



NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 2023



Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe & Rowhedge Ferry

On most weekends from 7 April to the end of October the foot ferry runs between Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge. It runs roughly an hour and half either side of high tide.

The stops can be found on the floating pontoon at Lion's Quay in Rowhedge, opposite the Royal British Legion in Wivenhoe and at the end of Ferry Road (or just to the right by the pillbox) in Fingringhoe. The Fingringhoe stop is by request only and at skipper's discretion depending on the water. Just give the ferry a shout from the riverbank or use the phone number on the noticeboard by the stop.

The fares are £1.50 each way with under-fives and dogs travelling for free. Bikes can travel for £2 each way.

The ferry is a lovely way to visit these three charming villages on the River Colne. For more information visit the website: <https://wivenhoerowhedgeferry.co.uk>

Ian Whiscombe

Good news about the buses!

The timetable for 174 and 175 buses now has service every hour, making it much easier for us to leave our cars at home and take public transport for daytime visits to Colchester. The lists below give departure times for Monday to Saturday (except public holidays, and there are no buses on Sunday). *indicates the departure time during school holidays – on schooldays it will be slightly different. For the full timetables: www.firstbus.co.uk

To Colchester, leaving from Frere Way at:		From Colchester leaving from Stanwell Street at:	
175	8.04*	175	7.35*
174	9.11	174	8.45
175	10.14	175	9.45
174	11.11	174	10.45
175	12.14	175	11.45
174	13.11	174	12.45
175	14.14	175	13.45
174	15.36*	174	15.10*
175	16.59	175	16.30
175	18.14	175	17.45

Don't forget the foodbank!

Please put non-perishable contributions to the Colchester Food Bank in the blue plastic box in the church porch. Adding just one or two items for the Bank to a weekly shop will keep up a steady supply.



Fingringhoe Village Hall needs your help!

Our Village Hall is an important venue for a variety of regular groups from pre-school to yoga classes and W.I. meetings, and many occasional village or private events.

The hall is run by volunteers who meet about three times a year for an hour or so. We are currently in need of **committee members** to discuss the way the hall is run.

If you would like to help, or would like more information, please call our Chair, **Julie Chandler**

07464121398

Update from the Parish Council



20's Plenty for Us The survey for the 20mph speed limit in the village closed on 28 February 2023. We had 158 online votes (of which 17 were spoiled or duplicated) and 126 paper votes (of which 2 were spoiled). The number of YES votes was 202 (76%) and the number of NO votes was 63 (24%). Where extra comments were made, most people asked if

the speed limit could be extended to the whole village. The information has now been passed to Councillor Kevin Bentley who recently advised: 'The 20mph is now in the works and the first piece of work will be a traffic survey which Highways has to do as part of the evidence gathering. I'll let you know when, although you'll probably see the strips going down.' If implemented, ECC highways would decide the final zone, after full consultation.

Pigs Foot Green posts The new oak posts are now looking very smart around Pigs Foot Green.

Play area The Council arrange for regular independent safety inspections at the play area and the latest inspections advised that the children's cradle swings should be removed, which the Council immediately agreed to do. We will look at the grant funding available to replace these as soon as possible. Due to so much wet weather, the goal posts are still to be painted but we hope this will be done in the next few weeks.

Sand works verges 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. The Council believe the verges are owned by Essex County Council, and we are working with Councillor Bentley to confirm this. However, the latest information from him is that the concrete ECC posts are the responsibility of Highways, but the land is not. Further investigations are needed, and we will continue to pursue this, conscious that the better the weather, the busier the area will be.

Road signs/works We arranged a video call with Councillor Bentley and Operations Manager for Ringway Jacobs to discuss the ongoing issues. We were advised: 'We inspect every road in Essex annually as a minimum (some more frequently), so we know about most long-term issues already and some will be in future years' programmes. Also worth noting is that we are doing a wholesale data cleanse this year of everything on the online system, so it will reduce the duplication issue that it currently shows. Many of the locally recorded defects are low priority so would only be considered for action as part of a planned capital funded scheme. Typically, defects categorised as low priority are known about and recorded, but we just don't have the funding to repair/make good. An example may be a dirty sign that can still be seen, or a gully which isn't working, but the next one down the road is working and picks up the water, so hopefully you can see why we don't make these a priority.'

