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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 JULY/AUGUST '26 ISSUE PLEASE PROVIDE

SUBMISSIONS BY 8TH JUNE 2026

Please provide editorial in Word and advertising as .jpg file

Welcome



Hello, it is lovely to be back and I am very grateful to my stand-in last month, Jonathan, who did a fabulous job - thank you.

We are now moving into that wonderful summer weather season and, I have to say, I am very grateful for the sunshine! My son, however, may not agree quite so much, as he is beginning his GCSEs as I write this. It has brought back so many memories for me: the scent of wood polish in school halls, hot sunshine pouring through the windows, no air conditioning and windows that never seemed to open. Everything felt warm and stuffy and full school uniform had to be worn every day, complete with top button fastened and tie in place. I had not thought about those days for such a long time. It is funny how memories can suddenly appear, triggered by the most unexpected things.

GOOD LUCK to all those who have been doing exams lately; I hope it wasn't too stressful.

The other day, I was running a parent support group and we had to change venue because our usual space was being used as a polling station. As the first parent walked in, they immediately commented that the smell reminded them of being in church, despite not having stepped inside one for many years.

It made me wonder what smells trigger happy memories for you? My favourite is roast chicken, as it reminds me of family dinners at my grandparents' house. Oddly enough, even the slight smell of damp in a house can bring those memories back too.

And now onto the magazine itself. Thank you to all the wonderful contributors who send me content every month. Please do keep it coming from all three villages. If there are any clubs, groups, or community events taking place across the Three Colnes, please feel free to promote them here.

We are very keen to keep this magazine as a free resource for everyone within the Three Colnes community. To help make that possible, we rely on selling advertising space, which we aim to keep as affordable and reasonable as we can so that local firms and small businesses are able to advertise with us. If you do use any of our advertisers, please let them know where you found their details; your support really does help keep the magazine going.

We do, however, need a little help. Our distribution team, particularly in White Colne and Earls Colne, needs a few more volunteers to help keep the magazine moving.

If you have a spare half hour each month that you could give, we would be incredibly grateful for your support. Please email us at threecolnesmagazine@gmail.com and we will be in touch.

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

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PCC Secretary: Candy Robson



Pastoral Care

Having a Tough Time?

In our three parishes, we believe it's part of our calling to look out for one another and for our neighbours too, whatever their background or beliefs.

A small but dedicated group from our churches helps to put this care into action. They head out into our villages to visit, chat and offer a listening ear to anyone who might need a bit of support.

We're here for anyone who needs someone to talk to or feels weighed down by life's ups and downs. Whether young or old, well-off or struggling, strong or weary, we're all part of the same family and no one has to face things alone.

If you would like to chat – in confidence - please call or e-mail one of our team or contact Rev Mark, our Team Vicar. We are:

Helen Sherfield 07908 138853 colnechurches@gmail.com
Beryl Amy 07772 080504 berylamy@hotmail.com
Terry Hawthorn 07970 147516 terryhawthorn43@gmail.com
or: Rev Mark Payne 07712 589553 colnesvicar@gmail.com

Thoughts for the month

Dear friends and neighbours,

Spring crept up on me this year, and I found myself pleasantly caught out by the beauty of the spring blooms and the dawn chorus. The sunrises and the sunsets have been glorious, spilling colours across the sky unrivalled by the most stunning creations of any artist on earth. And I am ashamed to say how little I appreciated the dusk chorus, not to be out done by the dawn chorus. My thanks to Revd Mark and Helen S for introducing me to the Merlin app, for the robin is now my evening friend, as I listen out for its chirping and warbling as the sun goes down setting the sky on fire, the hues of which are best appreciated with the naked eye!

The unfathomable beauty of nature. The gift of creation gives more than it takes; it can and often does leave us speechless in its awesomeness; it inspires and delights us; it lifts our spirits and can be the balm just when we need it to be.

We have all heard about the effects of the climate emergency on our beautiful planet and we don't have to go far to see the results of the damage being caused. And it is so easy to get overwhelmed by the scale of the problem. Yet, each and every one of us can contribute to stemming the tide of destruction, giving nature the opportunity to be healed and restored. Much in the same way, we are healed and restored through nature itself.

This month sees World Environment Day on the 5th June and Environment Sunday on the 7th June. These are opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate God's gift of creation and the diversity of the environment in which we live and share with others of God's creatures (though I do wonder why God made green slugs)!! Many of you may have enjoyed the Bug Hunt at St Andrew's Church Earls Colne last month. If you missed out, why not use World Environment Day or Environment Sunday to have your own bug hunt? I'm sure the Eco Church teams would love to hear what you've discovered in and around our wonderful villages.

