The Three Colnes Parish Magazine



May 2025

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Advertising

All advertising enquires to be sent to Catherine.

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

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

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

Website Addresses

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

FOR THE JUNE '25 ISSUE PLEASE PROVIDE

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Welcome



There's something so satisfying about that first proper stretch of spring sunshine – when you can finally hang your washing out on the line with confidence, knowing it'll dry without a sudden dash home to rescue it from an unexpected downpour. That small but simple joy always feels like a seasonal milestone to me.

Like many others, this spring I've taken the opportunity to tackle a good old-fashioned wardrobe clear-out. Out went the clothes I haven't worn in a couple of years, the ones that no longer bring me joy, and those optimistic "maybe one day" outfits I've finally accepted aren't making a comeback. It's been surprisingly therapeutic! Everything is now neatly hung, folded, and (for the moment at least!) in all the right drawers. I know it won't stay that way forever, but for now, I'm enjoying the simple pleasure of opening the wardrobe and knowing there's something in there that fits, flatters, and makes me feel good.

It got me thinking – what are the little things in life that make *you* smile? I admit, one of mine is colour-coordinating my clothes pegs. There's just something about seeing them lined up in order that gives me a tiny burst of happiness!

This month's issue is packed with events and news from across the community. The **Vintage Car Boot Sale on Page 51** a perfect mix of nostalgia and treasure-hunting. On **Page 59**, **CEDS** introduce their brand-new play, and if you're quick, there are still a few tickets left for **Theatre IV**, with details on **Page 46**.

Earls Colne Rec is as busy as ever, hosting clubs and activities for all ages and interests– from the welcoming **Mental Health Club** (**Page 46**) and lively **Games Club** (**Page 26**) to the upcoming **King's Birthday Celebrations** (**Page 27**) and **Car Show** (**Page 25**).

Meanwhile, the three villages will be coming together to mark **VE Day** with events and remembrance, details of which you'll find on **Page 28**. It should be a meaningful and memorable day for all.

We're pleased to launch a **new feature** this month on **Page 8** – the *Internet Scam Bulletin*, written by local resident and Barclays Local Specialist, Stuart Pugh. He's available to speak at local groups about fraud and scam prevention – a fantastic initiative, especially for vulnerable neighbours. If you host him, let me know so we can promote it in a future edition. If you can't attend a session, Stuart's monthly column will keep you up to date on the latest scam tactics.

And finally, we hear from **Allistair Gardner**, CEO of our printing company, sharing insights into their environmentally friendly practices. It's reassuring to know that in an industry often seen as heavy on resources, there are businesses committed to making a real difference – without the greenwashing!

So, whether it's a perfectly ordered peg line, a clear-out that sparks joy, or a good read in the sunshine – here's to the little things, the big events, and everything in between.

Sue, Editor

The Three Colnes Churches

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

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

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

PCC Secretary: Caroline Smith
standrewearlscolne@gmail.com
Treasurer: Helen Brooks
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COLNE ENGAINE
George Courtauld - 07968 496235
georgecourtauld@aol.com

PCC Secretary: Candy Robson

WHITE COLNE
Mr. Christopher Chamberlain
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Pastoral Care

If you are feeling lonely, bereaved or are ill and would like someone to talk to or a visit, please call or email Rev. Mark on the contact details above and he will put you in touch with our Pastoral Team.



Thoughts for the month

New Life, New Hope: Embracing God's Grace in Every Season

As we move through the days of spring and into the brighter months ahead, we're surrounded by signs of new life. The trees are budding, birds are singing once again, and gardens are slowly filling with colour. For many, springtime is a favourite season—one of renewal, warmth, and the quiet joy of fresh beginnings.

In the same way, our faith in Christ is a journey of continual renewal. No matter what season of life we are in—whether it feels like a long winter of hardship or a blossoming time of peace—God offers us His grace anew every morning.

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning.
great is your faithfulness."
— Lamentations 3:22–23

These words remind us, that God's love never runs dry. His mercy meets us right where we are—whether we're weary, uncertain, or filled with joy. In Jesus, we are never left in darkness. His resurrection means we serve a living Savior who brings dead things to life and gives hope to the hopeless.

The God of Second Chances

One of the most beautiful truths of the Gospel is that God never gives up on us. Just as the earth awakens after winter, our hearts can awaken again and again to God's love. Each of us has moments we wish we could do over—times when we've fallen short or walked away from His path. But our God is not a God of condemnation. He is the God of second chances, of new days and new beginnings.

Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, denied Him three times in His hour of need. Yet after the resurrection, Jesus sought Peter out—not to rebuke him, but to restore him. He asked Peter gently, *"Do you love me?"* and commissioned him again to follow and serve.

Jesus does the same with us. He meets us in our brokenness, in our doubts, in our daily lives, and invites us to begin again. His love isn't based on our perfection, but on His grace.

Hope for Today, Strength for Tomorrow

As a parish family, we are called to walk this journey of faith together. We rejoice with those who rejoice, and we stand beside those who are struggling. We are a people of hope, because we believe in the One who overcame the grave. No matter how uncertain the world feels, the truth of the resurrection stands: Christ is risen, and because He lives, we can face tomorrow with courage and peace.

This spring, may we open our hearts to God's renewing Spirit. Let us encourage one another, serve with joy, and share the light of Christ in our homes, neighbourhoods, and beyond.

New life is blooming all around us—I pray it may bloom within us, too.
With every blessing, Dolly x

Services for May

Date	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 4th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	White Colne	Holy Communion
Wednesday 7th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	3:30 Express
Sunday 11th	10am	Earls Colne #	Family & Baptism
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
Wednesday 14th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship
	6pm for 6.30pm	Earls Colne	Café Church
Wednesday 21st	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	10am	Colne Engaine	3Colnes Team Morning Worship
Wednesday 28th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Thursday 29th	7pm	White Colne	Ascension Day Holy Communion

#These services are live streamed via our Facebook page 'The Three Colnes'.