If you spot anything new that needs to be reported, please continue to use the ECC reporting tool on their website www.essexhighways.org/tell-us Please also copy the clerk in to fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com

Council meetings and information The Council are pleased to announce that at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 2 May, Councillor Gerald Ketley and Councillor Michael Clarke were voted in as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Fingringhoe Parish Council for the coming year.

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

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.

The website address is www.essexhighways.org.uk
The email address is fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk

The **visiting post office** comes three times a week to Church Green
Monday & Friday 10am – 1pm Wednesday 1– 4pm

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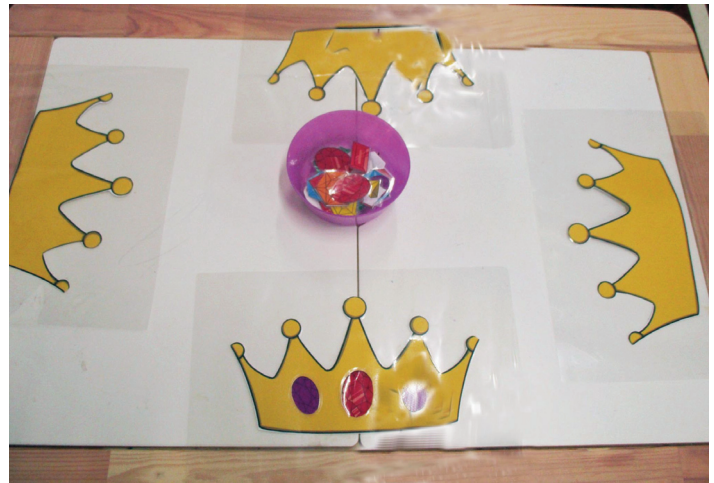
Colchester South Residents Survey

We are currently working on a programme designed to bring together health and social care professionals and voluntary and public sector organisations, to make positive differences to lives of everyone living in Colchester and Tendring. We are part of the North East Essex Health & Wellbeing Alliance. There are many factors which can have either a positive or a negative impact on your health and wellbeing. Some relate to our local area, such as the local environment, including housing and access to green spaces, access to health care, availability of local transport, education and employment. Other factors include our behaviours (for example how much we exercise) and our genetics (for example our family history of health conditions or our ethnicity). We aim to prevent future ill health, and improve wellbeing, by reducing the negative impact of these factors, so that you can live well.

We need your local knowledge to help us understand what a healthy neighbourhood could look like for you and the people living in south Colchester. To gain this information we have created a survey which can be found online at www.letstalknee.co.uk/colchester-south-neighbourhood-project The survey will be live until 23 June, at which time we will collate and analyse the results to see how we can use your voices to inform the priorities of the Neighbourhood programme going forward.

Emma Connell-Smith, Integrated Care Board

Roman River Pre-School



With the Summer term well under way, we have already had some great fun at pre-school – celebrating the King’s coronation with crafts and an afternoon tea, talking about our pets and favourite animals as well as having a visit from a therapy dog, and much more.

It is a busy time of year, not only preparing our older children for their transition to primary school, holding sports’ day and leavers’ celebrations, but also with our sessions being full almost all of the days. The children are making the most of the weather getting nicer now and spend a lot of their time in our outside area – you might hear them as you walk past!

We will have space available in September for both 2-year-olds as well as 3-year-olds, so if you are interested in your child attending our pre-school, please contact us by phone email (jo.connell@romanriverpreschool.co.uk) or phone (01206 729731) to arrange a visit.

We also continue to look for new trustees to join our pre-school – do get in touch to find out more how you can become involved!

**Corinna Smith, Administration Manager
Roman River Pre School**

WILD
ARTS

ESSEX SUMMER OPERA FESTIVAL

LayerMarney Tower

22, 24 & 25 June

Arrive early,
enjoy the beautiful
grounds and
gardens and set
up your picnic on
the lawn.

The Wild Arts Ensemble bring their effervescent storytelling to **Donizetti’s Elixir of Love**, one of the great Italian operas - full of tunes, romance, and mischievous comedy.

