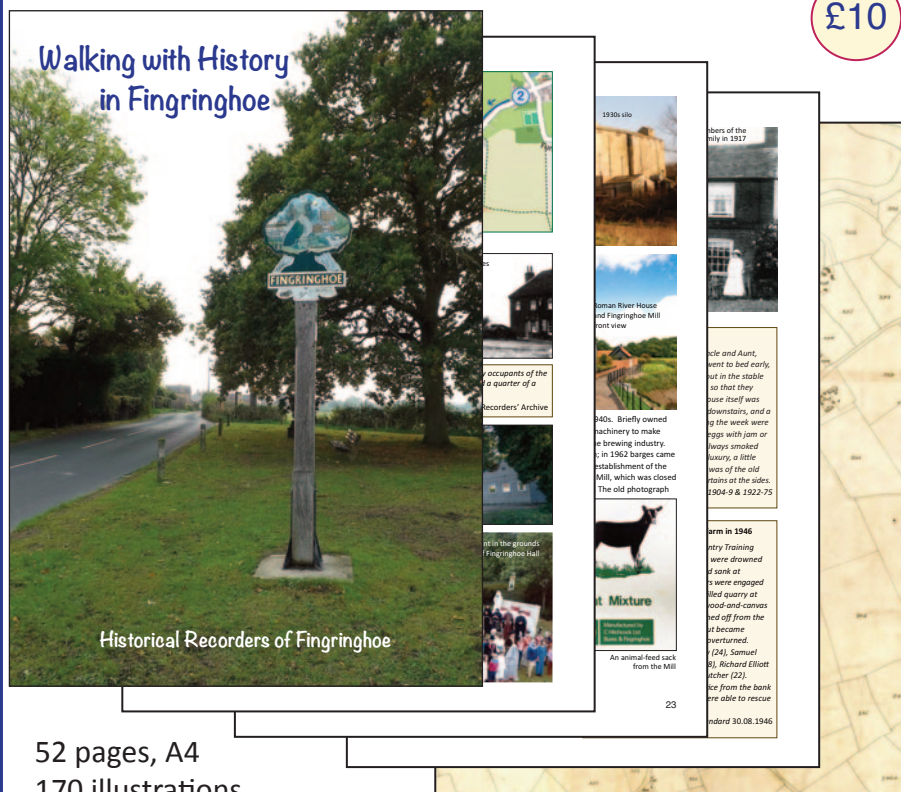




Historical Recorders of Fingringhoe

£10



Our new book is published! It describes ten walks around the village, identifying buildings and other features of historical interest, with information about village people and events of the past, using material from the Recorders' Archive.

Three ways to buy the book:

The launch will be on **7 December** at the **PTA Christmas Fayre** (1-4pm in the church, see back page). The price is £10 but *at the launch only* there will be a discount offer of three copies for £25. (cash or cheque only)

After that, you can buy copies at £10 each at the **Church Green Post Office**. (cash or cheque only)

Order by email giving the number of copies you want and your **street address** to: fingringhoerecorders@gmail.com and **send payment to:**

Fingringhoe Village Recorders
sort code 09-01-53 account 00985487
putting your **surname** in the 'reference' box. We will deliver to you when the payment comes in.

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

£ £





Update from the Parish Council

Recreation Ground Some of you might have seen that the deer fence (on the left as you drive into the car park) has been replaced in some areas and four *No Climbing* signs have been erected. The fence needed repairs not only due to natural deterioration but also because the fence has been climbed on and over and cannot take the weight or the strain. We have also repaired the play area fence in several places where the posts had started to rot. Thanks also to Cllr Kevin Bentley for £1,000 towards these costs from his Locality Fund.

Housing Needs Survey This is a summary of the findings of this Survey. If you would like to read them in full, they are on our website: <https://www.fingringhoeipc.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Fingringhoe-Housing-Needs-Survey-Summary-Sept-25.pdf>

It is vital that there are homes affordable to everyone in rural areas. Land values and house prices remain incredibly high and the gap between rural property prices and local wages continues to widen. Coupled with higher costs of living and rising energy prices, this leaves many unable to remain where they grew up or have support networks. As a result, earlier this year, Fingringhoe Parish Council worked with the RCCE's Rural Housing Enabler to carry out an independent Housing Needs Survey.

The aim of this survey was to determine the existing and future levels of housing need for local people in the parish. All households in the parish received a survey to complete and return, alongside the option to complete the survey online. Thank you to all residents who responded to this piece of work.