And did you know, St Andrew's Earls Colne is now the proud recipient of the A Rocha UK's Silver award. A Rocha UK (https://arocha.org.uk) is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. So HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to the entire Eco Church team and all in Earls Colne that have made that achievement possible. Whether or not you are a Christian or come to Church, caring for the environment is something we all can (and dare I say must) do. So if you would like to get involved either as part of the Eco Church initiative (look out for more exciting events coming up during the year), would like to learn more about how you can contribute in your corner of our beautiful world or would consider joining any of the super dedicated churchyard working teams with as much or as little time as you can spare, please do get in touch. In the meantime, do listen out for and enjoy the dusk chorus.

And if you ever doubted what being immersed in nature can do for you, I write this on the day Sir David Attenborough celebrates his 100th birthday!

With love and prayers,

Sharon

Services for June

Date	Time	Church	Service
Wednesday 3rd	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Colne Engaine	3:30 Express
Sunday 7th	10am	Earls Colne#	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Morning Worship
	10am	White Colne	Holy Communion
Wednesday 10th	9.30am	Colne Engaine	BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Colne Engaine	Three Colnes Festival Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	10am	Earls Colne #	Holy Communion Father's Day with bacon baps
	10am	Colne Engaine	Mattins
	10am	White Colne	Morning Worship
	6pm for 6.30pm	Earls Colne	Café Church
Wednesday 24th	9.45am	Earls Colne	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	10am	Earls Colne#	Morning Worship
	10am	Colne Engaine	Holy Communion
	6pm	Earls Colne	Evensong

Live-streamed via our Facebook page 'The Three Colnes'

Everyone is very welcome to all and any of our services.

Different Ways to Pray…..

"Centering Prayer is simply sitting in silence, open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations. like being with a very close friend, where words are not required, Centering Prayer brings your relationship with God to a level deeper than conversation, to pure communion.

The Three Colnes Churches Upcoming Fundraising Events website: www.colnechurches.com			
Saturday 20th	7pm	Earls Colne	Bingo
Saturday 27th	7pm	Earls Colne	Stour Valley Singers
Sunday 28th	2-5pm	Earls Colne	Cream Teas followed by Evensong 6pm

Heritage Museum
EARLS COLNE

Earls Colne Heritage Museum is delighted to announce that the iconic water tower, home to the Museum since 2005, has now been purchased by the Earls Colne Heritage Museum Charitable Trust and refurbishment works to the outside of the building have begun. The acquisition was facilitated by grants from both the Heritage Trust and the Manton Foundation (USA), for which we are very grateful. The museum will continue its normal opening times while this work is carried out but please be aware that scaffolding is currently around the building.

The reinterpretation of the museum's displays and collections will commence following the completion of the renovation. Please follow the ECHM Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/earlscolneheritagemuseum, for more information as we now move forward with this exciting project.

Gage's Garage Ledgers. Last month, David Brown wrote a short piece in the newsletter regarding Revd Methven, Vicar of Earls Colne, 1889-1916, being one of the first in the village to own a motor car and his Churchwarden, Walter Grimston, being the first village motorist to have an accident!

PEARTREE
BED & BREAKFAST

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



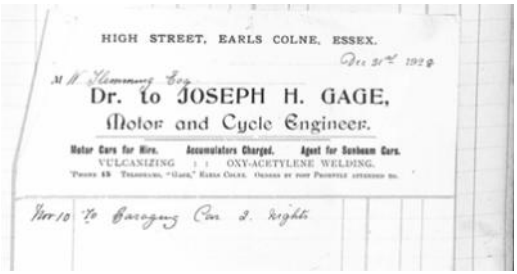
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Heritage Museum
EARLS COLNE

Coincidentally, the museum has recently been donated Joseph Gage's Ledgers, "Motor and Cycle Engineer", dating from 1919 when he first established his business. These make fascinating reading, having been passed from him to Robert Evans, who purchased the business. As we know, the business still exists as Gage's Garage, run now for over 28 years by Bob Bradshaw. We are indebted to Anna Phillips, niece of the late Robert Evans, for donating these. They will aid us considerably in our research of the social history of the village at that time as, shortly following WW1, it was the principal persons of the village who owned motor vehicles. Joseph Gage also operated a taxi service and detailed his trips, e.g. "Vicar to Marks Tey Station – 7 shillings and 6 pence" – somewhat cheaper than today!


