



## Sarah Thistlethwayte

1938 – 2022

Sarah was actively involved in the local community for 59 years, having arrived aged 25. The youngest of four children, she grew up in Norfolk. She attended The Royal College of Music but didn't finish her diploma because she married Peter aged 19. Together they bought East Donyland Hall in 1963, with farmland stretching down to the river. Sarah had three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. As a local fundraiser and people-person, her fun and anticipated annual Garden Open Day was just one example of her typical commitment to the village. She was a glamorous hostess able to draw on her large social networks in the arts and open her house to raise funds for local charities.



She had an excellent memory and wide knowledge of Parish affairs, Council structures, functions and planning rules. She successfully fought to maintain the Colne River public footpath against Colchester Dock Transit Company's development. She was instrumental in conserving significant SSRI woodland on the edge of Rowhedge.

Sarah stood on the St Andrew's Parochial Church Committee in Fingringhoe and was actively involved with the school. She delivered meals on wheels locally and was secretary of The Rowhedge Protection Group. Though never published, she researched and wrote two books, the latter a modern-day interpretation of the New Testament gospels.

As one local friend wrote 'she was so very kind, gentle, generous and amusing and extremely welcoming to me. She always sounded as though she was pleased to talk to me and took the time to listen'.

**Carina Greenwood**



Villagers ring Fingringhoe church bell on the morning of the Queen's funeral



## Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund opens for applications

Essex County Council has launched its Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund of £100,000, which offers grants of up to £1,000 so that organisations can create new spaces or activities, or extend their existing services. The fund is open to charities, clubs or associations, community interest companies and parish councils. It has been designed to support safe spaces which are free to the Essex public this winter and could offer residents things to do, advice, warmth or support for their physical and mental health. Grants can be used for things like equipment to run new

activities, venue or catering costs, operational costs including utilities, and staff or volunteer expenditure. The fund forms part of Essex County Council's *Cost of Living Support for Households and Communities Plan*, a £50m package of support through which ECC brings together partners, charities and organisations to tackle the issues residents are facing. To find out more or apply to the Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund, visit:

<https://ealc.gov.uk/winter-warmth-and-welcome-spaces-fund>

## Update from the Parish Council

**Play area** The good news is that the Council have been granted £500 from Councillor Kevin Bentley's Locality budget towards a new surface under the cantilever swing, which is now on order and will be fitted shortly. The bad news is that one evening in late October, some vandals pulled out the new bench seats and if that wasn't enough, they put them on the little slide, causing further damage. The incident has been reported to the police but is such a shame after the effort and funds put into this and the lovely comments we have had. As a result of this and other damage in the car park, the Council have agreed to install CCTV. Meanwhile, we continue to inspect and maintain the area for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors and are in the process of renewing the lease for another 10 years, courtesy of the Lennon family.

**Wilder Towns, Wilder Villages** This is an Essex Wildlife Trust initiative to which the Council have signed up. However, to achieve their goals they will need the efforts of everyone to encourage wild corridors, spaces, streets, houses, and gardens. Please use the link to see how you can get involved. [www.essexwt.org.uk/get-involved/team-wilder/wilder-towns-wilder-villages](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/get-involved/team-wilder/wilder-towns-wilder-villages)

**Tree survey** All the trees on land owned and maintained by the Council have been professionally surveyed and reported on and all recommendations have now been carried out. The survey is a regular requirement of the Council, which ensures the trees are healthy and well-managed.

**20's Plenty for Us** As mentioned in the previous edition, with support from Essex County Council and Councillor Kevin Bentley, the Council have agreed to look into the benefits of adopting this speed limit in some parts of the village. Planning is in the early stages but in the new year we hope to send out a short questionnaire to ask your views on this. Meanwhile, you can look at this link for more information: [www.20splenty.org](http://www.20splenty.org)

## Homes 4 Ukraine From Colchester Borough Council:

We are finding in our ongoing support to the Homes 4 Ukraine scheme that some hosts are deciding not to continue with their hosting arrangements after the initial six-month period and we are now trying to rematch guests. We need a mix of accommodation for single people, mums with children, older people and families. We have a proven established support mechanism in Colchester, so no host will be alone and will receive a thank-you payment of £350 per month from Essex County Council.

