The Three Colnes Parish Magazine



July/August 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

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Welcome



This issue's come together a little differently – for only the second time in about seven years, the magazine has been out of my hands! Sometimes life has a way of getting a bit hectic, and it's important to recognise when it's time to step back (a skill I'm still learning, clearly). In the past, I've tried to power through – usually ending up frazzled and feeling like I've done 'my best', which rarely feels like enough.

But this time, thanks to the brilliant team behind the scenes, I've been able to take a breather knowing the magazine was in the safest (and most capable) of hands. A huge thank you to our mystery guest (or should I say ghost) editor – who prefers to stay anonymous – for stepping in so smoothly and generously. You are very much appreciated!

For those new to the villages, welcome! A quick heads-up: we take a break over the summer, so this issue covers both July and August. You'll find all the church services for our three churches, along with a roundup of summer events and activities to keep you busy.

To our GCSE and A-level readers – we're thinking of you! We hope your exams went well and that you get the results you're hoping for. And if things don't quite go to plan, don't panic – life has all sorts of paths. I never enjoyed exams myself, but still ended up with a career full of challenges, excitement, and qualifications later on. So take heart – this isn't the end, it's just the beginning of whatever comes next.

As ever, we've got a bumper issue full of great content. Check out Brick Meadows on page 10, Four Colnes Horticultural news on page 16, and don't forget the Four Colnes Show in August – I'm hoping to enter this year and, fingers crossed, avoid disqualification! Gary's great gardening tips return on page 34 (now with bonus paragraphs), Ray Wood brings back Going Walk About on page 44, and there's Twinning news on page 51. Also look out for a plea for information from Cate Gunn on page 43, and (sorry!) a roadworks warning on page 38.

There's something for everyone this time – we hope you enjoy the read.

All the best,

Sue & The Ghost!

P.S. Hats off to the eagle-eyed readers who spotted I put the wrong date for Father's Day last month – oops!

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 & Mr. Richard Gourlay - 07908 138853 & 07340 641962
ecchurchwardens@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Caroline Smith
standrewearlscolne@gmail.com
Treasurer: Helen Brooks
ecpctreasurer@gmail.com

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

COLNE ENGAINE
George Courtauld - 07968 496235
georgecourtauld@aol.com
Terry Hawthorn - 07970 147516
cechurchwarden1@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Candy Robson



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

Hi all,

I write this having just finished my three-year theology study at St Mellitus College and am excitedly waiting for the 28th of June when I will officially become a Licensed Lay Minister in our Colnes and Halstead area churches. I have handed over the role of Churchwardency to Richard Gourlay and, for a while, I am Just Helen. Being betwixt and between roles is an interesting place to be, literally with a blank canvas in front of me. Having been Churchwarden for fourteen years and not yet knowing what I look like as an Licensed Lay Minister, it is an amazing opportunity to rediscover who I am.

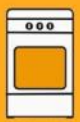
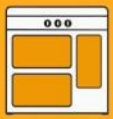
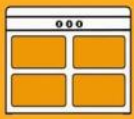
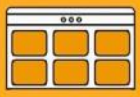
At our recent Parish retreat, we delved into Ignatian spirituality, thinking about what is the essence of each of us. We all born with something that makes us uniquely us and so often in life this gets drowned out, lost or even crushed. One simple way to tap into the uniqueness, is to look back to what you loved doing as a child. What would you have been totally engrossed in when you were called for dinner? What are your favourite books and films? Imagine, buried in the depths of your heart is an envelope containing the code that is you, the part of you that shimmers when activated and lights you up. You are God's unique one and only you in the grand mosaic of divine creation, we don't always get to be who we really are but if you can find even one small space in this world where you can be authentically you this can lead to remarkable things.

May God's light shine brightly for you

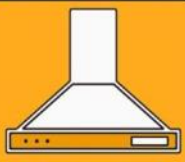
Helen Sherfield



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Services for July

Date	Time	Church	Service
Wed 2nd	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	3:30 Express
Sun 6th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship
	3pm	Earls Colne	Church in the Community Tey Rd
Wed 9th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 13th	10am	Earls Colne #	Space for Grace
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
Wed 16th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sun 20th	9am	Earls Colne #	Said Holy Communion
	10.30am	Earls Colne	Church in the Community Aubrey Close
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship
Wed 23rd	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sun 27th	10am	Earls Colne#	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Holy Communion & Baptism
	5pm	Earls Colne#	Evensong
Wed 30th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion

Services for August

Date	Time	Church	Service
Sun 3rd	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	White Colne	Holy Communion
	3pm	Earls Colne	Church in the Community Massingham Drive
Wed 6th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sun 10th	10am	Earls Colne #	Space For Grace
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
Wed 13th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 17th	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion
	No service	Colne Engaine	Church closed for electrical work
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship
Wed 20th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sun 24th	10am	Earls Colne #	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Holy Communion
Wed 27th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sun 31st	10am	See Website	Halstead Churches worship together

#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

Brick Meadows

EARLS COLNE

Despite the lack of rain in the Spring, the Brick Meadows are still looking very green. The grasses in the Long Meadow are high and mixed with the profusion of Buttercups in places it's a wonderful show. The flowering heads of the grasses rippling with the breeze is a sight to behold. I have noticed a few different varieties of grass there, False Oat, Timothy and Annual Meadow Grass.

Also growing in the Long Meadow, large patches of Goosegrass can be seen scrambling through the grass. According to my wildflower book, it is known as Goosegrass because it is a favourite food of Geese. Other names it has been given are: Cleavers, as it will stick to anything or Scurvy plant which refers to its use as a treatment for scurvy. In the 16th century the plant juices were apparently used as a slimming aid so if anyone wants to try this out, help yourself and I am sure we would all be interested to know if it works!

If you have walked through the area below the school playground lately, you may have noticed the large clumps of white woolly fluff coming from the Black Poplar trees and also from the one tree in the Long Meadow. The hanging stems of green pods have



Brick Meadows (Cont'd)

EARLS COLNE

been splitting open and releasing the seed.

Apart from the Buttercups in the lower Ryefields, there doesn't seem to be any sign of other wildflowers resulting from the hay spreading which we carried out last Autumn. Maybe there will be something to see later, we might just have to be patient.
This month the Trust has bought a second hand Flymo mower which has already enabled us to cut the paths much more easily and quickly.

