



**Eulogy given by her son at Sheena's funeral
in St Andrew's Church on 19 June 2025**

Welcome everyone, so many of you here today, a testament to how many lives Mum touched, so many of you here from near and far. Thank you for being here to help us celebrate her life and say a final farewell.

Mum was Born in Fife, Scotland to RAF veterans Robert and Pamela Hunter and moved to Rowhedge when Mum was still young; she had one sister and one brother, Terry, with whom she shared a very close relationship. She went to Rowhedge Primary School and then to East Ward Secondary school, where she met Dad. They lost touch but met again when they were 24. They were married for 48 years and had me and my sister Abbie.

When Abbie and I were still babies, Mum started a playgroup in Rowhedge, the start of her extremely influential life-long youth and community work, which she loved so much. Through this work her love, support and passion for her community and church were allowed to blossom. She was supportive of everybody, everyone's biggest cheer leader; she genuinely believed in others and wanted everyone to succeed.

When Abbie and I were older Mum started Young Christians and God Squad. She organised lots of activities: kayaking, abseiling, sponsored bike rides, rounders games, orienteering, Red Braces, staying at Audley End House and youth trips to Taizé. She worked for 25 years at St James Primary School in Colchester, where she made lifelong friendships. Sitting at her desk she was able to hear the children singing in assembly (and she was probably singing along with them!)

Mum was overjoyed when she realised she was going to become a grandparent: she became a Nanny to Eli, India and Max. She cherished her title of Nanny and did everything she could to spend time with her grandchildren, taking them swimming, spending days at the beach hut, bus rides, library visits, going to the cinema, the list goes on.

Sheena Taylor

6 March 1952 – 23 May 2025

Jon, Ben and Abbie would like to thank close friends and the community for the love and kindness shown to our family following the sad loss of our cornerstone, Sheena: for the beautiful flowers in the church, the cake-baking and sandwich-making, for the cards of sympathy and messages in the book of condolences.



Another huge and extremely important part of her life was her friendship with Annie, whose daughter describes Mum and Annie as more like sisters than friends. Their friendship spanned 48 years of chatting, wine drinking, mischief and many many hours of laughter. It was with Annie that Mum first visited Taizé, a Christian youth camp in southern France. The time spent at Taizé became very important to her – she loved the simplicity and community there and found it a very formative experience; it deepened her faith and changed how she worshipped.

Another important friendship was with Rev. Handscombe, who had a huge influence on her life, supporting and encouraging her to do her Reader's training and helping with every other decision to support her faith and community work. After many years as a Lay Reader Mum took on the role of Churchwarden and in recent years worked closely with Rev. Terry.

Mum had a mischievous and gregarious energy that was unstoppable, always wanting to bring fun and love to any situation – nothing was too much trouble for her. Mum's friend and the head teacher of the school where they worked said: *When Sheena joined the staff at St James' School it was like a light had been switched on. She was so good to work with. Conscientious, straightforward, good humoured and a joy to be with. She helped change the atmosphere in the school and enabled so many people with her practical Christianity.*

Mum had a positive and nurturing influence on so many people's lives which can only be touched upon today but you will all have your own anecdotes and stories of her, and we thank you all for the many lovely letters and cards we have received. I'll finish with a quote from her grandson Eli: *She will always have a special place in our hearts, we will always remember her before and after death.*

Ben Taylor



Update from the Parish Council

New councillor I am pleased to advise that Mr Derek Henderson was co-opted on to the Council at our July meeting. Derek brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Council.

Village name sign The new village sign has now been delivered to the Council and will be installed as soon as we can arrange it. We hope you like the new thief-proof design.