Further service and event details can be found on our website: www.colnechurches.com/pew-news



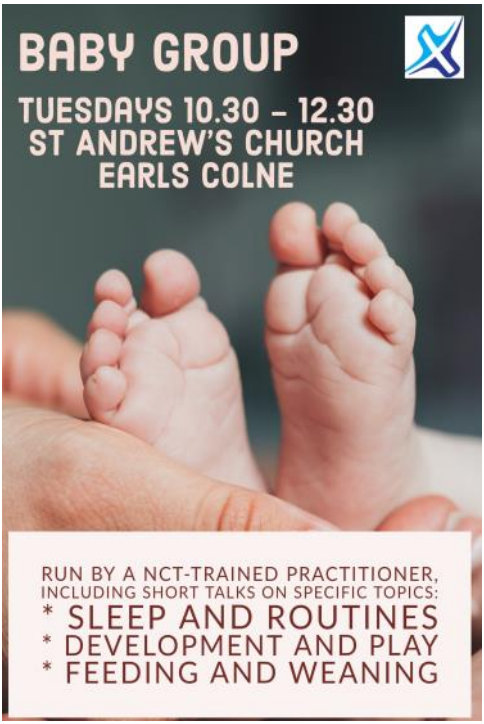
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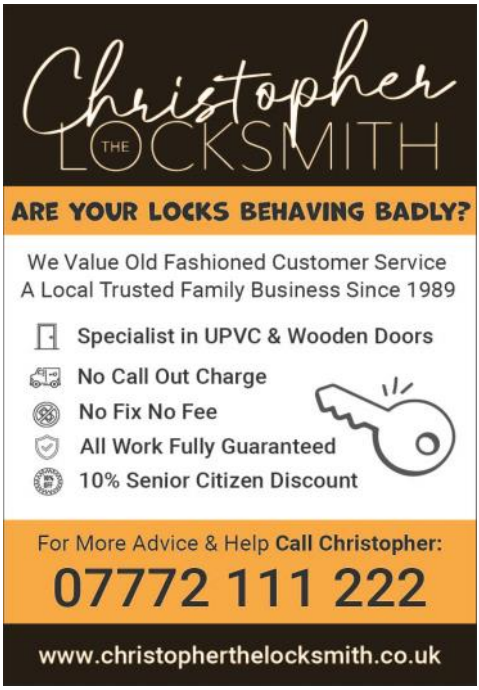
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Scammers Beware!

Barclays Scams Bulletin: Online marketplace scams on the rise, as scammers target buyers looking for spring deals

- Barclays data shows three quarters of scam claims made by younger shoppers originated on an online or social media marketplace
- Two in five UK adults have fallen victim to, or know someone who has been targeted by a marketplace scam
- Consumers want tech companies to do more to prevent fraud on their platforms as three quarters call for action

The Barclays Scams Bulletin tracks scam data across personal and business current accounts, paired with expert commentary from Barclays digital safety experts

The latest Barclays Scams Bulletin shows that online marketplace scams are on the rise as fraudsters increasingly target shoppers seeking deals on these platforms. The Bank is advising caution as decluttering for spring begins and is calling for tech companies to do more to stop scams at source.

New research from Barclays reveals one in four consumers (23 per cent) plan to sell their unwanted items on online marketplaces this spring[1].

However, the surge in popularity of these shopping platforms has meant fraudsters are employing tactics to exploit buyers and sellers online. Nearly two in five (38 per cent) consumers have either fallen victim to, or know someone who has been targeted, by an online marketplace scam[2].

Barclays data shows that of all scam claims made so far this year, almost half (49 per cent) were scams that originated on an online or social media marketplace, an increase of more than six percentage points compared to the same period in 2024.

Gen Zs most at risk

Younger generations are more likely to use online marketplaces to seek out a bargain and sell unwanted items. One in three of those aged 18-34 (30 per cent) say they shop on these platforms compared to one in five of those aged 55+ (18 per cent)[1].

Older shoppers are also more wary of the potential pitfalls, with seven in 10 (71 per cent) reluctant to buy products via online social shopping platforms due to concerns around safety, quality and reliability[3].

So far this year, Barclays scam claim data shows three in four (74 per cent) scam reports made by customers aged 20 and under originated on online or social media marketplaces, compared to 44 per cent among 51-60 year olds[4].

…..Cont'd /

Age	Volume of reported scams originating on online and social media platforms[4]
20 and under	74%
21-30	56%
31-40	54%
41-50	46%
51-60	44%
61-70	33%
Over 70	16%

Buyers beware

More broadly, Barclays' data shows purchase scams – where scammers trick shoppers into paying for a fake or non-existent items – many of which begin on marketplaces, have accounted for seven in 10 claims (71 per cent) so far in 2025.

In February, the value of the average purchase scam claim increased by around £250 year-on-year, indicating scammers are targeting higher value product purchases online.

Action needed from tech firms

Barclays is calling for more protection for its customers to guard them against fraud. More than three in four (77 per cent) consumers believe that technology companies must do more to prevent scams from taking place on their platforms, and two thirds (64 per cent) think they should be made to reimburse scam victims.

Kirsty Adams, Fraud and Scams Expert at Barclays said: "Online marketplaces are a great way to re-home unwanted items or to find sought-after goods at a discount, but they require a level of trust between buyer and seller that scammers are sadly exploiting.

"We urge people to take their time when making purchases and to remember the timeless mantra – 'if it looks too good to be true, it probably is'. No bargain is worth the risk of being scammed.

"The big tech firms must take more action to prevent scams from taking place on their platforms. We continue to work collaboratively with these companies and the government to stop scammers in their tracks".



Kirsty's top tips for staying safe when shopping on marketplaces:

1. **Never disclose personal details:** Your bank will never ask you for your debit or credit card PIN, your password, or your complete online banking login details – nor should a reputable seller.
2. **Use secure and trusted payment**

Scammers Beware! (Cont'd)

methods: When paying for or receiving payment for an item, stick to the payment methods recommended by the online marketplace. If the site provides a secure payment method, then payment requests outside of this should jump out as a red flag.

3. **Closely review the details of the seller or buyer before you engage:** Look at their online reviews, and, if anything looks suspicious, consider taking a step back.

Take your time: When it comes to making purchases online, don't be forced into hasty decisions.

For more information and advice on how to stay protected from fraud and scams, visit: barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/

Stuart Pugh, Barclays Local Specialist for North Essex

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At The DS Group, we are proud to partner with the Three Colnes Parish Magazine to provide environmentally responsible printing services for their community magazines. Our commitment to sustainability ensures that residents receive high-quality publications produced with minimal environmental impact.

Sustainable Inks and Paper. We utilise **eco-friendly inks** and **responsibly sourced paper stocks** in all our printing processes. This approach reduces harmful emissions and supports sustainable forestry practices, aligning with our dedication to environmental stewardship.

The Truth About Paper and Sustainability. There is a common misconception that paper-based products are harmful to the environment, but the reality is quite the opposite. **Paper is one of the most sustainable materials available**, as it is made from renewable resources and is one of the most widely recycled products in the world. In the UK alone, around **80% of the 9.9 million tonnes of paper used each year is recycled**.

