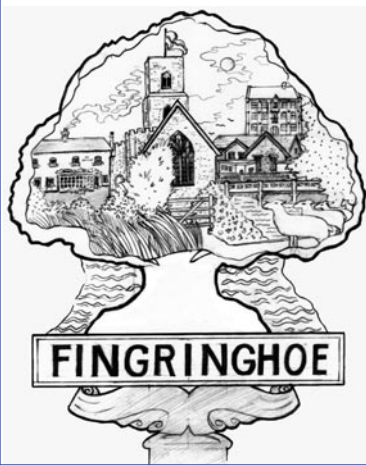




NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021



Thank you, Pegdens!

For 22 years a particular pleasure of life in Fingringhoe has been the chance to visit the beautiful Tudor Roost garden in Frere Way. Christopher and Linda Pegden have made their quarter-acre garden a place of great beauty and interest to gardeners and non-gardeners alike and have raised £45,000 for charity from their Open Days. There have been over 7,000 visitors to the garden over the years, to see plants both familiar and exotic, and admire the Pegdens' very imaginative use of garden spaces. With tea and cakes to round off the visit, it made a perfect day.

Covid 19 restrictions made it impossible to have Open Days in 2020 and 2021, and Chris and Linda have now decided to end them, bowing to age and arthritis. In a final fund-raising effort, a sale of tomato plants yielded £25 for the News & Views account.

Chris and Linda have made a very great contribution to village life, and, of course, to the charities they support.

Photography competition and 2022 calendar

We had a very good response to our competition, with 37 photographs entered, of scenes and wildlife within the village. These were displayed in the Post Office to allow people to vote on their favourites – the ones that they would like to see in the calendar. Voting finished on 16 August. For those who might have been unable to get along to vote during Post Office opening hours, and others who simply wished to join us for a cuppa, a coffee and cake morning was held in the Courtyard of Church Green on Saturday 7 August. In spite of the near-relentless rain, it proved to be a very popular event and the open cart-lodge within the courtyard was an ideal place to shelter, chat and stay dry! Over £100 was raised and the group is very grateful to all those who made and brought along such a lovely selection of cakes. All monies raised, along with the proceeds from calendar sales, will be donated to Church Green Trust to go towards the purchase of furniture for their Courtyard Project and the development of this amazing area for future community use.

The next stage, once the chosen photos have been identified, will be to have them printed as a calendar that will be made available for sale. We would love to hear from anyone with contacts or recommendations for printing to be done at competitive rates:

fingringhoegreengroup@gmail.com or 07795664740



We have our very own NHW in Fingringhoe

What is NHW?

It is about community and neighbours.

It is not nervous curtain twitchers, it's people looking out and reporting suspicious behaviour.

Members receive regular emails with safety information and crime reports from local areas.

To become a member email:
fingringhoenhw@gmail.com



Update from the Parish Council

New website and email address

A new website for the Parish Council has just gone live. There is still some content to add but it can be viewed at www.fingringhoe.org.uk. If any local clubs would like their details added, please let Petra, the Parish Clerk know. There is also a new email address for the Parish Clerk who can be contacted on fingringhoe@otlook.com. Councillor contact details are displayed on the notice boards and website.

Casual vacancy

Do you have an interest in local issues such as amenities, planning and housing, anti-social behaviour and local government finances? Would you like to be involved in decision-making at a local government level and helping to shape the future of Fingringhoe? If so, then you may be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for Fingringhoe Parish Council. There is currently one vacancy. For further information, please look on the website or contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors.

Play area at the Recreation Ground

Some of you may have seen the recent request on the Village Facebook page for ideas for the play area. Many thanks for the contributions so far. We are looking at what grant funding is available and will let you have further details once we confirm what the plans are.

WI

At last the Women's Institute hopes to meet again in the Village Hall on **14 September at 7.30pm** to take part

in or watch curling! We have managed to keep in touch through the past year with a newsletter produced by Jill Bellinger from members articles, recipes, craft projects and a quiz!

We have had several garden meetings and been lucky with the weather. The culmination was a buffet lunch in the President's garden on 10 August, the one sunny day in the week. About 29 members sat down to ham, salmon, coronation chicken, lots of salads and the usual selection of delicious desserts!

On **Friday 29 October** we are holding a craft day in the Village Hall from 10am to 3pm. All are welcome, membership is not necessary. Come along to learn or display or just appreciate. Light refreshments will be available.