KEY FINDINGS

The survey had an excellent response rate of 41% (Essex average is 25%). There was good support (52%) for a small development (4 – 8 homes) which is primarily affordable housing for local people. There was general support for housing for the local community, more particularly the local younger generation and their families, whilst hoping that any development will not be too large and unsympathetic to its surroundings.

Sixteen households declared that family members had been forced to move out of the parish due to a lack of suitable accommodation in the parish. In Part 1 of the survey, 14 households (10%) indicated that they or someone in

their household had a need to move to alternative accommodation within the next 5 years; of those, 15 wished to remain in the parish. The main reason respondents had a desire to move to alternative accommodation was to set up their first/independent home (33%) followed by those looking for a cheaper home (25%). Two-bedroom houses were the most preferred property size (83%).

Recommended local affordable housing need is therefore assessed at: 4 affordable rented properties; 2 shared-ownership properties; 2 discounted market sale properties.

The information contained in the report will assist in assessing the viability and appropriateness of any schemes that may be proposed in the future to provide additional affordable housing in the village. Should any such proposals emerge then, as with all other planning applications, The Parish Council will keep residents fully informed.

John Brunning Walk The Council are very pleased that Essex County Council agreed to upgrade the section of the walk that was very wet and muddy and that the work has now been completed.



United Charities for the Poor, Fingringhoe The new trustees met last month, and the following positions were appointed/confirmed: Gerald Ketley – Chairman, Sharron Law – Treasurer, Ian Chamberlain – Allotments, Michael Clarke – Trustee, Derek Henderson – Trustee.

Full reports of the charity's activities will be made after each meeting. There is one vacancy at the allotments and if anyone is interested in taking this on, please contact Ian Chamberlain.

20mph speed limit Following an application to the Local Highways Panel (LHP) they carried out a Scheme Validation of request for a 20mph limit on Church Road, Fingringhoe.



Based upon speed data from an automatic traffic count (ATC), Church Road did meet the criteria for a new 20mph limit. The suggestion was that the first 600m length of Church Road (east of the crossroads) is progressed with a 20mph Speed Limit Order. The remainder of Church Road did not 'lend itself' to a 20mph limit and as such should remain as a 30mph. There is also limited highway available to install the required terminal signage for a 20mph limit.

As such the recommendation was for a Design Only commission in Year 1, and then Implementation in Year 2. The Design Phase would include the required Cabinet Member Action and Traffic Regulation Order. It would also produce a target cost for the Implementation. The estimated

cost for the Design Phase is £7,000 and this is a scheme on the Colchester LHP Schemes Awaiting Funding List, which would need a funding recommendation from the Panel to take it forward.

We also requested the 20mph Speed limit to include Abberton Road, Ferry Road, Brook Hall Road and Ballast Quay Road (including Frere Way, Frog Hall Close, Pyefleet Close) which are all Local Roads. On a Local Road a 20mph Speed limit can be considered if the mean speeds are lower than or equal to 24mph. There are no Traffic Survey records or speed/volume data from ATC's for these roads, and this is needed to assess any request for a 20mph limit. It would require an additional 7 ATCs to assess these roads and at this stage of the financial year the limited LHP Revenue Funding used for traffic surveys has been fully committed. They can if required add these ATCs to a list of traffic surveys to be carried out when funding permits, but realistically this could be a very long time as more urgent schemes come about.

Alternatively, it is possible for an external body, the Council, to fund the necessary ATCs. The cost for an externally funded ATC is £368.20 each or a total cost of £2,577.40. However, at the meeting on 5 November 2024, the Council decided not to go ahead with the extra ATCs at this stage but will be pursuing it for Church Road as explained above. More information will be published on the website as it arises.

Common Land Following on from the proposed sale of the sand works (J J Prior & Sons), the Council have been looking at the boundaries of the common land which the sand works surrounds. We have also met with one of the Wilder Community Rangers who provided an interesting report about the land and wildlife. You can view a copy of this report on our website, under 'News'.

Council meetings and information

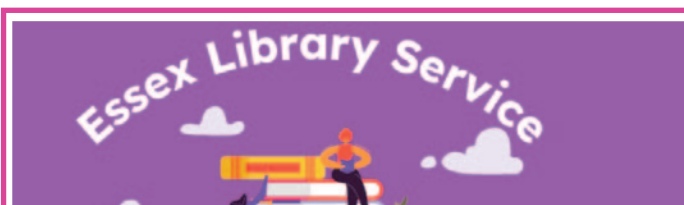
We meet on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at 7pm at the village hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak during the public session. The agenda will be on the website and notice-board a few days before each meeting.

