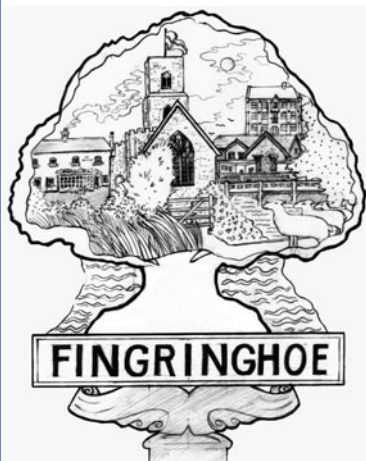




NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

Fingringhoe Historical Recorders

The writing of our new book, *Walking with History in Fingringhoe*, is now well under way and we hope to have it published before the end of this year. Designed as a series of walks in and around the village, sometimes using footpaths as well as roads, it will identify buildings and other features of historical interest and supply information about village people and events of the past.

If all goes to plan, there will be a launch of the new book in December.



The Recorders welcome new members if you think you might like to join us and need more information, please contact us via email: fingringhoerecorders@gmail.com



On 19 July regular users of the visiting Post Office at Church Green gathered to thank Nikki for her six years of service there. She did much more than just take in parcels and dispense cash – she was always a very friendly, welcoming presence who helped out with raising funds for charitable activities in the village. We wish her well in a new job that better fits her family life and offers future opportunities.

Welcome to Sara Turner as her replacement at the Post Office.



? Quiz Night

at Fingringhoe Village Hall

Join us for a fun quiz, raffle and sociable evening
– bring your own drinks and nibbles –



7.30pm



on Friday 1st November 2024



tickets in advance £5



or on the door at £6

tickets from the Fingringhoe Post Office
(at Church Green, opposite the church)

10am-1pm Monday & Friday, 1-4pm Wednesday)

or phone: 01206 729 360



in aid of the Friends of St Andrew's
which raises funds
to keep our lovely medieval church in good repair

Registered Charity 1112665

Meadow Brown at
Fingringhoe Wick
Reserve





Update from the Parish Council

Parish Council accounts We are pleased to confirm that the External Auditor has stated that 'the information the Council provided is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern.' This means that financially we have a clean bill of health.

Play area and recreation ground The play area update is almost complete. A top up of play bark has just been delivered and we have recently engaged a contractor to repair the play area fence and the outer perimeter of the recreation ground. This should be completed in September.

Housing Needs Survey The survey is now complete and the results are being analysed; they will be added to the website in due course. The Council will be deciding at the forthcoming Council meetings how to take these results forward. Many thanks to Lyn Rodley and her wonderful team of volunteers that delivered copies to every household for us.

John Brunning walk As mentioned in the last editions, ECC will undertake works on this footpath this autumn. Before that happens ECC must obtain consent from the landowner, the Environment Agency and Natural England. This is a slow process but is moving forward and we will keep you informed of the progress. We hope that next winter the path will be much easier to pass over.

Tree survey The Council contracted a qualified tree surveyor to visually inspect all the trees that the Council own or manage, to help with future site maintenance, general health and safety and to eliminate or manage trees where the species is known to cause problems. I am pleased to report all the trees are in reasonable or good health with only a few recommendations for maintenance work, which the Council will consider, bearing in mind their location and our budget/the cost.

United Charities for the Poor, Fingringhoe We are still working with the trustees to get everything up to date before handing over to the new trustees and hope that this will all be sorted out by September 2024.

Parking and speed limits We continue to look for ways to alleviate the parking around the school and have contacted the North Essex Parking Partnership and Cllr Kevin Bentley, for their thoughts and solutions. Cllr Bentley also advised that the 20mph speed limit petition is progressing slowly. However, Chapel/Church Road will not be included in any scheme as it is a bus route and such restriction is not permitted by law. We are also considering Community Speed Watch which has been successful in neighbouring villages.

Church Green Trust Some members of the Council met with two trustees from the Trust and had an informative discussion about the how the Trust is run, the 5-year plan, and plans for the future of the site and the Trust.

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 noticeboard a few days before each meeting.

Website 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.