Reports of a Nightingale singing in the Black Poplars early one morning haven't been verified yet but if it is present, this will be the second year running. If you are interested in finding out the names of which birds are singing at a particular time, we can recommend the "Merlin" app for your phones. Those people who have used it are amazed at the numbers of different birds that we have in this relatively small area.

Frances Barton and **Jayne Meleschko**,
Trustees

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Village Hall

COLNE ENGAINE

Last weekend we had visitors from a small similar sized village, also a village hall Trustee, and as ever I talked to them about our village hall. They were so envious of all the activities we have here in Colne Engaine and how much our hall gets used.

Our next major activity is the CEDS Close Encounters which is such an ambitious play for so small a theatre! I know it will be brilliant as usual.

Please think of the hall when you ponder a family celebration or charity activity; we love the hall to be used as much as is feasible. Please give Geoff a ring if you wish to discuss any possible ideas.

Geoff Marcoolyn. E: marcoolyngeoff@gmail.com. **Tel: 01787 222334** or **07776 484698** Chairman Courtauld Memorial Village Hall.

St. Andrew's

COLNE ENGAINE

For those with green fingers, a reminder that there are some lovely plants in the Colne Engaine church porch, available to buy for a donation to church funds.

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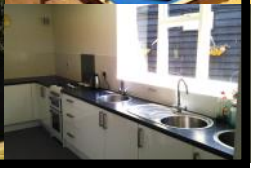
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A Barclays spokesperson said: "*Invoice scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Scammers target suppliers, creating fake emails requesting invoice payments that can look seriously legitimate.*

"People might imagine that invoice scammers solely target those working in finance, but it's important for everyone to stay vigilant – particularly as we approach the summer, when consumers might be settling big invoices for events such as weddings and parties. It can be devastating to have a life event ruined by a heartless scam."

"It is always worth double checking invoice and payment details against a previous invoice and if in any doubt, verify the details or amount with a known contact from the business over the phone."

Barclays supports businesses understand and defend against threats. To find out more, visit our website: https://www.barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/invoice-scams/

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Four Colnes Horticultural Society

July has arrived and with the year speeding by it is now only a few short weeks until the Society's annual show at The Recreation Club Hall on Saturday August 16th – Are you prepared?

Extra tables have been sourced in the hope of a bumper year for entrants and with rain now following the long hot dry spell, flowering and vegetable plants should be catching up ready for entry into their appropriate sections.

In the children's sections tenuous connections to residents living within the area can include nephews, nieces and grandchildren – **lots of encouragement please**. Cash prizes are paid to winners in the children's section. If we do get a rainy day then it could be a good time to root out some photos for the photography sections or art and craft for those. Don't hide them away, share and, who knows, you may be a winner.

Please ensure that you have copy of the entry form ready to complete www.fourcolneshorticulturalsociety.com Whilst relatively last minute forms can be dealt with the show committee, workload is eased considerably by early submission.

The show raffle plays a major role in raising funds to cover show expenses such as judges and hall rental costs. Everyone is encouraged to buy tickets but the appeal of



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any raffle is enhanced by good prizes. We already have an excellent and varied array of very generous prize donations from local businesses, individuals and groups but if anyone else would like to donate or sponsor a prize, please don't hesitate to contact the society secretary at secretary.fchs@outlook.com. Monies over and above show expenses are donated annually to a local charity or good cause. ***To aid sales on the day the society is always ready to accept additional help, just an hour or two can add a very beneficial increase in ticket sales – The show is for the Four Colnes community as a whole, any volunteer help to make it a success is always most welcome and will work to ensure that the show can continue annually.***

Many contributed to the effort of spreading wildflower seeded hay on the lower Ryefield of the Brick Meadows area. Whilst, hand on heart, we cannot register any discernible increase in wildflowers the meadow as a whole, it has seen a profusion of buttercups "sparkling" amongst the waving Timothy grass seed-heads. It has been an excellent spring for nature's colour and birdsong.

Secretary, Sarah Adlem, M. 0794 1131164, 110 Colchester Road, White Colne, CO6 2PP

Email: secretary.fchs@outlook.com

www.fourcolneshorticulturalsociety.com

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Come and Sit a While

You have noticed three lovely new benches in Earls Colne Churchyard.

Our huge thanks to our amazing Churchyard Crew for obtaining Section 106 funding from Braintree District Council and to BDC for their assistance and advice.

The slabs were laid by Richard Evans and the benches come from Chris Nangle Street Furniture. They really are a team effort: the funding application, one of our lovely neighbours storing them and to our churchyard volunteers oiling and installing them.

Thank you all.

Helen Sherfield







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Earls Colne Heritage Museum

The VE80 DAY Celebrations in May were very successful and enjoyable. Our morning at Earls Colne Primary School was fun and the later cupcake sale raised £250 for the swimming pool fund.

OUT AND ABOUT Tours with John Stedman are proving popular. The 'Royal Streets was sold out and very enjoyable. At the time of writing this, Church Hill/Upper Holt St has only a few tickets left. The fourth Tour on July 19th takes us along the High Street to explore some of the shops of days gone by and Johns memories. Meet in the churchyard at 2pm. Tickets £5 available from the Museum when open. No Out and About Tour for August as we will be at the Show.

FOUR COLNES SHOW Come along and see us at the Annual Show on August 16th where we will be able exhibit some of the things that the museum has been up to since the last Show.

LIBRARY We continue to be at Earls Colne Library on Friday afternoons between 3.30 and 4.30pm. Please come along and we will try to help with any historical Earls Colne questions you may have.

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Earls Colne Heritage Museum

Village continues. Soon, four story boards and an audio post will be installed in the Atlas Gardens enabling the people of Earls Colne and its visitors to engage in the village's rich historical heritage.

NATIONAL HERITAGE OPEN DAY on September 13th the museum will be at The Quaker Meeting House 10am-4pm with a free tour of Queens Road and Hillie Bunnies. Times to be confirmed so look out for special posters nearer September.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL We have recently been given access to some old VHS footage, Hunts Atlas Works Closure and 323rd Bomb Group 1992 Reunion, which we have uploaded to our YouTube Channel along with the Tower Tour, Timekeepers of Earls Colne and The Time team Dig at The Priory in 2011.