Church Green Unfortunately, the old willow near the school and pond died over the winter and was felled in May. Another tree will be planted in the autumn to replace it. When we first looked at the boardwalk, we thought we could tidy it up and it would last for a few more years but it will be more cost-effective to replace most or all of it, and we are in the process of getting quotes for this. There is a chance that we might be eligible for a grant, and if this is the case we hope to also refurbish the benches and picnic table. Both oak trees will be professionally pruned in the autumn by raising the crown, removing deadwood and any cross/broken/duplicate stems. The permission for this work has recently been submitted to Colchester City Council, as our authority for such works.

New bench at the Recreation Ground We hope to order a new bench for the Recreation Ground with S106 funding. This funding is also known as 'developer contribution' and can be used to mitigate the impact of development in the village. There are strict rules around how the funds can be used.

Plaque for the beacon At the July meeting the Council agreed to add a new plaque to the beacon in Ferry Road every time the beacon is lit. A plaque has been ordered to recognise the VE Day 80 commemoration held in May 2025.

Ferry Road bin The dog waste bin in Ferry Road was damaged beyond repair by a vehicle hitting it and a replacement bin has been requested. Colchester City Council no longer buy dog waste bins but are willing to supply and fit a second-hand general waste bin free of charge, which can also be used for dog waste. This will be fitted in the near future.

News & Views on website You can now read previous copies of News & Views going back to September 2021 on the Council website:

2 <https://fingringhoeipc.org.uk/news-and-views/>

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.

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.fingringhoeipc.org.uk/>
The email address is fingringhoeiparishc@outlook.com

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk

United Charities for the Poor, Fingringhoe

There has in Fingringhoe existed a charity for the poor since the 17th century, long before any welfare state, when a parish would endeavour to help parishioners that were in need of assistance from destitution. Other charities were formed over time and were amalgamated in the 20th century when registration of charities became compulsory, to become the United Charities for the Poor, Fingringhoe. More about this history can be found in the Parish Church.

Some new Trustees have recently been appointed to the charity and are working to see how, when and for what purpose it can be used in the parish. One thing we wish to reinstate is the monetary gift that historically has been given to parishioners at Christmas who are of state pension age and have been widowed. If you would like to be included in this, would you please let us know, either by email: fingringhoeunitedcharities@gmail.com or by informing one of the trustees, who are: Gerald Ketley, Mike Clarke, Ian Chamberlain, Sharron Law and Derek Henderson.

National Emergency Alert test to be held on 7 September

Mobile phones in the UK will be sent a test Emergency Alert at around 3pm on Sunday 7 September 2025. The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there is a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. It allows vital information and advice to be sent rapidly in an emergency.

During the test, mobile phones will vibrate and make a loud siren sound for roughly ten seconds, even if they are set to silent. A message will also appear on phone screens, making it clear the alert is only a test.

<https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/> gives information on simple and effective steps people can take to be more prepared for an emergency.

GEEDON GALLERY AUTUMN EXHIBITION THEN & NOW

October 11th-26th 2025

Open 11.00am - 5.30pm daily

Then by appointment until December 15th

Geedon Gallery, Jagers, Fingringhoe
Colchester, Essex CO5 7DN
01206 729 334 / 728 587 / 07901 918 046
email:jataber@aol.com

www.geedongallery.co.uk



Janet French

Winter Trees

Hedgehogs return to Fingringhoe!

I couldn't be more happy to report that hedgehogs are being seen in the village again. I have now lived here for eight years and I have so longed to see our prickly night-time visitors. A few years ago some hedgehog poo was seen near the mill, and some rehabilitated hogs were released in a Church Road garden, but now we seem to have the pattering of little feet at both ends of the village.