Ann Bagley, Secretary

Trees and hedges

Colchester Borough Council are running an initiative called the **Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project**. The aim of the project is to plant a total of 200,000 native trees and shrubs across the Borough over a five-year period ending in 2023, as a way of reversing the effects of climate change. Despite all the Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns just under 4,000 young trees were distributed to a number of local councils, either for planting on their land or for handing out to their residents for planting in their own gardens, totally free of charge. Many of the plants CBC can provide are suitable for planting as a hedge as well as for woodland, which may be of interest to local farmers or landowners who are interested in gapping-up or planting hedges on their land, rather than creating a new area of woodland. Bamboo canes and rabbit guards can also be provided as part of the package, together with advice about what is suitable for your area.

If you are interested, please contact Nick Day, Woodland and Open Spaces Project Officer, Colchester Borough Council 07970 991611 for more information.

Tommy

David Harvey has kindly donated a Tommy which will be permanently situated on Pigs Foot Green, as a permanent reminder of our nation's fallen soldiers and those who continue to serve.

Council meetings

Council meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at 7pm at the village hall. The public are welcome to attend and speak during the public session. The agenda will be on the notice boards and website a few days before the meetings.

Petra Palfreyman

Parish Clerk, Fingringhoe Parish Council

Book Group

It is hoped to start the book group again in September in the community room at Church Green. At present we hope to meet on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm if anyone else is interested. A set of books is provided by the Colchester Library from our suggestions or other recommendations. Large print and audio books can also sometimes be provided.

The present book is *Need you Dead* by Peter James.

Any queries please phone **Ann Bagley on 01206 729560**



Geedon Gallery

20th Anniversary
Autumn Exhibition Part II

9–24 October 2021

open daily from 11am–5.30pm
then by appointment to 15 December



Janet French, *The Stour at Dedham III*



Barbara Peirson

Geedon Gallery,
Jaggers, Fingringhoe
Colchester, Essex CO5 7DN

01206 729 334
07901 918 046
01260 728 587

www.geedongallery.co.uk

Jacqueline Wolfers



Nicola Smee, *Oliver watched...*

ROMAN RIVER MUSIC

The Roman River Music festival is back **16–26 September** in and around Colchester. On the second night of the festival (**Friday 17 September, at 8pm**), we are coming to Fingringhoe Church with our *A Late Beethoven Quartet*.

Some of the many festival highlights will be Orpheus Young Artist Imogen Whitehead playing Haydn's trumpet concerto, international superstar pianist Alexandra Dariescu giving a recital and concerto, and the soundscapes of the future composed by pupils from three secondary schools in the Colchester Natural History Museum. The theme of reconnection with nature and our planet runs through the festival, with concerts and inspiring talks from leaders and visionaries who will help us find new ways of living in harmony with our environment. Please visit our homepage: <http://www.romanrivermusic.org.uk> and enjoy looking through what's on offer and choosing your concerts. We look forward to welcoming you!



Jenny Lewisohn *viola*, playing in Fingringhoe on 17 September, with Sarah Wolstonholme and Ellie Fagg *violins*, and Orlando Jopling *cello*.

Maintaining social interaction when ageing

It is not unusual for the numbers of people in our social circles to reduce as we get older. We lose touch with distant friends, especially if we have moved home several times, people inevitably die and our social circle tends to focus more on family and our immediate neighbourhood. Diminishing mobility can also restrict the ability to keep in touch with friends. However, psychologists believe in the fundamental importance of both social networks and social engagement. Loneliness can decrease confidence and affect self-esteem. Mental wellbeing is partly about the numbers of contacts we have but also about the emotional quality of those relationships. Some research evidence finds that there is a higher level of morale among older people who have diverse networks that included friendships.

So, maintaining interaction with friends and relatives is important, but as income and mobility often reduce in older age, how can this be achieved? Keeping fit and active can be combined with social interaction by joining fitness, yoga or rambling clubs, where the benefits are not only physical but there are opportunities to socialise with old or new friends. Hobby clubs too, play a part and there are any number of local groups such as book clubs, walking, craft and art groups to join in many parts of the country. Another option is to volunteer for organisations that need help and support, an excellent way to strengthen social bonds and meet others interested in similar activities or who share similar values.

It is important to try to have at least one interaction with another person each day, whether in person or on the phone. This is where computers and the internet can help, whether using email or long-distance communication tools like Skype or Facebook. Keeping a diary with dates of events or meetings is also a good way of staying engaged and having something to look forward to.

Moving into a residential home, should it become necessary, does not mean complete isolation from existing friends and family, who can visit when they are able. Most often, care homes such as Aveley Lodge have a full programme of regular activities and workshops covering many interests such as art, singing, cooking and more. We also help maintain a network of relationships with the surrounding community so that there are (when Covid and social distancing guidelines allow) regular visits from entertainers, local school children and others to provide variety and stimulus to the residents everyday lives.