The Website is regularly updated with information about the village. If you would like something added, please let the clerk know. Agendas and Minutes of the meeting are also published on the website.

The website address is <https://www.fingringhoepc.org.uk/>
The email address is fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk

Fingringhoe Parish Council wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



It's official...
The Winter
Reading
Challenge
is back!
Essex Library
Service is

once again hosting a challenge for the chilly season! This time we've got a brand new selection of challenges for kids to choose from, and a group of six colourful dragons for your little ones to adventure with. Join us for some special seasonal fun from Thursday 2 January to Saturday 22 February 2025!

Sign up in any Essex library near you!

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/winter-reading-challenge/>



The BookTrust
Storytime
Prize was
launched in
2019 to find
the best book
for sharing
with children

aged 0-5. Last year's winner was *Are You a Monster?* by Guilherme Karsten. At Essex Library Service we will again be taking part in the national poll which runs from November to the end of March, to find out, from a shortlist of five titles, which is the nation's favourite storybook. Come and be part of the vote for this year's BookTrust Storytime Prize!

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/booktrust-story-time-2024-to-2025>



Do you want
more access
to your GP
records and
the ability to
order repeat
prescriptions
online? Did

you know that you can use the NHS App online in Essex Library Service? You can log into your NHS account using the library computers. There you can order repeat prescriptions, view your GP record and much more. Plus, our staff are on hand to give you help if you need it. You can also use our free Wi-Fi to access the NHS App on your smartphone. <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/account/>



Have you discovered the **Colchester Bike Kitchen** yet? Based in Unit 2, Portal Precinct, in Sir Isaac's Walk CO1 1JJ, it provides a walk-in centre for all things bikes.

Fully stocked with tools and some spare parts it offers advice and training in how to repair and maintain your bicycle. They won't do it for you, but will show you how!

Open from 6.30-8.30pm Wednesdays and 1-4pm on Saturdays; there is no need to book. Check out their Facebook page or website for more information.

<https://colchesterbikekitchen.org.uk/>

Jan Lelliot



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!

The next First Sundays are:
5 January 2 February 2 March



Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

As autumn settles in, we have been celebrating the spirit of giving here at school. Our Harvest celebration was a wonderful success, with the school community coming together to donate food parcels to Colchester Food Bank and to local residents at Church Green Trust. We are so proud of the generosity shown by our pupils, families, and staff in helping those in need.

Looking ahead, the children are now eagerly anticipating the festive season! Our Nativity play and Carol Concerts are just around the corner, promising to be magical events for all involved.

We're excited to invite the local community (and beyond!) to join us for our annual PTA Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7 December in the church*. With a wide range of Christmassy things to do and buy, it's sure to get everyone in the Christmas spirit - come along and enjoy the festive fun!

Warm wishes, Mrs H. Coyle, Headteacher

*see back page for details of the Christmas Fayre



We have had some interesting speakers for our **Women's Institute** meetings recently, including one who told us all about Royal mistresses, of which there have been quite a few!



In September some of our members went on a visit to Prettyfields Vineyard in Ardleigh where we were given a tour by Jana ('Yana') a charming and well-informed young lady. Jana told us of the various types of grape that make up the wine they produce and the different methods of making white, rosé and red wines. We then went back to the café for tastings and a delicious lunch. It was a bit chilly but we were offered hot water bottles and blankets. The farm shop had wine and local produce on sale and several purchases were made. We then made our 'merry' way home. Despite the weather it was a lovely day!

At the beginning of October we held a successful 'craft dabble' day for members and friends, many of us made sewn Christmas cards and marbled Christmas baubles as well as lots of other things to try. This was accompanied by lots of tea, cake and lively chatter.

In the middle of October four members joined 16 other Essex WI members for a guided walk in London that took us from Big Ben to Buckingham Palace with lots of stories and anecdotes from our guide Gary Egerton. Also in October, 11 members enjoyed a trip to the Mercury Theatre to see the CO2 production of *Legally Blonde*. It was an excellent show for such a young cast, although the sound could have been a bit better managed, particularly in the first half.

In November ten of us went to the Charter Hall to see *Fairytale of New York*. It was a lovely production with lots of Irish singing and some very energetic dancing,

Our walking group has been out and about enjoying the lovely autumn weather and spotting some wonderful bird life and fungi. One fine morning we walked around some of the local footpaths ending up at Geedon Gallery to view the Autumn Exhibition, where Jackie welcomed us with coffee and biscuits – a lovely morning.