Unlike digital technologies, which require vast amounts of energy to power data centres and servers, paper has a **lower long-term environmental impact** when sourced responsibly. The paper we use is **FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certified**, ensuring that it comes from sustainably managed forests where trees are replanted, biodiversity is protected, and deforestation is prevented. This means that the printed materials we provide for

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ISO 14001 Environmental Management Certification. Our **ISO 14001 accreditation** demonstrates our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint and continuously improving our sustainability practices. This globally recognised standard assures our customers that we operate with a focus on minimising waste, reducing carbon emissions, and implementing responsible resource management.

Investing in a Greener Future. At The DS Group, we believe that real change comes from investing in solutions that make a tangible difference. That's why in 2023/24 alone, we've invested over **£500,000** in cutting-edge equipment to enhance efficiency and provide sustainable alternatives to plastic-based print and packaging.

A Commitment to Lasting Change. The DS Group is a proud member of **Two Sides**, a global initiative promoting the sustainable attributes of print, paper, and paper packaging. This ensures we remain at the forefront of industry best practices and continue advocating for responsible print production.

We also stand against **greenwashing**, where companies falsely claim to be environmentally friendly without taking real action. Rather than relying on carbon offsetting, we prioritise **reducing emissions at the source** by continually innovating, upgrading to more efficient technology, and adopting greener production methods. This approach means the Three Colnes community can trust that the materials we produce for them are genuinely eco-friendly.

Making a Difference Together

- **We've reduced our energy usage by 30% since 2021**
- **In 2023/24, we invested £500,000+ in eco-friendly technology**
- **80% of the 9.9 million tonnes of paper used in the UK each year is recycled**
- **We use FSC and PEFC certified paper, ensuring responsible forestry**

The Three Colnes benefits from sustainable, high-quality print materials that align with their environmental goals. By choosing The DS Group, the Three Colnes community is partnering with a company that prioritises sustainability, invests in greener solutions, and supports businesses in making responsible choices. Our ongoing commitment ensures that local residents receive their community magazines in a way that aligns with their environmental values, without compromising on quality or effectiveness.

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Dramatic Society

"Try Something Different - Colne Engaine Dramatic Society certainly is! Noel Coward's 'Brief Encounter' is remembered as one of the most haunting love stories on screen. Emma Rice has adapted Coward's classic 1945 screenplay into a richly theatrical, imaginative and vibrant piece of theatre."

Firstly, we at CEDS would like to thank all our wonderful Pantomime Audiences that brought tickets for our 2025 production. We were sold out for every performance of Cinderella and thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of your smiling faces throughout every performance, hearing the laughter ring out to every corner of the village hall. We couldn't keep going without you, so thank you!

I attended this year with a group of girlfriends on the Thursday evening, and what fun we had! I think it was one of our best ever Pantomimes!

We are now looking forward to our next production, and my goodness, we have got a treat in store for you. Out next production is Brief Encounter. An absolute classic! Sally, who is an absolute legend within our group, has wanted to direct this play for as long as I can remember, so we thought we would do our very best to bring it onto our stage for you. If you don't know the film, you absolutely must come and watch this

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play…. It's just beautiful. This was one of my Grannies favourites, and I watched it many times with her when there was a black and white classic showing on a Saturday afternoon on TV. I don't want to give too much away, except to say that this production will include music, and as far as I can remember, this will be our first serious play, with music.

Please take time to admire the absolutely beautiful poster designed by the very, very talented Juliet Townsend, which should by now be standing proud on the village green. All the information you need to get your tickets is on there, and look out for our posters too, which will be scattered around the local area.

If you would like to be included in our mailing list, which means you get all the information you need, for every upcoming production, plus some fun backstage stuff please go to our website, all the details to help you join are on there right at the bottom of the page.

We are also in the process of organizing a quiz, to help raise funds for our group, which means our productions can just keep getting better, so look out for the date.

Happy Springtime all, see you soon.

Melissa x

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Film Club

This month we start our new trilogy of films showcasing the late, great Dame Maggie Smith. With so much to choose from we have had a hard time whittling it down to three, but here goes. In our first offering, Dame Maggie is joined by three other Dames and a few other best of British actors to investigate retirement that is more than just putting your feet up!

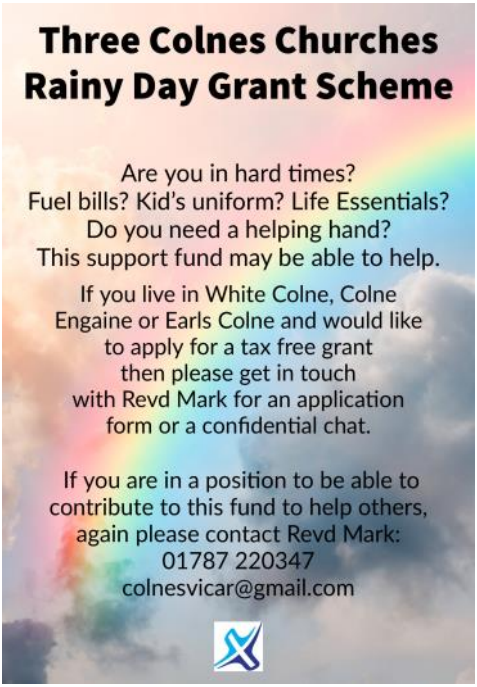
The Film - The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
The Discussion - Wednesday 14th May 2025 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start
The Where - The Drapers, Earls Colne

For more information, contact:
Sharon (revdsdq@gmail.com),
Kirsten (kpt1607@icloud.com) or
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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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Gardening

I DIDN'T KNOW HORSES COULD DRIVE.



I didn't know Carrot fly can't fly! I discovered this whilst reading a garden netting catalogue, I saw a product called Carrot fencing, a fence made from carrots? (daucus carota) I had to read on, of course not, its 1m high barrier netting so the carrots can't jump over it. Alright, I know, it's to protect from carrot fly, apparently, they are weak fliers and can't get over the barrier, who knew? Other ways to deter them are to grow them in alternate rows with onions (allium cepa), the aroma of the onions mask the carrot smell and visa versa. Its bedding time, (nite nite) the middle of May sees the last chance of frost, not that this year has given us much, so hanging baskets, pots and summer bedding is the name of the game, so much to choose from. Personally I don't think you can beat a French marigold (tagetes patula), (please don't plant them in regimented rows), pop them in amongst other garden plants in the borders, they will keep flowering until the frost cuts them down, or on mass in pots to make a show. Sometimes they self-seed and come back the following season. The old favourites geraniums cope well with drought, they make **…..Cont'd /**

