Colne Engaine Parish Magazine



December 2017 / January 2018

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EDITORIAL

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ADVERTISING

Our monthly magazine (double issues in July/Aug and Dec/Jan) is delivered free of charge to all 400 households in Colne Engaine and Countess Cross.
1/4 Page 62 x 88mm £10 / £50 pa
1/2 Page 128 x 88mm £17 / £75 pa
Full Page 128 x 180mm £20 or £100 pa

Cheques payable to Colne Engaine PCC.

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.

FOR THE FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE PLEASE PROVIDE SUBMISSIONS BY

4TH JANUARY 2018

Please provide Editorial in Word and Advertising as .jpg file

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

Hello….What a privilege – the Christmas issue for my debut…

It has been a while since I have put fingers to keyboard, so feeling a little rusty and in need of getting the grey matter up and running again. I am hoping I will be able to keep you all well informed of the ins and outs of our village life, discover a bit of history about the place as well as keeping it as jam packed with interesting titbits, schedules, proposals and articles as before.

I am quite excited about Christmas – it is a season which can bring so much joy to many. There are always workshops around the Colnes for wreath making, decoration creating, cake making and so on, we are so very lucky. If you can spare a thought for those where Christmas is not such a great time of year and maybe pop some food to the food bank, it would make this time of year a little more bearable for others. Colne Engaine School is busy making up shoe box gifts for those less fortunate in other countries, and the reception area is starting to look very festive.
Being fairly new to the village I am still trying to put names to faces (and faces to names!). Something which I always find tricky, as I am sure many can relate. I am trying memory tricks – associating people's names with cartoon characters, or film stars, remembering people based on people I used to know – like Barbara – I had a friend whose mum was called Barbara … or was she actually a Brenda! Hmm, maybe I'll need to find another way.

When we moved here, we saw that Colne Engaine is #thecentreoftheuniverse. I have discovered from all of the lovely people we have met, that this may be so, but… Halstead Rocks! In case you are not aware of the latest craze sweeping the villages and towns across the globe, I will fill you in. People paint and decorate pebbles, stones and rocks, hiding them all over their local area for other people to find, it filled the October half term up for my little ones searching through the woods and parks for treasures others have hidden. Once you find a rock it is up to you – keep it or hide it again. There is a facebook page for us – #Halsteadrocks and for other local groups – Bures rocks and #Chappelrocks. You can cross-pollinate your rocks by taking them from one place and leaving them at another – just make sure when you decorate your rock, on the back you put your group name (#HalsteadRocks & Colne Engaine) as it makes it even more exciting to find a rock from Devon or the Lake District lurking in your patch. (Since writing this copy, I saw many people had decorated pebbles with Poppies and hidden them in the area, once found, the hunters placed their discovered artwork on the memorial in the park for Remembrance Sunday for everyone to enjoy).

Thank you for all the good wishes I have received for taking on the responsibility of Editor to this worthwhile publication and I want to say a big thank you to Michael Estcourt for the last 6 years he has dedicated to this magazine.
Have a fab Christmas and New Year.

Suzanne Kenneally, Editor

PETER'S DECEMBER LETTER



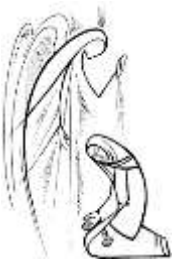
As we enter the season of Advent which reminds us of the promises of God to rescue creation and bring about its restoration, we are at the same time being prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ without whom God's rescue plan would not have been possible. For many of us we are quite happy to dive into and enjoy the traditions and magic of Advent and Christmas but as far as the substance of the promises and events upon which they are based we hear them being sung or read about but perhaps because we feel uncertain as to their reality don't let them linger in us long enough to discover their power. The mystery and otherworldliness that seems to be contained in the Advent promises of God and within much of the Christmas story can be a stumbling block to our modern analytical which desires an explanation for everything. Yet just because we can't fully understand something does that mean we must automatically discount it as unreal or just a fable? Isn't it quite probable that a God who created such a mind-blowing universe and beautifully delicate planet earth within it, that this God might be beyond the capacity of our limited minds to fully understand?

I'm so glad Mary the mother of Jesus accepted the possibility of an unexplainable mystery being a real possibility for her, despite her inability to fully understand how it might happen. A few words from Luke 1:29-38 leave us in no doubt Mary had questions about the pronouncements of the messenger angel that she would become the bearer of the promised Christ by the work of the Spirit of God within her;

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message,
Mary said to the angel, 'I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"
"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said."

Mary isn't hiding her thoughts as she struggles to understand the 'how' of what is being said but this doesn't stop her accepting what is being said is real and possible. Mary is accepting that she has limited ability to know and understand all things yet she is willing to accept there is mystery around God and the ways in which he works out his plans. The Christmas story reveals to us that Mary's trust was well founded as she did become mother to the Christ child and a blessing to the whole world.

My hope is that as each of us journeys through Advent and celebrates Christmas we might happily embrace the mystery of the workings of God and contemplate that not knowing the how needn't be a barrier to the possible. My hope is that we take more than a glance at the promises of Advent and the retelling of the Christmas story, and allow them to rest in our souls beyond the power of the minds understanding.



The seasons of Advent and Christmas are a great time for reconnecting with our inner child and it is no accident that Jesus tells us that unless we become like children we won't enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt 18:2-4), wise words indeed to those of us who have grown up and lost touch with our inner child.

With prayers and best wishes for all during our seasons of preparation and joy, **Peter**

CHURCH NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISHES		
Date	Time	Venue
Dec	7th	5 Shut Lane, Earls Colne
	14th	12 Church St., Colne Engaine
	21st	5 Shut Lane, Earls Colne
	28th	No meeting
Jan	4th	5 Shut Lane, Earls Colne
	11th	12 Church St., Colne Engaine
	18th	5 Shut Lane, Earls Colne
	25th	12 Church St., Colne Engaine

Please feel able to come along and share in this time we set aside to pray together for the life and work of the churches in The Colnes.

You'd be most welcome. ***Peter.***

PASTORAL CARE

Would you or a friend like a visit from a member of our pastoral care team? Just give one of them a ring.

Ann Norris: 222015
Beryl Amy: 223486
Terry Hawthorn: 223140
The Rev Hugh Mothersole: 222211



Seekers

We're all **'seekers'** - no-one has all the answers! If you'd like to join us on our Christian journey as we study and discuss God's Word you'd be very welcome at our next meeting.