Performed in the Opera Barn at Layer Marney Tower, fully staged in costume, sung in English by a stunning cast from major opera houses, directed by Guido Martin-Brandis, and with chamber orchestra conducted by Orlando Jopling.



‘Wild Arts’ opera evenings are of a breathtakingly high, ROH-level musical standard – gorgeous musicians and mischievously well acted. I’d follow them anywhere.’
Libby Purves

‘A fine young cast excel, with engaging energy and superb singing ★★★★★’
The Guardian on our 2022 production.

Tickets from £25. Boxes of 8 seats with tables available.

Families are especially welcome for the Sunday Matinee, for which tickets are £10 for everyone under the age of 26.

To book: wildarts.org.uk

Book early - last year sold out!



The Fingringhoe Green Group will be running the recycling section of the Reuse and Recycle Fair at Fingringhoe Wick



We were thrilled that Fingringhoe Primary School allowed us to purchase bird boxes and put them up at the school after the caretaker spotted birds trying to nest in the boiler flue. We hope the two bird boxes erected will provide more homes for wildlife as well as interest for the students.

Look out for more news on our new campaign for **pollinators** around the village – coming soon.

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!



Reuse and Recycle Fair

Fingringhoe Wick

Sunday 2nd July

10:30-3:30

Shop a range of local artists and artisans specialising in arts and crafts from recycled material

Reuse some of your household objects – get your knives sharpened and your bike repaired...

Plant Swap – Pre-loved book stall

Bring your items to recycle – ask for details from bras to crisp packets, old tools to old coins.

If you would like a stall or have an idea for someone that would be just perfect – please get in touch

for more information, please ring 01206 729678



Love Essex • Love Wildlife

Registered Charity Number 20065

Fingringhoe Photography Competition & Calendar

Get snapping, everyone!

Any queries please contact
07795664740



By popular demand the Green Group will be running the photography competition again this year. Anyone from the village can take part by entering up to three photographs taken in Fingringhoe. The subject can be anything in and around the village, including nature and wildlife. They must be your own photographs, ideally taken within the last two years.

Put your 10 x 8 inch (25 x 20 cm) landscape-format prints in the box provided in the Post Office at Church Green between 12 June and 10 July 2023, with your name, email address and phone number on the back.

Anyone living in the village can vote, placing their voting slip in the box provided by the 21 August. The 12 most voted-for photos will appear in the village calendar for 2024. Names will be added unless anyone wishes to remain anonymous.

The calendar will be on sale from October/November 2023. Proceeds will go to the purchase of garden furniture for the courtyard at the Post Office, which over the next few years we hope will become more of a community space, used by everyone. There will also be a donation towards *News & Views*

Fingringhoe
Wick Nature
Reserve



Essex
Wildlife Trust



Spring is well under way now and our summer migrant bird species are here in good numbers and are bringing a smile to our faces. There are key sounds signalling so much to so many – nothing quite beats hearing the first cuckoo, nightingale and turtle dove of the year. It never ceases to amaze me how far these birds have travelled – a journey of about 3,500 miles from Africa for both the cuckoo and the nightingale (no mean feat for either, but especially the nightingale, which is no bigger than a robin). Once that exhausting feat is done, it has to sing night and day to establish its territory and attract a mate. If successful, the hard work continues as the birds then need to find enough food to raise a family, before flying all the way back! Take a moment to think about the extraordinary things we take for granted as ordinary occurrences!

We are lucky enough to have one of the best populations of nightingales in the east of England. Famed for its song for centuries, just what is it that makes everyone talk about it? The nightingale can produce a procession of rippling whistles, tweets, trills, gurgles, screeches and croaks, and a rapid fire ‘gun shot’ sound that seem at odds with the poetic nature people have attributed to this bird

over the years. It is this range and diversity of note that set the nightingale apart from its nearest songster rivals the blackcap and blackbird – the nightingale can produce about 1,000 notes compared to the blackbird’s 100. Its song is also very powerful, much louder than other birds around it, and capable of great endurance, singing for long periods, both day and night. Each phrase can be made of up of many notes, making each song unique.