Other Council information

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

London & Midd:
November 1655

In the name of God Amen

September in the year of our Lord God One thousand six hundred and fiftie and fiftie I George Frere of the Manour being at this present wearie bodie, perfect minde and memory for which I praye & Confesse the Mercies of God and the time through Gods grace and declare this my last will in manner and forme following (That is to

...he gave to the Churchwardens of that Parish [Fingringhoe] for ever an annuity or rentcharge of 52s. charged on the Manour upon trust that they should upon every Sabbath day in the year deliver unto six of the most ancient of the poor people of the Parish one twopenny wheaten loaf in the chancell of the Parish Church;

From the Will of George Frere, of Fingringhoe Hall, who died in 1655; his memorial is in the church. Like several other old bequests that are no longer practical, the funds for this one were absorbed into the Fingringhoe United Charities for the Poor, mentioned in this update from the Parish Council.

Geedon Gallery

Mixed AUTUMN EXHIBITION

12–27 October 2024
Open 11am – 5.30pm daily
(then by appointment until 15 December)

Geedon Gallery
Jaggers, Fingringhoe CO5 7DN
01206 729 334 / 728 587/ 07901 918 046
jataber@aol.com www.geedongallery.co.uk



Mandy Dearsley, *Hares Harvest Time*

Roman River Festival concert in Fingringhoe

It's a staple part of local cultural life, bringing world-class performance to coastal Essex every September. This year, events range from poetry and cello inside Jumbo the Water Tower to the chance to hear rising star on the world stage, violinist Hana Chang, perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto.

On **Wednesday 26 September**, The Solem Quartet will be playing in St Andrew's, Fingringhoe. Praised for their 'immaculate precision and spirit' (*The Strad*) and 'cultured tone' (*Arts Desk*), this quartet has taken its place amongst some of the UK's brightest artistic voices. It promises to be an evening of familiar delights and new discoveries, with recently commissioned work complemented by more established pieces: the sumptuous impressionism of Debussy, and two pieces – arranged for quartet – by the Boulanger sisters. As well as commissioning new works such as Edmund Finnis' stunning *Devotions* (composed in 2022) which they will be performing in Fingringhoe, the Quartet is passionate about collaboration and works with artists from across genres. They have a devoted following and a busy concert schedule, ranging from international

tours in Asia and Europe to performances at venues such as London's Wigmore Hall. The Quartet also takes great pride in its educational work: during their visit to the area the Roman River Festival is sponsoring such a workshop for pupils at the Royal Grammar School.

<https://wildarts.org.uk/roman-river-festival>

The Solem Quartet



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

£ £



WI

At the very end of May we had a lovely coach trip to the Old Vicarage Gardens in East Ruston, Norfolk. The weather was not being very kind to us as we left, but we had all come well prepared for any weather. On the way we made a stop in Wroxham for coffee and a quick look around the shops. As we arrived at East Ruston the rain had stopped but it was still quite a chilly day. The gardens are extensive and several of us got lost in them during the day. The house, grounds and surrounding woodlands were purchased in the 1970s by the current owners; they had been neglected for many years before that. The owners have spent the last five decades bringing it to life and it is now open to the general public for all to share. They employ several gardeners and also have some volunteers who just love the place. One of the barns has been converted into a lovely tearoom that had a log burner – which was a welcome sight on such a chilly damp day. Despite the weather we all agreed the trip was a great success and the gardens are well worth a visit if you ever find yourself in the area.

In June our speaker was Lyn McIntoch who told us all about The Childrens Society and in July, Vivia Bamford came and told us about her passion for Suffolk Cheeses – she also bought along some samples for us to try. August was our annual summer lunch held in our president's



WI summer lunch in Ann Chamberlain's garden

lovely garden; it is a chance for us to put on our summer frocks and have a great social gathering. Thirty three members attended and the weather was perfect. As well as our regular activities we have several events for the coming months: in September we have a scrabble evening and a visit to a vineyard planned. On 5 October we are holding a craft day in the village hall, to which non-members are invited. Also in October several members are going on a guided London Walk with Essex Federation of WI's and later in the month we have a theatre visit planned to the Mercury to see *Legally Blonde*.

Jill Bellinger



Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

This summer we have been busy freshening up the school site in readiness for the new academic year. The playground now has some new seating areas, as well as a new summerhouse for the children to enjoy. Inside, our school hall has been painted and is now a lovely and bright, airy space.

We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school in September, whether that be those in their final years with us, or those starting school for the very first time. We can't wait to hear what the children have been up to!

With best wishes, **Mrs H. Coyle, Headteacher**

Essex Library Service

Ready... Steady... Go To School! Challenge

It's nearly time to start school!