No meeting in December

Upcoming meetings, all 10-11.30am

18th January 2018 - 19 Church St
15th February 2018 - 5 Swallow Field

Midweek Communion

Tuesdays 9.30am

St Andrew's Earls Colne

Followed by refreshments

All Welcome



CHURCH CONTACTS

Colne Engaine, Earls Colne and White Colne parishes are cared for by the Team Vicar and Team Curate. To arrange Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, other services or use of the Church, please contact:

Team Vicar: The Reverend Peter Allen
St Andrew's Rectory, 5 Shut Lane, Earls Colne
01787 220347 colnesvicar@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Reverend Hugh Mothersole
Curate Halstead Area Team, 10 Park Lane,
Earls Colne CO6 2RJ T: 01787 222211
07803 699268 hrmsteam@btinternet.com

Church Wardens:
Mr Desmond Shine, 4 Brickhouse Road CO6 2HL
01787 223378 shinedesmond@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Terry Hawthorn, 6 High Croft, CO6 2HE
01787 223140 terryhawthorn43@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Mrs Rita Prior
21 Church Street, Colne Engaine CO6 2EX
01787 223867 ritaprior31@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2017

Date	Time	Church	Service	Lead	Music	Readings	Season
3rd	10am	EC	Morning Worship	HM	BJ	Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13: 24 - end	1st of Advent Purple
	3pm	EC	Christingle	PA	BJ		
	10am	CE	All Age	PA	NC		
	5pm	WC	Christingle	TS	IH		
10th	8am	EC	Holy Communion	PA		Isaiah chapter 35 Mark 1:1-8	2nd of Advent Purple
	10am	EC	Morning Worship	PA	BJ		
	10am	CE	Morning Worship	LT	RO		
	5pm	CE	Carols and Readings	PA	TBA		
16th	5pm	Carols on the Green and Torchlight Parade					
17th	10am	EC	Holy Communion	HM	BJ	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8 - end John 1:6-8, 19-28	3rd of Advent Purple
	10am	CE	Matins	LT	TS		
	10.30am	WC	Carols and Readings	PA	IH		
	5pm	EC	Carols and Readings	HM	BJ		
24th	9am	EC	Holy Communion	HM		Midnight Readings Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14	4th of Advent White
	3pm	CE	Crib Service	PA	NC		
	5pm	EC	Tree Lighting Service	PA	BJ		
	11.15pm	**CE**	Midnight Communion	PA	BJ		
25th	10am	WC	Festival Worship	TS	TBA	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14	Christmas Day White
	10am	EC	Holy Communion	PA	BJ	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14	
	10am	CE	Holy Communion	HM	TS	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14	

Saint Andrew's Churches
EC - Church Hill, Earls Colne CO6 2RG.
CE - 25 Church St, Colne Engaine CO6 2EY.
WC - Boley Road, White Colne CO6 2QB.
HA - Parsonage St, Halstead CO9 2LD.

Leaders
PA = Peter Allen
HM = Hugh Mothersole
LT = Local Teams
TS = Terry Streamer
SQ = Sharon Quilter
EC = Edward Carter
TH = Terry Hawthorn
CWT = C. White-Thomson
GR = Geoff Read

Musicians
BJ = Bret Johnson
NC = Nick Chapman
IH = Ivy Hicks
RO = Roger Osbourne
NO = Nick Orbell
TS = Tim Stone
EP = Edward Preston

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY 2018

Date	Time	Church	Service	Lead	Music	Readings	Season
7th	10am	EC	No Service			Plough Sunday TBA Eph 3:1-12 Matt 2:1-12	Baptism of Christ White
	11am	CE	Joint Plough Sunday + Ploughman's Lunch	HM	NC		
	10.30am	WC	Holy Communion	PA	IH		
	5pm	EC	Epiphany Carols	HM	BJ	Gen 1:1-5 Mark 1:4-11	Epiphany
14th	8am	EC	Holy Communion	PA	---	1 Cor 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Epiphany 2 White
	10am	EC	All Age	PA	BJ		
	10am	CE	Morning Worship	LT	RO		
21st	10am	EC	Holy Communion	PA	BJ	1 Cor 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Epiphany 3 White
	10am	CE	Matins	LT	NO		
	10.30am	WC	Morning Worship	LT	IH		
28th	10am	EC	Morning Worship	LT	BJ	1 Cor 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Epiphany 4 White
	10am	CE	Holy Communion	PA	TS		

From the Registers	
Weddings - *We wish them every happiness*	
28th October	Thomas Seymour Taylor and Alison Ashby, Colne Engaine
Funerals - *We commend them to the Lord's keeping*	
27th October	Maisie Garrod, Earls Colne
Burial of Ashes - *We commend them to the Lord's keeping*	
9th November	Tony Mitchell, Earls Colne

SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCH

Ladies from Crossways Christian Fellowship cook a 2 course lunch for up to forty people at Earls Colne Village Hall at 12.30 on alternate Tuesdays. The cost is £3.50. If you would like to come contact Helen on 07900 995532. December lunch dates: **5th** and **19th**

'ARCHDEACON-TO-ARCHDEACON' MOTORBIKE FUND

The diocese of Chelmsford has been linked with five Dioceses in Kenya for nearly forty years and, recently, five Archdeacons from Chelmsford Diocese have been linked with these five Kenyan Dioceses. Archdeacon Robin was the first to try out this new arrangement and he hopes that the links between the Archdeaconry of Stansted and the Diocese of Meru will grow. Katie de Bourcier, our Team Rector, is the new Commissary for the Bishop of Meru, and St.Andrew's, Halstead have now established a link with one of the parishes in Meru.

When Archdeacon Robin asked the Vicar General of Meru what was the single, most helpful thing he, Robin, could do for the clergy in Meru the immediate response was to buy a motorbike for the Archdeacon of Marimanti, Hilary Njoroge. The geographical area that Hilary has to cover is huge, remote and isolated. One of the biggest problems he faces is not being able to support and encourage the local clergy because the travelling is just too difficult. This led Archdeacon Robin to set up the 'Archdeacon-to-Archdeacon' Motorbike Fund. The one hundred-plus parishes in the Stansted Archdeaconry were all invited to donate £20 towards the motorbike. All three Colnes parishes have sent donations. The money raised in Stansted Archdeaconry will make a significant difference to a part of the church that faces many hardships - drought, isolation, poverty and much more.



The Archdeacon's study in Marimanti

WHIST DRIVES

THERE ARE NO WHIST DRIVES IN DECEMBER

Whist Drives resume in the Village Hall on Friday 26th January 2018 (in the annexe)

6.30pm for a prompt start at 7pm

Light hearted game of whist, coffee interval and raffle. Everyone is welcome. We are always looking for new faces.

All profits to the Courtauld Memorial Hall Centenary Fund.

DO COME AND JOIN US

Ring Frances Simmons on 222872 for more information

Dates for your diaries are:
Feb 23rd, March 23rd and April 27th

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COLNE ENGAINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we come to the end of term, it is good to look back on some of the highlights of a very busy term. School trips are always a great source of rich learning opportunities and we have had a bumper term of trips this term!

Key Stage Two have been to Hadleigh Park's Iron Age Roundhouse and Sycamore class have also been to see the Young Shakespeare production of Romeo and Juliet. Key Stage One children have had a really big adventure one beautifully sunny day on 'Thistle' - a Thames Sailing barge which became a pirate ship for the day. We became the crew for Pirate Pete and Shipmate Guy, taking turns to haul the sails and steer the boat. It was such a treat!



By the time you read this, we will be knee deep in glitter and tinsel, as we make things magical in the run up to Christmas. Our FACES Christmas Fair in early December promises to be gloriously festive this year and we are putting on a whole school show called 'The Christmas Jigsaw', when our children put together the jigsaw pieces of the Christmas story, through singing and dancing.

We have collected shoe boxes again this year for Operation Christmas Child. Since 1990, more than 146 million children in over 150 countries have received shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child and we're delighted that so many of our families get involved each year.

Our Christmas service is at 11am on Tuesday 19th December in the Church – please come to join us if you can!



On behalf of everyone at Colne Engaine Primary School, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2018.