A date for your diary: another first for us this year will be our first Reuse and Recycle Fair on 2 July, and another collaboration, this time with both the Fingringhoe W.I. and the Green Group. We will host the Green Group’s regular recycling depot, so get collecting your crisp packets, Babybel wrappers and a whole host of other things to bring over to us. You can also bring your household items to the Knife Sharpener for a bit of TLC, browse our local art and craft stalls featuring upcycled or recycled items, a plant swap and pre-loved book stall. The W.I. will help us ‘Make do and Mend’, teaching us some basic sewing skills and offering minor clothing repairs and alterations (perhaps inspiring you to finally change those trousers with a ruined hem into shorts!)

Verity Hales, Site Manager

Sculpture Exhibition at the Reserve

We are delighted to be hosting our first sculpture exhibition and trail this year, in collaboration with Colchester Arts Society. Society members were asked



sculpture by Nicola Burrell

to submit works they wanted to display here: some were already in existence and a few have been inspired and designed by the Reserve – it is quite a thing to inspire a work of art, and have it displayed in or by its source of inspiration!

Come over for a look round – see great art and a stunning location – a win win!

Solar Together! Cut bills and emissions with the solar panel group-buying scheme.

Essex County Council have recently opened registration for another round of the Solar Together scheme. This allows residents, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and owners of small community buildings to register for the purchase of solar panels and/or battery systems for their home or business building. The scheme is open to owner occupiers and those in the private rented sector (with the landlord’s permission). It is open to everyone in the Colchester district, as well as the other districts in Essex.

The scheme works by bringing together a group of people who want to purchase solar panels/battery systems. Installers then bid to deliver the collective works in a ‘reverse auction’ where the winners are those who can deliver the works at the lowest price. Applicants can save as much as 37% by using this scheme rather than by applying individually. With the systems installed, they will then start saving money further on their energy bills.

For further information: essex.gov.uk and solartogether.co.uk

Ben Plummer, Climate Emergency Officer
Colchester City Council

From Fingringhoe Historical Recorders' Archive

This scrap of paper dated 15 November 1745, records a payment made to one John Smith for nursing a sick woman. It covers her board (food and lodging) and beer, brandy and wine, the medicinal components of the 'cordel' (a caudel was a drink for invalids made of warm ale or wine mixed with bread, eggs, sugar and spices). 'Up and Downe' applied to the woman's boarding may mean that at times she was mobile and at others bed-ridden.

The bill was probably drawn up when the woman died, and 'for bringing her down' may mean bringing her for burial. The next line, obscured by damage and alteration, perhaps refers to the heating and lighting of John Smith's 'cabbin'. A parish meeting approved (allowed) payment of the bill, which was signed by two treasurers, John Whittaker and Rob Nickelson. The total of £2 and 5 shillings is equivalent to about £280 today, so perhaps John Smith looked after the woman for a long period. That she was cared for by someone who had to be paid by the parish implies that she had no family to look after her. A note in the same hand on the back of the bill, dated 20 November 1745, is the receipt for payment, attested by 'M the mark of John Smith', indicating that this 18th-century carer was illiterate.



November ye 15 day 1745	
John Smith Bill	
Paid for Nursing of a woman0:16.0
Paid for her Bord,	
Up and Downe.....	0:07.0
For beer and brandy	
and wine and a cordel...	0:10.0
For bringing her down	
And for ye y?.... for his	
Cabbin and fin?.... and	
Candell.....	0.12.0
Aloud at a parish	2.05.0
Meeting this bill	
	Parish Treasurers
	John Whittaker
	Rob Nickelson

Lyn Rodley



On May 1 the Recorders had an 'open afternoon' in the Church Green community room, with a small exhibition, an opportunity to search the Archive, tea and some excellent cake. We were very pleased that so many people dropped in. Jacqueline Taber, of the Geedon Gallery, was inspired to write down some memories of her childhood in the village (see below). The Recorders would be glad to hear from others who have memories or material relating to the village in the past.