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good fillers in baskets and pots and later in the year cuttings can be taken and the main plants can be overwintered in a cold greenhouse to grow on again next season. They do need regular deadheading to encourage repeat flowering. Another good bloomer is petunia, also needs deadheading almost daily, but rewards us with plenty of colour. Another showy plant for baskets especially, is million bells (Callibrachoa), plenty of flowers in all colours and not so bothered about needing deadheading to perform. Begonias tend to cope with all weathers and their large blousy flowers make quite a statement, the trailing varieties like 'bonfire' can be pretty spectacular. Another of my favourites is nemesia, it's a bushy plant with a variety of flower colours, but best of all it has a delicious scent that drifts around the garden all day, I have found odd ones popping up from self-seeding and some have grown back for a couple of years getting bigger all the time, win win I say. For something a little different try euphorbia silver fog, lovely white flowers great in pots and borders, or even experiment with ornamental cabbages (brassica oleracea Var. acephala f. tricolor), come to that why not squeeze in some beetroot (Beta vulgaris) or colourful mixed cut and come again lettuce (latuca sativa), Lollo Rossa is a nice one, colourful and productive. Whatever you decide

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Gardening (Cont'd)



on, baskets and pots need watering daily, even if it rains, and don't forget to feed as well, once a fortnight is good. I go for liquid seaweed myself, to help you remember, imagine someone hangs you on a hook on a wall outside, swinging about in the drying wind, and occasionally they give you a drop of water, but forget to feed you, your not going to be too good after a couple of days are you, just saying. Now is the time to do 'the Chelsea chop' this is where we cut back a third of the growth on herbaceous perennials like Echinacea, Aster, Penstemon, Helenium, Phlox and Rudbeckia. The idea is that the growth is slowed down keeping the plants more compact and prolonging the flowering season, most will still need support but won't grow as floppy as they would if they were left untouched. Its good to put in plant supports after cutting back to allow the new growth to grow through, and don't forget, after cutting give them a feed.

One rainy Saturday I asked my beloved if I could do anything for her indoors, so she explained to me how the to use a hoover by saying, imagine you are mowing the lawn. Sounds simple enough I thought, I did the whole house, but I don't think she wants me to do it again, after I took the box off the back, because at this time of year I like to mow regularly and mulch the lawn with the clippings.

I was chatting with the Hobbit about what veg to grow as its time to get some of the more tender plants in, and she said when she was growing up, they didn't grow vegetables in their house. We are on the same wavelength, as she quickly followed up with, we didn't grow them in the garden either. We have some plants that we grew from seed in the greenhouse, but we do like to buy some from the garden centre to give us a kick start for some earlier crops. We have gone for Tomato (solanum lycopersicum) 'gardeners delight' and 'moneymaker' and a nice big one 'big daddy, (something in the name), beetroot (beta vulgaris), sweet peppers (capsicum annum) the big bell ones, spring onions (allium fistulosum), I remember that name because I think of a fistful of onions, shallots (allium cepa aggregatum) and onions (allium cepa), red and white, dwarf French beans (phaseolus vulgaris) and courgettes (cucurbita pepo), savoy cabbage (brassica oleracea) and of course lettuce (lactuca sativa), I think that will keep us going for now. One tip that works well for me when growing runner beans (phaseolus coccineus) is to dig a pit or trench, depending on your preferred method of support and bury a thick layer of grass cuttings, shredded paper, cardboard or newspaper in the bottom, this helps keep the moisture in the ground, as runner beans get really thirsty, (must be all that running)

Laters Taters

Keep Calm and carry on de-weeding!

Gary

Village Hall
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What's on at White Colne Village Hall?

9th May 9am-12.30pm:

Station Masters Cafe

12th May 11am-1pm:

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23rd May 11am -12.30pm:

Station Masters Café

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St. Andrew's Book Club
EARLS COLNE

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

Our Next Meeting: **Tuesday 13th May 2025** our book is: Orbital by Samantha Harvey*.

Six astronauts rotate in their spacecraft above the Earth as they collect data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body. Observing their beautiful, silent, blue planet, they take in the variety of landscapes and the changing seasons. So far from the Earth, they have never felt more part – or more protective – of it . . .

**This book was held over from our February meeting*

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



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Earls Colne Community Celebration Events

Everyone is invited to take part in the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of VE Day

Thursday May 8th

10am - 3pm Earls Colne Heritage Museum visiting Earls Colne Primary School

1pm Lunchtime Recital at St Andrews Church

6.30pm National Bellringing

7pm Church Service at St Andrews

7.25pm Rededication in Churchyard

7.30pm Military Vehicle Parade

9.30pm Beacon Lighting at Millennium Green

Friday May 9th

2pm Earls Colne Heritage Museum talk

Saturday May 10th

Midday Family Picnic hosted by Earls Colne Parish Council

2pm Stane Street Players WW2 Show at the Village Hall


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Our current shopping list 2025



Food items: Coffee; Tinned rice pudding; Sponge pudding; Tinned hot meat (stew/chilli); Tinned cold meat (spam/ham); Small bottles of squash

Non Food Items: Toilet rolls; Washing up liquid; Shampoo (male and female); Shower gel (male and female)

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

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

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Saturday 31st May 2025
7pm with Eyes Down at 7.30pm
St Andrew's Earls Colne

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Brick Meadows

EARLS COLNE

By comparing photos with 2024 we can see that Spring in the meadows is about a week behind last year. A long dry spell with cold nights has held things back but despite this, in early April it has been a joy to hear many different birds singing. So far, we have heard; Thrush, Firecrest, Blackcap, Chiff Chaff, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Coal Tit, Robin and Greenfinch.

Several walkers have remarked on the sounds of the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker tapping away on the trees within the woods and, amazingly, also on the electricity poles in the "Anthills", tapping on the metalwork!

The Kestrel has been seen a few times hovering over the "Anthills" and then perching on the telegraph wires which cross the meadow. We have seen evidence that Voles may be living in that area which could be the reason for the Kestrels interest.

In the wood in one of the large Oak trees you might notice some wild bees which are living in a broken off branch.

If you look at the very top of one of the large Oak trees in the Long Meadow, you will see that a pair of Crows has built a nest, we observed them carrying in twigs back in March.

Although work on the ponds has come to a stop, we can see that they have filled up with water and hopefully with the light that has been let in due to tree felling, it will encourage wildlife until work can resume in September. A pair of ducks has been spotted in the area possibly looking for their "des res."

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Brick Meadows (Cont'd)

EARLS COLNE

We have enjoyed the various Spring blossoms, the early pink flowers on Almond trees near the school, the lime green flowers on Field Maples and nearby the white blossom on Plum trees planted by the W.I. a few years ago.

With dry weather it has been a bonus to have dry paths to walk on once again, but the muddy paths during the winter clearly showed which paths within the meadows are popular. The path alongside the stream through the Black Poplars has clearly been very well used and recently the work party have carried out some work here on levelling out the paving slabs. We have slightly changed the direction of the footpath to give space to a tree which had been planted there in the past. We can see that with the spring sunshine which we have enjoyed recently, many walkers have used the benches, and it is satisfying to think that this has contributed to walkers being able to enjoy a clear link with nature.