On Friday 20 December at 7.30pm we are holding our annual Carol Service in the Church, to which everyone is invited. There will be refreshments afterwards.

The WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Jill Bellinger



Cards for Good Causes

Cards for Good Causes is not only the UK's largest multi-charity card agency but also a Christmas gift retailer. It's dedicated to supporting both local and national charities and operating an all year-round charitable gifting website. The organisation also opens Christmas pop-up shops, bringing festive cheer while



raising funds for vital causes.

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/cards-for-good-causes>

In Colchester at Lion Walk United Reformed Church
Open Monday to Saturday until 21 December



**VISIT YOUR AWARD-WINNING LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOP
WE STOCK ALL YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM
A CONVENIENCE STORE – AND MORE!**

**FRESH & FROZEN FOOD
BREAD AND DAIRY PRODUCTS
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES
OFF LICENCE – WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS, CIDERS
SOFT DRINKS, SNACKS AND SWEETS
CLEANING MATERIALS
NEWSPAPERS (Pre-Ordered only)
DRY CLEANING
VISITING POST OFFICE**

**OPEN
8AM TO 6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9AM TO 5PM SATURDAY
9AM-NOON SUNDAY**

**The Lion Corner Community Shop
1 Lion Corner, Langenhoe CO5 7LF
Entrance off Fingringhoe Road
07708 403292
www.lioncornercommunityshop.co.uk**

Fingringhoe Wick Nature Discovery Park



The reserve is now in its winter period of change. Leaves are turning from green to rich yellows, browns and reds. Lots of fungi are popping up all over the site, including scarlet waxcaps, parasol, magpie ink cap and jelly ear fungus.

Winter is always a busy time of year for our volunteer team and Ranger. The paths are being cut back to open them up and create more light to the path edges, allowing a more diverse flower structure. We have started coppicing on the northern boundary. Coppicing is a traditional form of scrub and woodland management where the trees/scrub are cut at ground level on a predetermined year rotation. We cut out areas of the tall, leggy scrub or larger trees on a 11-14-year rotation depending on the size of plants. The immediate aim of this management is to allow light to penetrate to the ground to promote new plant growth, attracting invertebrates. After several years growth the scrub will be thick and dense enough to provide ideal habitat for small mammals, reptiles and songbirds, like the nightingale. We leave a few tall trees in the area, providing protected high treetops for other birds like blue tits, raptors and thrushes. Many landscapes across the UK are managed – there are few that are truly wild and untouched by human hand.

In December we welcome **Clive Stephen** to the exhibition area. Clive likes to recycle, reconstruct and rehome pictures and frames. Finding pictures and frames of interest from jumble sales, charity shops etc., he takes the 'ugly ducklings' apart and reassembles them in different frames as part of their transformation. Pop along in December to admire his work.

We have a few events running in December and January. Liz Huxley will be hosting a **Duck I.D on 6 December** – this has a few spaces left. A **Ranger ramble on 8 December** 10.30am–12 noon will be a great opportunity to have a walk around the reserve and ask any questions you have. We are hosting a Christmas centre-piece **Floristry Workshop on 21 December** 10am–12.30pm. This is at a slightly higher price of £40 but you will have a lovely centre-piece to take home that you have created. This event needs to be booked by 11 December to allow for supplies to be purchased. In January we are pleased to resume watercolours classes, the first one, on **15 January is Nature in Watercolours – Winter migratory birds** 10am–12.30pm. For more details about these and other events, you can call the centre on 01206 729678 or check out our website

www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/fingringhoe

We're now on our winter hours, gate open 9am–4pm 7 days a week. The visitor centre and café are open Wednesday–Sunday 10am–4pm. The gate will remain closed on 25 and 26 December, allowing the reserve to be returned to nature for a while.

We hope all our visitors have a fabulous Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2025.

Shaun Bater, Assistant Centre Manager



Photograph, Diane Butcher



Christmas Day, what does it mean to you?

- C**herishing your family, letting them know you love them.
- H**appiness, if you know someone is alone, go knock on their door.
- R**emember those who are struggling in many different ways; give a little.
- I**nclude your neighbours in some small way.
- S**adness is part of our life's journey and so is Joy.
- T**ry not to overspend, but enjoy what you have: each other.
- M**uch needs to be done in our divided world, join in where you can help.
- A**ppreciate that we all have different gifts and accept the help you need.
- S**end a text or facetime to family and friends who are not with you.
- D**arkness: there is so much darkness in and around us; acknowledge it.
- A**gree to disagree and enjoy the time you have together.
- Y**es. The Christ Child was born on Christmas Day, and he is the light of the world.

