

The Three Colnes Parish Magazine



February 2024

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Editorial

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Advertising

All advertising should be sent to Terry.

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 MARCH 2024 ISSUE PLEASE PROVIDE
SUBMISSIONS BY 6TH FEBRUARY 2024

Please provide Editorial in Word and Advertising as .jpg file

Welcome



Happy New Year (though I am aware we are now in a very chilly February – where has the time gone already?)

Did you notice something different about the magazine? I know – exciting, isn't it?? Thanks to a few new advertisers, we have been able to go partially coloured. We are now able to have a front and back cover and the centre pages in full colour, which means that we can include lovely colour photos for a few of our articles. We are so pleased with how the magazine is developing, and really appreciate all the feedback we get.

Welcome to all the new readers and advertisers; we hope that you enjoy the magazine, and find things out about the villages that you never knew before! I thought I might do a little highlight on some of the volunteers who work on this publication year-round; this month we say 'Hi' to Terry Hawthorn.

We have a spotlight on local entrepreneur Juliet Townsend, who took her lock down doodles to become a whole new career as a street artist. See page 28 for the full story. Please feel free to nominate other villagers to be written about in upcoming issues.

On page 18 we have a travel article from regular contributor Cate Gunn. Our gardening feature on page 16 highlights willow and dogwood, and the article from Stephen Armitage-Smith on page 46 highlights how best to report an emergency to the Police.

There is a film club on page 37 for all film buffs, a book club on page 36, a board games night on page 5, pancake night on page 23 and Brew & a Chat on page 16.

On a personal note – if you want to go on holiday – check your passport. As we are now no longer in the EU, different countries need different amounts of time left on your valid passport as I have found out to my detriment! Fingers crossed it gets back here on time.

Until next month,

Sue

Meet:

Terry Hawthorn

He manages all of our advertising. Terry has been working on the magazine since 2011, and ensures that we have a positive and healthy

relationship with all our advertisers and our sponsor Brooks Transport. We are currently looking for a volunteer to take over the reins as Terry is wanting to take a step back from his administrative duties so that he can finally relax in his retirement with his wife Juliet, his children and grandchildren.



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:

COLNE ENGAINE

George Courtauld - 07968 496235
georgecourtauld@aol.com

PCC Secretary: *Current Vacancy*

EARLS COLNE

Mr. Ray Wood & Mrs. Helen Sherfield -
07908 138853
ecchurchwardens@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Caroline Smith
standrewearlscolne@gmail.com

Treasurer: Helen Brooks
ecpctreasurer@gmail.com

Church Warden Vacancy:

St. Andrew's Church, Colne Engaine

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Rachel Fleetwood on 07902 363533

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Thoughts for the month



Is it me, or is time moving much faster than my brain can keep up?! Only a few weeks ago we were celebrating Christmas and the start of the New Year. And even before Christmastide had got going (referring to the 12 days of Christmas from Christmas Day to Epiphany on the 6th January), spotted in a supermarket were hot cross buns with the label saying, 'Happy Easter'!

What's the hurry? Why are we so keen to hasten the days before we have even had a chance to breathe, take stock and enjoy the blessings of a season? How easy it is to be overtaken by commercialism to the extent we lose track of ourselves, whilst we rush headlong from one period of time to another, without stopping to notice or acknowledge the time and space in which we exist.

The normal, everyday challenges and demands for our time is bad enough: The ever growing to-do-list at home, work or school, paying the bills to keep the business going, checking the ordering system to ensure what's on the menu can be provided. The list goes on. And all that without the external influences baying for the few precious moments and bursts of energy we have left to look after ourselves and our loved ones. When do we stop and take notice of what's around us or within us?

This year, if you were not aware, is a leap year. That means we get an extra day in February; great for those born on the 29th February as they get the chance to celebrate on the actual day; or as folklore would have it, the opportunity for the ladies to do the proposing (though that didn't work for me)! What will you do with an extra 24 hours? For me, a terrible procrastinator, I'm going to have to plan ahead and have already started. Especially as Valentine's day clashes with Ash Wednesday this year. So a diary change was needed for Film Club, to allow the couples to plan their romantic meal out, and creating for me, space to attend the Ash Wednesday evening ashing service. And as that starts the Lenten period, the time of preparation and remembrance leading up to Easter, I'm planning to spend my extra 24 hours on a quiet day, giving

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Thoughts for the month



me a chance to stop, take notice and pray.

Praying for all the residents, visitors and businesses in our three parishes. For real love to overflow in our communities, our country and our world. For peace and a real desire for understanding amongst people of different races, creeds, colour, status, and beliefs. For a renewing and revitalising of the world around us and for the beauty of the environment in which we live. For the hope of Christmas to grow ever stronger on the journey to the joy of Easter, with time in between to appreciate what that means.

I'm planning to stop and spend time with the one who loved me so much that he gave up his life for me. That's what Jesus did and his invitation to you is to "come with me... to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). So, what are you going to do with your gift of an extra 24 hours? Whatever you do, I pray you get the chance to stop awhile and enjoy a time of true blessings.

With love and prayers,
Reverend Sharon Quilter

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Services for February



Date	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 4th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	WC	Holy Communion
Wednesday 7th	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	3:30 Express
Sunday 11th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship & Baptism
	11am	Colne Engaine	Plough Sunday Service & Lunch
Tuesday 13th	3.30pm	Earls Colne	LUMINOUS Goes PANCAKES
Wednesday 14th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	Ash Wednesday
	7pm	Earls Colne #	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 18th	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins
	10am	WC	Morning Worship
	5pm	Earls Colne #	Café Church
Wednesday 21st	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Family Holy Communion
	5pm	Earls Colne #	High Mass
Wednesday 28th	9.30am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion

These services will be live-streamed on Zoom and, 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.