Julie Sarti

COLNE ENGAINE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER – We will be having our Christmas Meal at The Five Bells pub.
THURSDAY 18th JANUARY 2018 – This will be our Social Evening.
Meetings are held on the **third** Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Colne Engaine Village Hall. The WI offers opportunities for all women to enjoy friendship, to learn, to widen their horizons and together influence local, national and international affairs.
Visitors are welcome. President: Kathy Gowlett 223338

VERSE OF THE MONTH FROM www.colnevalleyalive.co.uk

Some Names of Jesus

Messiah - Prince of Peace - Lord of Lords - The Bread of Life - Redeemer - Saviour - Emmanuel - The Word of God - The Vine - The Water of Life - The Gate for the Sheep - - The Good Shepherd - The Way, The Truth and The Life - Wonderful Counsellor - - King of Kings - Everlasting Father - Creator - Almighty - The Alpha and The Omega - The First and the Last -

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Christmas joys to everyone from www.colnevalleyalive.co.uk



Advent Course 2017

Come and join us for our Advent Course:

So What Are You Waiting for?

4 sessions:

Mondays: 27th November,

4th, 11th and 18th December

12 noon to 1.30 pm

at 10 Park Lane, Earls Colne

Go with haste
How long, O Lord, how long?
Prepare the Way of the Lord
Kairos and Chronos: is time running out?

- Soup and bread lunch provided - donations (for a charity) invited.
- It would be helpful if you could let Hugh know if you will be attending - (phone 01787 222211 or email hrm-steam@btinternet.com)
- Whether you're always in a hurry or have too much time on your hands, this course is for you . . .



So What Are You Waiting For?

MOBILE LIBRARY Thursdays: 14th & 28th Dec, 11th & 25th Jan at the Primary School at 11am for 30mins.
Fridays: 1st, 15th & 29th Dec, 12th & 26th Jan on The Green at 11.55am for 30mins, then Brook Street from 12.30-12.45pm.

EARLS COLNE LIBRARY
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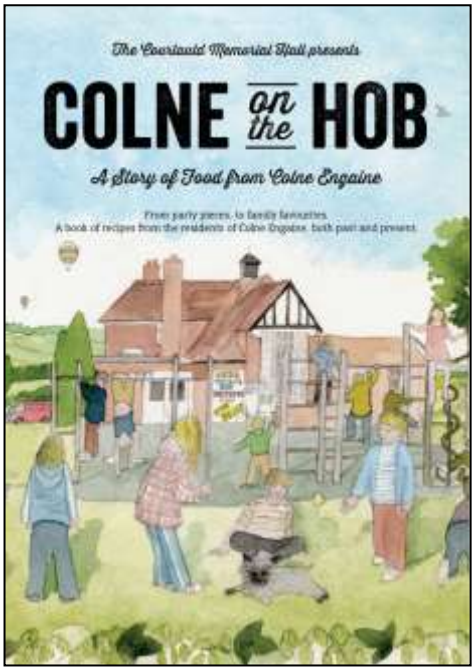




COURTAULD MEMORIAL FUND

The 'Colne on the Hob' recipe book is now available from the Village shop, The Five Bells and from the hall trustees and committee members. Everyone worked hard to collate recipes, collect sponsorship money, as well as helping with distribution.

Our special thanks go to Alistair McMillan for producing this wonderful keepsake with over 100 recipes inside. This is a lovely farewell gift from him and Rachel, who are moving on as our Hall Managers, but we expect to see them at our events and of course in the CEDS productions.



So as we end 2017 with a new subcommittee now focused on raising funds, we look forward to next year. Our first event will be around Valentine's Day in February but more of that news in the next edition. Plans are now underway to examine the possibilities now open to us regarding the use of the hall and existing rooms.

Whatever decision is reached we will need funds, which are also necessary to attract grants. Please support us where and when you can.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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david@colnevalleygroundcare.co.uk

COLNE ENGAINE 'STAY & PLAY'

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

We meet on Wednesdays in term time, 10am-12noon, in the Village Hall.

All pre-schoolers are welcome, with a separate area for babies. Lots of toys, jigsaw puzzles, craft activities and sing-a-longs.



We charge only £2 per family, which includes a drink and snack for children and carers.

For information email:-
colne.engaine.stay.and.play@hotmail.com

Colne Engaine CEVA Primary School
Making a Difference

School Hall

Available for evening or weekend lettings

If there are any local groups looking for somewhere to meet our school hall is available
from 4.30pm to 10pm each evening and also at weekends, term time only.
Mon-Fri before 6:00pm £13 per hour / **Mon-Fri after 6:00pm** £15.50 per hour
Sat & Sun: £15.50 per hour / *Add 5% surcharge if heating is required.*
For more information please call Sarah Cushney on 01787 222717

EARLS COLNE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP CHRISTMAS POSTAL DELIVERY

to

Colne Engaine
Earls Colne, White Colne.

25p per Envelope

COLLECTION POINTS:

St. ANDREWS CHURCH, COLNE ENGAINE
VILLAGE SHOP, COLNE ENGAINE
St. ANDREWS CHURCH, EARLS COLNE
BAPTIST CHURCH, HALSTEAD ROAD, EARLS COLNE
EARLS COLNE PRIMARY SCHOOL, EARLS COLNE
PERCIVAL & CO, HIGH STREET, EARLS COLNE
VILLAGE HALL, WHITE COLNE

FINAL COLLECTION DATE:
THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2017

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Earls Colne

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THE EDITOR IS DEAD (NOT REALLY!): LONG LIVE THE EDITOR!

Way back in Summer 2012, I temporarily took the reins of this magazine when the then editors, Dave and Valerie Burrows emigrated to Australia. I soon realised what a significant contribution an Ed had to make in order to get a lively, interesting and professional magazine through every household letterbox, on time, every month. With Rik James, who did the production work, they had created an act that was going to be hard to follow.

But …….. from over the horizon beyond Brick House Road came Michael Estcourt. With him, but entirely separately, came Juliet Townsend and her husband Spike. It immediately became clear that in these two people we had found ourselves with some real talent in putting together exactly what the village needed: a truly individual Parish Magazine. Since then it has gone from strength to strength, and its USP – Unique Selling Proposition, for those of you who scratch your heads with acronyms – of being delivered, free, to every house in the parish has drawn in an enthusiastic readership and a loyal band of advertisers.

After 5 years of meeting deadlines and cajoling contributors to get their articles in on time, and then miraculously turning the raw material into a polished format, both Michael and Juliet are taking a rest. Michael will no doubt play even more golf, and see more of his family both here in the UK and in Barbados. Juliet will be able to join Spike in yet another project that will benefit us all, whilst exercising their two dogs even more energetically. Whatever the future holds, I'm sure that they will contribute actively to the life of Colne Engaine: it seems to be embedded in their genes.

As a village we owe them both a great deal, and I hope that, on behalf of the PCC, I am not alone in appreciating their significant contribution to the life and times of Colne Engaine. Both Michael and Juliet have been in the village for no more than 10 years, and it encourages me greatly that we attract such talented people to make their homes here. It is one of the reasons why the hashtag that Independence Day produced here a couple of years ago is so appropriate: #centreoftheuniverse. We wish them many more years as residents here.

Thank you, Mike and Juliet!

