organising the social events which helps our mental health and wellbeing.

What makes the Freshwells community a place for people to get involved with? Our Facebook page is our place to visit! Such a wealth of knowledge and expertise our members like to share. It is a friendly and safe place to be. People say that our Facebook group is the most supportive group they have come across - it'sCont'd /



Period Property Services

We are a family-run business covering the Essex and Suffolk area. Passionate about our work, paying attention to every detail.

Lime pointing and plastering

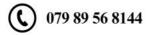
All aspects of roofing

Damp proofing and drainage

Extensions and alterations

Decorating and repairs

Landscaping and paving







EST. 1951

SPECIALISING IN PROPERTY SALES, LETTINGS & MANAGEMENT FOR OVER 70 YEARS

HIGH STREET, EARLS COLNE COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO6 2RN

T: 01787 223879

E: EARLSCOLNE@PERCIVALANDCOMPANY.CO.UK
W: WWW.PERCIVALANDCOMPANY.CO.UK

Local Business Shout Out Cont'd

never judgemental. We understand that people are individuals with different constraints, and we empathise with the challenges they face.

Shout about what you do: Getting connected. We hold fortnightly local drop-ins which give local members a chance to meet face-to-face and chat about all thing's low carb, share recipes and ideas. We join together at the Park Run at Marks Hall every Saturday, which gives us much needed exercise as does the swimming 'Carb Crawlers' at Halstead Pool. The Guildhall meeting, held in Finchingfield, once a month is educational and the topic for February was 'Cooking Methods and Fat' presented by our very own Health and Lifestyle Mentor Viv Hamilton. One of the Freshwell doctors was also present to answer any questions on that evening's topic. The next one (in March) is our 2nd AGM! If you would like to be involved – please reach out. We also hold social events such as dining out, cooking demonstrations and various workshops, all which help with our mental health and wellbeing.

Do you have any events planned? We have regular events each month.

Here is our plan:



Do you have any USP's? The

Freshwell programme, App and Food Scanner are FREE to all! Lots of help and support to everybody nationwide and overseas. The weight loss jabs cost the NHS £3000 per patient, 2 years only treatment, whereas we can lose weight for FREE, maintain our weight loss FOR LIFE, it doesn't cost the NHS a penny. In fact, we save the NHS money when we are deprescribed medications we no longer need to take!

My Story:

I was diagnosed with pre-diabetes, oh my gosh! What to do about it???

The Freshwell programme was recommended to me so off I popped to a wellbeing hub. Sadly, this is no longer there, but I started this amazing community as a volunteer.

I work tirelessly to spread the word about the benefits of the programme and now help run our FB group page that gives so much help and support to so many. I have organised the drop-ins and social events and found technology and designing skills I never knew I had!Cont'd /

Local Business Shout Out Cont'd

I have numerous health issues as long as your arm and by following the low carb lifestyle these have all improved. I can now wobble around on my dodgy legs with limited use of wheelchair/mobility scooter. Bonus, I've lost 4 stone!

I was Highly Commended as 'The Inspirational Role Model of the Year' in the Braintree District Council Volunteer Awards 2024. Blooming 'eck 'lil ole me! Do you:

- \Rightarrow Want to be a new you in 2025?
- ⇒ Would you like to be fitter, healthier and have more energy?
- ⇒ Would you like to you get your pre -diabetes/type 2 diabetes into remission?
- ⇒ Get rid of those aches and pains?
- ⇒ Improve other health issues?
- Lose weight?

Join the FREE GP led, Qismet approved, Freshwell Low Carb programme with FREE app and FREE food scanner. Caters for all with no fees, no special foods to buy and lots of FREE face-to-face and online support.

Come along and join us!







Puzzle Answers

Y	0	U	0	N	L	Y		L	1	٧	Ε	0	N	С	Ε	В	U	T		1	F		Υ	0	U
	D	0	1	Т		R	1	G	Н	Т	,	0	N	С	E	1	S		E	N	0	U	G	Н	

ACROSS

DOWN

2. William

1. Goldcrest

3. Norton

4. Vanilla

5. Panettone

Move: D5

6. Leprosy

To: E7

Checkmate in One

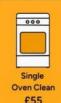
White turn to go.