You may notice that on the Black Polar tree in the Long Meadow is a small leaf shaped plaque dedicated to the memory of Richard Cromack who was a former trustee for several years and did so much work in looking after the Meadows. He planted this tree a few years ago and it is a fitting place to hold a memory of him.

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Village History
EARLS COLNE

80th Anniversary of Operation Varsity



On 24th March 2025, commemorative services took place on WW2 airfields across the Diocese of Chelmsford to remember the 80th anniversary of Operation Varsity. At Marks Hall in Coggeshall, the Revd Canon Janet Nicholls (Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain for the Diocese and a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex), invited a large congregation to remember how, on 24th March 1945, gliders of the Glider Pilot Regiment, towed by tug aircraft of the Royal Airforce, took off from Earls Colne airfield carrying troops of the 6th Airlanding Brigade. The gliders from Earls Colne and other Essex airfields joined the largest single airborne operation in history. By the evening of 24th March 1945, the glider pilots and the troops had secured crossings over the Rhine and taken the strategic town of Hamminkeln.

The sacrifices of those who lost their lives in this courageous mission were remembered with respect and thanksgiving by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, a range of serving forces personnel, ex-service men of the Glider Pilot Association, civic dignitaries and members of the public.

Following the service, Janet said, 'It was with profound gratitude that we remembered all those who took part in Operation Varsity, recognising that it paved the way to VE Day and the end of World War II. The obelisk memorial to Operation Varsity in Marks Hall Arboretum, surrounded by its many wreaths, is open to the public. No doubt it will be a place of poignant reflection throughout this year as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the hard-won peace in Europe.'

Lunchtime Recital

Thursday 8th May 2025 - 1pm to 1.40 pm at St. Andrew's Church, Earls Colne

Kim Peek - Singing a selection of songs to celebrate 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Free Entry - Refreshments - Retiring Collection

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Four Colnes Horticultural Society

May already and we hope that all in the garden is growing well. ***The committee organises summer visits on behalf of members. Some dates to remember;***

30th May. National Garden Scheme (NGS), Rookwoods, Sible Hedingham. £8pp +£6 for homemade tea, cucumber sandwich, cake & scone. Dogs welcome on leads.

13th June. Benton End, Hadleigh. 2pm Guided tour of house & garden. £20pp includes tea and biscuit. Note the garden/ property are undergoing renovation. Home to a renowned breeder of irises with many named Benton xx still widely planted.

18th July. Jordans Farm, Wakes Colne. £11pp includes refreshments, evening time tbc.

Prices shown are for FCHS members. To become a member for an annual cost of £5 please contact; membership.FCHS@outlook.com

If you are interested in any of these visits and have not already paid, please refer to the March FCHS Newsletter or contact; secretary.FCHS@outlook.com. These visits are well worth putting the time aside and partaking. It is social as well inspiring to visit other gardens and to hear/understand the successes and failures that others have – In gardening we are not alone.

In March to coincide with the Palooza weekend, 25 society members enjoyed a private late



afternoon tour of Olivers Production Nursery near to the Coggeshall Bypass.

First stop was to be introduced to the Sussex cattle which have been overwintering in a barn on the site and producing several fine calves. These cattle are grass fed around the area for all of their 3 year lives and are reared to provide all of the beef used in the Blackhorse Cafe and for the beef boxes obtainable via Olivers Plant Centre.

Following on from this we were shown the newest of the greenhouses which is only just coming in to use with capillary bedding, automatic shading, watering and ventilation – quite some investment and an eye-opener to us all. Next stop was the production area which consisted of a bagging plant for Olivers peat free compost, plant and box fillers together with a tool for setting seed into plant trays. Human input is required but much of the mundane work is automated. Olivers peat-free compost is used throughout the production nursery. The warmest part of the production nursery was the propagation area again temperature controlled and with an array of LED lighting to give optimum "sunlight" hours to ensure healthy germination and growth. When germinated and strong the plants are moved to a cooler "hardening off" area where all plants are made ready for sale at the plant centre. As pots and trays are called off for the plant centre a label printer swings into action to produce just the right number of labels needed. Recycling and waste reduction is very much part of the whole production cycle. Those who attended were quite overawed by the investment needed to grow simple garden plants and make them available to us all.

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WHITE COLNE

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A friendly club, competitive, but in a good way... usually! It is bridge after all, and to be enjoyed!

DO come and meet us, and hopefully join us. Further information contact:

Jenny 01376 562088 or 07507 658842
Simon 01206 242444 or 07952 381802

From the Archive

The first Council houses in Earls Colne provided by the then Halstead Rural District Council – those on the west side of Burrows Road – were built in 1924. Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the Council received reports that the tenants were blocking the drains with household rubbish. An anonymous joker sent the following poem to the local paper, suggesting helpful advice the Council might send to the culprits:

"Remember potatoes, parsnips, turnips too
Are more at home when in an Irish stew;
And as for floor cloths, also scrubbing brushes,
Take care to see they don't evade your clutches.
And if perchance they do, please pause and think.
Don't let them fall down drain or down your sink.
So if you just use drains for dirty water
You'll not be doing what you didn't oughter."

Whether the advice was heeded is not recorded, but the paper seems to have received no further correspondence on the problem.

David Brown

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Earls Colne Heritage Museum

OUT AND ABOUT with John Stedman, the second walk this year is on Saturday May 17th and will take in our "Royal Streets' – York Road and Queens Road.

York Road, probably chosen in 1895 to mark the birth of the son of George V, later to become king after the abdication of his brother, and Queens Road after the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. Join John as he explores The Village Hall, The Con Club and the Grammar School plus more, then across the High Street to the Blacksmiths on the corner, the water tower that supplied fresh water to Earls Colne, the 'Hunts' houses and the doctor's surgery amongst others!

Meet at the bottom of York Road/Park Lane Tickets £5 are available at the museum.

VE DAY 80 The Parish Council and other organisations of the village are busy planning to celebrate this national event on May 8th. Keep an eye open for notices. The plaque in the churchyard to the 323rd Bomber Group that were stationed at Earls Colne during WW2 will be reinstalled.

LIBRARY We have been working with Earls Colne Library in April to make our books available to library users for reference and research. ASK JOHN sessions where John Stedman, will be available to chat to and try and answer any of your Earls Colne queries, whether it's on people or places has already commenced. He will be available at the library on Fridays 3.30 – 4.30pm.

ATLAS GARDENS and **HERITAGE TRAIL** Work continues with the story boards for the Atlas Gardens which hopefully will be installed soon. Designing Heritage Trails for the Village is also ongoing. Look out for posters and flyers.