If anyone is interested, please contact us at: [communities@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:communities@colchester.gov.uk) and we can advise them. More information is also available at our website: [colchester.gov.uk/ukraine](http://colchester.gov.uk/ukraine)

**Fire Beacon, Ferry Road** A brass plaque detailing the reason for the beacon has been made, for visitors and future generations to see. This will be fitted in the next few weeks.

**John Brunning Walk** The Council were pleased to make a small donation towards new signage for the John Brunning Walk which runs between Fingringhoe and Rowhedge.

**Pigs Foot Green posts** We are looking at replacing the posts around the green as some of them have been damaged by passing/turning vehicles and others are rotten and loose. Work is unlikely to start until the new year.

**Jubilee mugs** There are still quite a few mugs left with the incorrect spelling of Fingringhoe. If you would like some, please call at the Post Office to collect them.

**Road signs** We have been in contact with Essex County Council Highways several times to report broken, missing or new signage needed in the village. If you spot anything new that needs to be reported, please use the ECC reporting tool on their website: [www.essexhighways.org/tell-us](http://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us) With the help of Councillor Robert Davidson, we hope to arrange for a Highways engineer to visit the village to look at the work needed, some of which the Council may pay for, just to get it done and help to improve safety.

**Council meetings** We meet 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 website and noticeboard a few days before each meeting. Our website is: [www.fingringhoepc.org.uk](http://www.fingringhoepc.org.uk) and the email address is [fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com](mailto:fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com)

The Council would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk



## GEEDON GALLERY

Autumn Exhibition

### Photographs Pieces & Pots

open by appointment until 15 December

– for last-minute Christmas presents?

Local photographers include  
Diane Butcher, Kate Allsop, Ed Begley  
and the late Nicholas Hardinge

Geedon Gallery, Jaggers, Fingringhoe  
Colchester, Essex CO5 7DN  
01206 729 334  
[jataber@aol.com](mailto:jataber@aol.com)  
[www.geedongallery.co.uk](http://www.geedongallery.co.uk)



Ed Begley, *The Empty Pool*

## Church Green Trust Activities

Following the Jubilee Craft Fair held at Church Green Trust Community Courtyard earlier this year it became apparent that many people were not aware of the Trust or the facilities it offers. The Trust was established in 1981, when land and buildings were gifted to the village to provide accommodation for older people and provide community facilities. There are two areas: the residential part which has six individual independent-living homes for the over 60s and the community facilities of the Courtyard area (through the gate, beyond the car park) which include the cart lodges, an artist's studio and the Community Room.

**The mobile Post Office** comes to the village on Monday (10am–1pm), Wednesday (1–4pm) and Friday (10am–1pm). and is housed in the Courtyard Community Room. During post office opening times on a Monday & Friday, volunteers serve coffee and biscuits – everyone is welcome and this has proved to be an excellent venue for meeting people and catching up with friends – come in and enjoy a cuppa!

**Knit and Natter** meets in the Community Room on the last Friday of each month (1.30–3.30pm). This group is open to everyone and you can bring whatever craft you like – knitting, sewing, crotchet etc, or you can just come for a natter. Tea, coffee and biscuits or cake are provided all for a donation of £1. You can just turn up or phone Jill Bellinger for more details on 07947 495264.

**Book/puzzles exchange:** if you enjoy a good book or love puzzles, you can find a wide variety of both in the Community Room, either to take for a small donation or to exchange. There are also various local crafts on show to purchase. You are welcome to browse at any time during post office hours.