7. Italy



THE OVEN CLEANERS













£90



EXTRAS BUY 1 GET 1 FREE FROM ANY OF THE 4 EXTRAS BELOW









BBQS & AIR FRYERS









CONTACT US TO BOOK NOW

- **©** 01787 743234
- **(9)** 07834 170338
- info@theovencleaners.co.uk
- www.theovencleaners.co.uk



Recipe Corner



Vegetable Curry. On Sunday 23 February, St Andrew's, Earls Colne, served curry after Evensong. This is the curry I made. It's a very British sort of dish, using the sort of ingredients you will find locally in supermarkets. In India, they make curry with vegetables such as kohl rabi, a sort of radish.

Serves 2 as main course (Serves 4 as a side vegetable).

Method. Using a potato peeler, peel butternut squash. This is quite hard work. Use a sharp peeler and try and run the peeler from top to bottom. Remove seeds and stringy bits in the core and discard.

Chop the butternut squash into medium sized slices. The squash is hard-textured so, if you wish, use slicer attachment on the food processor.

If using fresh chilli, slice it in two lengthways. This way you will get the flavour, without making the curry too hot. If you do prefer curries hotter, chop the chilli more finely.

Heat the vegetable oil in a large pan. When hot, add the butternut squash slices and stir frequently. If you don't stir, the squash will stick to the pan and will be very difficult to clean.

Add garlic and ginger and keep stirring still. Add cumin, coriander and turmeric. Add calabrese,

Ingredients

1/2 Large butternut squash (Mostly, they are large!)

1 Pepper (Sliced, not too finely)

1x 14oz Tin chopped tomatoes

1 head Calabrese broccoli (Chopped into medium-sized pieces)

2oz Red lentils

Salt and pepper

½ Fresh chilli (or ¼ teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, or crushed dried chillis)

1 inch Fresh root Ginger (Peeled and arated)

3 cloves Garlic (Peeled and crushed)

2 tablespoons Vegetable oil

2 teaspoonfuls Ground cumin

1 teaspoonful Ground coriander

1 teaspoonful Ground turmeric (or grated fresh turmeric, if you prefer)

1 cupWater. (Left-over vegetable water gives extra taste).

2 tablespoons Natural yoghurt (to serve)

2 tablespoonsFresh coriander (chopped) (to serve)

pepper and lentils. Add chopped tomatoes and stir in. Add 1 cup of water (left-over vegetable water gives extra taste). Add salt and pepper to taste.

Put the lid on your pan and allow to cook for about 30 minutes. Every five minutes or so, give it a stir. Add a little more water at a time if the curry looks too dry.

Adjust seasoning. More salt and pepper? More cumin and coriander? Get the curry the way you like it.

Serve hot, with rice or naan. Add a spoonful of yoghurt and some fresh coriander to individual dishes.

Rosemary Johnson





Formed in 1975, the Charity is an Educational Trust that administers funds from investments, in the form of grants to local young people.

Are you studying for a degree or about to start a degree course?

The Earls Coine and Halstead Educational Charity offers
Resource Grants to young people studying
undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses
(excluding one or two year Foundation courses and including recognised
level 4 courses).



Find out more:

More information about the Charity and application forms can be found on our website – www.echec.org.uk.

Alternatively email - earlscolnehalstead.edcharity@yahoo.co.uk.

Correspondence



Following the success of our video response to the Church of England's #ChurchDoorChallenge last summer, which got a great reaction and requests for more videos explaining other parts of the church, I have set up a YouTube channel for St Andrew's Halstead. I will be continuing with occasional visits to different features of the

church. The last video looked at the reredos (ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of an altar). and soon there will be another on the theme of 'water'. You can find it now here: https://www.youtube.com/

@StAndrewsChurchHalstead

Do please subscribe, leave a comment there with what you think, and let me know what other parts of the church you would like see featured!

Jen Skingsley



<u>PEARTREE</u> BED & BREAKFAST

Jill & Chris warmly welcome you to their 17th Century cottage in Colne Engaine.