In their places we welcome Sue Kenneally, who recently moved into Brick House Road (what is it about that road that produces unique individuals? …….. like my fellow Churchwarden, Des Shine, in addition to Mike and Sue?) and Jonathan White, who in contrast was born and brought up here, and knows the village and its residents like the back of his hand. We wish them good fortune with the magazine: may it continue to flourish under their stewardship.

Terry Hawthorn

FIVE BELLS

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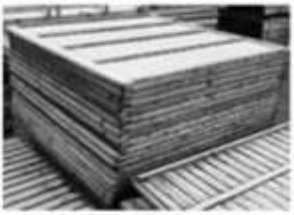
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THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meetings:

Colne Engaine Parish Council meets at 8pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month with the exception of August and the meetings are held in the Jubilee extension of the Village Hall. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend and at the beginning of each meeting a 15 minutes Public Session is held for non-members to address Council on items specified on the agenda.

Please feel free to e-mail any items you would like added to the Agenda and / or Noticeboard and they will be dealt with ASAP. In addition, if you have anything you would like to report to the Parish Council again feel free to e-mail or telephone.
The Parish office is staffed on a part time basis so please feel free to leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Members of the Council work hard to make sure that Colne Engaine remains a beautiful and tranquil place to live. So if you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to contact them.

CLLR ALAN BARNARD alan@colne-engaine.org.uk 01787 224709

CLLR PATRICIA TAYLOR patricia@colne-engaine.org.uk 01787 224876

CLLR TIM EVERITT tim@colne-engaine.org.uk 01787 223612

CLLR LUCY ORROW lucy@colne-engaine.org.uk 01787 224786

CLLR TRACEY JOHNS tracey@colne-engaine.org.uk 01787 223372

CLLR NIGEL WARWICK nigel@colne-engaine.org.uk 01753 494000

CLLR IAN MESSENGER ian@colne-engaine.org.uk 07799 212266

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:
Mr Terry Rootsey clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk 07946 096331
3 Box Mill Cottages, Box Mill Lane, Halstead CO9 2DR

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE MEMBERS AND CLERK
ALLOTMENTS CLLR BARNARD & CLLR EVERITT
ESSEX ASSOC OF LOCAL COUNCILS CLLR TAYLOR / THE CLERK
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE LIAISON CLLR BARNARD
FINANCIAL CONTROL CLLR WARWICK / CLLR MESSENGER
FOOTPATHS & TREE WARDEN CLLR EVERITT / CLLR TAYLOR
FUNDING FOR VILLAGE PROJECTS CLLR ORROW / CLLR JOHNS
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NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year everyone.
I note below a summary of some of the matters discussed at the Parish Council's October meeting.
District Councillor Gabrielle Spay reported that the draft Local Plan had been submitted to the Government Inspector. The plan shows the District has a supply of new houses of 4.3 years rising to 4.5 years based on Government target numbers. BDC are confident that they can achieve the government requirement of 5 years supply. The Councillors Community Grant Scheme had paid a grant of £175 to the village hall to purchase yoga mats for the newly arranged classes.
District Councillor Chris Siddall mentioned that the four councils involved with the three garden villages were looking to form a development corporation with funding from central government.
Consider request from the Parochial Church Council to host the Colne Engaine fireworks display on the recreation ground using the lower rec' for the display and the upper rec' for spectators, bar, food and entertainment.
Concerns were raised concerning the chaotic parking at last year's event and it was resolved that consent be given subject to;
Marshals be appointed to ensure responsible parking not only in the car park but in the surrounding roads ensuring access to emergency vehicles at all times.
Ensuring the bonfire does not damage the football pitch
The site is cleared as soon as possible, in any case within a 2 or 3 days of the event.
Any damage should be repaired as soon as practicable.
Consider Clerks suggestion that he audio records meetings and deletes the recording once the minutes are approved. Agreed
Consider the deed confirming the Parish Council's legal and equitable ownership of the new war memorial and the transfer of the balance of monies held in trust by the PCC to the parish council.– It was resolved that subject to satisfactory clarification regarding any Planning Applications and/or Building Regulations applications the Parish Council will accept the transfer and the Clerk could sign the document.
Consider RoSPA report on the playground together with the 3 quotes received to correct matters raised. In addition discuss action to be taken following injury to a child using the "multiplay" slide.– It was resolved to accept the Playquip quote to be amended to replace the chain on the junior swing rather than welding the link. To not repair the picnic table and Cllr Warwick will remove and dispose of it in the prescribed manner. The Clerk was to obtain reports regarding the child's unfortunate accident.
Consider quotes received for printing the new footpath map. – It is suggested that we have 600 printed to enable one to be delivered to each household with a reasonable supply for further distribution. It was resolved to **a**ccept the quote from TJ Printing for 600 maps for £205 and Cllr Everitt will apply for a grant from the BDC Councillors Community Grant Scheme for the cost of the artwork and printing amounting to a total of £355. The Chairman of the meeting Cllr Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Everitt for the amount of work he had put into this project.
As always the full minutes can be viewed at www.colne-engaine.org.uk
Regards to all, **Terry** (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Colne Engaine Parish Council)

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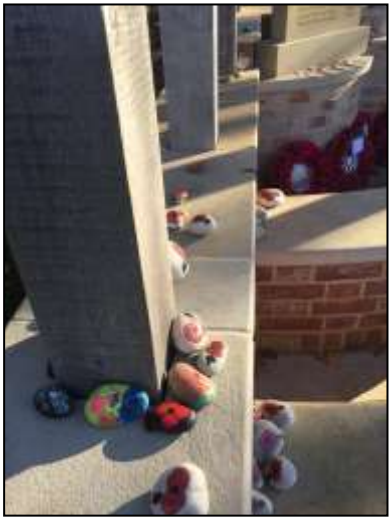
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN COLNE ENGAINE

Over 100 residents and visitors gathered at St. Andrew's on Remembrance Sunday this year, to honour past village residents who had died in the service of their country. Our Curate, Rev Hugh Mothersole, took the service in Church and then at the new War Memorial where the 2-minute silence was observed.

Mr George Courtauld laid the wreath on the memorial in the Church, and the congregation then proceeded outside to the new War Memorial. Representatives of the PCC, the Parish Council, Junior Church, Stay and Play and the Halstead Air Cadets laid wreaths.



This year the congregation was joined by Captain Charles Clarke RN, with his brother Francis Clarke and his family. Their great uncle, Douglas C Hibble of Colne Engaine, died in WW1 when his ship went down with all hands. He is commemorated on our War Memorials. Capt. Clarke laid a wreath in his memory on the outside War Memorial. Jackie Shine, representing her father who resides in Colne Place, laid a wreath in memory of his colleagues in 45 Royal Marine Commando who died in WW2.

BRAINTREE AREA FOOD BANK — CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Every year we receive donations in support of seasonal events such as Christmas and Easter. These donations are processed through our warehouse and then distributed to the centres which means that for these seasonal donations to reach those in need we ask that they be donated by specific dates.

Any seasonal donations received after these dates will still be sent out to the centres but may not reach people till a later date, but they will still be distributed.

For 2017 we are asking that all Christmas food donations be provided by the 1st December.

Don't forget that food items need at least a 6-month shelf life, and that other non-food items, such as sanitary products, nappies, soap, washing up liquid and so on are also needed.

To donate to the food banks, there are collection points inside the CO-OP in both Earls Colne and Halstead, or you can take food purchased elsewhere to either Cabella Hair and Beauty or Hunnable Funeral Directors in Witham.