See links below:
www.echm.org.uk

https://www.facebook.com/earlscolneheritagemuseum

https://www.youtube.com/@EarlsColneHeritageMuseum

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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

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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 Meetings:

● **Tuesday 14th July 2025**

Our **July** book is *Mrs. Van Gogh* by Caroline Cauchi.

A novel that tells the true story of the woman behind one of the world's greatest artists, Vincent Van Gogh . . .



• **Tuesday 11th August 2025**

Our **August** book is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library she has a chance to undo all of her regrets and work out her perfect life. But soon her choices place the Library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?



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

Margaret Hill.

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam
Or the Team Vicar – Rev Mark Payne colnesvicar@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: colnesvicar@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 for Earls Colne and White Colne
• 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**

More Tea Vicar?



CREAM TEA WITH TABLE SERVICE

SUNDAY 13TH JULY AT 3.30PM

AT ST ANDREW'S EARLS COLNE

NO NEED TO BOOK JUST COME ALONG AT 3.30PM AND CHOOSE YOUR DELIGHTS FROM THE MENU



Village Hall
WHITE COLNE

The last cafe morning before our summer break at Station Master Café is on Friday 11th July 9am - 12.30pm.

Selection of teas, coffees and soft drinks. Bacon baps, warm cheese scones with chutney, fruit scones with butter and jam, cakes and pastries. All freshly made in-house or by our local baker.

The Cafe returns on 12th September and thereafter always 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

The community garden is open to all. Please come along and help yourself to fresh veg, but don't forget to give everything a little water and pull a weed or two!

Bridge Club
WHITE COLNE



DO YOU PLAY BRIDGE?
If so ,we would love to see you at White Colne Village Hall for an afternoon of duplicate bridge. We meet on Fridays at 1.15pm.

The club was founded three years ago; we have a lovely venue, plenty of parking, and we include tea/coffee and the best biscuits! £3 p.p. table money.

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

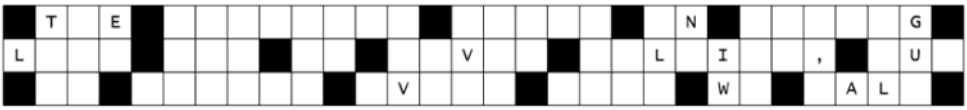
DO come and meet us, and hopefully join us. Further information contact:

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

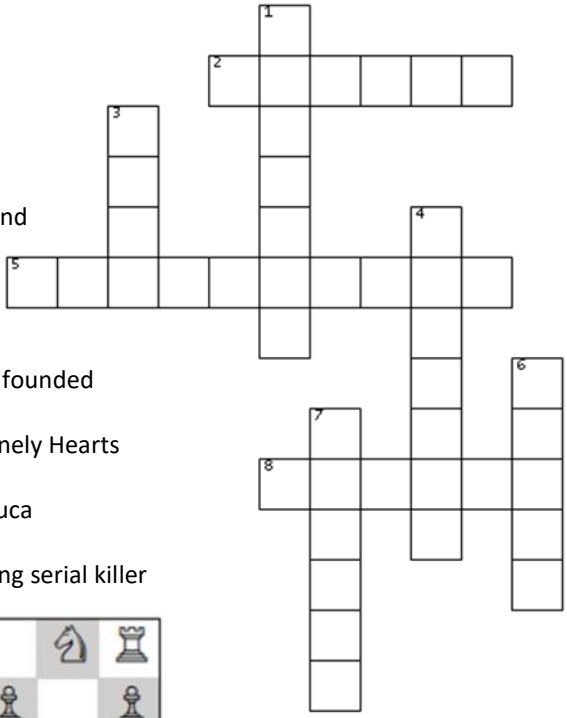


Puzzles

Fallen Phrase – try to rebuild a quote from Nelson Mandela using the letters below

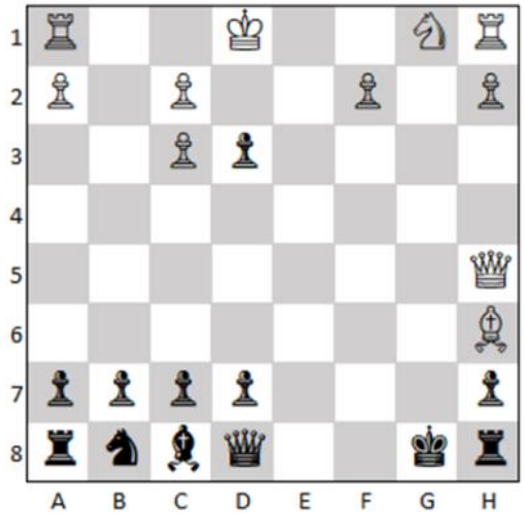


July August Crossword



ACROSS
2. The English word for Arugula
5. The Anglo-Saxon capital of England
8. The longest river in the UK

DOWN
1. A _____ of flowers
3. National healthy fast-food chain founded in the UK
4. Band known for Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club album, The _____
6. What is an Ailuropoda melanoleuca more commonly known as
7. US TV drama about a crime solving serial killer



Checkmate in One

White turn to go.

Move:

To:

All answers on page 40.

By George Rust

Travel Article

This is the first of an occasional series of travel articles, with the aim of helping us all travel around from the comfort of the sofa!

Back in January, the longest and greyest month ever despite having my birthday in it, Eurostar had a deal on and so I booked a March holiday trip to Ghent, the second largest city in Belgium after Antwerp. I like photography and had long ago borrowed a large camera off a Ghent friend and so had an excuse to return it and blag a tour round the city at the same time!

Ghent is in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of the north of Belgium. By the late Middle Ages, it was one of the largest and richest cities of northern Europe, largely down to the wool industry (which imported from England and Scotland); it's got rich history and culture behind it, and I really looked forward to visiting.