With a massive 25–40% decline of hogs over the last decade, I assumed our village was just another unsuitable habitat for them, or perhaps the use of pesticides had killed off most of their main food sources. The old badger argument just doesn't stand up since the two species have been cohabitating for centuries and anyway a badger would have to be desperate as it's far from an easy meal, given the hedgehog's spines. Hedgehogs and badgers share the same types of foods and with insect populations down 60% there probably just isn't enough food to go round. In any case, the positive news is that not only have adults been spotted, youngsters and their mothers have too. So that means they are breeding here – *hooray!*

So what can we do? If you would like to see hedgehogs in your garden, strike up a conversation with your neighbour and consider making a hole in your boundary – hedgehogs have territories of up to 2km and our enclosed gardens are a real problem, they can't find the foraging space they once could. In dry weather always leave a dish of water out and do not use pesticides or weedkillers. Allow a small corner of your garden to go wild, to encourage the insects that hedgehogs eat. Hedgehogs in towns and villages are doing better than those in the countryside due to people feeding them; some will even use nest boxes on a B&B basis, to rest in during the day and perhaps even to hibernate over winter.

I would love to hear if you have spotted hedgehogs (dead or alive) so I can keep a log. If you see a hedgehog out during the day that is moving slowly and without apparent purpose, it is likely to be in need of help. Please take it swiftly to a vet: veterinary practices have a legal obligation to provide emergency first aid to any animal and they will have contact with people like me, who are trained to help.

For sightings and more information: Lindsey at fingringhoegreengroup@gmail.com

If you would like to train as a rehabber or collection agent, please do get in touch. For our important work to continue, donations (of time, food or money) are always required. I am always willing to give talks to groups and extra training to veterinary practices. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) is another wonderful resource, or People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)



Recent sightings in Fingringhoe



Lindsey Raven Emrich

Many of our members have been out and about enjoying the beautiful weather we have had this summer. In June we had a coach trip to Sissinghurst Castle and Gardens. It was a glorious summer's day, though just a little bit too warm for some. On route we picked up nine members from Orsett WI, then went over the Queen Elizabeth Bridge and into Kent. The trip took us around some of the really pretty villages and glorious scenery that Kent has to offer before we arrived at Sissinghurst, which is situated near the village of Cranbrook. The gardens were designed by Vita Sackville-West who bought Sissinghurst Castle and gardens with her husband Harold Nicolson in the early 1930s. One of the outstanding features for me was the famous white garden at the centre of which was a beautiful pergola covered in white roses, which were at their best. There are many other parts to the garden including a dry garden and a huge vegetable garden. Some of us ventured to the top of the Tudor tower, one of the remnants of the original Tudor Castle, via a very winding spiral staircase. The views from the top over all the garden and surrounding countryside were well worth the effort.

Next in June was the Federation of Essex Women's Institutes AGM. This was held this year at Essex University in Wivenhoe and attended by women from all over Essex. Over 400 women singing *Jerusalem* at the beginning of the meeting made quite a noise. After a few business matters, we were treated to our first speaker of the day, Lucy Lewis, a former bomb disposal officer in the Army. Lucy was a very entertaining and funny speaker, relaying many tales from her time in training at Sandhurst and of antics at regimental dinners! After lunch we were treated to another inspiring speaker, Adam Frost, who regularly appears on *Gardeners' World*. Adam got interested in gardening through time spent with his grandparents as a child. He told us about his time working at Barnsdale for the late Jeff Hamilton and about his first Chelsea show garden when he met the late Queen. After the raffle and singing of the National Anthem it was time to go home. We all enjoyed the day and look forward to next year's AGM.

Also in June, our speaker was Siobhan Pierce, a lady who told us all about her journey from being a children's entertainer to working in the corporate world. In July we were visited by a real live Yellow Coat from the TV programme *Hi de Hi*. David Webb is an actor and he relayed a lot of the backstage secrets of *Hi de Hi*, most of the outside scenes of which were filmed at Warner's holiday camp in Dovercourt. David was lucky in that he lived in Frinton and was able to go home every night after filming – most of the rest of the crew and actors stayed on-site in some of the chalets, which were by no means luxurious.



Jackie, Pam & Jenny seeking shade at Sissinghurst

In July we enjoyed an afternoon of tea and cake in my garden when 27 members attended. There was lots of chat and laughter and some wonderful cakes, including scones, topped with cream and jam, made by Ann Chamberlain.