Suzanne Parmenter

A Farmworker in Fingringhoe in 1944

Before the binder started cutting the corn, each field had to be cut round by hand, because the binder was side-cutting and it would have ruined the corn for the first cut round the field. So a man using a scythe cut round every field, and we had to go behind him and tie the bundles up by making a straw twist to hold them together. I remember the man I worked with always had a bottle of cold tea in a Corona bottle with a wire clip stopper. Every summer seemed so hot when working in the fields. We had to stand the sheaves of corn up in 'traves'. Plenty of thistles to prick bare arms on a hot day.

When the corn had ripened in the 'traves' the sheaves were taken to the stack on carts. We had to load them carefully as they could be very unsafe if loaded badly. When on top of the load you only had a pitchfork to hold on to and the wheels of the cart would drop into the odd 'water gap' in the hard ground and make the huge load sway from side to side.

Several stacks were built in the stackyard, where the side of the stack was built up to roof height. One of us had to work in the 'stage hole' – a small space in the side of the stack where the sheaves were passed up from the cart and then passed up higher to the man building the top part of the stack. When all the stacks were built they had to be thatched to keep them dry until threshing time. Straw from the previous harvest – always wheat straw for thatching – had to be shaken in layers and soaked with water from the water cart. The straw was then pulled from the bottom of the pile and straightened into 'yellums' and carried up the ladder to the thatcher. We also had to make sure he had a good supply of 'brochets' – the wooden sticks cut from the hedge to keep the thatch in place with binder twine.

Daphne Allen



Yoga with Linds in the Village

Seated mobility class

Yoga-inspired movement and breath work
from the comfort of a chair

Mondays 1.30–2.30pm in the post office
from Monday 13 September £8 per class

Please email or phone me for further information
and to book in:

Lindsravenemrich@gmail.com

07974005441

Lindsey Raven Emrich



EWT wants to see insect populations thriving, and 41% of insect species are now threatened with extinction, mainly due to habitat loss and the use of pesticides. We are heavily reliant on insects in so many ways. Three quarters of crops are pollinated by insects, they are an important part of the food web – with many many species of birds, mammals, other insects, reptiles and amphibians reliant on them to survive; they even help to cycle nutrients within our ecosystem. EWT has created the **Action for Insects** project to help our insects recover. We are increasing insect-friendly habitat at our own reserves and centres – developing mini wildflower meadows in previously unloved or overlooked areas. We are working with local authorities and influencing others on how they can gather data to monitor the decline of insects in Essex, through citizen science campaigns. Recently on the reserve we have been having a great time spotting insects and marvelling at them. Some of our favourites have been the ruby-tailed wasp – so beautiful! And the beewolves – amazing wasps that hunt bees, digging large nest burrows with individual chambers for their eggs, the larvae from which will feed on their own personal stash of preserved bees!



Beewolf wasp

Photos by Ken Hudgell



Ruby-tailed wasp



As well as needing more insect-friendly habitat, we also need areas to be connected by wildflower networks across residential and urban areas so that insects can fly, jump and flutter their way from wildflower to wildflower in safety. Our goal is seeing at least 30% of land and seas properly connected, better protected, and suitably managed for wildlife.

At Fingringhoe we have done our bit by planting wildflower meadows outside the visitor centre and wildflower beds in our discovery area. We can help you too, since we are giving out packets of free wildflower seed from each of our centres. We have been working for the last few months to find a perfect native wildflower mix that contains 27 native British wildflower species, including cornfield annuals (they will flower from year one) and a range of perennials (they will flower from year two onwards). The mix has been chosen to provide pollen and nectar to a wide variety of butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Look out for meadow buttercup, red campion, ox-eye daisy, yarrow and more. Come to the centre for your pack, follow the instructions on it and add your patch to the virtual Big Wild Seed Sow map online.

Verity Hales, Site Manager

The **visiting post office** comes three times a week to Church Green

Monday & Friday 10am – 1pm Wednesday 1 – 4pm

letters & parcels: all services

home phone and broadband packages

top up mobiles



vehicle tax

travel insurance

fishing licences

order foreign currency – collect next visit



banking with all high street banks:
deposits and withdrawals

£ £





Fingringhoe Scarecrow Competition 2021

There were not so many scarecrows this year but they were incredible! There was no theme this time and we had a wide range of subjects (which was nice in some ways, as I had no idea what would turn up) and several

new families joined in this year. Although I say this every year, it is surprising just how many people come to view the scarecrows and take photos. This competition continues to be very popular – thank you for taking part and I hope you had fun making them. Your imagination always amazes me, it's obvious you all put a lot of time and thought into making your scarecrows, in order to give the judge a hard time – well you certainly achieved that! The judge really struggled this year and so awarded two prizes for each place!

