

Earls Colne Parish Council Newsletter



Hello, and Welcome to our first newsletter!

This is another way we are trying to engage more fully with the Residents of Earls Colne. We want to provide you with up-to-date, accurate news of what we are doing, and with ways to contact us if there are issues you think need attention. We are not sure yet how often the newsletter will appear, maybe monthly, maybe quarterly, but both paper and online versions will be available. If there is an event open to the whole village that you would like mentioned, please let us know; in fact, let us know anything you think the rest of the village might be interested in! We retain the right to publish or not as we see fit.

As many of you know, our much-admired Community Worker, Lee Duncombe has resigned and Dean Cudmore, who worked with Lee has been doing a solid job of keeping things up together whilst we considered our options. Councillors Phil Wall and Martyn Jackson, with help from volunteer Bob Cook took the opportunity to properly evaluate the tasks involved and timings needed to keep our village tidy, clean, and beautiful. Their conclusions were that we needed a team of three part time Community Workers, working flexibly, maybe even in conjunction with the Village Hall Caretaker. This has multiple benefits. So far, we have recruited Terry Bennett to the team, and he is now learning the ropes. We are still looking for a third person to complete our team.

Sadly, we also said Goodbye to Barry and Sue, our Caretaker team. Partly due to frustration that necessary works to the hall are taking longer than they hoped, and partly because the hall is getting steadily busier with regular hirers and events, and time in their time in Frinton was being eaten into. As an interim

measure, we have contracted Mia Armerio to take over, and are using her expertise to consider what we really need from a Caretaker in the future, as the role has not been evaluated for a long time.

Whether you are a longstanding villager or a newcomer, you will know of 'Ziel' the lovely shop on the corner of Queens Road. What you may not know, is that until sometime in the last century, that building was the village forge. It was left empty for a while, and was eventually bought and turned into a shop by the Goodridge family. Many of the tools of the blacksmiths trade were still in situ when they bought the shop, and the family kept some of them. The family, at a ceremony in the village hall, have returned an amazing set of original bellows to the village. They are currently to be seen in the glass 'ante-room' in the foyer of the Village Hall (Actually known as the 'Ticket Office'!) they will be there throughout 2022, after which they will hopefully find a permanent home back in their original home – in Ziel. Come and have a look!



The issue we have all been talking about recently is the traffic, the speeding and the number of accidents that have taken place in such a short time. Unfortunately, as a Parish Council we have very little influence over the roads as they are a Highways matter, but be assured we are working closely with Councillor Chris Siddal and our Braintree District Councillors Gabrielle Spray and George Courtauld to apply as much pressure as possible to the powers that be

for something to be done before we actually lose somebody. It must be pointed out though, that the highways are VERY heavily regulated and it is not just a case of demanding any specific alteration that we think might help! But keep applying pressure and something will happen. WE are in the process of trying to join up with other Parish Councils and Town Councils along the A1124 to apply combined pressure.

The Village Hall is getting steadily busier, with more regular hirers and more parties or gatherings. Lorraine Meighan has been taken on to manage the Village Hall and has her own dedicated email address village.hall@earlscolne-pc.gov.uk which you can use to contact her on. The floor in the hall has been causing us problems for a year or more now, and we are closing it next week so that the problems can be thoroughly investigated and sorted, we hope.

We are looking in to ways of making the hall a little bit more energy efficient, but we have some outstanding maintenance issues to sort first.

We are hoping to co-operate with the Church, the Baptist Church, The Rec, the Con Club and the WI to create a warm hub in the small hall where people can come to keep warm, have a drink, chat with others etc. We envisage somewhere in the village being open most days. If you think you need this service, or would like to help man it, please let Debbie, our Clerk know.

Finally, we will shortly be publishing our annual report, which will be available on line and as paper copies available at the village hall, in Fork 'Andles and the Co-op.

We will soon be advertising our annual meeting, which we hope will be an interactive session where we can outline our embryonic Neighbourhood Plan and many other initiatives we are working on.

Dates to be announced soon on the website, FB page and noticeboards. Hope to see you there.

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