

NEWS & VIEWS

DECEMBER 2023



Fingringhoe 2024 Calendar

On sale at the Post Office

Copies can also be delivered within the village: please message 07795664740.

The calendar uses the winning photographs from this year's Fingringhoe Photography Competition – congratulations to those who organized this event. Proceeds go to village community projects at Church Green and to the production of *News & Views*.



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!



**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

Next First Sundays:

January 7

February 4

March 3



Update from the Parish Council

The Play area has two new items of equipment – new cradle swings and a toddler slide/multiplay unit. Many thanks for the positive feedback received and we hope that many hours of fun are had. We are lucky to have been able to fund the majority of this from S106 money (this money comes from planning obligations which are legal agreements entered into by the developer to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal, and are directly related to the community). We also have a grant from the Community Initiative Fund and grants from our Ward and Essex County Council Councillors, for which we are very grateful.

Sand works verges. As mentioned in earlier reports, we have been looking into the ownership of these verges as there is often wild camping in these areas and unfortunately the visitors leave all sorts of unpleasant waste. We have confirmed who owns the land and have now agreed to put up some 'No Overnight Camping' signs. Again, we have been fortunate that a private donation has been offered to fund these.

20's Plenty for Us. By the time you read this, the petition should be out and about for circulation. We hope to leave copies in The Whalebone, the Post Office/Church Green, the school, the village hall foyer, and the Fingringhoe Club (all to be confirmed). We also plan to knock door to door to involve people who cannot get to any of these places or have not heard about the campaign. If you would like to sign the petition in favour of the 20mph speed limits, and cannot access a petition, please contact the clerk.

Garden waste collections 2024. From 15 January 2024, there will be charges for collecting garden waste. The last free collection will be the week commencing 18 December 2023. This is an 'opt in' service and you can still take your garden waste free of charge to the recycling centres (remember to book a slot). You can also share your garden waste bins (and costs) with two or more other properties. The charges are a one-off cost of £35 per bin and an annual charge of £55 per bin. You can have up to four bins. The link below to the City Council website gives more detailed information.

<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/gardenwaste/>

The new village sign on the corner of Haye Lane has been stolen again. The Council are looking at solutions to prevent this happening further and will arrange to install another sign as soon as possible.



Defibrillator. At the time of writing, paediatric pads (for children under 8 years old/approximately 55 lbs) have been ordered for the defibrillator located outside the village hall. The defibrillator is regularly checked by the clerk, but the Council still do not have details of the organisation that takes it away to be serviced. If you have any details, please let the clerk know.

Council meetings and information

We usually 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. Please note that in January and April the meetings will be on Wednesday 10 January 2024 and Wednesday 3 April 2024, because of the dates upon which the bank holidays fall for New Year and Easter.

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.fingringhoe.org.uk>
The email address is fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk

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



Don't forget that there is a village hall right in the middle of the village at very competitive rates of hire. Have a look at the website <https://fingringhoevillagehall.org.uk> to see what the hall has to offer and then contact the Booking Secretary, Becky Scott (pbscott21@btinternet.com or 07590 515625) to check availability and to take advantage of the special discount for Fingringhoe residents.



Nicholas Rowe, Trees (yew wood)

Geedon Gallery

Artists of Today & Tomorrow

Now open by appointment until 15 December
for those special Christmas presents
We also have the Fingringhoe Calendar for sale

01206 729 334 / 07901 918 046

jataber@aol.com

www.geedongallery.co.uk

Jacqueline Wolfers

Yoga with Linds

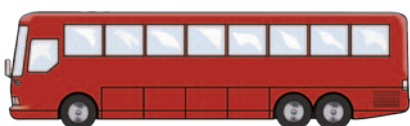
Every Thursday night during term time:
6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-9pm
at Fingringhoe Village Hall
Breathing exercises, mobility, relaxation
in a hatha yoga style

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

Please use the bus!

The bus timetable that has been operating since April, 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!