So far this year, with donations, you have helped raise £130 for Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group. I know every penny will be put to good use. On a personal note THANK YOU all for your continued support, for your time, care, imagination – without you there would be no scarecrows. There are still bluebell bulbs for anyone for would like some – help yourself. THANK YOU

Kim Cranfield



The Diver Tom Daley
Diane and Andy, Prelude, Chapel Road



The Show Jumper
Linda Chin, Kara, South Green Road



Charlotte Dujardin
Will, Pippa, Polly, Bay Cottage, Abberton Road



Worzel Gummidge & Jack-in-the-Box
Daldry family, Well'n'Garden, Abberton Road



Appointment heralds new era for St Andrew's

THREE years have passed since Revd Patrick McEune moved on from our Donyland Benefice to become rector of the Binbrook Group of parishes in Lincolnshire. Now, at last, comes good news: the end of this vacancy is in sight. A Priest in Charge has been appointed for the Mersea Benefice (West Mersea with East Mersea, Peldon, Great and Little Wigborough) who will also have responsibility for 'pastoral oversight and strategic support', though not day-to-day management, of our parishes of Abberton, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge. She is Revd Jude (Judith) Bevan, who is currently Team Vicar in the Ministry Area of Pontypridd, South Wales, with prime responsibility for Christ Church, Ynysybwl, St David's, Hopkinstown and St Gywnno's, Llanwynno. After studying art in Manchester, she later trained as an actor at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff and as a drama teacher in East London. In their joint announcement of the appointment Colchester's Bishop Roger and Archdeacon Ruth comment that Jude 'brings a wealth of creative experience alongside her ministerial experience'. Bishop Roger hopes to license Jude to her new responsibilities in the early autumn. He will confirm this 'in due course'. Jude and her family are eager to move to Mersea as soon as possible and we're looking forward to welcoming them.

Until she can take up her new ministry and we know how the new relationship with Mersea will be

facilitated, our benefice will continue to be reliant – as it has been throughout the vacancy and the Covid pandemic restrictions – on outside clergy coming in to help us for services. While the Government's lifting of most mandatory Covid restrictions from 19 July has eased our circumstances generally, the shortage of locum clergy remains an obstacle for benefice-wide provision of Eucharists, baptisms, weddings and funerals. So many other parishes in this part of Essex are in vacancy that demand for locums exceeds supply. To overcome this, our three congregations have been coming together for regular Sunday services in one church, St Lawrence's, Rowhedge, with ministers sourced from Witham Deanery and elsewhere to officiate at two Eucharists each month. On the other Sundays alternating lay-led All Age Worship and Matins have been provided. This arrangement will continue to apply until further notice. All three churches continue to be available for occasional services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. In July and August Fingringhoe was able to offer a Eucharist on the second Sunday of each month, thanks to the availability of Mersea Associate Priest, Revd Terry Walker, and then lay-led Matins on the third Sundays. The hope is that this can be repeated for September and possibly beyond.

Now that Covid social-distancing measures have been lifted, St Andrew's can resume its role as an events venue. So far, there is just one date to make note of in your diaries: Friday 17 September, when the church will host a Roman River Music Festival chamber concert.

Malcolm Hawksby, Churchwarden



Paddy McGinty's Goat

Sue & Tim O'Dea, Crisanline, Chapel Rd



The Bride and Groom

Appleby family, 2 Dudley Road

(Editor's favourite!)

Would you consider joining the Friends of St Andrew's Church?

We are a charity, formed 15 years ago, on a non-religious basis, to help maintain, repair and improve the fabric of our lovely medieval church, for the benefit of the whole community and visitors.

The fundraising activities we planned for 2020 were of course cancelled because of the Covid 19 pandemic, but we are getting back to work as restrictions are lifted. Our funds also grow steadily through annual members' subscriptions (£20 individual or £30 family) and we would very much like to welcome newcomers to our membership. Please contact me if you would like to join us, or need further information:

Mark Jones, Chair
markdjones10@hotmail.com
01206 729360



Please send contributions for the next *News & Views* to Lyn Rodley (editor) **no later than 20 November 2021** to: lynrodley@btinternet.com or hard copy to Lord Nelson House, Ferry Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BX