I love the whole process of getting there by train, and after leaving Essex at nine was at Ghent Sint Pieters station, built in 1912, at five. I'd booked my chosen hotel, Het Rustpunt, because it's been developed in a working monastery – behind the street itself, there is a large austere looking building containing quiet and comfortable if modest hotel rooms but also monks' quarters, refectories and areas for worship and conferences. Behind is a large peaceful garden with beehives, birdsong, a lake and calm walks. Once it was part of the lands of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor and born in Ghent, and his lions were kept here (thankfully, not anymore). A perfect base to explore from.

And so I spend my week exploring the beautiful historic centre of the city and the areas surrounding, and it is fun and relaxing. There is the Korenmarkt and Graslei, old medieval market and port. I loved the Belfort, a huge tower finished in 1380 and topped by a copper dragon (itself echoed by a large chocolate dragon in a shop nearby). Five minutes from the hotel is the Gravensteen, an imposing medieval castle which was home to the Counts of Flanders until 1353 and with torture equipment cheerfully on display. Saint Bavo's Cathedral, tenth Century, displays the restored and truly beautiful Ghent Altarpiece, the 'Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' painted by the Van Eyck brothers. The STAM Ghent city museum is absorbing and superb.

It definitely doesn't hurt that Ghent has amazing food, traditional Belgian food and a Ghentish variety stew, and honestly, the chocolate is worth the journey alone. I also diligently took the time to learn from my friends about the local 'Gentse Strop' (Ghent noose) beer. Charles V, not helping his already low popularity, demanded higher war taxes from the citizens. Annoyed, they refused so he made them wear nooses in the streets to shame them. These became symbols of Ghent freedom and resistance, and are now commemorated in the Gentse Strop. Honouring the rebels through beer was expected, and I did my duty.

Catherine Doran


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Film Club



It's the summer - hoping you enjoy some downtime to relax and enjoy a good movie. We are coming to the end of our Dame Maggie Smith trilogy in July and starting our next spotlight which is on the Oscar winning director, Steven Spielberg.

For July, it's all about miracles and friendship

The Film - The Miracle Club (Dame Maggie's last film)

The Discussion - Wednesday 9th July 2025 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

The Where - The Drapers, Earls Colne

For August, a movie about loving movies!

The Film - The Fabelmans (thought to be a semi-autobiographical story of the director himself)

The Discussion - Wednesday 13th August 2025 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

The Where - The Drapers, Earls Colne

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

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WATER.

So, I said to my beloved "I won't be long, I'm just going to water the hanging baskets". She said "but Gary it's raining". "Thats ok" I say, "I'll put my coat on".

What I'm getting at is, that even when it rains, it isn't enough to give the baskets what they need. You know there's more to watering than just splashing a watering can around occasionally when things look a bit dry, a good soaking less often is better than a sprinkle every day.

Plants send their roots out in search of water. If the surface stays predominantly moist that's where the roots will be drawn to, which is fine, but if you stop watering for a few days those surface roots dry out and then the plant suffers. If they have had to grow deeper to find moisture, in a dry spell they still have access to water and can last a little longer. It is said that you shouldn't water in full sun, which is good advice, but sometimes we don't have a choice. In this case it's best to aim the water at the base of the plants and try to avoid wetting the leaves.

On the underside of a leaf there are thousands of microscopic pores, called Stoma.

Stoma control the rate that water is allowed to escape from the plants. On a hot dry day

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Gardening (Cont'd)



they close up tight to retain moisture whereas on a wet or overcast day they open up to allow more of a continuous flow. This is called transpiration, as the water passes through the plant cells, minerals, nutrients and oxygen are extracted from it and distributed to the parts that need them, making for an altogether healthier specimen. The depleted fluid is then released back into the atmosphere to continue the cycle of evaporation.

Are you bored now, or will you look at your plants differently when you next turn the hose on them? In our ever increasing hot and dry summers, watering is becoming a bit of a thing. The option is drought tolerant plants, which is one solution (until we go back to our normal washout summers that we are used to). I thought I would point you in the right direction of some plants in my (oops, I mean the Hobbits) garden that cope with both wet and dry conditions and still look good.

An attractive ground cover plant is Dwarf Germander (Teucrium chamaedrys). Its evergreen and has tiny pink flowers. I have it growing in both sunny and shady spots and it is quite happy. At the end of last summer it was getting a bit too big for its space so I cut it back quite hard and it has kept its shape and come back really good this year. Verbena bonariensis is a tall rigid plant with little umbels of purple flowers held on thin stems. They grow like weeds in the gravel garden and I take out any that straddle the pathways. This still leaves a forest of purple and although they are tall they don't need support, even the heaviest of downpours doesn't knock them down. In the right conditions **…..Cont'd /**

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they seed freely, so you should never be without them.

Another favourite is the Sages (Salvia). More and more are becoming available and they come in a variety of colours. We have Salvia 'greggii' hotlips and amethyst lips, to name just two. Up until now I have kept them trimmed to shape, but next Spring I will give them a good hard cut to create some newer stronger growth, as they have started to get a bit floppy.

Last, but not least is ice plant (Sedum) now known as (Hylotelephenium). I've got to admit, Sedum is easier, I remember this growing in most of the gardens where I lived as kid, the pink flat top flowers seemed as big as dinner plates to us and they were covered with tortoiseshell, red and white admiral, and peacock butterflies. The flowers don't seem as big now, and there are fewer butterflies, but the plants are still going strong. They love full sun, and the flower stalks will still stand strong through the winter and look attractive when touched by the frost. The only thing I must remember, is to cut out the dead stems as soon as any growth appears at the base. Leaving it too long risks knocking off the brittle young shoots in the process.

Moving on, stop me if I've already told you this, August onwards is the time to be watering and feeding Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons on a regular basis, ideally

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Gardening (Cont'd)



with an Ericaceous feed, and maybe mulching around the base of the plants with Ericaceous compost. The reason for this is that the flower buds for next season are now developing. Feeding will give them a boost and hopefully produce a good show in the Spring. Don't be tempted to prune any Spring flowering shrubs now as you do run the risk of cutting away next seasons flowering growth. If you have no choice because the shrub is out of control, it won't hurt, you are just likely to have less flowers, that's all.