FRIENDS OF ECHM The Museum is a registered charity, established in 2024, and operates as a self-funded organisation. We invite you to join our "Friend of ECHM" membership scheme, to help provide the essential funding needed for the Museum's upkeep, preservation, and future development. As a charity, every contribution makes a significant difference, and we greatly appreciate your support in helping us maintain and grow the Museum. The Museum already relies on dedicated volunteers for its success, assisting with visitor guidance and exhibit maintenance. We always welcome more volunteers to help preserve Earls Colne's rich history.

Special offer - sign up this month and receive free access to all Johns Out and About Tours for 2025!

Details on how to join can be found at the Museum, on our website on the Friends link or visit https://echm.org.uk/become-a-friend/
www.echm.org.uk ● https://www.facebook.com/earlscolneheritagemuseum

Recipe Corner



Fruit Salad. At this time of year, there is little in the way of interesting fruit. Even strawberries or raspberries flown halfway across the world or grown under artificial light tend to be tasteless. And you do get bored with the fruits that are available: bananas, different kinds of oranges, pears, apples, grapes. So why not combine them?

Ingredients

1 Melon

3 Satsumas

2-3 (depending on size) Pears

About 10 Grapes

2 Bananas

About 10 Dried dates

1 small carton (200ml) Apple or orange juice

Method: Prepare Melon, Have a large mixing bowl to hand. With a sharp knife, cut the melon in half and, in a quick and dextrous movement, drain any juice oozing from the melon into the bowl.

With a tablespoon, scrape out the seeds and discard. Drain any further juice into the bowl.



Slice the melon into thin segments (as if you were about to serve melon slices as a starter), then slice underneath the skin so as to scoop out the flesh. Discard the skin. The thinner the segments, the more melon flesh you will get!

Cut the melon flesh into bite-size pieces and toss into the bowl.

Prepare Satsumas, (Other types of small orange will do, but big oranges tend to be fibrous). Peel satsumas. Using kitchen scissors, cut satsuma segments into bite-size pieces. Remove any pips. Toss into bowl.

Prepare Pears, Peel pears and remove cores. How ripe are they? If the pears are soft, cut into bite-size pieces and toss into the bowl. If they are hard, the texture of apples, cut them into bite-size pieces and cook in a saucepan (or microwave) in a little water until soft. Allow to cool, then add cooked pears and juice into main bowl.



Slice each grape in half, remove any pips and throw into bowl.

Peel bananas, slice and throw into the bowl.

Stone the dried dates (if necessary), cut into bite-size pieces and throw into bowl.

Add carton of apple or orange juice to bowl and stir again.

Cover bowl and leave for about 12 hours, to bring out full flavour. Serve in a nice decorative bowl.

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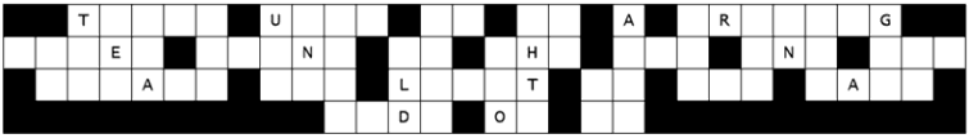
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Puzzles

Fallen Phrase – try to rebuild the first line of a Seal song using the letters below



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May Crossword

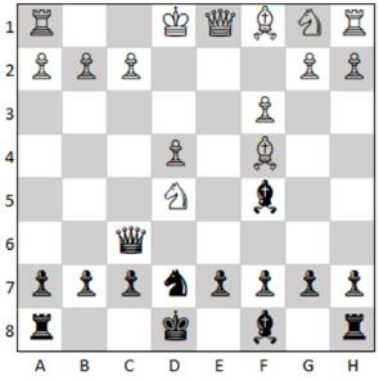


ACROSS

1. Surname of author of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
4. Colour of the Lancaster Rose
5. First name of actor known for National Lampoon Vacation film and the Community series
6. Surname of first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes
8. Number of compartments in a cow's stomach

DOWN

2. Traditional topping of Simnel cake
3. A craftsperson who builds or repairs string instruments
7. Smallest breed of chicken in the UK



Checkmate in One

Black turn to go.

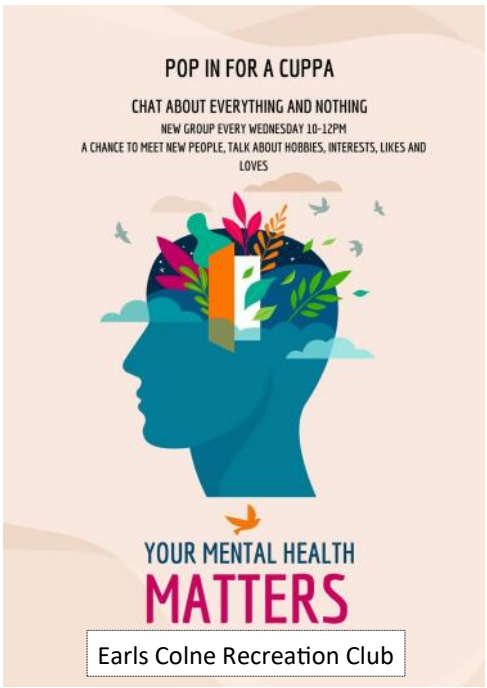
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All answers on page 57

By George Rust





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Web: www.earlscolnetaxis.co.uk

Local people needed for local causes

Volunteers Needed!

EARLS COLNE CHURCH

Lots of positions available, from organising and running local church events,
Contact Doug McKenzie *ecstandrewsfundraising@gmail.com*
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam
Or the Team Vicar – Rev Mark Payne teamvicar@gmail.com

COLNE ENGAINE CHURCH

Join the team at Colne Engaine, various opportunities available to assist with events to raise much needed funds for the repairs and upkeep of the church
Contact Rita Prior: 01787 736385 email ritaprior31@gmail.com
Or Rev Mark Payne: teamvicar@gmail.com

THREE COLNES PARISH MAGAZINE

We have a great team at the Magazine, but we need more people! Please, if you have a couple of hours free in a month, we would love you to join the team.

Volunteer Positions available	
• Puzzle Page Content Provider from January 2026	• Distribution Personnel
• Assistant Editor	• Distribution Co-ordinator White Colne
• Social Media Administrator	

Please email threecolnesmagazine@gmail.com if interested.