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BT Telephone Box, outside of Drapers. Recently, BT decided to remove the telephone outside the Drapers; modern mobile phone technology has led to thousands of these iconic red boxes being removed from their sites across the country. **…..Cont'd /**

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Fortunately, charitable organisations can "adopt" these boxes for the princely sum of £1! This has now been completed by the Museum, and our intention is that it will be repurposed as an information booth, complementing the Book Exchange telephone box at the other end of the village.

The Museum continues with walks, talks and community engagement.

June Events: **13 June** - Great Tey Village Fete. We'll be there with our pop-up gazebo and displays. Come and support Gt Tey Village. **20 June** - Out and About with John Stedman continues with Shut Lane, Park Lane and Hayhouse Road. Meet at St Andrews Churchyard for a 2pm start. Audio equipment supplied. Tickets £7.50 available from the Museum or John. Please advise of your intention to attend. **30th June** at the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford Gordon Brown talks "SAS in Wartime Essex" Tickets available from: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ero-presents-the-sas-in-wartime-essex-tickets-1982011459630?

Thank you for your continued support.

www.echm.org.uk. https://www.facebook.com/earlscolneheritagemuseum

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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 9th June 2026

Our **June** book is:

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy.



They broke all the rules. They all crossed into forbidden territory. They all tampered with the laws that lay down who should be loved, and how. And how much.

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

Margaret Hill.

Film Club
EARLS COLNE

It's nearly the summer and this month's film might be a bit of nostalgia for the biker fans among you. A mid-life crisis, hyped-up road trip or both? Who knows, but this is your invitation to don your leathers, helmets and join the ride to find out!

The Film - Wild Hogs (2007, starring John Travolta, Tim Allen and Martin Lawrence)

The Discussion - Wednesday 10th June 2026 gather at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

The Where - The Drapers, Earls Colne

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

If you have watched a film that you feel would lead to a really good, deep, meaningful, engaging and even fun discussion, please let us know; we would love to hear your suggestions. And why not join us? You would be most welcomed.



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Village History
EARLS COLNE

Flying Visits. When work began on the construction of the runways for Earls Colne's wartime aerodrome in January 1941, labour was in short supply. One of the supervisors, Bart Treganza, recalls in his memoirs the problem of organizing large numbers of workmen who had been recruited in Dublin and shipped to England with no preparation or training. One foreman found himself in charge of a jockey, a hoopla attendant and a lion tamer:

“The canteen manageress was most unpopular, the staple rations being porridge, sausage and sago. The men longed for the day when she could spell 'tapioca'.”

After May 1943, with the American air force in residence, top-line entertainment was provided for the air crews. Bob Hope was the star of one concert; but Eric Dundatscheck, who was an engineering officer, reveals for the first time in his memoirs an even more important visitor to Earls Colne:

“When one of my crew was working on an engine with his head poked inside, someone tugged on his overall leg and asked if he could have a look. The crewman said, 'Sure, come on up!' It turned out to be the King [George VI] who chatted to him for quite some time.” **David Brown**

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Farleigh Hospice

Are you ready for a challenge? Farleigh Hospice provides compassionate care to adults with life-limiting illnesses and their families in Halstead and the Colne Valley. It also offers bereavement information and support and makes no charge for its services.

Farleigh is a charity that relies on public support. Could you take on a sporting challenge to raise much-needed funds for your local hospice?

If you are a walker, runner, trekker, cyclist or thrill seeker, Farleigh has a challenge to suit you, whatever your interest, level of fitness or free time. It's a great way to achieve your fitness goals or try something new and it gives you a fabulous sense of achievement.

There are currently places available on the Royal Parks Half Marathon on 11 October or you could fly through the skies on a wing walk on 11 July! You can see the full list of challenges at www.farleighhospice.org/challenges .

If you're not into sport, you can create your own sponsored challenge doing something else that you enjoy. You could organise a board games marathon with your friends, a 24-hour sing-a-thon with your choir or a sponsored silence at your school!

Farleigh Hospice is very grateful for your support and would love to hear how you are fundraising: 01245 457411 or fundraising@farleighhospice.org.





Twinning With Nonancourt



If, during the May Bank Holiday weekend, you walked down Earls Colne High Street or visited its shops and businesses, you may have noticed a display of French flags and signs welcoming French visitors to the village. This was to celebrate the Earls Colne / Nonancourt Twinning Association which started in 1975 and is still going strong in its 51st year.