The Hobbit is a soup maker, (and very nice soup it is too), so I need to make sure there is a good supply of ingredients. July is the last chance we get to sow carrots (Daucus carota) for autumn harvest. We already have Beetroot (Beta vulgaris) Onions (Alliums) and Leeks (Allium ampeloprasum) but we do need to get some winter cabbage (Brassica oleracea) on the go. I favour Savoy, nice solid hearts and easy to grow. They just need protecting from pigeons and caterpillar with fine mesh netting, The last pickings of the Tomatoes (Solanum lycopersicum) make good soup ingredients as well. Oh yes, don't forget some spuds.

Laters Taters - Keep Calm and carry on De-weeding!

Gary

Braintree Area Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Our current shopping list 2025



Food items: Pasta; Rice (1kg bag); Jam; Tinned Fish; Tinned Tomatoes; Sugar (500g bags)

Non Food Items: Toilet rolls; Washing up liquid; Toothpaste; Bars of Soap; Hair Conditioner

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.
We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/
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Braintree Area Foodbank supports the whole of the Braintree District including Halstead, Sible Hedingham, Witham and surrounding villages.

CUTTING COLNE ENGAINE IN HALF – AGAIN!

Having endured a Winter and Spring of roadworks in the village we were looking forward to a peaceful second half of the year.

But no, we are the authors of our own undoing! Church Street, opposite St Andrew's, is going to be dug up on Sunday, 17th August. The church heating boiler was installed in 1979, and is well beyond its sell-by date. The replacement system, as specified by the Diocese of Chelmsford, cannot be fossil-fuel powered, and thus we require 3-phase electricity in the church.

Our current power supply comes in on an overhead cable from a pole in Church Street, but the new supply has to be routed underground for safety reasons. Hence, UK Power Networks wish to dig up the road and we will have to dig up the Upper churchyard also. Most of the residents there have been in place since the 17 and 1800s, so we will need to take care not to disturb them! You will probably have seen a row of metal stakes and red/white tape in the churchyard for the last 18 months. This marks the carefully surveyed and checked route of the cable trench to the Vestry.

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We apologise for the inconvenience that this will undoubtedly bring mid August, but we are doing our best to minimise the effect as far as possible. If this changes we will advise everyone via the A-Frame notice board outside the church porch, as there is no Magazine after this issue and before the work starts.

George Courtauld
07968 496235
georgecourtauld@aol.com

Terry Hawthorn
07970 147516
cechurchwarden1@gmail.com

Churchwardens at St Andrew's, Colne Engaine

Recipe Corner



Rhubarb and Ginger Jam

Don't know what to do with rhubarb in your garden? Don't like stewed rhubarb as a dessert? Make jam.

Ingredients

2lbs Rhubarb (after trimming off leaves and lower, woody ends of stalks)

2lbs Jam sugar (contains added pectin)

1 Lemon (zest and juice)

2 inch piece Root ginger

Method

Sterilise about 6 jam jars of different sizes by filling them with boiling water from the kettle. Sterilise the jam jar tops by placing in washing up bowl and covering with boiling water. (Different sizes? Because you never know how much jam you are going to produce and which size jars you will need.)

Wash the rhubarb under cold running water and slice into small pieces.

Place sliced rhubarb into a preserving pan (or large saucepan) and add the jam sugar, lemon zest and juice.

Peel ginger and grate it (using a cheese grater). Add grated ginger to preserving pan.

Stir rhubarb, sugar and other ingredients, cover with a tea-cloth and leave for about 2 hours, allowing sugar to dissolve into rhubarb pieces. Stir again from time to time.

Pop a few saucers in the freezer.

Gently heat the rhubarb and other ingredients in the preserving pan. Stir until the sugar has completely dissolved, then bring to the boil.

Cook on high heat until the rhubarb is tender - about 10-15 mins – then test for setting point, as below.

To test for setting point, drop a small amount of jam onto a cold saucer (from the freezer) and leave it for about 5 minutes. If the jam wrinkles when you touch it and doesn't move when you jiggle the plate about, the jam has set. If not, cook for a couple more minutes then test again.

Pour jam into sterilised jars. Place a round wax disc (available from most supermarkets) on top surface of jam in each jar, then put on lid. Label and date.



Rosemary Johnson

Bingo Night at St. Andrew's EARLS COLNE

Saturday 12th July, Bingo night, 7pm for 7.30pm. £8 per person (includes 6 games), there'll be cash prizes and refreshments available. Come along, you can pay on the door.

Puzzle Answers

■	T	H	E	■	G	R	E	A	T	E	S	T	■	G	L	O	R	Y	■	I	N	■	L	I	V	I	N	G	■
L	I	E	S	■	N	O	T	■	I	N	■	N	E	V	E	R	■	F	A	L	L	I	N	G	,	■	B	U	T
■	I	N	■	R	I	S	I	N	G	■	E	V	E	R	Y	■	T	I	M	E	■	W	E	■	F	A	L	L	■

ACROSS
2. Rocket
5. Winchester
8. Severn

DOWN
1. Bouquet
3. LEON
4. Beatles
6. Panda
7. Dexter

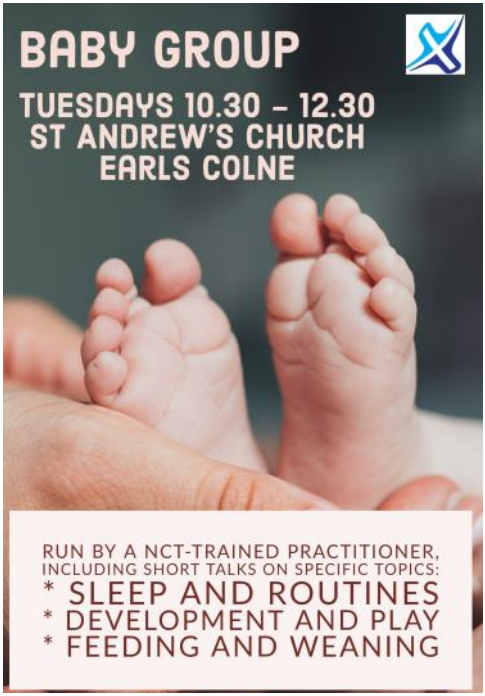
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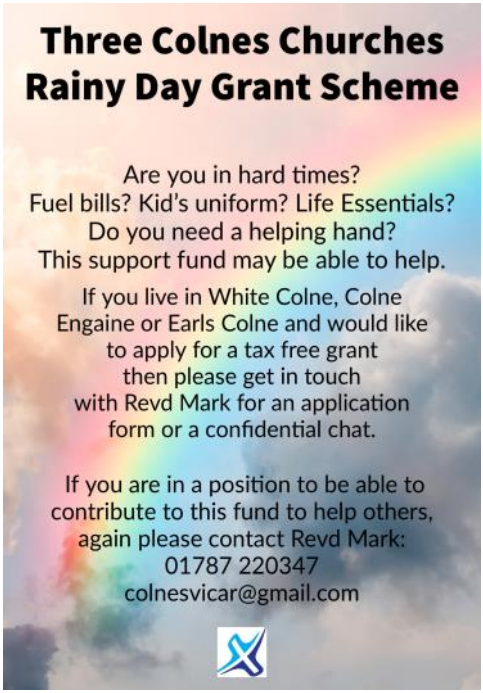
White turn to go.