The **Church Green Trust**, in the heart of Fingringhoe near St Andrew's Church and the Whalebone Pub, was established in the early 1980s after a generous donation of land and outbuildings from the Furneaux-Lennon estate. At present it comprises six apartments, providing independent



living for the over-60s. Having been through the planning process and appointed a builder, we are pleased to announce that work has started on converting part of the building into two new, single occupation, apartments. There will be a bit of disruption around the site for a few weeks but works are progressing well and we anticipate the apartments will be completed early in the new year.

The Trust also provides community facilities in the shape of the Courtyard Community Room, Community Lounge and the Courtyard which are home to the local Post Office, coffee mornings, the book exchange and yoga.

Trustees manage the day-to-day running of the Trust and are responsible for future planning. For details of our Five Year Plan see the website: www.churchgreentrust.co.uk The **Friends** of the Trust are an enthusiastic small group of volunteers, all living in the local area, offering a wide range of skill sets and experience. They help in a practical way by undertaking small jobs such as gardening, decorating and maintaining the communal areas. They also help to organise and run community events.

Are you able to help?

If you would like to become part of the dedicated group of volunteers, as a Trustee or Friend, please contact:

chairperson.cgt@gmail.com

If you are interested in using our facilities or in applying for an apartment please contact: secretary.cgt@gmail.com Alternatively, you can send a message via our Facebook page for these or any other enquiries.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Fingringhoe a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stuart Allsopp, Chairperson





Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

Pupils at Fingringhoe Primary School have enjoyed a busy term filled with various activities and events. Notably, we held our Remembrance Service at the church, where children and families came together to honour and remember those who have given their lives in battle. As the term progresses, excitement is now building for our upcoming Christmas celebrations. Christmas holds a distinctive significance for Fingringhoe, being a Church of England school. The festive season brings a sense of togetherness, joy, and an opportunity for the children to embrace the values of kindness, sharing, and compassion. The children are eagerly awaiting the festivities, looking forward to various Christmas activities, performances and celebrations that not only mark the end of the year but also emphasise the spirit of love and generosity within our school community.

Mrs H Coyle, Headteacher

Fingringhoe School Parent-Teacher Association

Saturday 9 December

Fingringhoe Village Hall 11am – 2:30pm

Christmas Fête

Santa's Grotto £5 with gift – Mrs Claus crafts £2

lots of fun stalls:

Chocolate Tombola – Lucky Dip – Name the Elf

various Hamper Prizes in our raffle

Booze Barrow raffle – refreshments

50p entrance

Donations: this is where we ask for your help, which is very much needed: if you could supply some of the items below, or help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

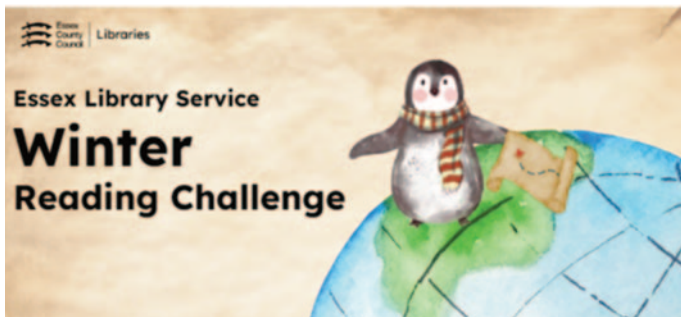
We need: beauty gifts – alcohol for the booze barrow – new kids toys – various food items for the fruit & veg hamper and the christmas dinner hamper – baked cakes – items for the gardening hamper

Your time if you are free to help out on the day

Donations can be left with the school, or at Floriana, Chapel Road or we are more than happy to collect.

Tricia Sebborn-Keeling, ptafingringhoe@gmail.com

The Winter Reading Challenge, 2023/2024



Our plucky penguin is back once again! But this year, she's setting off on an even bigger journey...

Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for your little ones to choose from. Once they complete six of the challenges they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).