Have a peaceful Christmas and New Year
Rev Terry



Manuscript illumination c. 1460,
Francesco di Giorgio Martini

CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREW'S

Friday 20th December, 7.30 pm
Candlelit carol service (with mince pies & mulled wine)
Sunday 22nd December
Family Service at 10 am
Dedication of 'Tree of Light' at 4 pm
Christmas Eve
Christingle at 4 pm
Midnight Mass at 10 pm
Christmas Day, 10 am
Service for the Benefice at St. Andrews Abberton

St. Andrew's 'Tree of Light' Beams 'Peace & Goodwill' to all

Lighting a candle is a powerful symbol of love and hope, lights and warmth. The gesture takes on extra-special significance when associated with the celebration or commemoration of landmark life events affecting our loved ones, whether they be family or friends.

Sponsoring lights on the St. Andrew's Christmas tree in thanksgiving or remembrance has become an established custom since 2014. To order your lights, simply complete the form on the back of this leaflet.

The names of your dedicatees will be displayed in the porch of the church over Christmas & New Year.

Remembrance

Jesus said 'There is no greater love than a man lay down his life for his friends'. In November many people attended Remembrance services up and down the country, as we did at St Andrews. Our church was poignantly decorated and our service was complete with an organist and a bugler. We started the day at 9.30am with the members of our family services busily making beautiful poppies to give to those coming into the main service at 10.45am.

As part of the service we included the laying down of crosses with the names of the fallen from our village. Behind each name is a person. An individual created by God, part of a network of relationships, stories interwoven, family, friends, colleagues and comrades. That network was torn apart by their death in the horror of war, leaving a missing space at the table, a world of grief for those who knew and loved them, an ending of a family life or line. In the silence we honoured the memory of the men and woman of all conflicts and those still going on.

As Christians we are called to be peacemakers and our prayer is for peace in the hope along the way of faith, where the ultimate healing of the nations is enacted and peace. *When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.*



Sheena Taylor
Churchwarden

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

ANTHONY ROBERTS

Every year Anthony Roberts, Director of Colchester Arts Centre, embarks on a mini-tour, reading Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. He makes no charge for his services and performs the show in all manner of venues as a fundraising opportunity for local organisations.



This year he is coming to

Abberton & Langenhoe Village Hall
on **Saturday 21 December** (doors open 7.30pm)

We will be raising money for **Colchester Food bank** to help them in the post-Christmas period when donations can reduce as people tighten their belts in the New Year.

Tickets are £10 and available from the Lion Community Shop or by contacting liz.cooper@btinternet.com

Please come and support this show, it's a great start to the Christmas week, you'll enjoy yourselves and have the warm feeling that your night out has also helped raise money for a great cause.

Liz Cooper



Please send contributions for the next *News & Views* to Lyn Rodley (editor) **no later than 18 February 2025** to: lynrodley@btinternet.com or hard copy to Lord Nelson House, Ferry Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BX

Fingringhoe School Parent-Teacher Association

Saturday 7 December

St Andrews Church, Fingringhoe, CO5 7BN

Christmas Fayre 2024

Everyone Welcome!

Santa's Grotto £5 per child with gift

Crafts with Mrs Claus from £1 – family fun stalls:

Chocolate Tombola – Lucky Dip – Wine or Water

Refreshments – Raffle with various exciting Hampers

50p entrance

Donations: in order to run these events we rely heavily on the help and support of the community, so if you are able to help by donating any of the following items it will be greatly appreciated. **We need:** beauty gifts – wine – chocolate for our tombola – new children's toys – fruit and veg hamper donations – gardening hamper donations – baked cakes – Christmas dinner hamper items

And your time if you are free to help out on the day.

Donations can either be left with the school, or at 10 Frere Way, Fingringhoe CO5 7BP – or we are more than happy to collect.

Jodie Rout, Chair, Fingringhoe School PTA

pta@fingringhoe@gmail.com

School Wish List

The teachers and children are extremely grateful for every donation that they have already received via their Amazon wish list. This has previously only been circulated on Social Media, so many may have missed it. Here is the link if anyone is kindly able to gift a wishlist item.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/guest->

A note from your editor

Thank you to everyone who helps with *News & Views* – the regular contributors, the occasional contributors, the distributors who make sure that every house in the village receives a copy, and the generous folk (including the PCIO whose donations large and small cover our printing costs).

News & Views is always glad to receive news of people in the village – an anniversary, a family event, an unusual journey or experience. See below for details of how to send in your contribution.

Merry Christmas!