For more information visit www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk or call 01376 330 694

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COLNE ENGAINE FIREWORKS 2017

Once again, on the first Saturday in November, the Rec welcomed a huge throng of residents and visitors, grandparents, parents and children to the Fireworks that have been organised by the PCC for the last 17 years.



The evening started off with music and songs from James Burrage, our very own (and very good) entertainer, and the bonfire was lit on the bottom level of the Rec at 6.15pm. By 7.00pm the blaze was well away, and James gave way to the music that accompanied a spectacular firework display. This had been created and organised by Robin Greatorex, who was assisted on the night by Nikki Turner, Spike Townsend and Tony Coley. After a 20-minute extravaganza of whizzes, bangs, showers and sparks, not to mention the rockets and bombs, the crowd was treated to another set from James Burrage before the evening ended.

Many children bought glo-sticks from David and Ginny Jeggo and their family, to wear and to wave around in the darkness (although it does seem a pity that the traditional sparkler has declined in popularity precisely because it is too dangerous to use in these crowded events that have largely replaced the back-garden displays of my youth – my father never did get the Catherine Wheels to rotate on the nail in the fence post!).

The inner needs of one and all were catered for by The Five Bells, which provided hot drinks, burgers and hot dogs; and the Orbell family, who had mulled wine, real ale, lager and Shepherd Neame Spitfire available at the beer tent.

The Fireworks cannot be held without the willing help and support of a number of local organisations, in whose debt the organisers have been over many years. They include:

Mortimer Contracts, who have provided the safety barrier at the top of the bank for the entire history of Fireworks at Colne Engaine.

Brooks Transport, who in recent years have given us a truck and driver to collect all the bonfire materials, and to provide a stage for the entertainment.

Colne Stoves, who collect pallets for us all year – no pallets: no bonfire!

Dynamic Fireworks, who have supplied the fireworks every year.

Dom Casey, who has provided his trailer and time to get the bonfire material from the car park to the site each year.

……. and finally, the *Parish Council*, who have allowed us to desecrate the Rec each year (as long as we put it back in shape afterwards, that is!) and whilst we are about it, *Ben Hazell* of *Tidy Gardens*, who has done that work for us recently.

Many thanks to you all for your hard work and support! …… and many thanks also to everyone who came along and raised over £2,500 for the church.

Colne Engaine Parochial Church Fireworks and Bonfire Committee

YOUTH CLUB UPDATE

A big thank you to villagers Graham Currie and Georgie Hambling for bringing the Essex Search and Rescue Dog Unit to the club in October (pictured). The children hid on the recreation ground and the dogs raced around to find them. The dogs were high speed and proved how well trained and valuable they are.



At time of writing the club is looking forward to a Bingo & Hot Dog night in November, followed by our annual Christmas trip to Rollerworld on 19th December.

The club is now running once a month at £2 per session. Meanwhile the committee (now made up of one parent representative for every member) works on increasing volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported the club this year. Happy Christmas and here's to a great 2018!

Juliet Townsend (Chairperson)

NSPCC BOOK FAIR - UPDATE

The NSPCC BOOK FAIR was held last weekend at Holmwood House School.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated books during the year and indeed to all those who come to buy!
It was a great success, over the two days £21,343.89 was taken!
Their year runs from April to April, and last year nearly £9000 was raised by internet sales and nearly £1000 for old DVD's and cd's via world of books.
We start collecting books again in March and I am told that this year they were really short of Board games and jigsaws of all sorts and sizes.
A wonderful result!
Best wishes and many thanks,
Jane Lambert Telephone: 01787 224220

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, As I drove out through the village last night at 6 pm, it was surprising how many houses were in complete darkness. As burglaries locally seem to be on the increase again, just a reminder for all those going out in the morning to leave lights to come on via timers and perhaps a radio to give the appearance of 'someone being at home' - hopefully this may act as a deterrent!
Yours, A Local Villager

Christmas & New Year at the *Village Shop*

Christmas Eve - 7am to 2pm
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day 26th - Closed
Wednesday 27th – Closed
Thursday 28th 7am – 2pm
Friday 29th 7am-2pm
Saturday 30th 7am-2pm
New Year's Eve Sunday 31st 7am to 2pm
New Year's Day – Closed
Tuesday 2nd January 2018 10am-2pm

We will have newspapers as usual on all open days, available from 7am-10am

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for your support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

www.colneengainevillageshop.co.uk 01787 220163

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As usual we will be providing our personalised ordering service for your Christmas provisions.

Order forms are available at the shop, online or can be emailed to you.

If you are not familiar with this service, these are some of the things available to order:

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Leave the shopping to us, one less thing to think about at this busy time of year. Order forms need to be returned to the shop by Wednesday 13th December and orders can be collected on the date required up to 1.30pm on Christmas Eve.

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FURTHER PEREGRINATIONS WITH ST EDMUND

A couple of years ago I wrote about walking a couple of sections of the St Edmund Way, in between Bury St Edmunds and Bures. This September, we walked the final (or first if you're going the way the walk is designed) section from Bures to Manningtree. It was a longer walk than we'd anticipated, about twenty miles, but full of variety and interest: changing landscape, river views and attractive Suffolk villages.

We started by walking up the hill from Bures to St Stephen's chapel, a small, ancient chapel standing, according to legend at least, on the site of the coronation of King Edmund on Christmas Day 855. The church was dedicated to St Stephen by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1218. It now houses the effigies from three of the tombs of the de Veres, moved from Colne Priory at the dissolution.

See http://www.bures-online.co.uk/chapel/chapel_barn.htm for more information on this beautiful and historically interesting building.

From the other side of the chapel you can see . . . a dragon! Flying on the far hillside, above a field of sunflowers when we were there. [photo]

There was another dragon on our walk – painted on the wall of the small church of Wissington, or Wiston. You can walk from Bures to Nayland by the St Edmund Way, cross the river at Wissington and return on the Stour Valley Way through Wormingford (where there's another dragon depicted in a window). This is the 'Dragon country' walk described on the website of the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley project, which explains that the legend of the dragon dates back to 1401 and may refer to a crocodile brought back from the Crusades for Richard I and kept at the Tower of London until its escape. I'm assuming that the date of 1401 refers to the first written account, and doesn't suggest that the crocodile survived for over two hundred years!

Our walk took us through Nayland and Stoke by Nayland – villages with important churches and good pubs. The church at Stoke by Nayland stands proud on a hill, a beacon for walkers (although it seemed to be the same distance for a long time as the paths we followed turned and twisted). A lot of the paths ran along ancient green ways, or sunken lanes. Clearly, they had been tracks for walkers and riders between villages for centuries. You wouldn't have been surprised to see a hawker with his pack, a farmer's wife taking her cheese to market, or a friar in long brown robes and sandaled feet.

The river was a constant companion, wending its peaceful way between sloping hills, the valleys with fields brown after ploughing, plantations of cricket bat willows, or meadows where sheep were grazing. We walked past that most picturesque of Stour villages, Dedham, and saw Flatford Mill as it should be seen, from the riverbank.

The final section of the walk was flat and reminded us of the commercial heritage of the area as we followed the railway line to Manningtree. Manningtree was an important

port, and gained a certain notoriety when the witchfinder Matthew Hopkins condemned a coven of witches there. I haven't managed yet to find out why the St Edmund Way starts at Manningtree – maybe it was there that the Danes who were to kill him in 869 or 870 first arrived? We were simply very grateful to find that our lift had arrived at the railway station.