Move: H5

To: D5

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





Festival Committee Update

As summer settles in, we're reflecting on the fantastic community spirit that continues to make Colne Engaine such a special place.

Easter Egg Trail Success - A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter Egg Trail earlier this year. It was wonderful to see so many children exploring the village, solving clues, and, of course, collecting their well-earned goody bags! The event was full of energy and smiles, and we're grateful to all the families who joined in the fun.

Picnic in the Park - By the time you read this, our Picnic in the Park event will (hopefully!) have brought another burst of joy to the village rec. With live music, an open mic, and children's inflatables and games, we aimed to create a relaxed afternoon for all ages to enjoy. A big thank you in advance to the volunteers, performers, and everyone who helped bring the event together!

Looking Ahead - We're excited to announce that the main Colne Engaine Festival will be returning in June 2026, running from Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th. Expect the usual mix of music, food, fun, and community celebrations - we can't wait to see you there!

And for those who like to lace up their running shoes, the Colne Engaine Fun Run will be back in Spring 2026. Keep an eye out for updates as we get closer to the date!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and thank you for continuing to support your local events.

Warm regards,

The Colne Engaine Festival Committee

NSPCC Book Fair

The annual NSPCC Book Fair is taking place over the weekend of 1st and 2nd November 2025, between 9am - 3.pm.

The Venue: The Stanway School, Winstree Road, Colchester, CO3 0QU

Admission: £2.00 - Under 16s FREE

Registered charity number 216401

Jane Lambert



From The Four Colnes' Magazine

EARLS COLNE - JULY 1925 - The decoration of the Chancel roof is now completed; and we venture to think the general effect is quite satisfactory. The improvement is very marked from the Nave; we now have lightness in the place of a rather depressing heaviness and the apparent height of the building is very much increased. The monograms in the panels are to the Honour of our Lord as the "Saviour of Mankind" and St. Andrew our Patron Saint. The blank spaces in the East End are awaiting pictorial designs illustrating the Annunciation. We hope to have these fixed by the end of July.

COLNE ENGAINE - AUGUST 1925 - Sunday School closed until September 13th. Why should not teachers have a holiday and the children a change?

WHITE COLNE - AUGUST 1925 - In the calendar of our present prayer book, on the 6th August, the transfiguration is mentioned. *"This festival was instituted in the Greek Church as early as AD 700 and appears to have been observed at Rome in the time of St. Leo (circ. 450.) Pope Calixtus the third issued a bill for its general observance AD 1457 in remembrance of the deliverance of Belgrade from Mohomet the Second. The glorious mystery of the Transfiguration is related by the three former Evangelists; but the festival has never ranked with the other festivals of our Lord, probably because its theological significance, though great, has appeared to be less evident than that of the rest"*. Blunt. **Liz Pottinger**

Lunchtime Recital



The 80th Anniversary celebration of VE Day at St. Andrew's, Earls Colne on 8th May proved to be a great success. Sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, tea and coffee were provided by the Recital Team.

Kim Peek sang a variety of songs ranging from the 1930s to 1940s ending with a sing song of the old war time favourites, "There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover" and "We'll Meet Again". Edward Preston performed several Gershwin pieces halfway through the Recital. Well over a hundred people came along to the Recital and we were joined, for a time, by the children of Years 1 and 2 from Earls Colne Primary School. People were very generous with their donations so, from the Retiring Collection, the church was able to donate £100.00 towards the Primary School Swimming Pool project and to also donate £100.00 to The British Legion.

Our next Recital will take place on **Thursday 10th July** when David New will be playing the guitar for us. Other dates for your diaries are: **Thursday 14th August** - Jill Crossland - Piano; **Thursday 11th September** - Kate Harris - Soprano

We look forward to seeing you there. **Liz Pottinger**

Appeal For Historical Help

COLNE ENGAINE

John Perryman of Colne Engaine

I received an email a little while ago from someone (a very mature student, they say!) who is researching medieval pewterers and cutlers in late medieval London. There is a niche for every interest! One of the pewterers she found was 'John Piryman' (or, probably, 'Perryman') who made his will in 1443 and left his vestment of red velvet to the church of 'Coline Gayne' in the county of Essex -- that is, to the church of Colne Engaine. She wrote to me wondering whether I had any information about whether Perryman may have originated in the village.

I haven't any information to help her, but a quick internet search came up with a fascinating website I haven't yet had time to explore:
https://wwwe.lib.cam.ac.uk/earls_colne/contents.htm

which gives details of records from Earls Colne between 1375 and 1854. The introduction says this of Earls Colne:

Earls Colne is named after the river Colne upon which it lies and the Earls of Oxford who owned the manor from before the start of our documents and who were often buried here. It is five miles from the market town of Coggeshall, ten miles from Colchester and about forty miles north east of the city of London. With a total circumference of approximately ten miles and an area of just under three thousand acres, it constituted a tiny part of the land area of England. Likewise its total population, which fluctuated between 500 and 1000 persons during this period, only constituted roughly one hundredth of the population of the county of Essex and one ten thousandth of the total population of England and Wales. Despite this, and despite the regional diversity of England, there are grounds for believing that we are observing in this parish a microcosm of life not only in north -eastern Essex or East Anglia, but in England in general.

This website suggests that there were Perrymans in the area. If anyone has any details of Perrymans, especially in Colne Engaine, please let me know!