**Plant exchange:** outside the Community Room there is a fresh produce and plant stand where surplus locally grown plants/vegetables/fruit can be left by village residents for others to take or exchange.

**Recycling facility:** Fingringhoe Green Group has installed recycling bins in one of the Courtyard cart lodges near to the Community Room.

**A Book Club** is held in the residents' communal lounge on the third Monday of the month at 2pm. All are welcome so if you are interested in joining, please contact Ann Bagley on 01206 729560 for details.

Other one-off events have been held here recently including the Green Group 2022 Calendar-voting coffee morning, the Jubilee craft fair and two Bike Kitchens. Looking ahead, the newly-formed Friends of Church Green Trust would like to see more activities within the Community Courtyard and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in running events or groups. We also hope to have projects within the grounds of Church Green particularly concerned with supporting wildlife and native planting.

If you have any ideas about events and groups or would like to get involved in any way to help shape the future of this wonderful community asset, please contact Andy Butcher by email on [thebutchersare@hotmail.com](mailto:thebutchersare@hotmail.com)





The children have been busy this term settling back into the routines of school life on their return after the summer break. At the end of the half term they said farewell to Mrs Coyle (Headteacher) as she began her Maternity Leave. Just before she left, the children held their Harvest Festival in St Andrew's Church. Mrs Coyle wrote this lovely message in the School's Newsletter:

*Thank you to all our families for your overwhelming generosity in donating items for our Harvest Festival – 70.4Kg of produce was donated! Your donations are in the process of being packaged up and will be delivered to Colchester Food Bank this week. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Harvest Service in the church recently. The children were so looking forward to sharing their learning with you, and I'm sure you'll agree they all played their part in the service beautifully – I feel so proud of each and every one of them.*

*Hannah Coyle (Head Teacher)*

At the beginning of November, on their return to school, the children and staff said hello to Ms Parker, who will be the interim Headteacher whilst Mrs Coyle is away. Ms Parker is settling in well and looks forward to getting to know the children, families, and staff better. There are many activities and events planned in the calendar for the children, including a Fun Run, a Football Tournament, Nativity Play, PTA Christmas Fayre and KS2 Christmas Service.

Take care and keep safe.

**From all at Fingringhoe CEVA Primary School**



## The Most Important Job You've Never Done And it's Unpaid!

Almost a hundred children, and a team of dedicated teaching staff and families throughout our community rely on a strong and functioning board of governors at Fingringhoe Church of England Primary School. Over the last few years, the school has faced a number of challenges, some unique, some universal to all schools. Governors work with the school to support it, guide it, and on certain matters administer it. It is an incredibly important voluntary role that most people know little about.

We are fortunate that a number of parents have come forward this year to fill roles that have become vacant, but we are looking for a few more individuals who have experience in governance, school administration or in some management or administrative role in the public or private sector. Our job covers policy, finance, monitoring, stability and the long-term direction of the school. We meet at least every term, with subcommittees meeting to tackle specific topics.

Perhaps you've recently retired from a management role, or stepped back from education but would like to dip a toe back in? People from a wide range of backgrounds can make a positive contribution. Perhaps the only caveat is that we do need people who are happy with emails and reviewing policy documents (it is not all about paperwork but this element makes the job easier).

If you've read this far, you've done well. Here is the best bit: when you go into the school and see these amazing small people, invariably happy, polite and caring, having fun, learning and growing up, you understand how important it is to ensure that the school is properly supported and well-managed. You understand that getting it right at the top level ensures that they continue to have somewhere wonderful to be educated. As governors, we undertake to visit the school and monitor it. These visits are a pleasure and it is a privilege to see the children in an environment that most of us outside education will never see and can only loosely recall from our earliest memories.

If you feel you might be able to contribute, either as a full governor or as an associate governor, please do get in touch. Even if you're not sure, feel free to reach out. We're not selling windows and I'm very happy to have a chat about any aspect of being a governor.