Over the Bank Holiday weekend, French guests stayed with English host families and took part in a range of social and cultural events. Following a welcome reception on Friday evening at the village hall, visitors returned to their hosts' homes for dinner. On Saturday, some members visited Earls Colne church and museum, whilst others went further afield (eg Cambridge, Lavenham and Tiptree jam factory). In the evening, the twinning group met at the village hall where they enjoyed a buffet, a barn dance as well as some traditional **…..Cont'd /**

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Twinning With Nonancourt (Cont'd)

and contemporary folk and blues music from local duo, Old Peculiar.

On Sunday, the group visited Ickworth House and gardens, where there was an opportunity to learn about English country homes and enjoy the beautiful Suffolk countryside. On Monday Bank Holiday, members chose to do different activities with their guests (eg visiting local sites, sharing meals with other members and relaxing with friends). We said farewell to our French friends on Tuesday morning.

The weekend was an opportunity for us to appreciate friendship, co-operation and respect for different cultures. We have a lot to be proud of in Earls Colne and beyond and that pride was clearly demonstrated over the weekend.

The Twinning Association would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made an extra special effort to decorate the High Street and make our guests feel welcome. It would also like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support of the Association and for its representation at the events.

Our next social event is a group walk from Earls Colne to the Kings Head in Pebmarsh on Saturday 30 May so, if you would like to join us, please get in touch.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Earls Colne/Nonancourt Twinning Association, please contact: Katherineburns1962@gmail.com or yasminpreston@outlook.com.

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Plants In The Porch



COLNE ENGAINE

PLANTS FOR SALE IN THE COLNE ENGAINE CHURCH PORCH

Donations are welcome and go towards church funds.

Please put any cash donations in the wall safe on the left as you enter the church. If you take the trays to carry plants home, please return to the porch for use next year.

Thank you so much.

Open Gardens in 2027

COLNE ENGAINE

Open Gardens – Colne Engaine – Sunday 16 May 2027 The first Open Gardens event in Colne Engaine was held in 2011 and the last one in 2023. Therefore, it is time to display the gardens once again!

Climate change is affecting the way we garden and there is more focus now on creating areas for wildlife and biodiversity. As a result, some gardens will be more 'relaxed in style' like mine! If you would like to open your garden, however big or small, or help at the event on a plant/book stall or serving teas, please email Mary Ashby at ashbyjmak@aol.com

All the volunteers will have the opportunity to view the gardens before the open day. It's a lovely community event where everyone can share plant advice and experiences or just enjoy a cuppa and cake in a beautiful setting!

Happy gardening, **Mary Ashby**

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Evensong

We are very fortunate that at Earls Colne there is a choir able to sing Evensong one Sunday evening a month. Choral evensong, especially in cathedrals, remains a popular service with increasing attendance numbers even while church attendance in general continues to decline. A 2022 Review of the Cathedral Music Landscape in the United Kingdom noted that 'cathedral music, and in particular the service of choral evensong, has seen a sustained surge in popularity, even at a time of decreasing church attendance over all … Many people love cathedral music for its transcendent beauty and numinous quality, whether or not they are religiously active.'

It is interesting to note that Choral Evensong is broadcast twice a week on Radio 3 (Sunday afternoons repeated on Wednesdays and available on iPlayer — always worth listening to!). That is, it is broadcast on the Classical music station, not Radio 4 which broadcasts Sunday services and daily prayer. It is appreciated as a musical performance. The controller of Radio 3, Sam Jackson, was quoted in the Telegraph on 1st February as saying 'Evensong is terribly inclusive. You can find deep faith and meaning in an act of worship you can simply enjoy the meditative quality of the music.'

There are many, no doubt, who enjoy attending choral evensong, in a Cathedral or College chapel, who have no conscious interest in the religious aspect of the service; they may claim to be 'cultural Christians' as, apparently, even the Neo-atheist Richard

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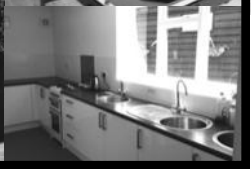
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Evensong (Cont'd)

Dawkins has, claiming he prefers to live in a Christian country. Whatever we may think of the politics suggested by this, if attending choral Evensong as a 'cultural Christian', enjoying the music, the architecture of the building and its atmosphere, also has an unsought spiritual dimension, that is surely a good thing.

The service of Evensong is the creation of Thomas Cranmer as part of the Book of Common Prayer, still beloved by so many in the Church of England. It is based, as much of the prayer book was, on pre-Reformation monastic services, in particular Vespers and Compline. This pattern of daily services was established by St Benedict in his rule for the Abbey of Monte Cassino around the year 529 so it has been said regularly for nearly 1500 years!