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Primary School

COLNE ENGAINE



January 2024

Despite the very wet start to the new term, we warmly welcomed our children and families back to school this week. A huge thank you to Juliet Townsend for painting a welcome back mural on our front door and brightening the entrance and to Mr. Nash for helping trim back some old trees and tidy up the mass of leaves. Without a caretaker, these jobs do pile up so we are hoping to set up a working party to help tidy the outside so, if you happen to have an hour free, do let us know.

We had a very busy time back in December, when we presented our version of Jack and the Beanstalk to families and friends and also held a traditional Nativity in the church. The children, as always, were magnificent and the performances were warmly received by all.

Mrs. Purkiss braved the cold weather one evening to lead our excited choir in singing by the Christmas tree and in church. We were kindly invited to this lovely event and we always look forward to future occasions when we can 'join forces' with our village community even more.

This term across school, our learning is centered around the theme "Being a Global Citizen and Game Changer". The aim is to raise awareness of what it means to be a citizen of the world and to discover more about other cultures and countries and how actions, inventions or people can influence the world around them. If you have any skills or knowledge about other parts of the world to share with us or the children, we'd love to hear from you. Have you lived on another continent or a different country? Do you have a job that reaches far parts of the world? Can you cook food from other cultures? Do you have photos or artefacts from somewhere else in the world? Let us know if you can help!

As shared with you in the past by Mrs Sarti and myself over the years, our school community has always been guided by Christian values, which underpin the learning opportunities, guidance and support that we aim to provide for our children. We have been working on further developing our Christian values – the ERICERS - which we feel define us as a church school, best capturing **Cont'd..../**

A photograph of a large, dark wood display cabinet with glass doors and drawers at the base. The cabinet is filled with various decorative items like vases, figurines, and framed pictures. In the background, a lamp and a chair are visible. The text "H&M INTERIORS FINE BESPOKE FURNITURE" is overlaid in the top left corner of the image.

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Primary School (Cont'd)



COLNE ENGAINE

the vision and ethos that we aim to promote. This term we are working on designing large art murals that depict each value in a wall hanging linked to a bible story. It is in its infancy and being designed as I write, but we are really looking forward to this coming to life. Our values of equality, respect, integrity, compassion, empathy and responsibility, drive all we do in school and the more we can ensure these permeate everything, the more we see the children using these essentially wonderful human qualities guiding them each day.

Our values are explored through worship and in the classroom, at levels appropriate for the age and level of understanding of the children, so stories that link to each will help children understand them more deeply. I look forward to sharing them with you.

As I sign out, I hold on to the fact that although it may be wet and cold, in 39 days the sun will be setting at 7pm and, as always, look forward to what the brighter days will bring into school and within the wonderful village too.

Sam Dunne, Headteacher



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Correspondence



Brick Meadows, Earls Colne

In the autumn we had a fantastic and humbling response to our appeal for funds for the continuing upkeep of the Trust's fields and woodland. Thank you to those who generously donated. Some of the money raised has been put towards wood for benches.

Since installing our first bench in the Long Meadow in 2023, many have requested others to be put in strategic places within the meadows so they can sit and enjoy the peace and tranquility of these natural surroundings so close to the village centre. An additional bench is now installed by the stream, Hawe Brook, on the path through the Poplars field. In summer with the trees in full leaf this is a very tranquil and "tucked-away" position. This field was once the home of the lower of three ponds in which fish stocks were kept to feed the Priory monks. Fish were caught from this pond and transferred to another pond within the Priory grounds. Hawe Brook, was once diverted to run alongside the hedge in a concrete culvert, remains of which can be seen under one of the wooden bridges. It was returned to its original course at the beginning of the century and now meanders pleasantly through this area.

In addition to these simple oak benches the Four Colnes Horticultural Society has installed a seat in the bottom meadow behind the Coggeshall Road houses in memory of Andrew Crane. Andrew was a stalwart of the society, entering many classes at the annual show with his fruit, flowers, and vegetables. He was a keen supporter of The British Legion and organised many coach trips for villagers.

Extending to over 7 hectares the meadows and woodland owned and managed by the Trust afford a variety of differing aspects of the countryside. With the world and **Cont'd..../**

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Correspondence (Cont'd)



life seemingly so fast and busy, the opportunity to sit within natural surroundings, if only for a few minutes, is calming for the soul.

Three supporters have kindly offered to sponsor the purchase of wood to make owl boxes for nesting tawny owls, several of which seem to inhabit the area. We hope to have them made and installed before nesting time. Owls calling are a common sound throughout the night and early dawn in this area.

Along with gathering a plethora of historical village information, our local historian and long-term village inhabitant, John Steadman, is extending his research to include the history of the meadows and fields owned by the Trust and this will be included in future articles. We also hope that John will be willing to host a walk through the Brick Meadows later on this year; watch out for updates here.

A small group of volunteers meet up on the third Thursday each month between 10 and 12 to help with general maintenance of the Meadows. If you would like to join us, please put your details through the door of 14 Park Lane, Earls Colne.

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Gardening



February - a full 29 days. Hang on a minute, don't all months have 29 days? I have been looking through the plant catalogues that come through the post this time of year and I have been tempted by the plug plants. I am going to give them a try to see if they work out better than growing from seed. I must admit I may have got a bit carried away; when my good lady wife Mags saw the bank statement she said "if you don't stop buying plants I am going to leave you". That's a shame; I am really going to miss her. I stepped away from the catalogues and had a look to see what I could do outside to occupy myself. I have some really nice willow (*Salix*) and dogwood (*cornus*) shrubs looking good in their winter colours. I have left them as long as I can but I do need to prune by the end of this month if I want a good show again next winter, they are in damp corner of my garden where they thrive in the moist soil; it doesn't get the sun all day but enough to keep them happy. I could leave them alone but if I do they will put on a lot of growth which will make them too big for where they are and only the new growth will colour up next winter; therefore I prune them down to about 6" (15cm) from



(*Salix alba*)
'Yelverton'

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Gardening (Cont'd)



the ground; cutting just above a pair of buds; this will keep them to a good size and encourage more stems.