Thank you for taking a moment to read this.

**Roland Emrich**

[REmrich@fingringhoe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:REmrich@fingringhoe.essex.sch.uk)





The Autumn term was off to a busy start welcoming our new starters and getting to know their interests, which are used to guide activities. As well as learning about themselves and each other, the children have enjoyed exploring activities based around popular stories. Our ever-popular role-play has seen ice cream parlours, dentist's and doctor's practices, police stations and others, alongside our home corner where the children enjoy role-playing in home scenarios such as cooking and sharing food.

Topical themes included Halloween and bonfire night where we had fireworks and pumpkin activities galore. Forest School has continued weekly throughout the term: the snacks which the children cook themselves over the fire remain a highlight. We now look forward to a festive season for which we have lots of fun and educational activities planned.

There are now only a limited number of spaces left for January so please get in touch soon by emailing our manager Jo on [jo.connell@romanriverpreschool.co.uk](mailto:jo.connell@romanriverpreschool.co.uk) or phoning on 01206 729731 if you are interested in your child joining our pre school.

**Corinna Smith, Administration Manager**

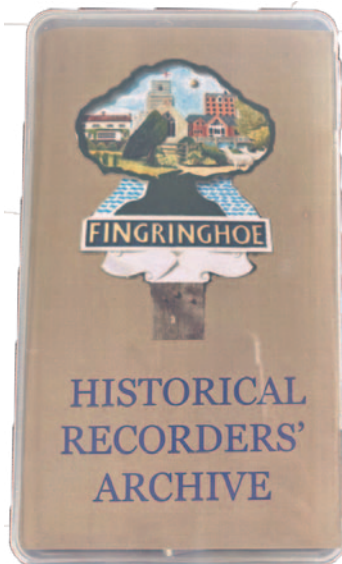
## From the Fingringhoe Historical Recorders

Item No. 5781: Silver cup, inscribed: *Fingringhoe IMPS. Open Crooning Competition 1937. Winner R.B. Taylor*



This is one of several silver cups in the Recorders' Archive, but while most record the achievements of members of the Women's Institute or the Sunday School, this cup is for *crooning*, a style of singing seldom heard now. A context for this successful crooner is given by a handwritten note (item 5774) which reads '*Taylors came down from Durham(?) to build Abberton Reservoir, with families*' (this construction was 1935-1939, which fits). Whether the Open Crooning Competition was local, or a much wider competition, it is striking that it took place in 1937, with the clouds of the second world war gathering. Even more intriguing, the cup was awarded by the Fingringhoe IMPS – not, it turns out, malicious little demons, but members of the Junior Imperial League, founded in 1906 by the Conservative Party to encourage political activity among the young (or perhaps to encourage them to marry each other, rather than dangerous socialists?). In time the IMPS became the Young Conservatives.

**Lyn Rodley**



The digitized catalogue of the Recorders' Archive, with images of every item, is now available on a memory stick that can be borrowed for up to two weeks (during which time you may copy the files to your own computer if you wish). A deposit of £10 is required for the loan, refundable on return of the memory stick (unless, you would like to leave the deposit as a donation to the Recorders' slender funds).

The Recorders will be glad to give help with searches.

For further information, please contact:

Ann Bagley [cwbagley6@aol.com](mailto:cwbagley6@aol.com)

With Government funding just about covering our running costs, we rely on additional fundraising for resources in Pre School. In the run up to Christmas we will be holding our raffle, as well as a small fête and would be most grateful for donations of raffle prizes:

**Chocolate** items for the chocolate tombola

**Bottles** for our wine or water stall

**Sweets** for our sweet jars stall

All donations can be dropped off at Pre School, or

On 7 January 2023 the Recorders are joining up with Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve to gather information about the creation of the Reserve and its development by recording visitor's recollections.