Cate Gunn
categunn@dunelm.org.uk



Going Walk About



I have just returned from the cinema after watching The Salt Path. It's not a Hollywood blockbuster but a true-life British film about a couple's health and financial struggles and the healing they found in walking and nature. I'll try not to spoil it for those wanting to see the film (or read the book), but something that resonated with me was the difference in the two occasions when they met groups of walkers who overtook them on the path. The first time, at the start of their journey, the couple were struggling to walk and felt embarrassed as the group rushed past with the guide urging them on to their lunch time rendezvous. Later, after many battles, when they had become at one with the path and nature, they encountered some walkers again, but this time they felt sorry for them, as the group hurried past, not being present in the moment and so missing all the beauty around them.

Mindfulness and walking are two proven practices that benefit health and well-being. Raynor and Moth integrated the two through circumstances and experience as they walked the Salt Path, but there are guidelines for Mindful Walking and perhaps that is something we can try out in the future…

Another film, The Way, explores the spiritual awakening, mutual support, and uplift of long-distance pilgrimages. This is about the Camino Way with routes across France, Spain, and Portugal (although it can start in many other countries!). The destination is Santiago de Compostella and the tomb of St James the greater; one of Jesus' Disciples and brother of John the Evangelist. In recent years, the paths have become crowded at peak times, with over 300,000 pilgrims each year coming from various parts of the world. While many commercial activities have developed along 'The Way'.

There are many books written about the Camino Way including fact, fiction, guidebooks, personal experience diaries and blogs. Social media is full of dedicated sites giving advice and opinion, and Netflix has recently released a new film 'The Way - My Way' on some of its streaming services. With all this commercial and social promotion, I hope The Camino Way is not becoming another 'tick-list' tourist challenge that will detract from the devotional objectives of a pilgrimage, which should be a physical and spiritual journey to a personal, as well as geographic, destination. Numerous pilgrims report experiencing personal transformation and achieving a level of resolution by the end of their journey. One of the benefits of social media is that these significant experiences can now be shared more widely and more quickly.

Nearer to home you can find many pilgrim ways in the UK, although some listed on www.britishpilgrimage.org/routes don't have the long history or associations of the more famous ones around the world. Some examples are; Winchester to Canterbury

Going Walk About (Cont'd)



that is one-hundred and fifty-three miles long and links two great cathedrals and a lot of English history. While York Minster to Whitby Abbey is similar but only seventy miles long. The Saints Way that links the north Cornwall coast to the south is only twenty-seven miles long and follows the route of early pilgrims that were heading across to Europe and avoiding the treacherous sea journey around Land's End.

While locally the St Edmund Way takes you from Manningtree to Brandon, just north of Bury St Edmunds, and is around eighty miles long. Walsingham has always been one of the most popular destinations for pilgrims, and has routes of one-hundred and eighty miles from London and thirty-seven miles from Norwich. St Peter's way is a forty-mile route from Ongar to St Peter on the wall at Bradwell, one of the oldest churches in the country.

The problem with all such long-distance unidirectional walks is getting back to the start again! Our walks are always circular – in that they always finish where they started – even though the shapes may vary. Last month our walks were based on a figure-of-eight around Castle Hedingham, the beauty of a figure of eight is that you can turn it into three walks, the upper circle, the lower circle and the whole eight. This is one of my favourite local walks that is packed with points of interest, views of the castle keep, of course, a crossing of the one mile of railway track at the Colne Valley Railway, Alderford Mill and Hulls Mill with the ford over the road, riverside meadows and woodland, as well as some steep hills with glorious views when you reach the top! Congratulations to those that made it round the full 8.5 miles and those that enjoyed the two shorter walks too.

Walks in the plan for the coming summer months include short evening strolls around local footpaths, as well as our monthly Saturday walks of 3 to 5 miles from a local pub. If you are interested in joining our friendly walking group call or text me on 07734450221, Email me on goingwalkabout.colne@gmail.com, and ask about joining our WhatsApp group for chat and updates. While the latest information can always be found on the Three Colnes Website https://www.colnechurches.com/3colnes-walkinggroup

Ray Wood

Simon's Jokes

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Simon.

Simon who?

Simon time again I've asked you not to do that.

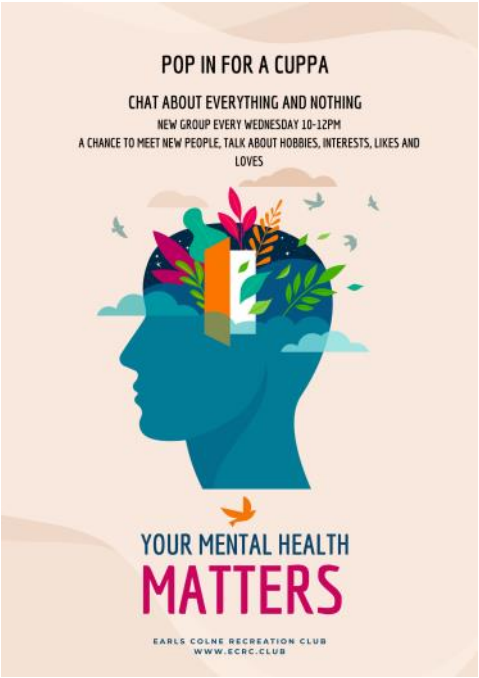
From Simon

Not Everything in the Garden

As local gardeners prepare for next month's Four Colnes Show, it seems that competition has always been keen but sometimes unscrupulous. The annual show started in 1882 as a so-called "cottage garden" event to avoid unfair competition from the owners of larger houses who employed professional gardeners. But there were sometimes suspicions that not all amateur entrants were keeping to the rules. In 1932 an anonymous letter to the local paper alleged that some competitors:

"have been heard to openly boast that entries which have secured them prizes have not been their own produce. As the sporting instinct of such people is non-existent, I would suggest that the Committee frames a law to the effect that any person showing produce other than of his own raising shall be disqualified from participating; and that any such person accepting a prize for such produce will be proceeded against for fraud."