T: 01787 223348 M: 07919 200646

E: <u>info@peartreebedandbreakfast.co.uk</u> www.peartreebedandbreakfast.co.uk



Shopping List February 2025

Food items: Pasta; Pasta sauce; Tinned tomatoes; Tinned vegetables; Custard

Non Food Items: Washing up liquid; Baby wipes; Shampoo

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk Telephone: 01376 330694



Four Colnes Horticultural Society

March – before we know it, the clocks will be changing and we should be into summer-proper! March is a key month of the year as the soil begins to warm, for early seed sowing and a time to finish winter moving of shrubs to suit new plans. Before too long those seeds will have germinated and grown into exhibition worthy "specimens" ready for The Four Colnes Show – Saturday August 16th. Schedules are available from the secretary secretary.fchs@outlook.com to help with your planning. Don't hold back – the success and longevity of the show is reliant on a wide range of exhibitors and exhibits. A little bit of competitiveness and a lot of fun!

March and April will be the time of watching closely to see what, if any, wild flower seeds germinate in Ryefield the meadows owned and run by the Brickfields' Trust. Considerable effort was made in the autumn to spread wildflower hay in the area in order to disperse wildflower seeds. Lets us hope that the efforts were worthwhile.

Before the August 16th show date, society members please pencil in to diaries the afternoon of 13th June for a visit to Benton End house and gardens at Hadleigh, Suffolk. This was home to the celebrated artist and gardener Sir Cedric Morris now run by a charitable trust.

Also to be pencilled in is an evening visit to Jordans Farm on Friday 18th July. Alex, the owner kindly gave a talk to the society in 2024 about re-wilding and it will be interesting to see her farm "in action". Further details of both these visits will appear in society news-letters which are circulated to members — if you are not a member then it is not too late to put your £5 in the kitty for 2025 and join the society; membership.fchs@outlook.com. Membership gives access to

these and other visits and also to discount on a wide range of items at Olivers Plant Centre.

Hopefully many readers will be aware of efforts to buy the Hunt's Water Tank situated off Massingham Drive in Earls Colne. Home to the Earls Colne Museum, a charity has been set up to raise sufficient funds for an outright purchase from the current owner and to then refurbish the museum and displays. As part of their quest to apply for grants, the museum trustees are seeking a community effort to rejuvenate the Atlas Gardens to the front of the building. A substantial grant has been awarded for the purchase of plants and the installation of notice boards which will be outlining the industrial heritage of the village. The Four Colnes Horticultural Society members along with the Nonancourt Association and residents of Massingham Drive and surrounding roads are being asked to help with the replanting of the garden beds with shrubs and grasses provided by Olivers Plant Centre. Please keep an eye out for updated information on the Museum website, Facebook and signage by the Atlas Gardens.



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



FERRIERS BARN, BURES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ferriers Barn is a day centre for adults with disabilities.

It is a registered charity and has been in operation for over 50 years. We are looking for new volunteers to help us with our service. To be a volunteer you don't need to be crafty or good with wood, you just need a great sense of humour, and around 4 hours a week you could spare us.

Our volunteers say how much they 'enjoy their time with us and how it gives them a great feeling of being able to give something back'.

Volunteers spend their time chatting, helping our members with their work and drinking tea. We also arrange trips out and about in the local community which is always great fun. There is no personal work involved.

If you have a day you could dedicate each week, to this lovely, little, local charity, we would love to hear from you.

01787 227515 ferriersbarn@timetalk.co.uk Registered Charity number - 267117

PARISH OF St Andrew's Colne Engaine ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in The Five Bells (TBC) on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm

For the election of Parochial representatives of the laity as follows:

- The Parochial Church Council representatives.

For the appointment of Sidesmen and the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

For the consideration of:

- a. A Report on changes in the roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
- b. An Annual Report of the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
- The Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending on 31st December immediately preceding the meeting audited or independently examined;
- d. A Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;
- e. A Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod;
- f. and other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

If you are interested in joining the PCC, are a member of the Church Electoral Roll or live in Colne Engaine and are interested in the church community then you are most welcome.

For further information please contact the PCC Secretary, Candida Robson, 07557 309 499 / candidarobson@googlemail.com

A. Birkin & Sons Funeral Directors

A family concern, concerned for your family in your time of need.