Is your little one starting school for the first time?

Don't forget to take part in our Ready... Steady... Go To School Challenge!

Kids will complete fun activities to help them practise skills and gain confidence ready to start school. They'll receive stamps in their special booklet along the way, and get a certificate when they finish!

Join in for free at any Essex Library!



SAVE Middlewick Ranges



An outstanding wildlife and community site is now under serious threat from the development of up to 1,000 houses. Sitting on the southern edge of Colchester, the Middlewick Ranges is a former Ministry of Defence firing range that has become a much-loved wildlife space in an increasingly congested city. Locally known as 'the Wick', this 76 hectares mosaic of flowery acid grassland, sandy slopes, scrub, woodland and hedgerows is home to a rich diversity of animals. The Wick is a key breeding area for nightingales, skylarks and barbastelle bats and home to many small mammals and reptiles. It supports almost 1,500 invertebrate species such as spiders, butterflies and moths, including some threatened species.

Despite the Wick's huge value for wildlife and people, the site has been earmarked for up to 1,000 houses in Colchester's Local Plan, and the Ministry of Defence has put the site up for sale.

A petition has been set up, calling for Colchester City Council to recognise that Essex's largest acid grassland is too special to be lost under concrete. It urges the Council to take this vital opportunity to remove the Middlewick Ranges allocation as part of its Local Plan review and find an alternative site that is less harmful to nature.

The petition is supported by Buglife, Butterfly Conservation, Colchester Natural History Society, CPRE Essex, Essex Field Club, Essex Wildlife Trust, Friends of Middlewick, Essex Birdwatching Society and the RSPB.

For more information, <https://savemiddlewick.org>

Bird box maintenance



It's always a good idea to give your bird boxes a good clean before the next breeding season. This should be done from October through to the end of January. A good clean gets rid of any unwanted debris and any mites or parasites.

You should wear gloves when doing this task: open the box, remove any debris and clean the interior with boiling water, then leave to dry thoroughly before returning the box to its position for the next breeding season.

Diane Butcher

Yoga with Linds

Every Thursday night during term time:
6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-9pm

at Fingringhoe Village Hall
Breathing exercises, mobility, relaxation
in a hatha yoga style

Please do get in touch for more information:
07974005441 or lindsravenemrich@gmail.com

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!

September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1



Late spring and early summer were extremely busy on the Reserve. After some excellent news coverage on BBC *Look East*, and various news articles, we welcomed to the Reserve many visitors, new and old, who wanted to see and hear our spectacular nightingales. They didn't disappoint, with almost 40 territories mapped, plus we were blessed to have at least three turtle dove territories as well. According to the British Trust for Ornithology, the turtle dove population has declined 99% between 1967 and 2020, so it's fantastic to have them return to Fingringhoe and other EWT Reserves, such as Wrabness. Lack of habitat, climate change and hunting have all had an impact on the turtle dove's success and it is vital that we do everything we can to protect these birds.

EWT campaigned to raise the funds for Fir Tree Wood, close to the ever-growing urban environments surrounding Chelmsford and Maldon. This wood provides a safe haven for nature and is a critical piece in the jigsaw of habitats across Danbury Ridge, being at the heart of an expansive interconnected landscape for wildlife. The £200,000 target has been met with the generosity of our members and the general public.

The BioBlitz and Butterfly-Seekers citizen science projects end on 30 September. BioBlitz concentrates on photographing wildflowers to measure their diversity in Essex and the effects of climate change, while the Butterfly Seekers log their butterfly sightings. Butterflies are general indicators of the health of the environment for wildlife – If there are plenty of them, we know that other insects, birds and mammals will also be doing well.

As we move into autumn, we will welcome back our winter waders and iconic brent geese to the Reserve. Starting on 16 September 2024 we will be offering 'quiet days' for nature lovers – this means that the Nature Discovery Centre will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Reserve will still be open for visitors to explore and enjoy nature from 9am–5pm (9am–4pm winter hours), but we hope that those looking for a quieter nature experience will find these days useful. Toilet facilities will still be available on the quiet days and the Centre will be open as usual Wednesday–Sunday.