If snowdrops (*galanthus*) are your thing, now is a good time to plant them 'in the green'; this means buying them from nurseries that lift them as the flowers fade and sell them in bunches for planting directly where you want them to grow. Planting like this rather than setting bulbs means they will establish quicker and multiply more readily; they like moist but well drained soil which is why they thrive in a woodland setting, flowering before the canopy of the trees blocks out the light, and they are less likely to rot from waterlogging during the summer months when they are dormant. The most common species is *galanthus nivalis* but there are so many other varieties, all lovely in their own right, looking especially good when planted with *cyclamen coum*.

I took the opportunity of a nice sunny day to prune my roses (*rosa*). First job as always is to sharpen secateurs, second job is to take out the 3 'd's, dead, diseased and dying; then if the roses are well

established I like to take out some of the older stems completely to encourage new growth from low down, never more than a third of the plant though. Then starting at the base of a stem I follow upwards looking for outward facing buds, ideally the second one up, then prune off just above this one; by doing this on all stems it should create a nice shape with an open centre allowing good air flow through the bush and reducing the risk of disease. The principle is the same with climbing roses apart from tying in long stems and pruning sideshoots back by two thirds, again to an outward facing bud; the direction the bud points is the direction that shoot will grow.

'*Laters taters*'

Keep calm and carry on weeding. Gary



cornus sanguinea
'Midwinter fire'



galanthus nivalis with
cyclamen coum

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Correspondence



Peregrination round the world to come home

I have written before about my peregrinations, or wanderings; they are usually by foot but in November I had the great good fortune to be able to fly round the world to New Zealand. We went via the United States and returned via Japan!

It was rather a hectic trip, but we enjoyed a few days of relaxation in Fiji before flying on to Wellington. We were picked up from the airport as the sun was rising and we were feeling groggy after a night flight, but our driver insisted on pointing out the highlights of the journey, most significant of which as far as he was concerned was a magnificent Hindu temple, with a tall, tiered, decorated tower in front of which stood a gold pillar. Our driver also pointed out Muslim mosques and Christian churches in the small villages and communities we passed.

Everyone says that New Zealand is like Britain in the 1950s, and I can see what they mean. We spent a week in the small town where our son Toby is a vineyard manager. It is the ideal town



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Correspondence (Cont'd)



with a green square in the middle which has a hotel, a supermarket and numerous bars around it. Independent shops line the streets that stretch away from the square. And there were a few small churches – including one dedicated to St Andrew like ours in the Colnes. In every town we drove through we saw churches and centres of Christian worship of various denominations, often clearly used as community or charity centres.



We only had two days to spend in Japan. We stayed in Tokyo but my Japanese friend, Naoë, took us on an hour's train drive to Kamakura where we walked the processional way and up a long stone flight of steps to a splendid, ancient Shinto shrine. It was founded in 1063 and expanded in the twelfth century. Many visitors come at the New Year to pray for good luck, and children are taken there throughout the year – when they reach one, three and five (if a boy) or seven (if a girl) years of age. We saw some delightful young children dressed in traditional costume and bribed with sweets to behave and smile for the **Cont'd....**/



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Correspondence (Cont'd)



photos their proud parents were taking. Naoë showed us the correct procedure for praying – a ritual of bowing and clapping. Kamikura is also home to many Buddhist temples, a few of which we visited, appreciating their calm beauty surrounded by trees beginning to change colour in the autumn sunshine.

It seemed that wherever we went round the world there were places of religion in the centre of communities; although we came back via Dubai where, though a devout Muslim country, any trace of spirituality seemed to have been crowded out by conspicuous wealth and spending.

It was a relief in a number of ways to return home and our own beds – and ‘our’ village, Colne Engaine. And there, in the very centre of the village, is the church. About contemporary with the Shinto shrine in Kamakura, the building dates, probably, to the eleventh or twelfth century and it became the parish church with the appointment of the first Rector in 1219. Eight hundred years later, it is still used for prayer and worship and remains open every day. It belongs to the whole parish and I know many people who never attend a service but will go in and sit down for a while, enjoying the peace and quiet. It is a place to be still and reflect; some may call this praying. In a recent article, David Goodacre wrote of the importance of parish churches as a resource for the whole community: ‘the church is its oasis of peace and quiet in the midst of a noisy world, especially for anyone who is unhappy and needs the peace.’

Of course, it is also a place for celebration, and where people can come together and find a community of new and old friends.

Everyone is welcome in this building – those who believe and those who don’t, the young and the old, the married and the single. People of every nationality, faith, sexual orientation, size and colour are all welcome to come through the open doors – just turn the handle and push gently! It is our church, and it is up to us to look after it, to cherish it. That might make a useful slogan:

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Cate Gunn



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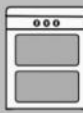
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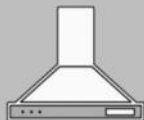
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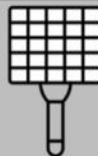
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Correspondence



Local teaching assistant at The Colne Engaine School, Kelly Howard is running the London Marathan on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK following the passing of her brother in law David Foulds-Young in early 2023. David was diagnosed in April 2022 whilst living in France with his husband, Adam. They had moved to France to start a new adventure following a successful career as a solicitor. Sadly, and despite undergoing chemo, the cancer was too advanced, and his health declined at the end of 2022. David's final wishes was to be repatriated to his family and he spent his final weeks with Kelly's family in Halstead. The loss of such a special soul has had a massive impact on Kelly and her family which is why she wanted to give back and raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. It's a sad fact that 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer which means at some point we are all likely to be affected by the disease.