Even though it has been pretty warm, our walking group have still been out and about around Rowhedge and Fingringhoe. The darts team are getting in some practice in readiness for the new season and in July they had a very friendly match against St Osyth WI.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the village hall, we always welcome new members. If you would just like to visit, please come along and see if the WI is for you. We are a very friendly group and we don't sing *Jerusalem* at our meetings, we keep that for the Essex AGM.

Jill Bellinger

Community Agents

Part of the Essex Wellbeing Service

Community Agents provide support to individuals in order to maintain independence living in their own home. We can help anybody over the age of 18 that is in particular need of a home visit in order to source the support needed.

Community Agents can assist with:

Equipment
Blue Badges & Bus Passes
Benefits
Social Opportunities
Transport
Meals & Shopping
Carers Support

To refer yourself, family member, friend or neighbour to Community Agents.

Please call EWS direct 0300 303 9988

Please note you must have the person you are referring's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.



Essex
Wellbeing Service





Founded in 1981, following the generous gift of land and buildings, Church Green Trust has dedicated over 35 years to supporting the Fingringhoe community through the provision of residential accommodation and community spaces. Utilizing a mortgage, the Trust originally developed six residential units which primarily serve former residents of Fingringhoe. Recently two new units were added, following a refurbishment project, enhancing the Trust's capacity to fulfil its objectives.

The Trust's main assets consist of its land and buildings, with limited cash reserves maintained for emergencies and essential repairs. Over 85% of the Trust's income is generated from letting the residential units, with the remainder sourced from non-residential rentals, investment interest, and donations. Operating with a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Trust maintains low operating costs and benefits from grants and donations whenever available. A modest annual surplus is allocated between a reserve fund and reinvesting in property maintenance and development.

The core objectives of Church Green Trust are to provide accommodation and related amenities to people associated with Fingringhoe, and to offer space that supports community-oriented and arts activities within the village.

Volunteer opportunity – become a Trustee

Church Green Trust is actively seeking volunteers to join its Board of Trustees. Serving as a Trustee offers an opportunity to contribute to the local community and support the ongoing mission of the Trust. The role is flexible and not time-intensive, allowing volunteers to dedicate as much or as little time as they can comfortably afford. We welcome individuals with a passion for community development, housing, or arts and cultural activities to consider this rewarding opportunity.

For further information, please feel free to contact

Vince McNaugh on [07749930779](tel:07749930779).

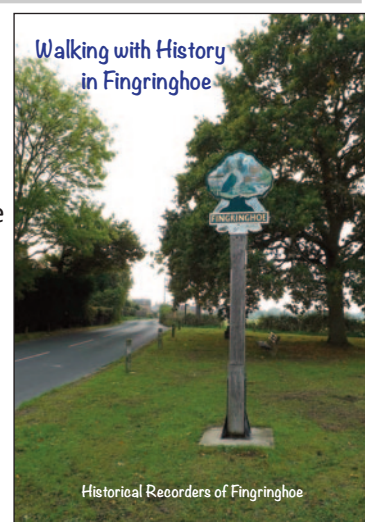
Historical Recorders of Fingringhoe

The Recorders are Fingringhoe residents who are interested in the history of their village. The group was formed in 1981 and since then has been building an Archive of material about the people, buildings, activities, industries and events of the village. This includes press cuttings, letters, photographs, posters, trophies, books, maps and drawings that have been donated by villagers over the years. For earlier history the Archive also has photocopies of old documents now in the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford, such as census records and old newspapers. We also record interviews with long-term village residents, and when offered a corner at a village event we will set up a laptop and screen to search the Archive for the curious.

The Archive has been catalogued on computer: each of over 6,500 items has been numbered, described briefly and scanned or photographed. The resulting files are available on a memory stick to anyone wishing to search them.