I am writing this on Hallowe'en, and it is hard to believe that it will appear in the Christmas and New Year edition of the magazine. It is not a very Christmassy article, but St Edmund's feast day is 20 November and there is a campaign to restore him as patron saint and make that day a Bank Holiday – it would be very useful for Christmas shopping and preparation!

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Cate Gunn

You may have noticed a discrepancy between one of the pictures and the caption in my last article – that is a photo of the celebrations for the Mexican Day of the Dead, not a lonely Corpse Road in the north of England. Something must have gone spookily missing in the ether!



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HALSTEAD SCHOOL REUNION—GOLDEN 50

Are you turning 50 between August 2017 and July 2018? If so - did you go to Ramsey School in Halstead? If all the above applies to you, there is a reunion on the evening of Saturday 17th March 2018 at Halstead Town Football Club.
Contact Hugh Schofield at: hugh36schofield@gmail.com for more information.

LOCAL WALKING GROUPS

Colnes Footpath Association

Date: Sunday 3rd December
Time: 1.30pm *(please note earlier time)*
Meet at: Sible Hedingham Car Park
Contact: Andy & Astrid 01376 552028

Colnes Footpath Association

Date: Tuesday 26th December
Time: 10.30am *(please note earlier time)*
Meet at: Colne Engaine Recreation Ground
Contact: Tony & Margaret 01787 223843

Halstead Footpath Walkers

Date: Sunday 10th December
Time: 9.30am
Meet at: Solar Car Park, Halstead
Walk: Sudbury Meadows to Foxearth



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THE POPPY BOOK & FOOD CLUB



The Poppy Book Club has been running for a number of years and meet on a Wednesday evening every six weeks. We have just welcomed four new members to the group, which is fantastic!
We all bring a choice of book and vote as to which one we read and then review at the next meeting. It is all very informal and we generally start the evening off at 7pm with a meal, followed by a review of the book and the food.
We will be reviewing Swing Time by Zadie Smith at our meeting on January 24th at The Five Bells.
The Poppy Book Club Meeting dates for 2018 are as follows:
24th January; 7th March; 18th April; 30th May; 18th July; 5th September; 17th October; 5th December (Christmas Meal)
For further information please contact Rita Prior on 01787 223867

FIESTA DE TACO — A NIGHT OF FUN AND FUNDRAISING!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Fiesta de Taco on Saturday 7th October in the Courtauld Memorial Hall. The evening was sold out and 60 hungry villagers and their friends enjoyed sangria, a heaving taco bar, tequila cheesecake, silly games (including the cactus game, heads or tails and some gusto-fuelled piñata-thwacking), Mexican music and a raffle. Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised £1,016 for the Hall's Improvement Fund. A big thank you to the many raffle prize donors and enormous gratitude to the team – Pip Morton, Lucy Orrow, Spike Townsend, Ann Hardwell and Lindsay Lane – we worked our socks off and it was worth it!
Pip and I have started planning for next year's night and we're thinking "Prohibition Party", so prepare your gangster and moll outfits… and if you'd like to help us organise the evening please get in touch.
Juliet Townsend iamjuliettownsend@gmail.com








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COLNE ENGAINE FESTIVAL – FORTHCOMING EVENTS



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE – 2nd December 10.30am

The Christmas tree will go up on the village green and lit on Saturday 2nd December.

Children of all ages are welcome to bring their homemade decorations for the tree. We'll be there at 10.30 am on 2nd or bring your decorations along on 16th December at 5pm - Carols on the Green

CAROLS ON THE GREEN – Saturday 16th December 5pm

Come to the village green at 5 o'clock to sing your hearts out and warm yourselves next to the burning brazier. There will be mince pies, sausage rolls, mulled wine and treats for the kids to get us all into the Festive spirit. All free but donations are gladly accepted for *The Children's Society.*



FESTIVAL 2018 - Thursday 31 May to Sunday 3 June 2018

The theme for the 2018 festival is 'HATS' so get your thinking cap (!!) on now to come up with a prize winning hat to wear at the opening parade.
We already have loads planned and the marquee is officially booked. On Thursday 31 May there will be the now famous quiz night, on Friday 1 June there is a good ole' East End knees up with Cockney singalong, dog racing and a pie and mash supper. Our bands are all booked for Saturday 2 June.



At the festival the Lavenham Falconers and Owls R Us return, there will be singing with the Halstead Community Choir, the ever popular Elizabeth School of Dance and an aerial display by the Ted Devils plus loads of your old favourites including the dog show, dog agility and Country Flair (see below), plus some new surprises

COUNTRY FLAIR AT THE FESTIVAL – Sneak Peak

'The Country Flair Hobby and Craft Exhibition is approaching fast so here is your next sneaky peak…'

KNITTING AND CROCHET



As the nights draw in what better thing is there than to snuggle under a cosy blanket in front of a roaring fire, whilst creating your award winning entry to our knitting and crocheting category. Showcase your skills by entering an item or garment that you have knitted or crocheted. It could be a cardigan for a new born baby, a delicately patterned blanket or even an intricate toy.

FUDGE

Learn how to make meltingly smooth, handmade fudge this winter – But what flavour will you make? Will it be a traditional vanilla, a decadent Baileys and white chocolate or a crazy rainbow cotton candy? Practice over the holidays and you could give your trials as gifts!

BINGO NIGHT

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Bingo evening on 18th November – watch this space for the next Bingo evening in Spring 2018.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

If you would like to be part of our organising team please contact Kate Barnard 01787 224709 we would love to see you at one of our future meetings.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY THE STOUR VALLEY SINGERS

Christmas Music by the **Stour Valley Singers**
Conductor - Susannah Edom · Accompanist - Susi Morrow
together with
Bures Primary School
and
Handbell Ringers
(St. Mary's, Gestingthorpe)

Saturday 9th December 7.00 pm
St. Mary's Church, Bures

Tickets £10 including wine & nibbles ·
Children - free with Adults

Tickets available at the door,
from choir members,
or ring 01787 227490

Proceeds in aid of:



ANOTHER FUN EVENING OF WHIST

Thanks to Frances Simmons and team for arranging another fun evening of whist on the usual last Friday of the month. Spike and I missed the September event and were looking forward to playing some enjoyable hands of cards again. We encourage anyone who fancies doing something different (and cheap!) to try it. The game is really easy to pick up – you sit in a group of four and play opposite a partner using one deck of cards to win tricks, using the trump suit to your advantage, if you can! After each hand, everyone moves round – the winners to the next table and the loser staying on but swap partners. You meet everyone in the room briefly and everyone helps each other to play. There's a short interval for tea/coffee and biscuits. For just £3 and enough time to get to the pub by 10.30pm it's a lovely way to spend an evening.



Juliet Townsend

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Colne Engaine STAY AND PLAY

Fun, Giggles and Friends for Babies and Toddlers!

Every Wednesday (Term time) 10am-12pm £2 per family

Includes a snack and drinks for children and adults.

Colne Engaine Stay and Play is open every Wednesday 10-12 during the school term. We are a small, friendly baby and toddler group held in the Courtauld Memorial Hall. Every week we set up a different art and craft make and a messy play or sensory activity as well as lots of fun toys and games for babies and toddlers. Everyone Welcome.