See overleaf for details →

## Fingringhoe Wick Memories Project 10am–3pm January 7, 2023

One of the things I love so much about the Reserve is its history and the connection that so many people have with it. Some people have had a lifetime of visiting, coming as a child themselves, then bringing their children and grandchildren!

So many people tell us their fond memories of the reserve when they come for a visit that we thought we would love to record them for posterity. So that's what we are going to do! In conjunction with the Fingringhoe Historical Recorders, we are joining up to record people's memories of visiting, working or anything else in relation to the nature reserve. The records will be stored with the village archive for future access and hopefully used at our site in some way, possibly in future interpretation.

We would love to hear your own memories of visiting or working on the reserve or the memories of friends or family who worked on the quarry before it became the reserve.

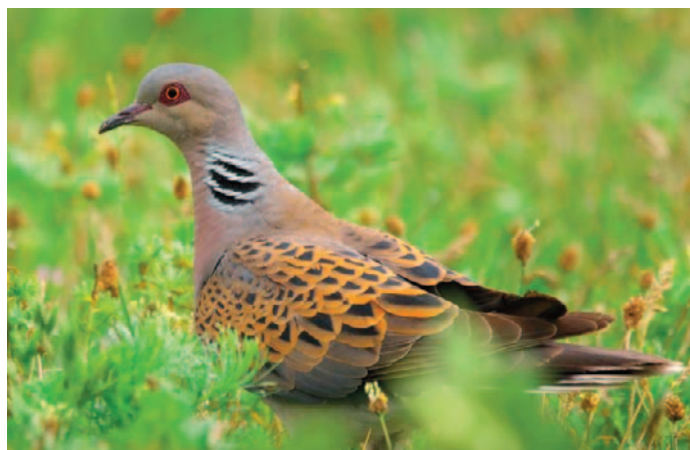
**Please visit us on Saturday 7th January (10am–3pm)** to speak with a Recorder, who will digitally record your recollections. In addition, if you would like to write your recollections down, you can send them to us by post or email [fingringhoe@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:fingringhoe@essexwt.org.uk) We look forward to seeing you and hearing your memories and stories.

**Verity Hales, Site Manager**

## FINGRINGHOE FREE FIRST SUNDAYS

Display stuff you want to get rid of **FOR FREE**  
outside your properties  
on the first Sunday of every month

One man's junk is another man's treasure!  
Let's avoid landfill at all costs!



## Save our Species

For many people, the rhythmic song of a nightingale and the soft purring of a turtle dove evoke happy childhood memories of long, lazy spring and summer days. However, these amazing birds are in serious trouble... **98%** of turtle doves and **92%** of nightingales have been lost in the UK since 1970. We are fortunate to still have strongholds of these incredible birds nearby, at Essex Wildlife Trust's Fingringhoe Wick and Wrabness nature reserves.

However, to ensure our wildlife has somewhere safe to shelter and thrive, our nature reserves must be beacons of hope for all wildlife, providing relief and refuge and vibrant mosaic habitats for wildlife to nest, forage and breed. This Christmas, can you help **Essex Wildlife Trust** protect our much-loved species, so they remain a part of our county's natural heritage?

Text **HABITAT 5** to **70085** to donate £5  
£5 could fund three metres of new hedgerow, offering vital nesting habitat for birds

Text **HABITAT 10** to **70085** to donate £10  
£10 could help revitalise wildflower meadows and help bees, butterflies and pollinators thrive

Text **HABITAT 20** to **70085** to donate £20  
£20 could help us purchase tools to manage scrub mosaics, providing more breeding and feeding opportunities  
Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from Essex Wildlife Trust (reg'd charity 210065). If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from the charity, please text HABITATNOINFO instead.

Or you can donate at:

[www.essexwt.org.uk/save-our-species](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/save-our-species)

**Michelle Shepherd EWT**

## St Andrew's Church

Everyone here at St Andrew's sends *News & Views* readers a message of 'Peace and Goodwill' for Christmas. As the year draws to a close, the Parochial Church Council, as publisher of *News & Views*, wishes to express its sincere thanks to editor Lyn Rodley and all contributors for the continuing popularity and success of the magazine.