BRICK MEADOWS

A regular work party meets once a month, every third Thursday. If you would like to join us, please post your name and contact details addressed to the trustees through the post box of 14 Park Lane, Earls Colne. Many thanks

FERRIERS BARN, BURES - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ferriers Barn is a day centre for adults with disabilities.
We are looking for new volunteers to help us with our service. To be a volunteer you just need a great sense of humour, and around 4 hours a week you could spare us. **01787 227515**
ferriersbarn@timetalk.co.uk **Registered Charity number - 267117**

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CONTACT US TO BOOK NOW

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info@theovencleaners.co.uk
www.theovencleaners.co.uk

RIDE+STRIDE



On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

Get set . . .

- Add Saturday **13 September 2025** to your diary
- Source sponsorship from friends and family
- www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride for further information or scan the QR code below

FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST



Go!

- Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot
- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church
- **Please join us!**

Charity number 236033

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http://castlegentbuilders.co.uk

Contact Us: 07894827702
castlegentbuilders@gmail.com

Preloved & Vintage

Boot Sale

for

St Andrew's Church

Colne Engaine

on

Saturday 28th June 2025

12pm - 4pm

at

The Paddock
Knights Farm, Colne Engaine
CO6 2JG

£20 per pitch
Call Fiona on 0771 8891 938
to book a pitch.

Ice Cream Van
Produce Stalls

From The Four Colnes' Magazine

FOUR COLNES MAGAZINE - MAY 1925

EARLS COLNE



Canon Sutton wishes to thank all those members of the congregation, who, through the collections on Easter Day, contributed to the Easter Offering which was presented to him by the Churchwardens. He gratefully received the same and the money will go to defraying the expense of painting and decorating the Chancel roof which is now in hand. (See image.)

The Easter services, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar through illness, were kindly taken by Rev. E. K. Venner and Rev. E. J. Hodges. The communicants were about the same as usual, and the services were well rendered by a full choir, especially the Holy Communion Service and the Anthem.

The decorations were kindly undertaken by different ladies of the congregation and large quantities of flowers were sent to the Church on Easter Eve.

WAKES COLNE

CHOIR Through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Bright our Choir are now decently robed in new cassocks and surplices. Mrs. Bright has collected for this purpose the sum of £19 19s. 3d. (£19 97.1/4p) from the following generous givers, to who our thanks are due - Mrs. Dale, Misses Dale, Mrs. Bickmore, Mrs. Oakes, Mrs. Ashby, Col. and Mrs. Soames, Mr. Jacob, Miss Wright, Dr. and Mrs. Courtauld, Mr. and Mrs. Godlee, Misses Farncombe, Anonymous.

COLNE ENGAINE

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER Easter Celebrations fitly ended in honest mirth and clean fun at the Concert given by Sudbury friends in aid of the Recreation Ground Fund. What a programme! What delectable buffoonery! There was no laughter possibly left in us. The effort was most successful from the cash box point of view. The debt, we understand, has gone.

We cannot conclude this review of our Easter without offering the good wishes of this Magazine to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Pudney on their marriage at Earls Colne. The feelings of all found their authentic voice in the merry peal of bells with which the Earls Colne Ringers flooded the valley.

WHITE COLNE

The Church was effectively decorated for Easter. The ladies who helped were Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. and the Misses Sparkes, Miss Parry, Miss Agnes Taylor and Mr. Warren (Jnr.). Gifts of flowers were received from Mrs. E. Hill, Mrs. Purvis and Mrs. Nottage sent a floral cross for the pulpit and Miss Gwendolen Roberts some handsome Arums. All the services were well attended, and the choir led the singing with pathos and reverence.

Parish Council

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

COLNE ENGAINE

Download Parish Council Notes: www.colne-engaine.org.uk/meetings

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

CLLR TERRY FLOYD
terry@colne-engaine.org.uk
Tree warden; footpaths; Townlands Trust; Sexton's Field Trustee

HELEN BISCOE-DAVIS
helen@colne-engaine.org.uk
Community engagement

GRAHAME WALKINGSHAW - 01206 240772
Parish Clerk & Financial Officer
clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk

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

CLLR NIGEL WARWICK
nigel@colne-engaine.org.uk
Finance committee; Burches Meadow liaison; festival liaison

CLLR IAN MESSENGER
ian@colne-engaine.org.uk
Finance committee; funding for village projects; website; I.T.; and archive liaison

CLLR PAT TAYLOR
pat@colne-engaine.org.uk
EALC representative; tree warden

WHITE COLNE

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

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.

JIM MORRIS is Parish Clerk and financial officer
clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council

EARLS COLNE

All Members are jointly responsible for Village Environment and Planning

NIKKI SPELLING is the Chair and responsible for Council Strategy
nicola.spelling@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

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

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

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

JONATHAN HAPPS is responsible for Grant Support
jonathan.happs@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

JUNE JEMMETT is responsible for Finance
june.jemmett@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

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

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

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

TERRY BENNETT is the Village Hall Caretaker

EARLS COLNE VILLAGE COMMUNITY TEAM
Vern Smith; Dean Cudmore; Paul Southgate and Dave Newbery.

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

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

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

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

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Chris Siddall
cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk

District Councillor Gabrielle Spray
cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk

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

MP for Witham The Rt. Hon Priti Patel
withammp@parliament.uk

The Three Colnes Diary



COLNE ENGAINE

1	Thu	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.19); Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 8pm Parish Council Meeting
2	Fri	Village Hall—8.30am Barn preschool
3	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday
4	Sun	
5	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba; 8pm Drama
6	Tue	Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga
7	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama
8	Thu	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool
9	Fri	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool
10	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday
11	Sun	
12	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba ; 8pm Drama
13	Tue	Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga;
14	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama
15	Thu	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 8pm AGM Courtauld Memorial Hall Trustees
16	Fri	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool;
17	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday
18	Sun	
19	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba; 8pm Drama
20	Tue	Village Hall - 9.15am Dancing Tuesday; 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga
21	Wed	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 7.30pm Drama
22	Thu	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool
23	Fri	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool
24	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday; 10am Drama Set Build
25	Sun	Village Hall - 10am Drama Set Build
26	Mon	Village Hall - 8.30am Barn preschool; 5.15pm Dancing Monday; 7pm Zumba ; 8pm Drama
27	Tue	Village Hall - 4.15pm Dancing Tuesday; 7.45pm Yoga
28	Wed	Village Hall - 7.30pm Drama Wed Evening
29	Thu	
30	Fri	
31	Sat	Village Hall - 9am Dancing Saturday; 10am Drama Set Build