To consult the Archive, a USB memory stick with the complete catalogue and images may be borrowed for use on your computer. For more information, please contact Ann Bagley cwbagley6@aol.com

My parents were great friends of Joyce Furneaux and as a child I was made to stay with them at Fingringhoe Hall. I was terrified. The yard was where Joyce had her hens and where she kept the eggs. I was asked to help gather the eggs and, needless to say, I broke one and was told in no uncertain terms that I was hopeless. The other barn was where Joyce had two Jersey cows which were milked by hand by her cowman Reg Ferris. They were such gentle creatures, with big eyes and enviable eyelashes; the milk was used by the house. Joyce also had a grey Arab stallion who was kept in one of the stables, and she would ride him around the village checking on everyone and everything.

Later my parents rented Jaggers and subsequently purchased it. The house was surrounded by meadows where beef cattle were raised. These quite often escaped into the garden and were a nightmare to return to the field and farmyard. Much later, I was fortunate enough to be able to buy the farmyard and buildings next to Jaggers and the barn where I have the Geedon Gallery; even now, the office is known as the bullpen for that is where Joyce Furneaux kept her bull.

Jacqueline Taber

News from St Andrew's Church

AS many of you will know, our Curate-in-Charge, Revd Terry Walker, and his wife Alexis were involved in a horrendous road accident at Langenhoe on the afternoon of 13 March. They were driving home to the island when a car came out of School Lane on to Mersea Road with the result that their camper van was in a head-on collision with an oncoming HGV. Once the emergency services had released them from their crumpled vehicle they were taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. Thankfully, both are now back home and recovering steadily, if slowly, from their injuries (principally broken bones).

As you can imagine, everyone in the congregations of Abberton, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge is looking forward to the time when we can welcome Revd Terry and Alexi back to church. Until then, we shall be reliant on the goodwill and availability of lay officers of each church, along with the support of visiting clergy in order to operate a reduced schedule of regular services. And, of course, effort is being made to ensure baptisms, weddings and funerals can go ahead in Revd Terry's absence.

On Sunday 7 May St Andrew's marked the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla by replacing the liturgy for that fifth Sunday after Easter with the 'Special Commemorative Service' issued by the Church of England as an alternative resource for parishes. This was a simple, lay-led service consisting of prayers, readings and hymns, with the National Anthem at the close.

The June schedule of Sunday services is in preparation. Revd Terry hopes to be well enough to take one or two Communions in the benefice. If he cannot, then locum ministers will be sourced for Communions. Here at Fingringhoe there will be at least one 9.15am lay-led service of Matins; and on the fourth Sunday, 25 June, a lay-led Café Church service that will start at 10.15am, with refreshments on offer from 10am.

Another date for your diaries is Tuesday 6 June when the church will be open to welcome everyone who would like to call in for coffee, cake and a chat at the next monthly 'Coffee'n'Co' from 2pm-4pm.

Malcolm Hawksby, Churchwarden

The Frere Monument in St Andrew's church →

George Frere was born in East Anglia but is described on the monument as a London merchant. He lived at Fingringhoe Hall in retirement, until his death in 1655. The small blue shield at the base of the monument bears the arms of the Levant Company, which regulated trade with the Ottoman Empire, so Frere evidently had widespread commercial interests. In his will he left money for the distribution on Sundays of loaves of bread to the elderly poor of the parish.



Our new Cafe-style church service on Sunday – as you can see it's very relaxed. It starts with refreshments and has a time of reading, talk, discussion prayers and singing. Not shown in the picture are Jackie Jones playing keyboard and Jenny Henderson who did the talk. It is a very relaxed service and people said they felt comfortable joining in. We were blessed to have Rev Terry and his daughter with us as well.

Sheena Taylor



Ann Chamberlain's Cream Teas

2 – 4.30pm Sunday 16 July 2023

at Gordann Chapel Road, Fingringhoe

admission £5 – pay at the door



in aid of Friends of St Andrew's

The Hoolies Shanty Crew

will sing traditional shanties
and songs of the sea
with lively musical accompaniment



at St Andrew's Church

7.30pm Saturday 10 June

tickets £7 in advance £8 on the door

tickets from the Post Office
(Church Green, Fingringhoe)

10am-1pm Monday & Friday,

1-4pm Wednesday

or phone: 01206 729 360

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

Registered Charity 1112665



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