We have published three books: *Fingringhoe Past and Present* (1998), *The Church of St Andrew, Fingringhoe, Essex* (2016) and *Walking with History in Fingringhoe* (2024). Copies of the last of these have almost sold out and we plan a second print run. A very few minor errors that we have been told about will be corrected and we would be glad to hear of any others that readers have noticed.

fingringhoerecorders@gmail.com



We need more members of our group!

The Recorders were never a very large group, but in recent years our numbers have declined as members have left the village (or, indeed, the world). We meet about four times a year, to discuss requests for information, updating the Archive and various projects using it.

Are you interested? If so, do please email us!



Through the spring and summer, we have been lucky to see the return of turtle doves. It is always hard to judge numbers as these birds are very mobile, but consensus is at least three territories. This seems a low number, but turtle doves are extremely rare in Essex – the population has declined 99% between 1967–2020, 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 bird's success and it is vital that we do everything we can to protect the turtle dove before it is gone forever.



The badger-watching evenings have continued throughout the year, but will end in October, until March 2026. We usually release dates towards the end of January, so don't miss out. The badgers have been seen in good numbers this year, with up to six seen on some evenings, and this year many visitors were lucky enough to see cubs.

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. The Butterfly Seekers log sightings of butterflies, which are indicators of the health of the environment for wildlife in general: if there are good numbers 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 the iconic Brent Geese will be heard on misty mornings. At this time of year many of the bushes will be laden with fruit, and we ask visitors to kindly leave these for the returning thrushes, the fieldfare, redwing and resident birds that will need the fuel to get through the winter.

Autumn and winter are 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, cutting trees and scrub at ground level on a predetermined rotation of 11–14 years, depending on the size of plants. The immediate aim is to allow light to penetrate to the ground to promote new plant growth, attracting invertebrates. After several years' growth, the scrub will again be thick and dense enough to provide an ideal habitat for small mammals,



reptiles and songbirds like the nightingale. We leave a few tall trees to provide 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.

Autumn events: I.D. workshops: Waders (18 September & 18 October) Raptors (15 November) and Ducks (6 December). Each workshop runs for 3 hours, with some time in the classroom and then a guided walk to put your skills to the test. Vivien McGuinness will continue her **painting classes** starting on 3 September, repeating every fortnight with a different theme for each class and finishing on 17 December. Individual sessions or blocks may be booked. We also have two **Ranger Rambles** (14 September and 21 December) which are great events, aimed at all the family, offering an opportunity to find out about the Reserve and ask questions. The regular **Knit and Natter** continues on the second Saturday of the month. This is a lovely group, very friendly, making all welcome; it is a free event.

We would really appreciate visitors filling in our newest feedback form to let us know what you like and enjoy about the Reserve and Visitor Centre and what we can improve on; there are QR codes and paper copies available at the Centre. We also have a new Facebook page where we post sightings, events and general information. Please follow us and share with others; our new page has about 100 followers so far, compared to over 5,000 on the previous page that was shut down.

Finally, the Fingringhoe team would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who has visited us over the summer and will continue to do so.

Shaun Bater, Assistant Centre Manager





From St Andrew's Church Community



Coffee and Co, held on the first Tuesday of each month between 2pm and 4pm, has a great deal of chat and laughter to fill the afternoon – not to mention coffee and cake. It's 'come when you can' and 'leave when you must'. You'll be very welcome to join us.

The 4th Sunday in the month is a **family service** where the children come first, bringing their parents, carers, grandparents and friends. We start with a Bible story and a theme, followed by songs and handicrafts, and end with refreshments. Our July service was totally given over to refreshments when we enjoyed a barbecue in the churchyard to round off our year. Family service starts at 10am, finishing by 11am, but people are free to stay and chat, which they do. The dates for the next four family services are: September 28, October 26, November 23 and December 21. Also on the 21st we will make Christingles at 2pm.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for Jon, Ben, Abbie and Sheena's grandchildren as we continue life's journey, making subtle changes because that person who once looked after the events in our life is no longer physically with us but remains loved and cherished in our hearts and minds. Sheena was very much involved in the life of St Andrew's, particularly with Café Church, and we as a church family are taking time to discuss the way forward with this service on the 1st Sunday of the month. The church will be open on the Sunday morning, but no formal service will take place for now.