It seems that drastic legal action was not considered necessary but the show's Committee was known to send representatives to carry out spot checks on the gardens of regular competitors, just to be on the safe side. Of course, no doubts have been raised about such under-hand tactics in recent years! **David Brown**







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Twinning With Nonancourt

EARLS COLNE

Fifty Years of Twinning With Nonancourt, West of Paris.

On Wednesday May 28th 07.45am from Earls Colne Village Hall, a group of intrepid and blurry eyed explorers set off on a coach to boldly go where no man had gawn before……NOPE!

We were part of a super group of people both young and old, who belong to the Twinning Association of Earls Colne. Some were travelling on the coach, some by train and some by car. We all arrived safely at Nonancourt Village Hall that evening, where there was a lovely reception given by the French - welcome speeches, delicious canapés, and scrumptious Normandy Cider added to the excitement! We were then ushered off to the homes of our respective hosts.

The following day was allocated as free, and there were various trips organised by our French friends which gave us time to get to know them a little better or reunite the friendships from the previous years.

On Friday 30th May we departed on a coach trip to visit “Bangles de L’Ome”. We saw the town and then went to “La Michaudiere” where we were served a gorgeous traditional lunch in the old stable more ‘Cidré et Aperitif’! **…..Cont’d /**



Twinning With Nonancourt (Cont'd)

EARLS COLNE

We were then treated to a rare horse show of Draught Horses showing their amazing adaptability as not just working horses but presented as hugely intelligent and beautiful beasts, well looked after at this extraordinary sanctuary.

On Saturday 31st May another treat - the morning before we departed. Our French friends organised a 70s vintage Car Show! Every make from a Citroen Deux Cheveaux, Triumph TR4 to a Renault Alpine!

Then we planted a tree commentating 50 years of the twinning of the towns - more speeches, flags and champagne!

And of course followed by another delicious lunch! The French really know how to eat and 'aperitif' over many hours of chatting and laughing!

The day was finally finished off with a 70's disco evening - warned to bring our outfits, it was an evening of great fun, shared friendships which again included food, drink, dancing and celebration cake! Promises to meet again of course!



Next April/May 2026 we will be hosting our Nonancourt friends. We need help for volunteers and hosts as many more of these special friends want to come!

For information please contact our chairman Tony 01787 223843 or Mina Preston 07503 187543 sminepreston@outlook.com





Village History

WHITE COLNE

Anton Diffring born 1916 is buried in a very unassuming grave at the back of White Colne church yard and unassuming is how I remember him. In the early sixties after the closure of a local Riding School, my and friend and I were asked to care for an ex-showjumper Rowan who we kept at Berwick Hall White Colne. The owners at the time were Mr and Mrs Compton Dando, and their son also Ashley rode with us. Mrs Compton Dando's Brother was Anton Diffring the German Actor who had major roles in many war films, such as Operation Day Break and Zeppelin. He was a striking figure with piercing blue eyes and blond hair, and not the formidable character as portrayed in films playing a Nazi. On occasions when Anton visited his sister, my friend and I were invited to swim in their lovely swimming pool and often with famous guests such as Frankie Howard, and Alan Wheatley (the Sherriff of Nottingham actor.).



Anton died in France in 1989 aged 72. All was somewhat taken for granted by me at 16, but now on reflection I consider it a privilege to have been there, and such a special time. I hope Ashley may read this as he was part of this story.

Anne Beadle.

Summer Hub

WHITE COLNE

White Colne summer hub takes place every Monday from 11am to 1pm, starting from Monday 7th July 2025 at the Village Hall. FREE teas and coffees – all welcome!

Thanks to a generous grant of £2,500, we're excited to open the White Colne Hub at the Village Hall every Monday from 11am to 1pm – a relaxed and friendly space for everyone in the locality to drop in, catch up, and connect.

⇒ Free hot drinks provided

⇒ Bring your own lunch or snacks to share

⇒ Social Supermarket open on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month

Whether you pop in for a quick cuppa or stay for the full two hours, this is your space to meet neighbours, make new friends, and enjoy the warmth of our community.

All ages are welcome – from babies to retirees, and everyone in between.

And when the hall closes at 1pm, why not head over to The Meadows for a peaceful walk or a picnic in the fresh air?

Let's make Mondays something to look forward to!

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
https://www.facebook.com/groups/whitecolnepc/

Cllr. JANE TAYLOR— 07521 312778
chairman@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. JAMES BOND is Vice chair .
Cllr.jbond@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. PAUL BATCHFORD
Cllr.pbatchford@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. JOHN WILSON
Cllr.jwilson@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. JASON PRYKE
Cllr.jpryke@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

JIM MORRIS is Parish Clerk
clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Responsibilities as yet have not been assigned.

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

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

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 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

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).

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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
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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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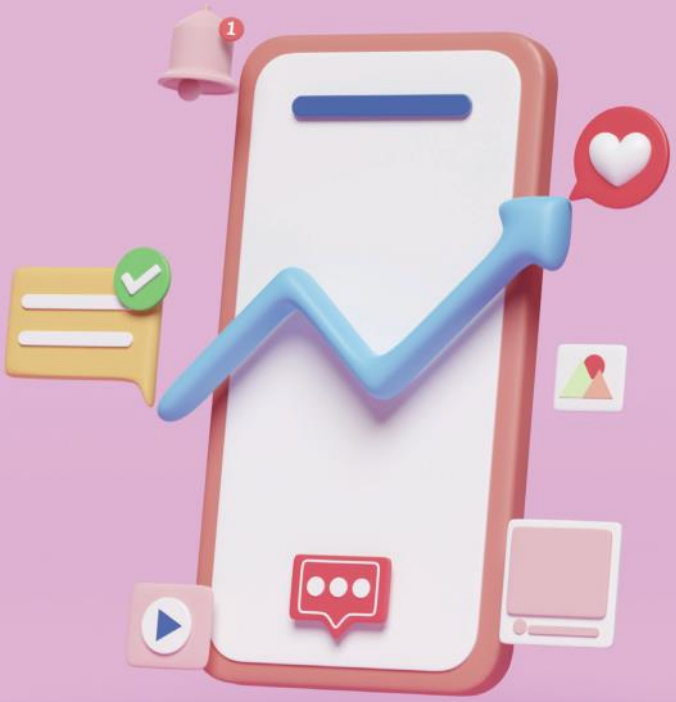






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