Messy Play - ***Squish, Squelch, Splash, Slime, Drop, Smear, Toss, Sprinkle, Spray, ooze!***



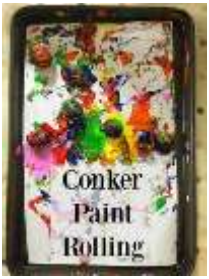
I love watching my boys getting involved in messy play because I know that they are really enjoying themselves but also that there are so many benefits which far outweigh the sometimes cringeworthy job of cleaning up afterwards.
So last year Colne Engaine 'Stay and Play' introduced a Messy Play activity in each of our sessions and they have been a huge success. Benefits of Messy Play:

- Children are active learners and learn through play. Messy play is great because it allows them to experience and make their own discoveries using their senses, curiosity and knowledge.
- It's a great way for young children to socialise and interact with others without needing words to express themselves, but children can also learn a great deal of new vocabulary whilst talking about their play.
- Because messy play is all about exploring there is no right or wrong way of doing it, and therefore any child can join in, which builds confidence and self-esteem.
- Messy play is great for developing and practising fine motor skills and eye-hand co-ordination and it builds imagination and creativity.



Activities to try at home with the kiddywinks this November:

Hand and Footprint Monsters.
Make hand and footprints on a page, once dry stick on googly eyes and draw on mouths. How many different monsters can you create?



Conker Paint rolling.
Place a piece of paper or card into a baking tray or washing up bowl, squirt a few small drops of paint onto the paper then add conkers. Roll the conkers around in the tray to create a conker masterpiece.

Pip Morton www.facebook.com/colneengainestayandplay
colne.engaine.stay.and.play@hotmail.com 07775 943118

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BISHOP STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2017

Venting his fury at a potential rival, Herod plays a percentages game: he spreads the net of his anger widely; kills every boy under two in order to ensure he kills just one. He fails. Fury and anger usually do - though that is scant consolation to the mourning families of the innocent who suffer. Meanwhile Jesus, the Saviour who is saved, is visited by unlikely people: in this case, shepherds and foreign rulers.

The shepherds, virtual outcasts in their own society and looked upon with grave suspicion, hear a song of peace. It is deeply attractive, and it sends them to Bethlehem.
The wise men have followed a hunch in the form of a star. They are about to learn that all their maps are wrong. They will return by a different route.

Tyrants like Herod still strut about the world today, their vanity and hubris still causing havoc and misery. But the door of the stable at Bethlehem still stands open for those who long for peace and those prepared to have their lives redirected.

Might you be one of them?

Have an interesting Christmas!

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell
Bishop of Chelmsford



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SPORTS MASSAGE
AMY LESIAK



EVERGREEN CLINICS

Sports massage is a form of massage that can alleviate pain occurring in certain parts of the body, which can be caused by too much physical activity or over use of particular muscles. This type of massage can be beneficial to athletes and non-athletes.



THE BENEFITS
- Reduces muscle fatigue (DOMS)
- Relieves muscle swelling and tension
- Reduces stress and pain reduction.
- Great physically, physiologically and psychologically.

DOMS
One of the most common setbacks for athletes is delayed-onset muscle soreness, more commonly known as DOMS.

This refers to muscle pain that typically develops several hours post exercise and consists of predominantly eccentric muscle actions—especially if the exercise in unfamiliar
"Massage was effective in alleviating DOMS by approximately 30% and reducing swelling."



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HARVEST LUNCH - THANKS

On behalf of those attending the Harvest Lunch in the village hall recently, can I please pass on our appreciation to all those who helped raise the large amount of £480 towards Church funds. As you will probably be aware, this community event has come from the inspiration of Mike and Jane Lambert for some years now. The home-cooked food was amazing, as usual, and although it is dangerous to give particular thanks, I do think Jane's main helpers, Alison and Ginny, should be mentioned and we must not forget those who donated raffle prizes, those who organised and ran the raffle, and particularly not forgetting all those talented ladies who baked and produced the rather delicious desserts. And how nice to see a traditional home-baked Harvest loaf complete with the little mouse! I think we will all agree that a good time was had by all!
Yours, **Des Shine**

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RUDOLPH THE BLUE NOSED REINDEER

Regular readers, if I have any, will know that we are covering reintroduced species at the moment. What better for this time of year than the Reindeer? Imagine the whole of the UK covered by Arctic tundra. Few trees, howling winds and a chill in the air from the nearby glaciers. This is what things were like 11,000 years ago at the end of the last glaciation to cover these islands. Only Arctic animals could survive these conditions, and the reindeer was one of them. There is evidence from across Europe that reindeer hunting was a key part of human culture from all those thousands of years ago. Finds have been made of carved reindeer horn and bone, and plenty of evidence that reindeer meat was a tasty part of ancient human life. Incidentally, I've tried reindeer meat and it's very nice.



As the temperature warmed and woodlands started to cover the country the habitat was less favourable for these arctic survivors. The last record of wild British reindeer is from 800 years ago. That all changed in the early 50s when Swede Mikel Utsi and his wife Dr Ethel Lindgren brought over some Swedish reindeer to establish a herd in Scotland. They had visited the Cairngorms on honeymoon and thought it looked perfect reindeer habitat! Today around 150 reindeer roam across the Cairngorms, often being visible from the mountain funicular that runs to the top of Cairngorm itself. They have no problem finding their own grazing on the mountains, eating grasses and lichens.

Reindeer probably find life in Scotland pretty easy compared to the high Arctic, it is much warmer and when there is snow it doesn't lie as long. They are perfectly adapted to life in the cold though with a thick winter coat that they can shed for a thinner summer one when the weather warms. The Cairngorm plateau is really the only location suitable for these animals in the UK, many kept in other areas do not survive long as they get too rich a diet and the temperatures are too high for them to live comfortably, so they are not a species we will see reintroduced elsewhere in the UK. They also appear to be friendly animals – well known for being kept as herd animals in Scandinavia, the UK herd is also semi domesticated. On holiday this summer we took a walk up the hill to meet some. They are happy to be patted and certainly happy to be fed by hand! Definitely a recommended activity if you are holidaying in the area.

Hannah Elkington

HERD AT THE BAR

"You're going to pay a price for every bloody thing you do and everything you don't do. You don't get to choose to not pay a price. You get to choose which poison you're going to take. That's it." — Jordan B. Peterson

I'm slightly "bah humbug" listening to the herd at bar. They all think they will get a reaction from telling me who they saw at the newly reopened Kings Head in Pebmarsh. Instead of a frown or worry, I respond with: "Why can't they go there at least they're using a pub!" (And just how did they see them in The King's Head???)

The pub industry's biggest challenge is to increase the footfall in our revered buildings. Following the pub cull in the late 1980's the number of pubs in this country fell from 75,000 in 1970 to fewer than 50,000 according to CAMRA.

"Great," 'they' say "less competition." But… one of the reasons for pub closures has been the decline in pub users and more so in rural areas than the cities. In 2006 70% of households in Colne Engaine used the Bells at least once a month, 10 years later under 20% do the same. Some say that this is down to our ageing population, but I feel that many on the wrong (or right) side of 60 are some of my (and other pubs) most loyal supporters. There are many reasons for the decline banded about, some true, but many untrue such as beer being expensive – it is now more affordable than back in the 1980's in relation to take home wages.