Cranmer may not have been interested in singing or approved of cathedrals but he bequeathed to us the jewel of all cathedral services: sung Evensong. Cranmer's prayer book was revised, and finally given a more catholic makeover in 1662 (the date which gives us the short-hand name for the Book of Common Prayer) but it is his prose which remains, described by Diarmaid MacCulloch as 'prose which can be spoken generation on generation without seeming trite or tired, words now worn as smooth and strong as a pebble on a beach'. What a beautiful and apposite image!

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Brick Meadows

EARLS COLNE

At 5a.m. on a very cold morning at the end of April, twelve people gathered at the Church Hill entrance to the Brick Meadows to experience one of Nature's annual wonders. With experienced ornithologist Mike Grearly we listened as different birds started their daily marking of territories and advertising for a mate while the air is still and the noise of human activity is almost non-existent. We walked through the different areas of the meadows and heard the various birds who frequented those habitats; we even heard the cuckoo although it was in the distance. Many people have said that they don't need to get up early to hear the birds singing but it is a very different experience when you have someone with you who can pick out and name the different calls which you might otherwise miss. After a very cold but fascinating walk we were all relieved to get inside and enjoy breakfast prepared by Robert Barton; the money raised from this event will go towards our funds and we would like to thank everyone who took part and especially Mike for his enthusiasm and knowledge.

Observers will notice that we have several areas in the Brick Meadows which have been colonised by the stinging nettle and, although many of us have cursed when encountering it, it does have some interesting facts which are worth noting. In the past the nettle has been used for cloth, food, dyes and medicine. The stinging nettle is rarely eaten by animals because of the stinging hairs, but it does provide shelter for insects. It provides **…..Cont'd /**

Braintree Area Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Our Current Shopping List



Food items we need: Jam; Chocolate; Tinned Fish; Tinned Spaghetti Hoops; Tinned Maccaroni and Cheese; Tinned Ravioli

Non food items we need: Toilet Roll; Baby Wipes; Deodorant; Shower Gel; Washing Up Liquid

We have lots of ways that you can help including Fundraising. Hold a tea party, do a sponsored personal fitness challenge or just make a monetary donation it will help someone in food hunger

www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/

Telephone: 01376 330694

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Braintree Area Foodbank supports the whole of the Braintree District including Great Notley, Halstead, The Hedingham's, Witham and surrounding villages.

food for the caterpillars of the Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies; ladybirds feast on aphids which shelter in amongst the leaves. The mechanism that causes the sting is a simple process; when touched, the tip of the hairs on the stems break off and release an acid which causes the painful rash that many of us are familiar with.

Young nettle leaves can be eaten as a vegetable while the dried leaves can be used as a tea. During WW11 children were encouraged to collect them to produce a dark green dye for camouflage. Also, during the war, nettles were harvested to supply chlorophyll for medicines.

In the past, nettles have provided fibres to make cloth. The bones of a Bronze Age Dane were found wrapped in fabric made from nettle stems and even in the late 1800s nettle tablecloths and bed linen were being used in Scotland.

Last year I watched a film called "The Nettle Dress" by textile artist Allan Brown and saw how he harvested nettle stems over seven years, processed them and eventually spun enough fibres to make a dress. Next year I will be attending a weekend workshop with Allan and will be cutting my own nettles at the end of the summer this year to provide some fibres so that I can learn some of the techniques which go into making nettle cloth.

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Four Colnes Horticultural Society

Into June and increasingly our eyes and thoughts are turning toward the Four Colnes Show of August 15th. As I write, "if only it would rain" is a constant thought. Nearly 8 weeks with barely a drop to encourage seeds to germinate but, surprisingly, with little nurturing green shoots are appearing. The Annual Show is not just about gardening and produce, there is a range of classes for all ages and abilities from art to creativity, photos, flower arranging, jams, chutneys and cooking. Take a look at the schedule available on our website www.fourcolneshorticulturalsociety.com and surely you will find one or hopefully more headings that suit your abilities. Children's entries have been noticeably short in recent years but with prize money "up for grabs" in this section there is an added incentive to add to holiday pocket money.

Help is always needed to stage the show with set-up late (3pm onwards) afternoon on Friday 14th and take-down at 5pm on the Saturday. All help is welcome from setting up the tables to unrolling the paper table covers. Many hands make light work and add to the community spirit of the show.