Market End, Coggeshall, CO6 1NH Telephone: (01376) 561316 Email: info@abirkinandsons.com



Tree Surgeon



Providing excellence in:

- Tree Felling
- Canopy Reduction
- Hedge Cutting
- Garden Clearance
- · Tree Shaping and Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Pollarding
- Emergency Tree Work

Free Consultation for Small and Large Jobs

Public Liability Insurance

M: 07515288736

O: 01787 228341

info@blaketreecare.co.uk

www.blaketreecare.co.uk





"A very competitive price and a VERY tidy job" ★★★★

On the Buses



Earls Colne, White Colne, and Colne Engaine benefit from scheduled bus routes and demand-responsive transport services, ensuring reliable connections to nearby towns, schools, and amenities.

Scheduled Bus Services

- Route 88: Operated by Hedingham & Chambers, this service runs between Halstead
 and Colchester, passing through Earls Colne. Key stops include Halstead High Street,
 Earls Colne (The Lion), White Colne, Wakes Colne, and Colchester City Centre. It
 runs multiple times daily on weekdays and Saturdays, making it convenient for
 commuters, shoppers, and students.
- Route 82/82A/82B: These routes link Colchester City Centre with Colne Engaine
 and Marks Tey, stopping at Earls Colne (The Lion) and White Colne. Operating on
 weekdays and Saturdays, they provide essential transport for residents traveling to
 Colchester for work, shopping, and connections.

Demand-Responsive Transport (DaRT) Services

The **DaRT 3 service** provides flexible, bookable transport in rural areas, including Earls Colne, White Colne, and Colne Engaine, where Route 88 does not operate. Unlike fixed-route buses, DaRT runs on demand, requiring advance booking.

DaRT 3 connects villages to key locations like Halstead and Braintree. It operates on weekdays, and bookings must be made at least two hours before travel. Regular travellers can set up recurring bookings.

Contact Information

Hedingham & Chambers

Phone: 03301 020801 (Mon-Fri, 08:00-17:00)

Website: hedinghamandchambers.co.uk

DaRT 3 Service

Phone: 0115 777 3187 (Mon-Sat, 08:00-18:00)

Email: dart@central-connect.co.uk
 Service Hours: Mon-Sat, 06:00-20:00

Website: travelessex.co.uk

For more information, please check your bus service before travelling (you can download bus timetables from the services websites).

Parísh 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

CLLR ALAN BARNARD

(Chairman) 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

Tree warden; footpaths; Townlands Trust;

Sexton's Field Trustee

HELEN BISCOE-DAVIS

helen@colne-engaine.org.uk Community engagement

GRAHAME WALKINGSHAW - 01206 240772

Parish Clerk & Financial Officer clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk

CLLR SARAH DIGNASSE

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

CLLR NIGEL WARWICK

nigel@colne-engaine.org.uk

Finance committee; Burches Meadow

liaison; festival liaison

CLLR IAN MESSENGER

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

EALC representative; tree warden

WHITE COLNE

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clir. JANE TAYLOR — 07521 312778

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 Highways, village green, village hall estate.

Clir. PAUL BATCHFORD

Cllr.pbatchford@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk Environment (includes footpaths) meadows, river (includes flooding).

Cllr. DENISE DRIZEN

Cllr.ddrizen@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk Allotments, defibrillator, village hall estate.

Cllr. KRIS BELL

Cllr.kbell@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk Defibrillator, web site and I.T, village hall estate.

Cllr. JOHN BRACE

Cllr.jbrace@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk Highways, planning, policies, community garden.

Cllr. JOHN WILSON

Cllr.jwilson@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk Allotments, environment, planning, policies, river.

JIM MORRIS is Parish Clerk and financial officer

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council



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

TONY CALTON is responsible for Neighbourhood Plan and Planning tony.calton@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

NIK MCKEAN is responsible for the Village Environment

nik.mckean@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

RAY RANNS is responsible for the Village Hall ray.ranns@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

JONATHAN HAPPS is responsible for Grant Support

jonathan.happs@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

JUNE JEMMETT is responsible for Finance

june.jemmett@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

LORRAINE BAUCKHAM-LEYS is responsible for Compliance and Engagement lorraine.bauckham-leys@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

DEE ELLISON – is the Parish Clerk clerk@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

VACANT POSITION: Parish Clerk Assistant village.hall@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