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Residents of Colne Engaine will see Kelly training on the roads around Colne Engaine between now and the end of April and if anyone would be kind enough to support her cause, you can do so by visiting www.justgiving.com and searching **Kelly Howard**.

Kelly Howard's
JustGiving Page



Village Hall

COLNE ENGAINE

Mystery in village hall Two weeks before Christmas one of our smoke detectors started bleeping because the battery was expiring. We took the offending detector down, leaving all the other wirelessly connected detectors working, but the bleep has continued. 10 intelligent adults and myself cannot find the source of this continuing bleeping which occurs about every minute and is now getting very annoying!

It turns out that the rules have changed, and the fire detection system required for a commercial building like ours is infinitely more complex and costly. One quote so far incredibly has come in at over £7,000.00 which is virtually most of our annual income from hirings in the hall.

The life of the Trustees is never dull. We have had a water leak through the ceiling in the chair storage area for a little while, but only when it rains very hard. Our third roofers have finally found the cause but no sooner than that was repaired, we had another leak through the skylight in the rear lobby, so Roses are returning next week to hopefully rectify that.

During the gale in January, one of the main gateposts and a gate from the car park blew down. It has been temporarily repaired but clearly a new gate and posts will be required to make the lawn area safely enclosed for the Barn Nursery school.

How about coming to Zumba Class on Monday evenings or Yoga on Tuesdays or Keep fit on Thursdays? **Geoff Marcoolyn** marcoolyngeoff@gmail.com Tel 222334 or 07776 484698

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Community Energy Project

The Colne Valley Community Energy Project has a packed agenda this month. As of early January, we've engaged with parish councils in Kelvedon and Finchingfield, and attended public meetings in Halstead and Great Tey. We've also collaborated with the Community Energy Essex Network and supported ECC's bid for additional energy initiatives funding. Our ongoing efforts to launch the Pay as you Go aspect of our scheme are expected to yield sample contracts by mid-February. If you're considering funding your own solar panels, don't hesitate to email the project installer, Simcott Renewables - darran@simcott.co.uk - for a free, no-commitment desktop study. For further information on any aspect of the project please feel free to contact us. With the new funding, ECC aim to develop a professional website for the Project - a crucial resource not only for our local residents but also for other communities nationwide aiming to establish similar projects.

Jill Bruce: jillbruce321@gmail.com

Jane Taylor: chairman@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thermal imaging camera We've borrowed a thermal imaging camera from Essex County Council for residents who would like to check whether their homes are leaking heat, so that they can improve their home insulation and save on fuel bills this winter. If you'd like to borrow the camera for a day or two, please email Jill at jillbruce321@gmail.com

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2023 Poppy Appeal Result



Earls Colne and White Colne collected **£8,218.90**. Gift Aid should add about another £440. This is over £600 more than last year (with Gift Aid still to be added) and becomes the second highest total ever raised (2018 being the highest total at £9,387.28)

Concentrating our efforts in the Co-op really paid off this year. The total collected in the Co-op by volunteers or in the tins by the checkouts plus contactless donations was £6,155.52. That is 75% of the total raised by the entire Poppy Appeal. Our strategic location and the space to display goods on a small table undoubtedly helped to boost the total. Contactless takings were also up by £1,000. My thanks go to the Co-op for letting us collect in their shop.

We ran our regular coffee morning fund raiser on Saturday 11th November. There seemed to be more in attendance this year and this was reflected in an increase of more than 10% in takings. The raffle did exceptionally well with plenty of prizes all donated by individuals or local shops. The cake sale proved popular with every cake, jar of jam and chutney sold. At 11am we observed the National two- minute silence and the exhortation was led by our longest serving volunteer, Winsome Grimwood, who has now achieved an astonishing 65 years as a Poppy Appeal volunteer.

This year has set a new benchmark for 2024; let's hope that we can beat it.

Thank you to everyone who donated and a special thanks to the band of volunteers that makes the whole thing happen.

Ian Allman

Poppy Appeal Organiser

Earls Colne and White Colne



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Local Business Shout Out



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As a firm, we are committed to charitable causes and each year the staff picks a charity to support. This year it is MIND, the mental health charity, and we have already raised over £3,000 since June 2023. This has been achieved from a variety of events including our well-supported quiz night, hosted by two senior managers, alongside raffles and staff socials.

What is the favourite part of your working day: Honestly, I like the early mornings when I can sort out my work for the day before the phone starts ringing. Talking to clients takes up a lot of my time and I enjoy finding out their stories and history. As I look after the personal tax affairs of most of our clients, understanding their needs is crucial to ensuring that I can give accurate advice. Talking to them to discover their family history helps me to advise on planning suggestions to save tax.

What is your USP: We are a local business with national reach and expertise. We have services available to cover all our clients' needs and even work internationally. These include accountancy, audits, bookkeeping, payroll, personal and corporate tax, VAT and specialist work including valuations and Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) advice. I offer support to solicitors and financial advisors on tax-related matters and often work in tandem for clients.

Anything else: I work closely with my clients to look at their Inheritance Tax (IHT) position and can determine whether they are likely to have a tax charge upon death. The planning offered can then assist with minimising any liability through lifetime gifting and setting up trusts.

Are you aware that from 2017, if you leave your home to your children or grandchildren, you can access an additional allowance called the Residence Nil Rate Band, worth £175,000? If you are married and leave your estates to each other, then the total allowances available on death can be combined to give you relief of up to £1,000,000. I work with clients to help maximise reliefs and minimise taxes.