Lyra will be leaving on Saturday 25 November and returning on Saturday 3 February. You can find out more about the Winter Reading Challenge at:

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

School Wish List

The teachers and children are very grateful to everyone who has already bought items the school children and teachers have asked for via our Amazon Gift List. The list has previously been advertised only on social media, so many may have missed out. Here is the web address:

www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/guest-view/2E6JSYPFEF1TN

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

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

£ £



From Fingringhoe Historical Recorders

Have you known Fingringhoe for several years?



Maybe you were born here or moved to the village some time ago? Would you be interested in sharing your knowledge of Fingringhoe? If so, please read on...

The Fingringhoe Historical Recorders have for many years been collecting all sorts of things connected with the village. Recently we have digitised our archive of over 6,000 items. As fewer and fewer news items and other records are being printed, we are finding that fewer clippings, cuttings, documents etc. are being added to the archive. So we are embarking on an exciting new project to record people from the village talking about their memories of Fingringhoe. Using a small voice recorder, one of us would meet you and have a chat for 10-15 minutes. And then, once it is indexed, your recording will be in the archive and be available for people to listen to.

If you would like to know more about what's involved, please email us at fingringhoercorders@gmail.com or telephone me at 07752 418155.

Malcolm Kimmance



Recognition at last!

Sixty-seven years ago, as part of his National Service, the late Colin Bagley – Fingringhoe's one-time Postmaster – took part in Operation Grapple. This was very hush-hush at the time as it was the testing of a nuclear device in the South Pacific. Colin was an armament mechanic on a Shackleton Bomber. Their job was to clear the area of local fishermen and, on the day, fly through the nuclear cloud making observations!

For many years people have tried to get recognition for the participants in this action and this has now been granted by his Majesty the King, and a medal is on its way.

Many odd illnesses were claimed by people involved, but as he lived to 86 Colin did not feel that he had any ill effects. Today I feel very proud of Colin, although this all took place before we met.

Ann Bagley



The Nuclear Test Medal recognises military, civilian, and overseas staff and personnel who participated in Britain's nuclear testing programme in the 1950s and 1960s.



A Farmworker in Fingringhoe in 1944

One of the coldest winter jobs was cutting kale for the cows, in snow and sharp frosts it still had to be done, by hand with a bill-hook. We wrapped hessian sacks round our waists but each time you whacked a stalk of kale to cut it –

some were huge and very tough – you got boots full of snow and ice and the sack got wetter and wetter. I remember on several occasions having feet and fingers so frozen that the pain made me feel sick.

Sometimes we lit the old copper in the granary and cooked all the small potatoes (chats) for the chickens, to mix with meal. We would stand in front of the copper fire

and dry our wet trousers still on us, till they steamed. I wonder if this is the cause of my rheumatism? We also ate some of the small hot potatoes straight from the copper, boiling in frothing scum and plenty of grit when you bit into them – delicious.

On very wet days when all the outside jobs were finished we used to mend the hessian corn sacks that had rat holes chewed in them, using a huge curved sharp sack needle and binder twine. There were always rats in the granary while we were sitting there mending the sacks, but they took no notice of us, nor we of them.

Daphne Allen



We always think the Reserve is wonderful at any time of year but the colours of the leaves changing and the hidden delights of fungi popping up, the occasional gorse flowers and huge flocks of waders on the estuary, all mean that we love winter on the Reserve too, especially when you can cosy up by the log fire after your walk!

It's a busy time of year for the volunteer work party and Ranger. After a summer of repairing and replacing things, and putting a lovely new fence around the Old Meadow, it is coppice time again. 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 do this on an 11–14-year cycle depending on the size of the plants. The immediate aim of this is to allow light to penetrate to the ground to promote new plant growth and to attract invertebrates. After several years' growth the scrub will be thick and dense enough to provide ideal habitat for small mammals, reptiles and song birds like the nightingale. We leave a couple of tall trees in the area to provide protected high tree tops for other birds, such as blue tits and thrushes. Many landscapes across the UK are managed – there are few that are truly wild and untouched by human hand.