If you haven't already signed up the Society has arranged a visit to Blunts Hall in Witham on the afternoon of Friday June 19th. Please contact secretary.fchs@outlook.com to see if any spaces are available. Cost will be £15pp payable immediately to confirm.

…..Cont'd /

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Four Colnes Horticultural Society

If you are visiting the Colne Engaine Festival on Saturday June 13th please look out for the Society gazebo. Committee members will be on hand throughout the day to talk about the Society's aims, recent garden visits and, hopefully, encourage new members to sign up for the very modest fee of £5 per calendar year.

In early April, eighteen Society members enjoyed an afternoon visit to the National Garden Scheme Mayfield Farm at Ardleigh. Set in 7 acres of grounds the owners have built the garden from open fields in less than a decade. Amazingly so much had matured in that time that it felt like a long-established garden with every twist and turn filled with new vistas. Shrubs and trees that were a bit out of the ordinary abounded, making the whole visit very inspirational. A moss garden based on a Japanese style is becoming established so a revisit in a few years will be well worth considering.

Whilst we are still only at mid-year plans have already been confirmed for the Society's Christmas Fayre which will take place in Earls Colne Village Hall on Saturday 12th December. Bookings for tables are being taken (some already allocated); if you are interested in having one for your own goods or produce, please do not delay and contact the secretary as above. **Sarah Adlem**

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Further information contact::
Jenny 01376 562088 or 07507 658842
Simon 01206 242444 or 07952 381802

Lunchtime Recital
EARLS COLNE

LUNCHTIME RECITALS ELEVENTH SEASON UPDATES:

Thursday 11th June - Lizzie Gutteridge - Life-Looping Concert 1pm-1.45pm

Thursday 9th July - Edward Preston - Piano with Tony Hill - Violin

Thursday 13th August - Lorraine Ely - Soprano with Hans Montanana (accompanist)

Thursday 10th September - Midnight Oil, featuring Eurythmics saxophonist Martin Dobson.

Starting from 12.15pm for refreshments with recitals starting at 1pm. Free Entry. Retiring Collection. For more information contact Liz Pottinger via email: liz.pottinger@hotmail.co.uk

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Sunday Family fete day with inflatables & stalls! Live performers - public dog show - line dancing - circus workshop & more! Crafts, games & face painting!

→ TURN OVER FOR EVENING EVENTS →

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Waste Collections

Tackling Nappy and Continence Waste: Braintree's New Support for Residents

Braintree District Council has launched a new Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collection service to support households managing extra sanitary and care-related waste. The scheme comes alongside wider recycling changes being introduced across the district, including new recycling bins and a move to three-weekly general waste collections.

While the changes are designed to increase recycling and reduce landfill waste, some residents raised concerns about storing nappies and continence products for longer periods — especially during warmer summer months when bins can quickly become unpleasant. The new service is intended to ease that pressure for families, carers, and residents with additional hygiene needs.

The free, optional collection service is available to households using nappies, continence pads, stoma and catheter bags, feeding tubes, disposable gloves, aprons, wipes, and absorbent bed sheets. Eligible residents will receive council-issued sacks and benefit from two additional collections during each three-week refuse cycle, helping to reduce odours and waste build-up between standard bin days.

However, the council has warned that clinical waste, textiles, reusable nappies, food waste, and hazardous materials will not be accepted as part of the scheme.

Residents wishing to apply or find out more about the service can do so online via https://www.braintree.gov.uk/ahpcollections or call 01376 552525

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Thursday

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One of our most popular events returns! Gather a team of up to 8 people & test your knowledge across a fun mix of questions. Bring your own drinks & snacks - enjoy a brilliant evening of friendly competition & laughs. £100 cash prize!

Friday

Family Disco - 12 June - 6.30pm to 10pm.
£7 General Admission / £30 Family Ticket (x5 people, any combo).
A brand new festival event! Dance the night away with a fantastic DJ, entertainer, UV lights, smoke machines & face painting, with a bar & food stall too. It will be a great evening of music & fun for all ages.

Saturday

Band Night - 13 June - 7pm to 11.30pm. £17.50 per person.
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From The Four Colnes' Magazine

WHITE COLNE

JUNE 1926

The greatest event during the past month in this Parish has been the Confirmation on Sunday, May 16th.

The event is memorable for several reasons. The Bishop of Colchester told us that so far as he could discover from the Diocesan Registers there does not appear to have to have been a Confirmation held in our own Parish Church since the Reformation; this in itself marks the day as one to be long remembered. But far more important than this interesting point is the fact that so many Candidates came forward from the Parish. There were twelve men and thirteen women making a total of twenty-five in all. This surely constitutes no mean record for so small a Parish. **Liz Pottinger**

St. Andrew's Games Club

EARLS COLNE

St. Andrew's Games Club next meet-up on **Friday 5th June 2026** at **7.00 pm**.