We offer an initial one-hour free meeting to discuss your enquiry and will be happy to arrange a suitable time to meet up in person. As a local Colne Engainian myself, I may even be able to come visit you at home!

Lucy Orrow CTA TEP ATT (Fellow)
Partner
A member of Lambert Chapman LLP

In The Spotlight

In the Spot Light – Juliet Townsend. During a bleak year – 2020 - a pandemic was raging across the world, and we had a Remembrance Day which would not be celebrated with parades and services.... However, a trail of poppies appeared at the Five Bells Pub in Colne Engaine. We were then treated in December to a countdown to Christmas with images of advent doors; each morning a door was ‘opened’ and a new image would gaze out of the windows on the residents taking part in their daily fresh air walk...

The snowdrop fairy then started popping around to people’s houses, leaving her tag on windows, spreading her hope of a new spring. A clever marketing ploy: if you wanted some snowdrops in your window, you needed to visit the Five Bells social media and register your interest, and the fairy would come and visit.

As her skills developed, and the Five Bells was allowed to provide takeout food, we saw the birth of themed windows featuring whatever fare the publicans – collectively known as Darraline - were providing that week.

And that was the start of a career Juliet Townsend didn’t see coming but is loving none the less.

During the 11 weeks of window murals at the Five Bells, and keeping their social media alive, local people were asking her to do some bits for their homes and businesses – sunflowers and window murals - and then Halstead Physio asked for a feature window a month and Juliet started to expand locally.

Juliet is often asked how, when she got into painting murals on **Cont’d on pg.30..../**

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In The Spotlight (Cont'd)



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In The Spotlight (Cont'd)



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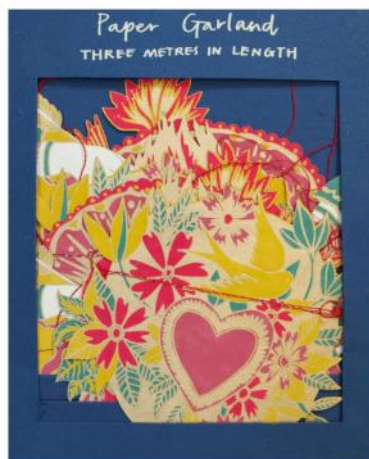
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In The Spotlight (Cont'd)

windows, she selects her art materials. Initially she started off with chalk board pens on glass – all that was available in the pub during lock down. As she developed, she started trying different paints and pens (she has lovely glass patio doors to practice on at home!) One of the things important to Juliet is the sustainability of her craft, so the search started to find refillable ones.

I asked Juliet why she does her installations on glass –they are transitional, and temporary, take so long to research, sketch out, bring to a working template and then progress to being drawn onto the glass, all just to be removed a month later.

‘Each installation is not about me; these pieces are temporary promotional marketing for a business. I hide easter eggs about the company in each of my drawings – something the company might not always know about themselves! It is about story telling in a whimsical way as their business on face value might be unexciting. Everyone within a business tends to enjoy what they do, so you need to get that out to the public. Take their passion and personality and put it onto their window. Just because a business might be about cars, doesn't meant that they don't like musicals.’

Since the very early snowdrop days, Juliet has now been commissioned for pieces in



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In The Spotlight (Cont'd)

Liverpool to commemorate Eurovision, Penguin books at the Red Lion Book shop in Colchester, featuring the Thursday Murder Club (approved by Richard Osman himself), a semi-permanent design in Chelmsford, as part of the Concrete Canvas Chelmsford Street Art Festival, which guaranteed her art work to stay for a year. For this, Juliet decorated a utilities box with a generic map of meeting places within Chelmsford .

So, on asking Juliet what her favourite/most fun/hardest installations were, she found it impossible to answer:

'I always love the last one I have done, I absolutely love what I do, they are always challenging, I am always over ambitious, and I always surprise myself with what I can do. I always think hard and do imagery searching, researching, and designing - I love the whole process.'

I tried a different tact: was there an installation that had affected her on an emotional level?

'I did a barber shop in Heddingham to commemorate Remembrance Day. The barber is ex-RAF and during the internal part of the painting, I realised how important the barber shop is for the male community, especially with pubs and socialising on the decline. The bonding, chatting, setting the world to rights, needs a space to be, and barber shops fill that gap'

We looked back through her work on Instagram, where her work has been appreciated and enjoyed by many. We managed to narrow the installations down a little bit!



The Narnia Window on the Ministry of Hair and Beauty was her overall favourite; it was the turning point where she realised that this is her thing and, yes, she can paint animals.

Bringing her local environment into her artwork fills her with joy. When commissioned to create a window for Owens Aves Opticians featuring flowers wearing glasses, Juliet was inspired whilst walking her dogs in the local fields.

Where is Juliet headed next?

Christmas was so busy with installations, all over Essex, that this year she is looking for ways to develop: diversifying and finding new avenues to get her art out there. She concludes

'Like all things in my life, an opportunity will materialise, and I will just go with it and see where it takes me.'

Interviewed and written by **Sue Kenneally**

Allotments & Community Grdns

We have **two vacant allotment plots** in White Colne. If you are a village resident, you may rent a plot on an annual contract at a very reasonable rate.

For further information please contact:
clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Update on **Community Garden**.

We are awaiting a planting and maintenance plan and once received we hope to hold an open day, inviting everyone to come along. We shall be planting seeds and generally chatting everything fruit and veg! Keep an eye out for more news soon.

St. Andrew's Book Club

St. Andrew's Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month - **2pm** at **8 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne**.