Rev'd Terry

Services at St Andrew's Fingringhoe

Sundays			Tuesdays	
			10.00	Morning Prayer (finish by 10.45) all welcome
1st	10.00	Church open		
2nd	9.15	Holy Communion		
3rd	9.15	Holy Communion		
4th	10.00	Family Service	10.00	Bible Study Group (finish by 11.15) all welcome

Fridays



Christingle



Fingringhoe
Church of England (VA) Primary School

Over the summer break, we've been busy making a number of improvements to the school environment ready for the start of the new academic year. We're pleased to have developed a new enhanced provision area within our Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 classrooms. These spaces have been designed to better support pupils' learning and development through a more engaging and flexible environment.

Our balcony area has also had a refresh, with a new coat of paint helping to bring this outdoor space more in line with the classrooms, making it a more inviting extension of the learning environment.

Throughout the school, updates and improvements have taken place to ensure that everything is clean, tidy and ready for pupils to return. We're really looking forward to welcoming everyone back and hope the changes help make the new term a positive and enjoyable one for all.

New free services!



Essex
Library
Service

Learn something new with **LinkedIn Learning**, with their selection of over 24,000 expert-led courses on a variety of subjects. Whether you're looking to upskill at work, change careers, get creative, improve your wellbeing, or just learn for fun, LinkedIn Learning has something for you.

Love music and want to stream for free? Try **Freegal!** Listen to over 18 million songs from over 200 genres, from Adele to Billy Joel, Bob Dylan to Miranda Lambert! Enjoy unlimited tracks on your devices anywhere and everywhere.

Both services are available free to library card holders. To start using them, visit the Essex Library Service website: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk>

Best wishes, **Mrs H. Coyle, Headteacher**

ROMAN RIVER 25TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

19TH – 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025



Exceptional performances in beautiful venues across Essex

with Armonico Consort • Engegård Quartet • Tom Poster • Elena Urioste • Orlando Jopling • Laura Van Der Heijden • Jamie Catto • Alissa Firsova • Martin James Bartlett • Daniel Rowland • David Cohen • Sacha Rattle AND MANY MORE

VENUES St Andrew's, Fingringhoe • St Mary's, Wivenhoe • St Peter Ad Vincula, Coggeshall • Old Garrison Gymnasium, The Arts Centre and CODA – Colchester • St John's, Mount Bures • Jaywick Martello Tower • St Osyth Priory Chapel • St Mary The Virgin, Ardleigh • St Mary's, Dedham • All Saints, Fordham • St Lawrence, Rowhedge



romanrivermusic.co.uk

Wild Arts is the trading name of Roman River Music, Charity No.1158366



Wild Arts & Roman River 25th Anniversary Festival 2025: A Daring Season of Sound

Roman River Music and Wild Arts are two branches of the same tree. **Wild Arts** puts on operas in a week-long festival at Layer Marney Tower and performances in ten other prestigious East Anglian venues: <https://wildarts.org.uk/> **Roman River** puts on world-class chamber music in beautiful and unusual venues across North Essex, this year celebrating its 25th Anniversary; proof indeed that culture in East Anglia is thriving!

? 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 24 October 2025

★ 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)

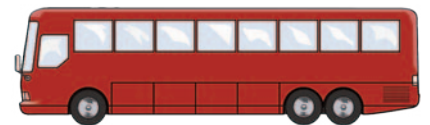
★ Teams of up to six, please!
★ in aid of the Friends of St Andrew's
which raises funds
to keep our lovely medieval church in good repair
Registered Charity 1112665

Please use the bus!

The bus timetable that now has a 174 or 175 bus every hour (7.30 – 18.14) 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!



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