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

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

ECRC

Earls Colne Recreation Club

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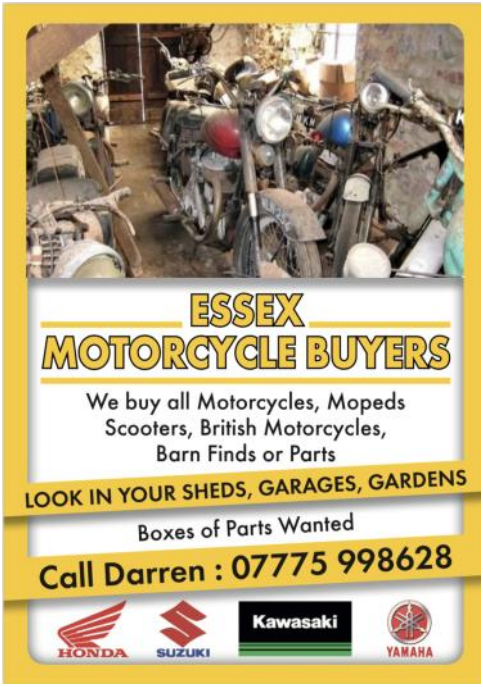
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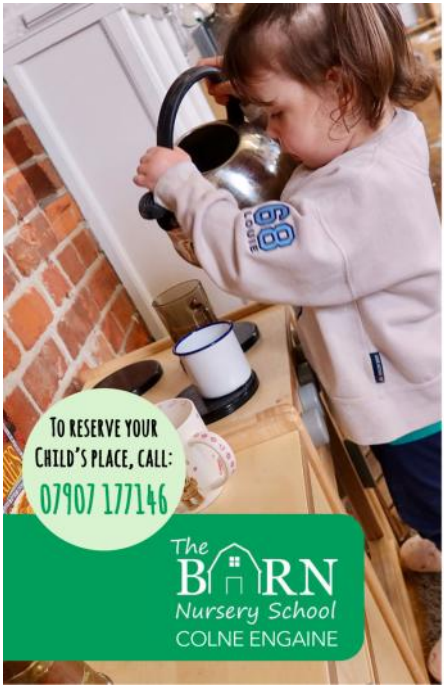
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Going Walk About



For our April walk we crossed the border into Suffolk. Although we have done that a few times during walks, this was the first time we have started a walk on the other side of the river Stour! Our objective was to see the bluebells in Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), on the outskirts of Assington.



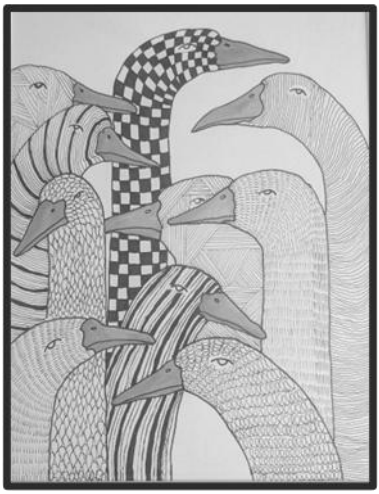
A boardwalk in Arger Fen

Like our local Chalkney Woods this is ancient, deciduous woodland where bluebells thrive. Spouse's Vale is on a hillside with Arger Fen a wetter section at the bottom, with streams and boggy areas that can be crossed on well cared-for boardwalks and bridges.

We started the walk from the Barn Café and Tea Rooms in Assington where we would return for lunch. Turning left along The Street we took the path round the playing field, by the village hall, to reach Barracks Lane. We turned right and continued to the junction where we took the track to the left, signposted to Assington Mill.

Towards the end of the track, we took the gated footpath to the left through Cowlin's Wood, recently acquired by Suffolk Wildlife Trust as an addition to the nature reserve. The broad paths through the gently undulating landscape brought us to a bridge and then the first boardwalk in Arger Fen. A second boardwalk to the left took us alongside a damp area with a pond to our left. There were no bluebells here, but the white pom-poms of wild garlic stretched as far **…..Cont'd /**

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as we could see between the trees. The boardwalk ended at the bottom of a steep hill; as we climbed it the air was tinged with the smell of garlic. Further on some steps made the climb easier, then the path turned a little to the right revealing, further up and to our left, a haze of blue.