Our next meeting:

- **Tuesday 13th February 2024**

Our February book is:

Platform Seven by Louise Doughty

On Platform Seven, the man on the bench thinks he is alone, as far away from the station staff as possible. But he has company. Lisa Evans knows what he is about to do . . .

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

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Film Club



This month's film choice is for all you romantics out there! **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AVOIDING THE CLASH WITH ASH WEDNESDAY AND VALENTINES DAY.**

The Film - You've Got Mail (starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan)

The Discussion – Wednesday 7th February 2024 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.

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Rita Prior

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Up On The Allotment



I have been getting plenty of mulch on the allotment. The plot thickens...

Hairy Potter has inherited a large clump of rhubarb (*rheum rhabarbarin*) on his plot, which needs dividing up and replanting. Now is a good time to do this and I helped in return for a few crowns to top up my patch. It needed digging down quite deep. It has been there a few years, but we got it all out. We were quite rough with it but it's tough. We pulled out some nice fresh healthy looking crowns and replanted them in their new position. My patch is well mulched so they should be happy there, whereas Hairy's plot needed lots of compost digging in first to give the crowns a better chance. He planted them about 18" (45cm) apart to allow room for them to spread, with the crowns just poking through the surface.



Image: Pixabay planet_fox

I put some upturned buckets on my existing rhubarb to force some early shoots; should have some pickings in March.

By the end of Feb, I hope to have laid out my seed potatoes (*solanum tuberosum*) in egg trays for 'chitting' (encouraging shoots to grow from the eyes of **Cont'd**/

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Up On The Allotment



the potatoes). They need to be laid out so they are not touching each other, with the eyes pointing upwards. An unheated greenhouse or shed will do as long as they are protected from frost. If really prolonged cold temperatures are forecast, I lay a bit of fleece or newspaper over them at night.

If the ground isn't waterlogged or frozen, the end of February is the start of the outdoor sowing season: this includes parsnips (*pastinaca savita*), broad beans (*vicia faba*) and onion (*allium cepa*), seeds, not sets.

If you are into growing indoors then there are a few more options, namely, aubergine (*solanum melongena*), cucumbers (*cucumis sativus*) peppers (*capsicum*) and greenhouse tomatoes (*solanum lycopersicum*), for growing on in a cold greenhouse.

By the way, ladies, it can be very cold this time of year, so do let your men back indoors occasionally.

Just a final thought, if olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?

'Laters taters'

Gary

Keep calm and carry on weeding.



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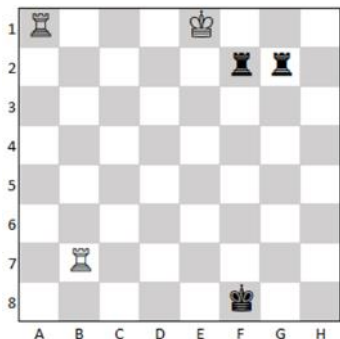
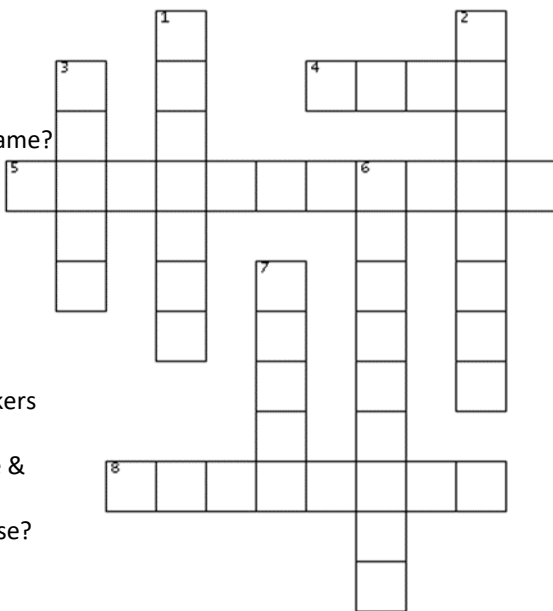
February Crossword

Across

- Which Mediterranean Island was Napoleon Bonaparte exiled to?
- What was Muhammad Ali's real name?
- The oldest alliance in the world is between England and which other European country?

Down

- Street artist Banksy is originally associated with which British city?
- What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990?
- First name of the author of Charlie & the Chocolate Factory?
- What has expired for Mickey Mouse?
- How many planets are in our solar system?



Checkmate in One

White turn to go.

Move:

To:

All answers on page 55



Happy New Year
 to one & all
 from our Barnlings
 at Colne Engine

We are thrilled to be a part of the Colne Engine community and are looking forward to forging new connections in the village this year.



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Recipe Corner



Cabbage with Zing

This time of year, cabbage is *seasonal*. If you order a weekly vegetable box, as I do, you will receive lots of them and there they sit in the fridge, so lonely, while you think to yourself “I will use that cabbage... tomorrow perhaps?” But as we all know cabbage is not very interesting served by itself, boiled or steamed, and tastes disgusting when overcooked.

So, what do you do with it? In summer, you can make coleslaw, but now it’s winter. Minestrone? Curry? Stir-fry (although pak choi works better here)? And maybe you *do* want to use it as a side vegetable but can’t face a heap of dull white shredded leaves on your plate. Try this. East Asian in concept, it has a pleasant spicy zing.

Method

- Dry roast the sesame seeds in a pan, until light brown. Remove from pan. (Don’t leave them on the heat to turn dark brown, as they will continue to cook after you have removed them from the pan and will burn.)
- Heat oil in pan.
- Add grated ginger and crushed garlic and fry for about a minute.
- Add grated carrot and shredded cabbage to pan and stir repeatedly until they are cooked through (for about ten-fifteen minutes). If the vegetables start to catch and burn, add tablespoonfuls of water.
- Just before serving, add rice vinegar and light soy sauce and stir in.
- Serve hot and sprinkle with roasted sesame seeds, and parsley (if using).