We also wish to express our appreciation to the dedicated team of volunteer distributors who deliver each issue to every household. Thank you, too, all readers who respond so generously to the occasional appeals for funds to meet the printing costs for each quarterly issue.

Collectively, your support re-affirms our belief in the value to the local community of a physical, hard-copy magazine at a time when the tide is increasingly flowing in favour of online-only publishing.

For St Andrew's and parishes throughout the Church of England, November and December are busy months. The Church marks its 'New Year', on Sunday November 27, the beginning of the season of Advent, which lasts until Christmas Day. What, you might be asking, is Advent?

Well, I can't improve on the description given in *Times and Seasons*, the Church of England's publication with resources for parishes to celebrate the Christian year. In this it is explained that Advent is a time 'of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation. It also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time.'

Here in the northern hemisphere, 'Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas ... The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the 19th century, and is now a common practice.' The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the 20th century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society.



As is customary, St Andrew's will mark the progress of the season by the lighting of five candles (four coloured, one white) – one on each of the four Sundays and the fifth on Christmas Day. In the Anglican liturgy each of the four Sundays remind us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ.

On the first Sunday, it is the Patriarchs, focusing on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. On the second Sunday, the Prophets, which gives us an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. On the third Sunday, John the Baptist, who proclaimed the Saviour. And on the fourth Sunday, the Virgin Mary, who bore him.

Finally, on Christmas Day, a white candle, to celebrate the Christ.

**Malcolm Hawksby, churchwarden**



Sheena Taylor, Terry Walker and Malcolm Hawksby at a special Service of Reflection for Queen Elizabeth II held at Church Green on 18 October.



Lorenzo Monaco, painting of 1405-10

### The schedule of services and celebrations in **December** is as follows:

|             |        |                                                     |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4th  | 9.15am | Matins                                              |
| Sunday 11th | 9.15am | Holy Communion                                      |
| Friday 16th | 7.30pm | Nine Lessons and Carols                             |
| Sunday 18th | 9.15am | Holy Communion                                      |
|             | 4pm    | Dedication of the 'Tree of Light' in the churchyard |

#### **Saturday 24th (Christmas Eve)**

4pm Christingle; 10.00pm 'Midnight Mass'

#### **Sunday 25th (Christmas Day)**

10.00am a service at St Andrew's, Abberton, for the whole Benefice. NO services at Fingringhoe or Rowhedge.



PICKETTS FARM

**Christmas Farmers Market**

**Saturday 3rd December, 10am-3pm**

Craft & Artisan Stalls - Unique Gifts - Festive Food  
Mulled Wine - Kids Christmas Arts & Crafts  
Petting Farm - Father Christmas  
Nordman Fir Christmas Trees - Beautiful Wreaths  
Christmas Music – Join in with Christmas Carols  
performed by Colchester Cancer Choir  
and much more!!

[www.pickettsfarm.co.uk](http://www.pickettsfarm.co.uk)

t: 07966 138647 e: [info@pickettsfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@pickettsfarm.co.uk)

**Funding News & Views**

We have funds to print this issue of News & Views and the next one (March). After that, the piggy bank will be in need of replenishing, so if you can spare something, however little in this time of alarming increases in the cost of living, your editor would be very grateful.

If you would like to support News & Views, please send donations to  
Malcolm Hawksby  
The Red House,  
Church Road  
CO5 7BN  
or to the Editor  
(address below).



Cheques should be payable to 'Fingringhoe PCC' and clearly identified as contributions to News & Views.



Please send contributions for the next *News & Views* to Lyn Rodley (editor) **no later than 18 March 2023** to: [lynrodley@btinternet.com](mailto:lynrodley@btinternet.com) or hard copy to Lord Nelson House, Ferry Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BX