I also heard at the bar that the Church had a record attendance on Sunday, but 23 isn't much to cheer about seeing as most Brits think of themselves as Christians (58% last count) but only a third go to Church - mainly at Christmas, and for many that will be their sole visit. This is eerily similar to your average UK drinker so when you pop into your local over Christmas remember we're all here 364 days a year.

Merry Christmas to all the lovely patrons of all the fabulous pubs in our wonderful country.

'When you have lost your inns, drown your empty selves, for you will have lost the last of England.' — Hilaire Belloc (1912)

Kind regards, **Darran**



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The Old Water Tower was part of the Atlas Works, the home of R. Hunt & Company. Constructed in 1885 it formed an integral part of the Foundry that manufactured and supplied iron Agricultural Machinery and various other cast items across the world.

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From The Green **09:08, 11:18, 13:18**
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From The Green **09:05**
Arrives Osborne Street **09:58**



Colchester to Colne Engaine

No. 82
Monday to Friday.
From Osborne Street **10:05, 12:20, 16:15**
Arrives The Green **10:56, 13:10, 17:07**
Monday to Saturday.
From Osborne Street **16:15**
Arrives The Green **17:07**

Please note that the 83 route is now solely used on the Bures/Colchester run and has no direct contact with the parish.

Full details of all the above timetables, including all stops, are available from *www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk*

COLNE VALLEY COMMUNITY BUS

EVERY MONDAY TO BRAINTREE

The service stops in the villages and in Halstead and as long as it is safe to do so, the bus will stop along the route within the village when hailed.

For help boarding or leaving the vehicle, or with shopping bags, just speak to the driver. The service is fully accessible, but please would passengers in wheelchairs phone ahead on 01376 557896.

FARES, payable on the bus
Adult £2 (single or return)
5-16yrs £1 (single or return)
Under 5s Free

Concessionary bus passes must be shown to receive free transport. Concessionary bus passes are available from Braintree District Council on 01376 551414.

Timetable
11.10 White Colne, Heatin' & Eatin', Colchester Rd
11.13 White Colne, Village Green
11.14 Earls Colne, Tey Road, Lowefields
11.20 Earls Colne, Hillie Bunnies
11.23 Earls Colne, De Vere Road
11.26 Colne Engaine, The Green
11.31 Halstead, Market Hill
11.32 Halstead, Bridge Street
11.55 Braintree, Sainsburys
14.00 Braintree, Sainsburys
14.18 Halstead, Bridge Street
14.19 Halstead, Market Hill
14.24 Colne Engaine, The Green
14 27 Earls Colne, De Vere Road
14.30 Earls Colne, Hillie Bunnies
14.36 Earls Colne, Tey Road, Lowefields
14.37 White Colne, Village Green
14.40 White Colne, Heatin' & Eatin', Colchester Rd

Does not operate on Bank Holidays.

www.colne-engaine.org.uk

USEFUL NUMBERS

Church
St Andrews Church, Colne Engaine
01787 220347

Councils
Colne Engaine Parish Council 07946 096331
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
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
Colne Engaine Village Shop 01787 220163
Earls Colne Post Office 01787 222258

Village Groups
Colne Engaine Village Archive 01787 222080

Youth Groups
Colne Engaine Youth Club 07984 794004
1st Earls Colne Brownies 01787 224175
1st Earls Colne Girl Guides 01787 220065
1st Earls Colne Rainbows 01787 224913

If you are an officer of a club or group in Colne Engaine and would like to place information about the group's activities and events in the magazine for free, please contact the Editor (p3).

If you would like to advertise your business in the magazine please see the inside front cover for advertising rates.

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A HEART ATTACK

Should you suspect that a person you are with is suffering from a heart attack or they have stopped breathing for whatever reason,

Call the Ambulance Service first on 999.

When, and only when you have taken this step, you may call any of the trained defibrillator volunteers on this list who will attend with the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and assist you until the Ambulance Service arrive.

LIST OF DEFIBRILLATOR OPERATIVES

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Richard Jones	07813 746717 (Mob)	01787 220163 (Shop)
	01787 223666 (Home)	
Brian Fleming	07967 949808 (Mob)	01787 224166 (5 Bells)
	01787 222080 (Home)	
Barbara & Geoffery Marcoolyn		
	01787 222334	07771 950735
Jo Davidson	01787 223163	07815 140568
Suzie & Adrian Gasser	01787 224983	07714 647696
Ginny Jeggo	07792424061	01787 220358
Paul Knightly	07583 522908	01787 581701
Lucy Orrow	01787 224786	07711 704770
Mary Ashby	01787 222799	07745474959
Moira Mizon	07947499126	01787220497
Gareth Jones	01787 224318	07771 503306
Jane Roach	01787 221390	07739118116

PLEASE NOTE WE CAN ONLY ATTEND INCIDENTS WITHIN THE PARISH OF COLNE ENGAINE

COLNE ENGAINE VILLAGE DIARY: DECEMBER 2017				
1	Fri	Mobile Library (p12), FACES Christmas Fayre (p23)		
2	Sat	Christmas Tree Lighting on the Village Green (p44)		
3	Sun	Colne Footpath Association Walk (p39)		10am
4	Mon	Advent Course (p11)		
5	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
6	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		
7	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5)		
8	Fri			
9	Sat			
10	Sun			10am 5pm
11	Mon	Advent Course (p11)		
12	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
13	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		
14	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5), Women's Institute Meeting (p10), Mobile Library (p12), *Scout & Guide Group Christmas Postal Delivery Final Collection Date (p15)*		
15	Fri	Mobile Library (p12)		
16	Sat	Carols on the Green (p44)		
17	Sun			10am
18	Mon	Advent Course (p11)		
19	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
20	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		
21	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5)	Christmas Holidays	
22	Fri			
23	Sat			
24	Sun	**Christmas Eve**		3pm 11.15pm
25	Mon	**Christmas Day**		10am
26	Tue	**Boxing Day** Midweek Communion (p5), Colne Footpath Association Walk (p39)		
27	Wed			
28	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5), Mobile Library (p12)		
29	Fri	Mobile Library (p12)		
30	Sat			
31	Sun	**New Year's Eve**		

Planning has begun for the next Village Festival, which is in 2018 on 31st May - 3rd June

COLNE ENGAINE VILLAGE DIARY: JANUARY 2018				
1	Mon	**New Year's Day**	Holiday	
2	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
3	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		
4	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5)		
5	Fri			
6	Sat			
7	Sun			11am
8	Mon			
9	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
10	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		
11	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5), Mobile Library (p12)		
12	Fri	Mobile Library (p12)		
13	Sat			
14	Sun			10am
15	Mon			
16	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
17	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		
18	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5), Seekers (p5), Women's Institute Meeting (p10)		
19	Fri			
20	Sat			
21	Sun			10am
22	Mon			
23	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
24	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47), Poppy Book & Food Club (p41)		**CEDS— *Alice in Wonderland (p29)***
25	Thu	Prayers for the Parishes (p5), Mobile Library (p12)		
26	Fri	Whist Drive (p8), Mobile Library (p12)		
27	Sat			
28	Sun			10am
29	Mon			
30	Tue	Midweek Communion (p5)		
31	Wed	Stay & Play (p14, 47)		

Planning has begun for the next Village Festival, which is in 2018 on 31st May - 3rd June

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