Rosemary Johnson

Ingredients

Half a small cabbage (about 12ozs) (shredded, with a knife or in the food processor)

1 medium-sized carrot (grated)

1 inch root ginger (grated)

2 big cloves of garlic (crushed)

1 tablespoonful rice vinegar

1 tablespoonful light soy sauce

2 tablespoonsful sesame seeds

2 tablespoonsful oil for cooking (Rapeseed oil is best.)

2 tablespoonsful fresh parsley (chopped) (optional)



Going Walk About



For all walkers, old and new, our walks in 2024 will continue to take place on the fourth Saturday of each month, starting at 10:00, unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

Several people have expressed interest in longer walks and the option of other days than a Saturday. To accommodate this, I will trial an additional, longer walk on the Tuesday following the fourth Saturday, and will review this arrangement in June. The longer walk will be from the same location and may include all, or parts of, the shorter walk. Getting organised! The following list gives relevant dates and proposed start locations.

February — Saturday 24th and Tuesday 27th Lamarsh Lion, Lamarsh, CO8 5EP

March* — Saturday 23rd and Tuesday 26th White Hart, Coggeshall, CO6 1NH

April** — Saturday 27th and Tuesday 30th Cricketers, Fordham Heath, CO3 9TG

May — Saturday 25th and Tuesday 28th Five Bells, Colne Engaine, CO6 2HY

*Sponsored walk in-aid of the Greenway Project – path/cycleway from Halstead to Kelvedon via Marks Hall, sponsor forms and more info to follow...

** Bluebell walk via Hill House wood

Look forward to meeting you all along the way – please email me rawood@me.com if you are interested in coming along to any of the above. Best wishes, **Ray**



GINNY JEGGO

GINNY JEGGO

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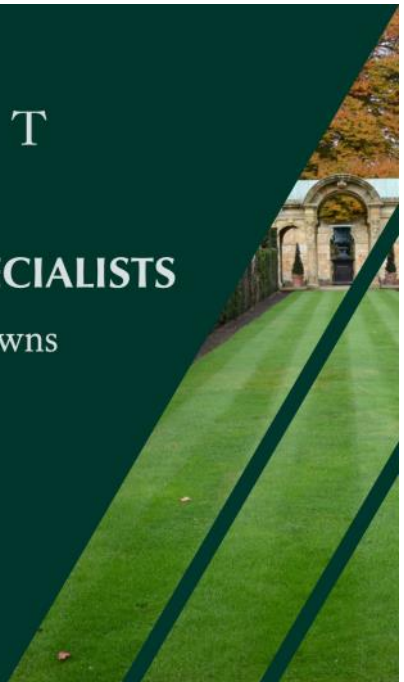
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From the Archive

Memories of Greenhills Nursery

Several years ago, the Children's Society published a Christmas card which made me smile every time I looked at it. Designed by an adult to look like a child's painting, it shows the shepherds and the wise men lining up with Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus as if for the christening photograph. In the background, above their heads, the angels appear to be bouncing on trampolines. The card bears the title "The Hoolie Family". I've kept a copy of the card, partly because it cheers me up and partly to remind me that, for several years, Earls Colne had a direct connection with the Children's Society.

In 1960 the Society acquired the house called Greenhills just past the Recreation Ground and adapted it as a residential Nursery for young children awaiting adoption. Local people were pleased to support the Nursery in any way possible and the annual fund-raising Garden Party brought coachloads of visitors from other parts of the Diocese.

The Society began life as "Waifs and Strays" in 1881, later adopting the title "Church of England Children's Society". By the 1970s, like other social work organisations, the Society had moved away from residential care and now "reaches out to over 40,000 young people each year, helping them to achieve a better future," according to its annual report.

The Greenhills Nursery closed in 1971 but one recent visitor to the village became very emotional when she was shown the building where her late father had spent the first few months of his life.

David Brown

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What's On In White Colne?

Winter Hub in the hall: every Monday until Easter. 8.30am – 4.30pm
Free for everyone. Come and enjoy your own hub, hot desks for those working from home, convivial company, light breakfasts and lunches, cakes, and snacks.

White Colne Sewing Bees:

Every Thursday evening in the hall 7.30pm to 9.30pm
February dates: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th. Everyone welcome.

Stationmasters Community Café in the hall: Second and fourth Fridays of the month.
February 9th and 23rd. March 8th and 22nd. A not-for-profit café.

Saturday March 9th 7.30pm in the hall. Tickets £12: **Applause Theatre presents Gavin Robertson and Nicholas Collett in DONE TO DEATH BY JOVE!**

Village market returns on March 16th in and around the hall the third Saturday of every month 9am to midday, light breakfasts available.

Parish Council meeting: Third Tuesday of alternate months March 19th 7.30pm in the village hall.

Jane Taylor E: chairman@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk T: 07521 312778



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Parish of St Andrew's Colne Engaine

Your Church needs you....

We are looking for volunteers to join the PCC



We are looking for a secretary to take minutes at the six PCC meetings a year and one Annual Meeting. The role involves preparing agenda, taking notes and typing up minutes and sending out to PCC members, sending out thank you letters and general correspondence. You do not need shorthand for this role, just note taking skills.

Volunteers to assist with fund raising for the church development project.

General volunteers to support the church's work in the village.

All help greatly appreciated.

These posts are voluntary; however, any expenses incurred will be refunded.