The bluebells stretched deeply into the wooded area and more soon became evident to our right as well. We turned left at the next footpath junction and here the bluebells became a narrower strip beside the path, restricted by the uncurling ferns and brambles behind them.

The path dropped down to a bridge after which we climbed some steps up the other side. At the top of the hill there was a small clearing with a strategically placed bench-seat to the right that looked over another large area of bluebells. We enjoyed a short refreshment break here, watching the bluebells ahead of us disappear down the next slope.

We followed the track down to the wetter areas again and took the path to our right. This left the nature reserve and for a while ran alongside it, before passing through farmland and paddocks, eventually exiting on to a quiet country lane (High Road). We followed this to its junction with Barracks Lane, turning left to follow the lane to the footpath through the playing field by the village hall and to return to the tea rooms.

If you are interested in joining us on future walks, (pub lunch optional!) please let me know on goingwalkabout.colne@gmail.com or by phone/text on 07734 450221. **Ray Wood**

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Halstead Area Team of Churches

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Recipe Corner



APPLE AND CINNAMON CAKE

Whenever I make this, I think of my son, Alan, who, as a very small child, used to insist on having apple and cinnamon cake with his tea. He's now celebrating his fortieth birthday and planning a barbecue for his guests.

Serves: About 12

Ingredients

10oz Self-raising flour
1½ teaspoonfuls Ground cinnamon
½ teaspoonful Salt
8oz Brown sugar
2oz Raisins
4oz Butter
2 large Eggs (Beaten)
8oz Apples (Weigh after peeling and coring. You will probably need about 4-5 small eating apples.)

Method

Preheat the oven to 180oC.

Peel and core apples. Cut into largish pieces then grate them. Weigh them. Put aside any apples over the weight. (Do not be tempted to add them anyway, as too much apple may cause the cake to be wet and gloopy.)

In food processor, or by hand, rub the butter into the flour (as if you were making pastry).

Add grated apples and mix in.

Add cinnamon, salt, eggs and raisins and mix well. The batter mixture should be quite firm. If it's dry, as distinct from firm, add a very little milk, a tablespoonful at a time.

Grease a square or rectangular tin well. Spread the batter mixture into the tin.

Cook at 180C for about an hour, until the mixture has risen, is golden brown and coming away from the sides of the tin. Test the centre of the mixture with a blunt knife. If the knife comes out clean (or ever so slightly greasy), remove the cake from the oven. (If the knife comes out with uncooked cake mixture on it, put the cake back into the over and test it again. Do this as often as you need to.)

If the cake is oven cooked, let it stand at room temperature for about 5 minutes.

While the cake is still in the tin, cut the cake into small squares and place the squares on to a cooling rack. Cover the cooking rack with a clean tea towel or net fly cover. Eat as soon as possible!

Rosemary Johnson



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
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CLLR MARY ASHBY
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responsibilities to be confirmed

WHITE COLNE

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk
https://www.facebook.com/groups/whitecolnepc/

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Vacancy: For details please Contact
clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council

EARLS COLNE

For all Parish Council news visit: https://www.earlscolne-pc.gov.uk/

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SARAH GAETA is the Clerk and RFO
clerk@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk

TERRY BENNETT is the
Village Hall Caretaker

COMMUNITY WORKER TEAM: Dean Cudmore, Terry Bennett and Paul Southgate

To find out more about your Councillors and their areas of expertise, or to get in touch, please visit www.earlscolne-pc.gov.uk.
The **Parish Office** is located at the **Village Hall**, and the Clerk can be contacted on **01787 224370**. If there is no reply, please do leave a message and your call will be returned.
Parish Council Meetings – Please note change of day Meetings are now held on the **third Tuesday of every month** at the **Village Hall**, starting at **7:15pm**.
A notice of each meeting will be displayed in advance on all Village Notice Boards. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. There is a **15-minute public session** at the start of each meeting, with individual speakers limited to **3 minutes**. The Council also welcomes opportunities to meet with residents at other times by prior arrangement, either through the Clerk or directly via your Councillor's email.

OTHER COUNCILLORS AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

County Councillor **Isi Rocha**
cllr.Isi.rocha@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

Useful Numbers

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Colchester City Council 01206 282222

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

Schools
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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
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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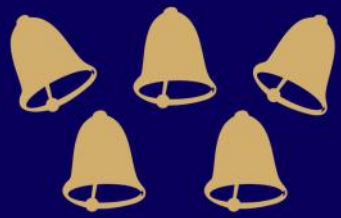
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