Through the Autumn our Wilder Learning team has ongoing activities that can be viewed and booked online. We will be running a trail for the children to enjoy through the October half-term; our monthly Knit and Natter sessions will continue and we also have some excellent painting courses. Our Winter Quiz will be around the cosy log burner on 22 November and there will be a stand and



Turtle dove, photo Ken Hudgell

talk on badgers delivered by the North East Essex Badger Group, supporting Broctober. We will also run several workshops on I.D skills for waders, ducks and gulls – dates to be confirmed. Please follow us on Facebook, we post lots of events and information there, or call the Centre for more information.

Finally, Essex Wildlife Trust will be hosting its 65th AGM on Saturday 28 September. Check out the website for more details if you would like to attend. 01206 729678 <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/fingringhoe>

Shaun Bater, Assistant Centre Manager

News & Views welcomes Shaun to his new post and thanks Verity Hales for her contributions over the years

Colchester & Tendring

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

UKPN have provided funding for a free and impartial home visit

This service includes:

- An assessment of energy improvements
- Assistance with funding application
- Income maximisation
- Tariff switching

Each household will receive
4 fitted radiator reflectors FREE

To book your visit contact Christopher 07799 494 797
chris@communityenergycolchester.com
julie@communityenergycolchester.com

Community Energy Colchester is a non profit CIC



Pathways

As you read this we will be coming into the Autumn months, where the weather begins to change, the trees begin to lose their leaves, and hedges become more see-through. Where is this leading to? – well I'm not sure but I started reading a book *The Quiet Path* by Andrew Rudd, who invites us to be more present in our surroundings, as we walk our familiar paths, the walk through the woods, to the local shops, to be more aware of what is in, on or around us as we walk. I tried this slightly differently: I set up my camera, which I hadn't used for a while, pointing it towards the bird feeders, and sat down in the shade and watched and listened. I could hear and see the plane up above and watched the trail, wondering where the pilot and passengers were heading. As I watched and listened (I'm a bit hard of hearing) I tried out an App a friend told me about which listens for bird calls and identifies them. I could hear the wood-pigeon but not see it, I never heard the robin, and it never heard me take his/her photo.

Going back to Andrew's book, I think he's asking us to be more aware of life's gifts: the air that we breath, the beauty of creation that surrounds us – and I know you will be getting the kids ready, or they have already gone back to school, the bowling continues, life goes on, but remember to take time, to slow down and listen to the breaths that we take.

Revd Terry

Path
a relationship
with the wood

road
a relationship
with the town

through woodland
through community
a route through mystery
not the mystery itself

the path makes me
a tourist
who snaps scene after
scene

I keep on varying the path
to be open to pilgrimage

I walk my way
Into a kind of wakefulness
That comes when I least expect it

By Andrew Rudd



Our services are now as follows

1st Sunday at 10am

Our very relaxed lay-led café-style service begins with refreshments and continues with the service sitting round tables. There is no sermon but we discuss the readings. Some people like to join in or others just to listen.

2nd and 3rd Sundays at 9.15am Communion services led by Revd Terry.

4th Sunday at 10am

Our lay-lead family service begins with a short talk followed by refreshments and childrens' activities before a short service. Parents are encouraged to join in. Sometimes it's a bit hectic but they all seem to enjoy it so far!

All are welcome to these services

We continue to go to Aveley Lodge once a month where we are always warmly welcomed. Our 'Coffee and Co' at **2-4pm on the first Tuesday of the month** has a variety of people who come and go at different times. Again all are welcome to come. We are thankful to Revd Terry for his continuing spiritual support, guidance and leadership. With thanks to all of you, we are very blessed.

Sheena Taylor, Churchwarden



Harvest Festival Display in St Andrew's Church

Saturday 21 September
12 noon to 3pm

Tea and cakes

Comrie Singers performing at 2pm

**Fingringhoe Historical Recorders' Archive
available for searching**

Harvest raffle

All proceeds to the Friends of St Andrew's Church,
who raise funds to keep our lovely medieval church
in good repair

Suggested donation: £5.00



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



Please send contributions for the next *News & Views* to Lyn Rodley (editor) **no later than 18 November 2024**
to: lynrodley@btinternet.com or hard copy to Lord Nelson House, Ferry Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BX



VISIT YOUR AWARD-WINNING LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOP
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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

Please use the bus!

The bus timetable that has been operating for over a year now, with a 174 or 175 every hour during the day, makes it much easier to visit Colchester by public transport, instead of using a car that has to be parked in increasingly full and expensive car parks.

The more we use this service,
the more likely it is to be maintained –

So please
get on the bus!