If you are interested in helping in your community then in the first instance, please contact Rita Prior on 01787 736385 or email ritaprior31@gmail.com

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

COLNE ENGAINE

CLLR ALAN BARNARD—01787 224709

(Chairman) alan@colne-engaine.org.uk

EALC REPRESENTATIVE; TOWNLANDS TRUST;
BURCHES MEADOW LIAISON; SEXTON'S FIELD
TRUSTEE; FUNDING FOR VILLAGE PROJECTS
DEFRIBRILLATOR 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—07837 669500

PARISH CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER

clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk

CLLR SARAH DIGNASSE—01787 222792

(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—07799 212266

ian@colne-engaine.org.uk

FINANCE COMMITTEE; FUNDING FOR
VILLAGE PROJECTS; WEBSITE, I.T., AND
ARCHIVE LIAISON

CLLR PAT TAYLOR—01787 224876

pat@colne-engaine.org.uk

EALC REPRESENTATIVE; TREE WARDEN

DOWNLOAD THE LATEST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES FROM:

WWW.COLNE-ENGAINE.ORG.UK/MEETINGS

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 Braintree James Cleverly

james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk

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

NIKKI SPELLING is the Chair

nicola.spelling@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

TONY CALTON is responsible for Vice Chair and Neighbourhood Plan and Planning Applications

tony.calton@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

HUGH STREET is responsible for Neighbourhood Plan and Planning Applications

hugh.street@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

JACKIE PARISH is responsible for the Village Hall jackie.parish@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

NIK MCKEAN is responsible for the Village Hall nik.mckean@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

KATY KERSLAKE is responsible for Communications

katy.kerslake@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

RAY RANNS is responsible for the Working Group Activity-Communication and Asset Management/Finance ray.ranns@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

JONATHAN HAPPS – More details to follow

Four Vacancies – could one of them be for you?

All Members are jointly responsible for Village Environment and Planning

WHITE COLNE

Cllr. 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.

Cllr. 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.

Petra Palfreyman is Parish Clerk and financial officer— 07876 198748

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

About this bus service

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

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🕒 When does it operate?

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Less than 2 miles	£2.50	£3.50	£1.50	£2.00
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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 do I book a journey?

Telephone Essex and Suffolk DaRT on 01621 874411 and explain:

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

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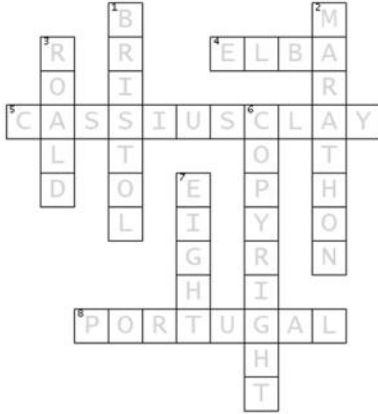
You can pay on the bus or by debit/credit card over the telephone.

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		

Puzzle Answers

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Checkmate in One

Move: A1 to: A8

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The Three Colnes Diary

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25

1	Thu	Brew n' Chat, Colne Engaine 2pm (p.16); White Colne Sewing Bees 7.30pm (p.50); Community Choir, Colne Engaine 6pm (p.55)
2	Fri	
3	Sat	
4	Sun	
5	Mon	Zumba Class, Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Winter Hub 8.30am (p.50)
6	Tue	COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE; Yoga Class Colne Engaine (p23); Baby Group Meeting St. Andrew's Church, EC 10.30am (p.25)
7	Wed	Brew n' Chat, Earls Colne 2pm (p.16); Film Club 6.45pm (p.37)
8	Thu	Brew n' Chat, Colne Engaine 2pm (p.16); Keep Fit Class Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Sewing Bees 7.30pm (p.50); Community Choir, Colne Engaine 6pm (p.55)
9	Fri	White Colne Stationmasters Community Café 9am (p.50)
10	Sat	
11	Sun	
12	Mon	Zumba Class, Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Winter Hub 8.30am (p.50)
13	Tue	Luminous Does Pancakes 3.30pm (p.7); Yoga Class Colne Engaine (p23); St. Andrew's Book Club Meeting: 2pm at 8 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne (p.36); Baby Group Meeting St. Andrew's Church, EC 10.30am (p.25)
14	Wed	Brew n' Chat, Earls Colne 2pm (p.16)
15	Thu	Brew n' Chat, Colne Engaine 2pm (p.16); Keep Fit Class Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Sewing Bees 7.30pm (p.50); Community Choir, Colne Engaine 6pm (p.55)
16	Fri	
17	Sat	
18	Sun	
19	Mon	Zumba Class, Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Winter Hub 8.30am (p.50)
20	Tue	Yoga Class Colne Engaine (p23); Baby Group Meeting St. Andrew's Church, EC 10.30am (p.25);
21	Wed	Brew n' Chat, Earls Colne 2pm (p.16)
22	Thu	Brew n' Chat, Colne Engaine 2pm (p.16); Keep Fit Class Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Sewing Bees 7.30pm (p.50); Community Choir, Colne Engaine 6pm (p.55)
23	Fri	White Colne Stationmasters Community Café 9am (p.50)
24	Sat	Going Walk About, Lamarsh Lion 10am (p.46)
25	Sun	
26	Mon	Zumba Class, Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Winter Hub 8.30am (p.50)
27	Tue	Yoga Class Colne Engaine (p23); Going Walk About, Lamarsh Lion 10am (p.46); Baby Group Meeting St. Andrew's Church, EC 10.30am (p.25);
28	Wed	Brew n' Chat, Earls Colne 2pm (p.16)
29	Thu	Brew n' Chat, Colne Engaine 2pm (p.16); Keep Fit Class Colne Engaine (p23); White Colne Sewing Bees 7.30pm (p.50); Community Choir, Colne Engaine 6pm (p.55)

Useful Numbers

Councils

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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 01787 220163
Earls Colne Post Office 01787 222258
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

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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