TERRY BENNETT is the Village Hall Caretaker

EARLS COLNE VILLAGE COMMUNITY TEAMVern 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.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Chris Siddall cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk
District Councillor Gabrielle Spray cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk

District Councillor George Courtauld cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk

MP for Witham The Rt. Hon Priti Patel

withammp@parliament.uk

The Three Colnes Diary

25

0000000

COLNE ENGAINE

1	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday	
2	Sun		
3	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba	
4	Tue	Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga	
5	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama	
6	Thu	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.21); Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 6.45pm Keep Fit	
7	Fri	Village Hall—8.30am Barn preschool	
8	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday	
9	Sun		
10	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba	
11	Tue	Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga	
12	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama	
13	Thu	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 6.45pm Keep Fit; 8pm Parish Council Meeting	
14	Fri	Village Hall—8.30am Barn preschool	
15	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday	
16	Sun		
17	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Craft club; 7pm Zumba	
18	Tue	Primary School - 3.30pm Messy Church; Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga;	
19	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama	
20	Thu	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 6.45pm Keep Fit	
21	Fri	Village Hall—8.30am Barn preschool	
22	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday	
23	Sun	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Exam	
24	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba	
25	Tue	Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga	
26	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama	
27	Thu	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 6.45pm Keep Fit	
28	Fri	Village Hall—8.30am Barn preschool	
29	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday	
30	Sun		
31	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba	

EARLS COLNE

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

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
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).

Advertisers Index

Accountants	13
Bed & Breakfast	40
Building Company	33
Computer Services	25
Courtauld Hall	15
Double Glazing	7, 22
Drainage	29
Eco Refill Store	51
Electrician	14, 19, 23
Estate / Letting Agent	2, 34
Fencing & Gates	27
Fireplaces & Woodstoves	43
Forestry Contractor / log delivery	12
Funeral Directors	28, 43
Garden Services	9
Interior Design	17, 41
Lawn Care Specialist	20
Locksmith	18
Luxury Mobile Toilet Hire	16
Magazine Sponsor	51
Mobile Phone Repairs	25
Nursery School	52
Oven Cleaning	37
Painting and Decorating	32
Physiotherapy	13
Plumbing / Heating	10, 52
Printing Company	11
Quaker Meeting House Hire	10
Roofing	24
Signage & Digital Print	26
Swimming Pool Private Hire	18
Tablet Repairs	25
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles	30
Tree Surgeon	44

50 / www.colnechurches.com



LETS CHANGE THE WAY WE SHOP

Every day store cupboard essentials, cleaning products, fresh coffee & cakes with sourdough every Friday.

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

Ecolnes Refillery 75 High Steet, Earls Colne





Ecolnes o ecolnes_refillery (07861152599





Hobbs Estates proudly sponsor The Three Colnes Parish Magazine

Our family run business has been trading for over 60 years. We are property landlords, developers and investors with a portfolio that includes office, industrial and warehouse space.

Find out more about us, and our available units, by visiting:

Website: www.hobbsestates.co.uk

Instagram: @hobbs_estates LinkedIn: Hobbs Estate Ltd



he Barn



WELCOMING CHILDREN AGED 2.5 - 5 YEARS PLEASE CALL FOR CURRENT AVAILABILTY

Offering child led provision within a nurturing, stimulating, enabling environment, our children develop into confident, resilient, independent, active learners who are not afraid to take risks and face challenges head on.

AM SESSION	LUNCH	PM SESSION
9.15AM – 12.15PM	12.15PM – 12.45PM	12.45PM – 3.45PM
£21.00	£3.50	£21.00

Prices from September '24. We accept 2 year, 15 & 30 Hour Government Funded hours. Accepted subject to availability. Additional service charges will apply.





chelmsfordplumbingandheating.co.uk | sales@chelmsfordplumbingandheating.co.uk



01245 478588

A trustworthy family run business specialising in Gas, Oil, LPG, Electrical, Plumbing, Air-con and Renewables.

Boiler Installs, Servicing & Repairs

New Heating Systems Plumbing Repairs Electrical Services

Air-con & Renewables

- All calls are answered personally
- Confirmed bookings given
- No job too small!
- Work covered by 12-month guarantee