EARLS COLNE

1	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
2	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; St. Andrews Games Club 7pm (p.35); Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club;
3	Sat	
4	Sun	Village Hall 10am Jesus Loves You
5	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
6	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10.30am Baby Group (p.9); 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery;
7	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.19); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 10am ECRC Mental Health Coffee (p.46); 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilates
8	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
9	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
10	Sat	
11	Sun	Village Hall 10am Jesus Loves You
12	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
13	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 10.30am Baby Group (p.9); 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery; St. Andrew's Book Club Meeting: 2pm at 8 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne (p.26)
14	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.19); Film Club 6.45pm (p.19); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 10am ECRC Mental Health Coffee (p.46); 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilates
15	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
16	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
17	Sat	St. Andrew's Church - 10am Pause for Prayer (p.5)
18	Sun	
19	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
20	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 10.30am Baby Group (p.9); 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
21	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.19); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 10am ECRC Mental Health Coffee (p.46); 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilates
22	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
23	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
24	Sat	
25	Sun	
26	Mon	Village Hall - 12.30pm 60's Pilates; 6pm Karate; 6.30pm Tai-Chi; 7.30pm Zumba
27	Tue	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 10am Lunch Club; 10.30am Baby Group (p.9); 5.45pm Children's Dance; 7pm Adult Dance; 7pm Upholstery
28	Wed	Brew n' Chat 2pm (p.19); Village Hall - 9.30am Move Me; 10am ECRC Mental Health Coffee (p.46); 11.30am Seated Exercise; 4.30pm Colchester School of Dance; 7pm Yoga; 7pm Pilates
29	Thu	Village Hall - 10am Pilates; 1pm Yoga; 4.45pm Colchester School of Dance; 7.30pm Stane Street Players Drama Group
30	Fri	Beavers 5pm; Cubs 6.15pm; Scouts 8pm; Village Hall - 9.30am Yoga; 1pm Tai-Chi; Youth Club
31	Sat	

On the Buses



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

Scheduled Bus Services

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

Demand-Responsive Transport (DaRT) Services

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

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

Contact Information

- **Hedingham & Chambers**
- **Phone**: 03301 020801 (Mon-Fri, 08:00-17:00)

Website: hedinghamandchambers.co.uk

- **DaRT 3 Service**
- **Phone**: 0115 777 3187 (Mon-Sat, 08:00-18:00)
- **Email**: dart@central-connect.co.uk
- **Service Hours**: Mon-Sat, 06:00-20:00

Website: travelessex.co.uk

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

Coggeshall Art Group
Annual Open

ART EXHIBITION

May 24th – 26th 2025

10am – 5pm each day

At

Coggeshall Village Hall Keys Room
23, Stoneham Street CO6 1UH

Local original art

Admission Free

https://coggeshallartgroup.wixsite.com/cagcogart

EARLS COLNE & HALSTEAD
Educational Charity
individuals . groups . schools

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

Educational Grants Available

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

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

To qualify, applicants must:

- be aged between 5 and 25*
- have lived or attended school for at least one year within the Charity's area of benefit (catchment area) *

* Voluntary groups must cater for young people in this age range and be located within our catchment area



Find out more:

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

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

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

Puzzle Answers

	T	H	E	R	E		U	S	E	D		T	O		B	E		A		G	R	E	Y	I	N	G	
T	O	W	E	R		A	L	O	N	E		O	N		T	H	E		S	E	A		A	N	D		Y	O	U
	B	E	C	A	M	E		T	H	E		L	I	G	H	T		O	N		T	H	E		D	A	R	K	
									S	I	D	E		O	F		M	E											

ACROSS
1. Fleming
4. Red
5. Chevy
6. Bannister
8. Four

DOWN
2. Marzipan
3. Luthier
7. Serama

Checkmate in One

Black turn to go.

Move: C6

To: C2

Useful Numbers

Councils
Braintree District Council 01376 552525
Colchester Borough Council 01206 282222

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

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

Essex Police
Braintree Police Station 0300 333 4444

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

Village Groups
Colne Engaine Village Archive 01787 222080

Youth Groups
1st Earls Colne Brownies 01787 224175
1st Earls Colne Girl Guides 01787 220065
1st Earls Colne Rainbows 01787 224913
Scouts www.scouts.org.uk
1stearlscolnescoutgroup@gmail.com

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

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Colne Engaine Dramatic Society presents

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

A play with music, by Emma Rice

Adapted from the iconic 1945 film written by Noël Coward and featuring Coward's ditties.

12th, 13th & 14th June 2025

Appearing at Colne Engaine Village Hall

Doors open at 6.45pm. Performance starts at 7.30pm

Tickets, including booking fee: £12

Available at www.ceds.org.uk and Colne Engaine Village Shop

Licensed by Concord Theatricals

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HOBBS ESTATES

Hobbs Estates proudly sponsor The Three Colnes Parish Magazine

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

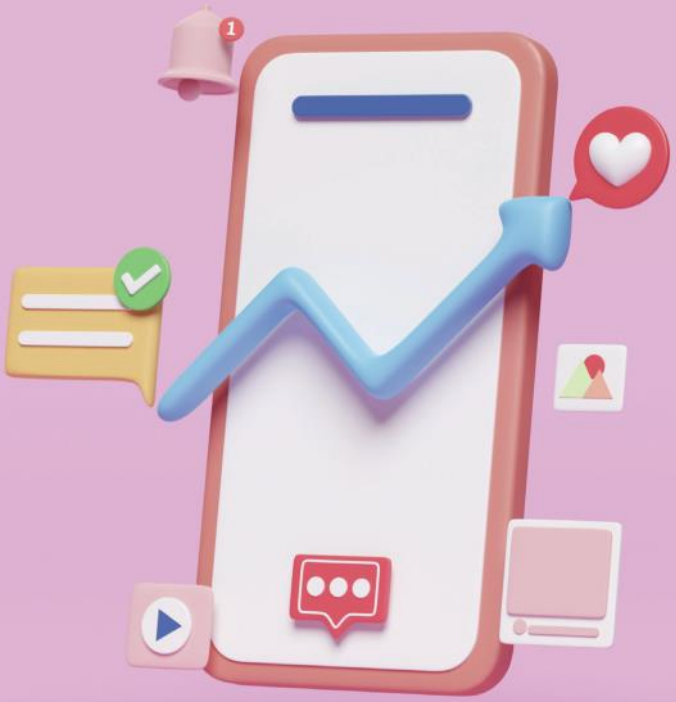
Find out more about us, and our available units, by visiting:

Website: www.hobbsestates.co.uk

Instagram: *@hobbs_estates* LinkedIn: *Hobbs Estate Ltd*

Unlock Your Business Potential: Get Expert Financial Guidance.

Established in 2014, Steven Burton & Co are Chartered Certified Accountants located in Essex. They prioritize clear communication and use cloud-based accounting solutions to streamline your financial processes.



Steven Burton & Co Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

Phone: 01787 329 709 Email: info@stevenburtonandco.com

Broomfield Park, Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne, Colchester CO6 2JX