Christmas is coming!

We have some events on: our **children's festive trail** will run every weekend in December and school holiday days across December and January – come and answer some questions posed by Santa's reindeer! There will be an exciting first for us on the evening of **4 December** when Colchester Arts Centre Director Anthony Roberts will give us his festive recital of Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'. Tickets £10, including a mince pie and non-alcoholic mulled wine; as a charity evening, all ticket money goes to the Reserve. Doors will open at 18.30 so you can do a bit of Christmas shopping in our well-stocked **Visitor Centre shop**: we have some great gift ranges and a new delivery of books just in. We're open every day until 16.00 for shopping or browsing, with quieter and easier parking than on the High Street! And all profits go to helping us look after the Reserve, so a perfect excuse to come and shop with us!

Verity Hales, Site Manager



The Green Group had a very successful litter pick on 29 October, with lots of willing volunteers keeping our village clean. Becky at the social club opened up and provided bacon sarnies and somewhere warm to retreat to, and a chance for us to wash our hands afterwards. A huge *thank you* to Becky for that.

The next village litter pick will be on **Sunday 24 March** – please look out for notices on the boards and Facebook.



Lindsey Raven Emrich

When you use the bins at Church Green, please do take note of the sign on each bin and make sure you put only the items mentioned in that bin. Our willing volunteers have to sort the rubbish before distributing it to various recycling facilities, so please don't make their already hard job even harder!



We have had a slight change to the recycling project and sadly can no longer accept confectionary packaging.



Many of you I'm sure, will have seen the lovely flowers in our church when you have visited. We are a small, dedicated team who keep the church decorated throughout the year with flowers and greenery, often from our own gardens if possible. But we are wondering if there may be others in the village who love flowers and might be interested in joining us.

We generally work in pairs, as two heads are always better than one when looking for inspiration!! Each pair is on duty about once every three months and we can always swap around if dates become inconvenient. None of us are trained florists, we just love arranging flowers and finding different ways of displaying them.

So, if you would like to find out more about what is involved, please get in touch with me and we can arrange to meet and have a chat. You can contact me by email: jkimmance@gmail.com or by phone on 07792 862594.

Judy Kimmance



In Orthodox Christianity, the nativity takes place in a cave, and midwives bathe the infant Jesus. Joseph, at the left, looks puzzled, the shepherds with their sheep, goats and a dog are to the right; dynamic angels rejoice above. This painting of the 1270s is by Giudo da Siena, an Italian painter much influenced by Byzantine traditions.

From St Andrew's Church



Who mentioned Christmas?

The nights are drawing in, by the time you read this you will be getting up in the dark and coming home in the dark, that is if you are of working age (what does that mean today?) or with a young family getting up in the dark with all lights on getting ready for school. I love the start of Autumn – with the leaves falling you can see through the bushes and hedges, notice where the birds have been nesting and find lost cricket or tennis balls.

It's also the time to start getting ready for Christmas, and that means different things to different people: excitement to the young; anxiety to the parents; joy for some as they welcome family and friends; sadness for others at the loss of a loved one; loneliness for some as they haven't seen anyone in such a long time. Some will anticipate a New Life this Christmas. Whichever you are, you are welcome to join one of our services this Christmas.

Revd Terry

**From all at St Andrew's Church, Fingringhoe
we wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.**

Christmas services at St Andrew's Fingringhoe

Friday 15 December 7.30pm Candlelit Carol Service
with mince pies & mulled wine

Sunday 17 December 9.15am Holy Communion
4pm Dedication of Tree of Light

Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle Service
10pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December – Christmas Day
no service at Fingringhoe
but at St Andrew's, Abberton:
10am Benefice Service of Carols





The wetlands area of Fingringhoe Wick Reserve, photograph by Diane Butcher

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 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!



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